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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

April 7th, 2025

*Elisa M. Tamayo
Governmental Affairs Manager*

89th Legislative Session Updates

■ **State Budget**

- House to debate on Thursday 4/10

■ **HB 13 by King** – would create the Texas Interoperability Council, which would be tasked with creating and coordinating the implementation of a statewide plan for the use of emergency communication

- Passed the House, received by the Senate

■ **SB 2 / HB 3** – establishment of an education savings account program

- Passed the full Senate, voted by the House Public Education Committee

■ **SB 8 by Huffman** – agreements between sheriffs and ICE to enforce federal immigration law

- Passed by the Senate, referred in the House

■ **SJR 63 by Middleton, SB 1410 by Campbell** – Renaming the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America

- Scheduled for a hearing on 4/7/25

Bills Potentially harmful to County operations

- **HB 1832 by Gerdes** – Relating to the punishment for certain criminal offenses involving illegal entry into or illegal presence in this state by a person who is an alien; increasing criminal penalties
- **SB 2722 by Bettencourt** – Though this is a Harris County bill, it could set a negative precedent for other cities to try to go after county revenue in the future
- **SB 240 by Middleton** – mandates that restrooms within facilities owned, operated, or controlled by political subdivisions be designated for use based on “biological sex” or be sued by the AG
- **SB 552 by Huffman** – prohibits probation for undocumented immigrants
 - Senate Criminal Justice hearing on 4/8/25

Bills Supportive of County Operations

- **HB 1583 by Hull** – Relating to the peace officer's notification of emergency detention form for persons evidencing mental illness and retention of that form
- **HB 3174 by Rose** – Relating to county and hospital district disease control pilot programs to reduce the risk of certain infectious and communicable diseases
- **HB 1998 by Spiller** – Increases the limit from \$50K to \$100k for which a competitive procurement method may be required
- **SB 1855 by Perry** – Mandates municipal authorities and commissioners' courts to disapprove applications lacking sufficient groundwater evidence
 - Scheduled for a hearing on 4/7/25
- **HB 2413 by Garcia Hernandez** – relating to the authority of a county to dispose of sensitive media devices
 - Scheduled for a hearing on 4/7/25

Bills by the El Paso State Delegation (1/6)

- **SB 909 by Blanco / HB 1275 by Gonzalez** – relating to the issuance of permits for producer dairies in certain areas of this state
 - Already taken a position to support
- **HB 1557 by Moody** – relating to waiver programs for certain veterans provided by toll project entities
 - Scheduled for a hearing 4/7/25
- **HB 365 by Gonzalez** – relating to the authority of the Texas Water Development Board to provide financial assistance from the economically distressed areas account that is not required to be repaid
 - On House General State Calendar
- **SB 1268 by Blanco / HB 3628 by Villalobos** – relating to the review and updating by the Texas Water Development Board of guidance principles and rules related to certain plans adopted or approved by the board
 - Passed the Senate, received by the House

Bills by the El Paso State Delegation (2/6)

- **SB 897 by Blanco** – relating to the administration of a grant program to support community mental health programs assisting veterans and their families
 - Senate intent calendar
- **SB 910 by Blanco / HB 464 by Gonzalez** – establishment of a grant program to support the elimination of illegally disposed of scrap tires
 - House hearing, left pending in committee
- **SB 907 by Blanco / HB 4269 by Perez** – relating to bill payment assistance programs for utility customers offered by certain municipalities
 - Scheduled for a hearing on 4/7/25
- **HB 422 by Gonzalez** – limitations on the issuance of bonds by the Texas Water Development Board for the development of certain projects in economically distressed areas
 - House General State Calendar

Bills by the El Paso State Delegation (3/6)

- **SB 1143 by Blanco** – relating to certain planning, notification, and evaluation requirements with respect to workforce development programs in this state
 - Economic Development Committee hearing on 4/7/25
- **SB 1249 by Blando / HB 2652 by Ordaz** – establishes a certified caregiver pilot program in the Borderplex workforce development area to provide after-hours childcare for single-parent households enrolled in short-term workforce training programs
 - House Subcommittee on Workforce hearing on 4/8/25
- **HB 4063 by Ordaz** – relating to the filing and release of record of a unilateral memorandum of contract concerning residential property
 - House Trade, Workforce, Economic Development hearing on 4/9/25

