

ENVIRONMENTAL

- Seek enactment of legislation to require renewable energy “buy back” programs in the State of Texas.
- Support renewable energy tax credits that complement federal renewable energy tax credits.
- Support changes in the Public Utility Commission requirements to simplify the procedure for El Paso Electric to pay Renewable Energy Credits to individuals who are pushing power back onto the grid with renewable energy projects.
- Support measures to enhance the use of solar energy “buy back” programs in the State of Texas.
- Support measures to continue to increase the use of crumb rubber and shredded tire pieces in highway construction.
- Support legislation that allows a deposit/refund to be collected for the purposes of recycling glass bottles.
- Support measures in the legislature that will advance clean energy solutions by creating incentives and rebates to encourage installation of solar panels and energy efficiency measures in Texas homes and businesses.
- Support the Texas Solar Roadmap recommendations made to further the solar industry in Texas.

HEALTHCARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

- Seek legislation that would permit local communities to utilize up to 50% of confiscated funds to fund drug education, prevention and rehabilitation programs approved by City Council.
- Support increased State funding for Medicaid and CHIP.
- Support the creation of statewide policies to facilitate coordination between health, judicial and law enforcement professionals to develop a jail decision program to keep mentally ill persons out of the jail system.
- Support El Paso MHMR’s efforts to prevent the State mental health system from suffering significant general revenue cuts, increased targets

and unfunded mandates. Among the areas that must be protected are:

1. Adult and children mental health services
 2. Crisis services
 3. Psychiatric inpatient beds
 4. Services for persons with developmental disabilities.
- Support continued funding for Veterans outreach and peer services to address the mental health needs of Texas veterans and their families.
 - Support funding for treatment programs aimed at addressing the needs of Texas residents dealing with mental health issues such as PTSD due to unprecedented violence along the US-Mexico border.
 - Introduce legislation to identify and incentivize best practices within the healthcare delivery system to integrate physical and mental healthcare services.
 - Seek enactment of legislation to require businesses with more than 50 employees that receive state contracts provide health insurance to their employees.
 - Seek an amendment to state law to allow a lien to be placed on a homestead property with mosquito control chemicals to protect the public health and safety.

DEVELOPMENT

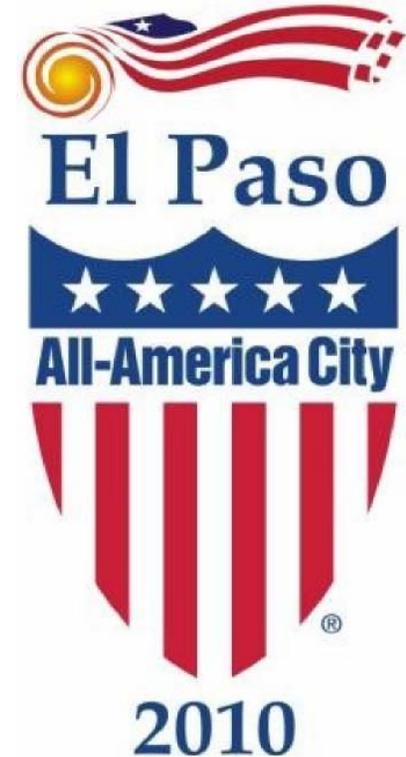
- Seek passage of legislation to require notice and coordination with municipalities by the Government Land Office prior to selling or leasing property located within the limits of the municipality and the ETJ.

PREDATORY LENDING

- Seek passage of legislation to regulate Credit Service Organizations and eliminate predatory practices.

GENERAL

- Seek passage of legislation that would remove the requirement that signs prohibiting use of cell phones be installed in school zones in cities that have banned the use of hand-held cell phones while driving.
- Support the passage of legislation that would allow for non-peace officer employees to issue citations for municipal code violations.



CITY OF EL PASO 2010 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

For more information, please feel free to contact:

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PRIORITY LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

TRANSPORTATION

- Support legislation that creates local options for voter approved road, rail and transit projects through funding mechanisms such as new resident impact fees, mobility improvement fees, drivers license fees, local option gas taxes, parking fees, and emissions fees.
- Eliminates diversions of State transportation revenues to non-transportation uses.
- Expands the ability of local governments to use transportation reinvestment zones to capture growth increment in local property taxes and sales taxes for surface transportation, mobility and transit projects.
- Creates a sustainable and predictable funding source and allow for more flexibility to use funds for different modes of transportation and mobility to reduce congestion.
- Expedites project delivery and allows for public/private partnerships.

TRANSIT

- Increase local funding options for transit projects and support legislation that would require that all expenditures for highway construction in the State of Texas allow for funding dedicated transit lanes, bike paths and pedestrian friendly complements and rail projects.
- Support transit exemptions for transit equipment from motor fuel tax.
- Support the resolution passed by the El Paso MPO on October 24, 2008 to encourage funding of transit and alternative modes of transportation from Category 2 funds.

MOBILITY

- Secure funding to study the feasibility of relocating or depressing the railroad tracks in the area of the Texas Tech/Thomason Medical Center of the Americas area and the creation of quiet zones.
- Support efforts to expedite commercial truck safety inspections at international ports of entry by coordinating efforts between the Texas Department

of Public Safety (DPS) and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) to create one-stop safety inspection facility for commercial trucks at the land ports of entry in the El Paso region.

- Secure funding for infrastructure improvements and traffic control and assistance at the international ports of entry to address the problems arising from southbound inspections.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- Seek enactment of legislation that will allow for the creation of a Regional Park District with the ability to levy taxes upon the approval of voters residing within the district.
- Seek \$5 million in appropriations for the acquisition of twelve parcels of approximately 623 acres located just south of Castner range, east of Mountain Park and Sunrise Acres neighborhood and west of Franklin Mountains State Park as well as two parcels of approximately 23 acres (1,007,020 square feet) located just east of the Manhattan Heights neighborhood and Scenic Drive. Both land acquisitions would be incorporated into the expansion of the Franklin Mountain State Park.
- Seek funding for creation of new trails to enhance accessibility to the Franklin Mountains State Park.
- Seek funding for construction of a visitor's center in the Franklin Mountains State Park to be located in the Northeast part of El Paso.

TRIBAL RIGHTS

- Support the efforts of the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo to restore gaming rights on tribal land.

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Support efforts of UTEP to achieve Tier I status through development of additional research and doctoral programs.
 - Support the efforts of the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine to 1) Protect current appropriations including special items; 2) seek \$60 million in funding for Medical Education Building II; and 3) seek \$45 million for a new Clinical Education Building.

TAX CODE

- Seek enactment of legislation that will allow the City of El Paso to receive its proportionate share of tax revenue from non tax-exempt commercial operations which take place on Ft. Bliss and are subject to taxation by either the State of Texas, County of El Paso or local school district and would be subject to City of El Paso taxation authority if they were located within the limits of the City of El Paso.
- Seek passage of legislation that will allow for sales price disclosure to provide for more fair taxation.
- Seek enactment of legislation requiring Central Appraisal Districts to grant a full tax exemption to nature preserves that are owned by non-profit land trusts and are open for public use and enjoyment.
- Support enactment of legislation to allow for tax exemptions to be granted at a specified dollar amount in lieu of a percentage of taxable value.
- Support enactment to increase penalties for chronic delinquent taxpayers.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION

- Seek enactment of legislation to allow for incentives to assist with the implementation of the El Paso Downtown Revitalization Plan such as mixed income housing tax credits, State historic tax credits and renewable energy tax credits and incentives.
- Seek funding for restoration of historically significant buildings and simplification of process at the SHPO to remove barriers to redevelopment.