

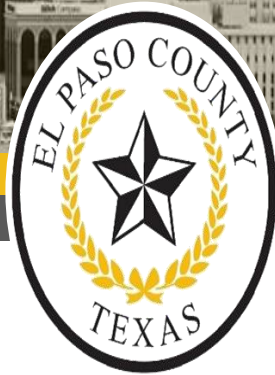
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**El Paso County
Agenda Item Details**

Item Title:	County Operations - Legislative Action items (State and Federal)
Submitted By:	Melissa Carrillo, Deputy County Administrator
Department:	County Operations
Department Phone Number:	915-546-2162
Subject:	Receive a presentation, discuss and take appropriate action regarding El Paso County's 89 th Texas Legislative Agenda and Values Statements and provide discussion and input regarding Federal legislative items for the 119 th Congress.
Background:	Our Governmental Affairs Manager will provide an update regarding the 89 th Texas Legislative Session items, including the El Paso County's Legislative Agenda and Values Document. Additionally, discussion will be held regarding the 119 th U.S. Congressional agenda and values statements as necessary.
Estimated Time Needed For This Item:	30 min.



El Paso County 89th Legislative Session Updates

March 24th, 2025

*Elisa M. Tamayo
Governmental Affairs Manager*

89th Legislative Session Updates

- A total of **9,893 bills** were filed by the March 14th deadline
 - Compared to 8,814 from last session, there was a 12% increase
- Lt. Gov Announced Second Round of Priority Bills
 - Top 40 priority bills in this round address issues such as business tax relief, increasing teacher pay, bail reform, restricting lottery couriers, expanding protections for the trucking industry, and establishing a homeland security division within DPS
- Texas Senate set to debate the budget on the floor on Tuesday 3/25

Bills on the Move (No Action Needed at this Time)

- **SB 19** – Silencing of local governments / taxpayer funded lobbying
 - Passed out of the Senate, with amendments
- **HB 9** – Increases the exemption for the assessed value of tangible personal property from \$2,500 to \$250,000
 - Voted out of the Ways & Means Committee unanimously
- **HB 510** – Prohibits guaranteed income programs in Texas
 - Bill received a hearing, Commissioner Stout testified against
- **HB 406** – Notification of Chapter 380/381 agreements
 - Bill received a hearing, County dropped card in support

Legislation Updates (No Action Needed at this Time)

- **SB 8** – Mandates Sheriffs to enforce federal immigration law with ICE
 - Voted out of committee on 3/20/25
- **HB 334** – Option for county employee family leave pool program
 - Scheduled for a hearing in the S/C on County Government
 - Monday, March 24th at 10:00 AM CST
- **SB 1592** – Collection of county HOT taxes by intermediary
 - Scheduled for a hearing on 3/24/25
- **SB 2605** – Creation of an asset commission for the housing authority
 - We are requesting a meeting to amend the bill to include the Court in the decision-making process for at least one member of the commission

Bills – Potentially Harmful to County Operations

- **HB 1522** – Changes public meeting posting requirement from current 72 hours to 3 business days
- **HB 19** – Relating to the issuance and repayment of debt by local governments, including the adoption of an ad valorem tax rate and the use of ad valorem tax revenue for the repayment of debt
 - Analysis from bond counsel received
- **HB 1453** – Limits definition of public work to include essential public purpose projects and also limits circumstances under which a local government may determine the need to finance public projects and essential infrastructure

Bills – Supportive of County operations

- **HB 1109** – Exempts counties from motor fuel taxes in the state of Texas
- **HB 148** – Mandatory training for Central Appraisal board members
- **HB 505** – Issuance of a certified birth record, driver's license, or personal identification certificate to a homeless individual
- **HB 1080** – Allows a political subdivision to satisfy public posting requirements by posting in media with greater circulation than the main paper in the area and on the counties and comptrollers website
- **HB 1275** – Repeals the section of the code that requires issuance of permits for producer dairies in certain areas of this state
- **SB 1173 / HB 1998** – Increases the bid limit from \$50,000 to \$100,000



Questions?

State Legislative Update concludes

Municipal Bonds Action

- Tax-exempt municipal bonds are a well-established critical financing tool for local governments
- The U.S. House and Senate are drafting legislation to extend the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
 - While bill text is still being drafted and has not yet been released, there are proposals under consideration that would offset the cost of extending these tax provisions by eliminating the long-standing municipal bond tax exemption
- Discuss and take appropriate action to add this item to the County's Federal Legislative Agenda

Assistance to Southwest Border Communities “colonias”

- HUD and USDA have 5 grant and loan programs that target colonias to improve water and wastewater systems and housing; however, due to population changes, nearly 60% of colonias will likely become ineligible in the future for certain targeted financial assistance
- By statute, U.S.-Mexico border states must set aside a percentage of their HUD CDBG funding for colonias located within metropolitan statistical areas of 1 million persons or less. However, many colonias are now part of areas that likely will soon exceed this threshold.
- Revising the population requirement could help preserve eligibility for many communities that were originally intended to benefit from the set-aside.

Assistance to Southwest Border Communities “colonias”

Discuss and take appropriate action to add the following items to the County's Federal Legislative Agenda:

1. Urge Congress to consider revising the population requirement for colonias to receive CDBG set-aside funding given population growth; and
2. Support the GAO's recommendation to USDA, encouraging them to develop procedures to identify applications for Single Family Housing assistance for projects in colonias.



*Discuss and provide
recommendations or feedback.*