Bills by the El Paso State Delegation (4/6)

- **SB 908 by Blanco** – regulation of certain firearm transfers, to the unlawful possession or acquisition of a firearm or ammunition, and to report of lost or stolen firearms; creating criminal offense
- **SB 3004 by Blanco** – relating to a policy governing the operation of a motor vehicle by a peace officer in pursuit of certain persons
- **SB 3007 by Blanco / HB 5086 by Ordaz** – relating to establishing a pilot program to increase the supply of child-care services and encourage employer partnerships to meet strategic workforce needs in certain regions of the state
- **HB 4259 by Perez** – relating to the authority of certain counties to employ a county purchasing agent
- **HB 3501 by Perez** – relating to a requirement that certain hospitals prepare and publish a quarterly report on charity care provided by those hospitals

Bills by the El Paso State Delegation (5/6)

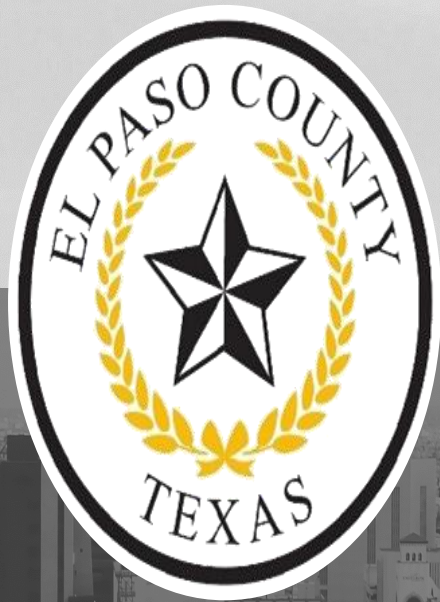
- **SB 2603 by Blanco / HB 5390 by Ordaz** – relating to cooperation by economic development program participants with local workforce development boards
- **SB 2928 by Blanco / HB 3065 by Anchia** – relating to the disposition of a firearm surrendered through a firearm buyback program administered by certain local law enforcement agencies
- **HB 3499 by Perez** – relating to the eligibility of an individual to receive an exemption from ad valorem taxation of the individual's residence homestead if the homestead is occupied by a registered sex offender
- **HB 3562 by Perez** – relating to posting and other requirements applicable to meetings of the governing body of a hospital district
- **HB 4270 by Perez** – relating to the authority of certain taxing units to enter into an agreement to abate ad valorem taxes imposed on an individual's residence homestead that is located in a reinvestment zone

Juvenile Justice Legislation

- **HB 31 by Thompson** – relating to procedures related to juvenile justice proceedings and to the treatment of children detained in or committed to a juvenile facility
 - Chief Medina raised concerns, will testify
- **HB 3360 / SB 1727 by Cook** – relating to the protection and detention of a juvenile who engages in delinquent conduct or commits a felony offense while committed to the custody of the Texas Juvenile Justice Department; changing the eligibility for community supervision; redefining habitual felony conduct
 - Chief Medina supports, will testify

Broadband Legislation

- **SB 1217 by Hughes / HB 2825 by Craddick** – relating to sales and use tax exemptions and refunds for certain tangible personal property used to provide cable television services, Internet access services, or telecommunications services
 - The exemption would only apply to the state's portion of the tax, not the local's so the county would remain whole
 - A 2013 study found that for the \$50 million exemption, more than \$800 million was reinvested into broadband infrastructure
 - This kind of exemption currently exists in the manufacturing space
- **SB 1646 by King / HB 3552 by Hefner** – relating to criminal conduct involving the theft or unauthorized possession of copper or brass and to the sale of copper or brass material to metal recycling entities; creating criminal offenses; providing an administrative penalty
 - Critical infrastructure such as emergency services and 911 centers is being impacted



*Discuss and provide
recommendations or feedback.*

