

TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE
EDDIE MORALES, JR.
DISTRICT 74

BREWSTER • CULBERSON • HUDSPETH • JEFF DAVIS • KINNEY • LOVING • MAVERICK • PECOS • PRESIDIO • REEVES • TERRELL • VAL VERDE

Friends,

Here's what happened in the Texas House this week:



Texas Budget Night

A Balanced Budget: Prioritizing
Education, Border Security
& Rural Healthcare

State Representative Eddie Morales, Jr.

We spent 12+ hours on the House Floor yesterday debating the state budget that will last for the next two years. We debated 246 amendments to the budget, as well as amendments to the amendments, and you can rest assured that we will be working to ensure that House District 74 gets their fair share of funds.



Just in time for Spring! Texas State Parks are now open at full capacity. If you do plan on visiting our parks, please make sure to practice "Zero Trace," and clean up after your trip, so that future visitors may enjoy the park as you did. Follow the link below for information about reservations, park status, and more!

[Learn more here!](#)

Earlier this month I expressed my support for medicinal marijuana use by Veterans in the State of Texas. This week, I wanted to take the opportunity to announce a few bills that I have signed onto as a co-author that relate to the legalization of medical marijuana, as well as the decriminalization of certain marijuana offenses.

I also attended a press conference to support a bipartisan group of special operations veterans, medical experts, and advocates in support of legislation by State Representative Alex Dominguez (D-Brownsville) to create a first-of-its-kind study on the safety and efficacy of psychedelic therapy to treat some of the most severe medical and mental health conditions facing veterans.

Treatment-resistant post-traumatic stress disorder is a severe form of post-traumatic stress disorder in which a patient's condition does not improve from traditional pharmacological and psychotherapeutic solutions. When an individual suffers from a treatment-resistant stress-and-trauma-related mental health or medical condition, they are at higher risk for suicide, addiction, unemployment, homelessness, criminality, and other dire consequences. One population, special operations veterans, is especially vulnerable to these conditions.

"With a mental health epidemic growing in every segment of American society, it is clear that our current solutions are failing. New approaches are desperately needed for all people suffering from stress-and-trauma-related mental health conditions, but especially our veterans," said Dominguez, a sophomore Democrat from the Rio Grande Valley. "We must pursue every possible treatment solution for these conditions."

Dominguez is joined in his effort to advance the study of these medicines by former Texas Governor Rick Perry. "I was initially skeptical when I first heard of psychedelic therapeutics until I witnessed the treatment potential myself," said Perry. "Our veterans sacrifice so much of their own mental and physical health while protecting our freedoms abroad, they shouldn't have to travel to other countries once they return home to treat the invisible wounds of war. We owe it to them to properly explore how psychedelic therapeutics can treat PTSD, depression, trauma, and addiction." It is my hope that these bills pass, and help us work towards a stronger and better State of Texas.

April 24-26, 2021

Sales Tax Holiday

FOR EMERGENCY PREPARATION SUPPLIES

Less than \$3000

Portable generators

Less than \$300

Emergency ladders
Hurricane shutters



State Representative
Eddie Morales, Jr.

Less than \$75

Axes
Batteries, single or multipack (AAA, AA, C, D, 6 or 9 Volt)
Can openers - nonelectric
Carbon Monoxide detectors
Coolers and ice chests for food storage - nonelectric
Fire Extinguishers
Fuel containers
Ground Anchor systems and tie down kits
Hatchets
Ice Products - reusable and artificial
Light Sources - portable self-powered (including battery operated)
Mobile telephone batteries and mobile telephone chargers
Radios - portable self-powered (including battery operated) - includes two way and weather band radios
Smoke detectors
Tarps and other plastic sheeting

As we have recently had some rough weather, it is important to take note of essential items in your inventory. Keep stock of these items, like batteries, generators, flashlights, and fuel containers. You never know when Texas will be hit with a big storm, and it is important to be prepared.

The Texas Comptroller, Glenn Hegar, wants to remind Texans that they can purchase certain items tax-free during the state's sales tax holiday for emergency preparation supplies, which begins at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, April 24, and ends at midnight on Monday, April 26. The graphic above outlines which emergency preparation supplies qualify for tax exemption if purchased for the stated sales price.



BP announced this week that their new state-of-the-art facility in Orla, Texas will help reduce emissions, including flaring, and help BP become a "net-zero company by 2050." They also hope that this push helps to improve the reliability of BP's Permian Basin assets. I am excited to see oil companies such as BP, taking crucial steps to secure a safe future, and I encourage other companies to follow in their footsteps to take better care of the climate.

"Grand Slam is an electrified central oil, gas, and water handling facility that reduces operational emissions, in part by replacing gas-driven equipment, compressors, and generators. It's also highly automated, enabling near real-time status of operating conditions resulting in fewer operational upsets."

[COVID-19 Vaccine](#)

As of March 29th, all people 16+ can now receive a COVID-19 vaccine in Texas. There are multiple tools to help you find a vaccine. DSHS encourages people to use a tool that works best for them. Click on the link below!

[Vaccine Locator Tools](#)



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie Morales, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

State Representative Eddie Morales, Jr.

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