



Friends,

The Third Called Special Session of the 87th Texas Legislature came to an end shortly after midnight on October 19th, 2021.

Here is what happened during this special session:



3rd Called Special Session of the 87th Legislature is Complete

The Legislature passed 10 bills during this third contentious special session, including the new maps for our 2022 elections.

Many of those bills were voted straight on party lines and were not ideas I supported. However, there were some bipartisan priorities and some positive accomplishments that came out of this session.

Third Special Session's Key Items Passed

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

With ARPA funding, Representative Morales successfully secured \$15.5 million in funding, through SB 8, for US Customs and Border Protection Facilities at Presidio International Bridge to serve the South Orient Rail Line, which crosses the international border in Presidio and continues all the way to Dallas.

New Maps based on the new census data

The Legislature passed new maps for Texas House, Senate, and US Congressional districts, as well as the State Board of Education district map. These new maps, if signed by the Governor, will be effective for the 2022 election cycle.

Property Tax Relief via Homestead Exemption Increase

SB 1 and SRJ 2 deliver property tax relief to Texas homeowners by proposing a constitutional amendment increasing the residence homestead exemption from property taxes levied for public school purposes from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding

South Orient Rail Line CBP Inspection Station

- Earlier this year, Presidio was successful in obtaining \$17.5 million in federal funds for their new USCBP station, however, TxDOT needed \$15.5 million to complete the inspection station that would allow for international trade to take place in an underserved region.
- Representative Morales formed a coalition with other Representatives from West Texas and was able to ensure that these \$15.5 million dollars were appropriated.

Permian Basin Behavioral Health Center

- On October 7th, 2021 members of the House Appropriations Committee and I sent a letter to chairman Dr. Greg Bonnen seeking \$86 million for a comprehensive behavioral health center located in the Permian Basin Region. The Permian Base has limited access to many necessary services, requiring families to drive hours in order to receive care.
- With a population of 1.2 million, the Permian Base ~~should have at least 600~~ mental health facility beds. However, there are currently fewer than 80 beds in the




region. The center would include 100 inpatient and outpatient psychiatric care facilities for adults and adolescents, along with a crisis stabilization unit, professional offices, and counseling and therapeutic spaces for appropriate ages.

- Representative Morales formed a coalition with other Representatives from West Texas and was able to ensure that these \$40 million dollars were appropriated for the Permian Basin Behavioral Health Center.

REPRESENTATIVE EDDIE MORALES SECURES \$15.5 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR THE

SOUTH ORIENT RAIL LINE USCBP INSPECTION STATION IN PRESIDIO

INCREASING TRADE OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ENTIRE REGION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 19th, 2021

CONTACT: AMY RISTER
(512) 463-0566

Representative Morales Secures \$15.5 Million for US Customs and Border Protection Facilities at Presidio International Bridge

Austin, TX -- Late last night the Texas Legislature voted for final passage of Senate Bill 8, which appropriates the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, to be used across Texas. A critical piece of this legislation includes \$15.5 million dollars to fund a permanent United States Customs and Border Protection (USCBP) Inspection Station in Presidio to serve the South Orient Rail Line, which crosses the international border in Presidio and continues all the way to Dallas. Representative Morales spoke on the House Floor about the importance of this inspection station not just to Presidio, but for the rest of the state.

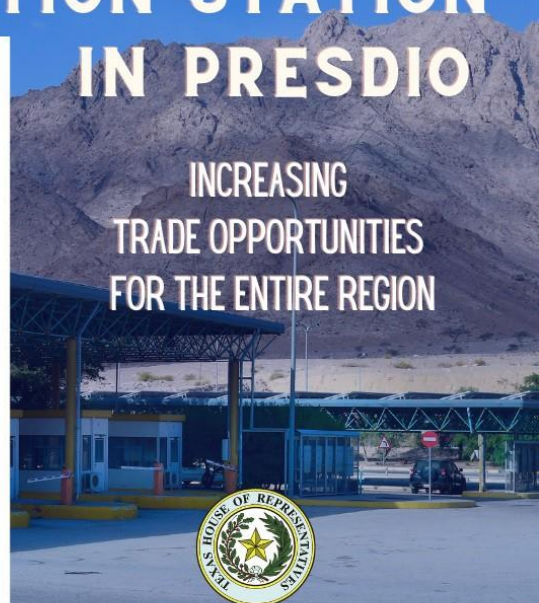
The City of Presidio suffered a fire in 2008 that burned down their international bridge. A loss of commercial traffic, including rail imports and exports, was detrimental to the border community of Presidio, as well as the entire West Texas region. Now, thirteen years later the bridge is operational, allowing commercial and non-essential travelers to visit both Presidio and Chihuahua, once again. However, since the bridge had been out of service for so long, many of the improvements that needed to be made to the USCBP facilities had lapsed. Needs include an X-ray Machine, as well as lighting, fencing, and other miscellaneous improvements to ensure that rail imports and exports can move through safely and efficiently.

Earlier this year, Presidio was successful in obtaining \$17.5 million in federal funds for their new USCBP station, however, TxDOT needed \$15.5 million to complete the inspection station that would allow for international trade to take place in an underserved region that would benefit greatly from this investment.

Representative Morales formed a coalition with other Representatives from West Texas to impress upon their colleagues from other areas of the state how important this project is for the region and for Texas as a whole. Representative Morales was able to ensure that these \$15.5 million dollars were appropriated to TxDOT to fund the USCBP inspection. Representative Morales had this to say:

"Thank you to Chairman Bonnen and Representative Drew Darby (R-San Angelo) for working with me to ensure that these funds were appropriated for the Presidio CBP Station to expand trade opportunities. This bi-partisan support for these funds shows that we can do more for Texas when we work together and reach across the aisle. The City of Presidio can once again utilize the South Orient Rail Line to bring back rail trade to their community. This is a critical piece of trade infrastructure for the State of Texas, and the United States as a whole. I look forward to the growth and prosperity that this region will inevitably see in the near future."

Representative Eddie Morales, Jr. is currently serving his first term as the State Representative for House District 74, which includes the counties of Brewster, Culberson, Huddell, Jeff Davis, Kinney, Loving, Maverick, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell, and Val Verde.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE EDDIE MORALES, JR.

REPRESENTATIVE EDDIE MORALES SECURES \$40 MILLION IN FUNDING FOR THE PERMIAN BASIN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER



INCREASING ACCESS TO
MENTAL HEALTH
SERVICES
FOR THE ENTIRE REGION



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
EDDIE MORALES, JR.

House Bill 9: Funding for Border Security

\$1.8 billion in state funding for border security over the next two years

Because of HB 9, which I proudly co-authored, we have already awarded \$36 million in grant funding for law enforcement and prosecution activities in direct support of Operation Lone Star.

These additional funds were necessary in order to deal with the recent surge in migrants coming across the border and brings fiscal relief to local municipalities.



Grant Funds Sent to Border Counties

Through HB 9, the Governor has already started awarding grant funds to local governments.

Here is the breakdown of what's been awarded to counties in HD 74 as part of those border security grants:

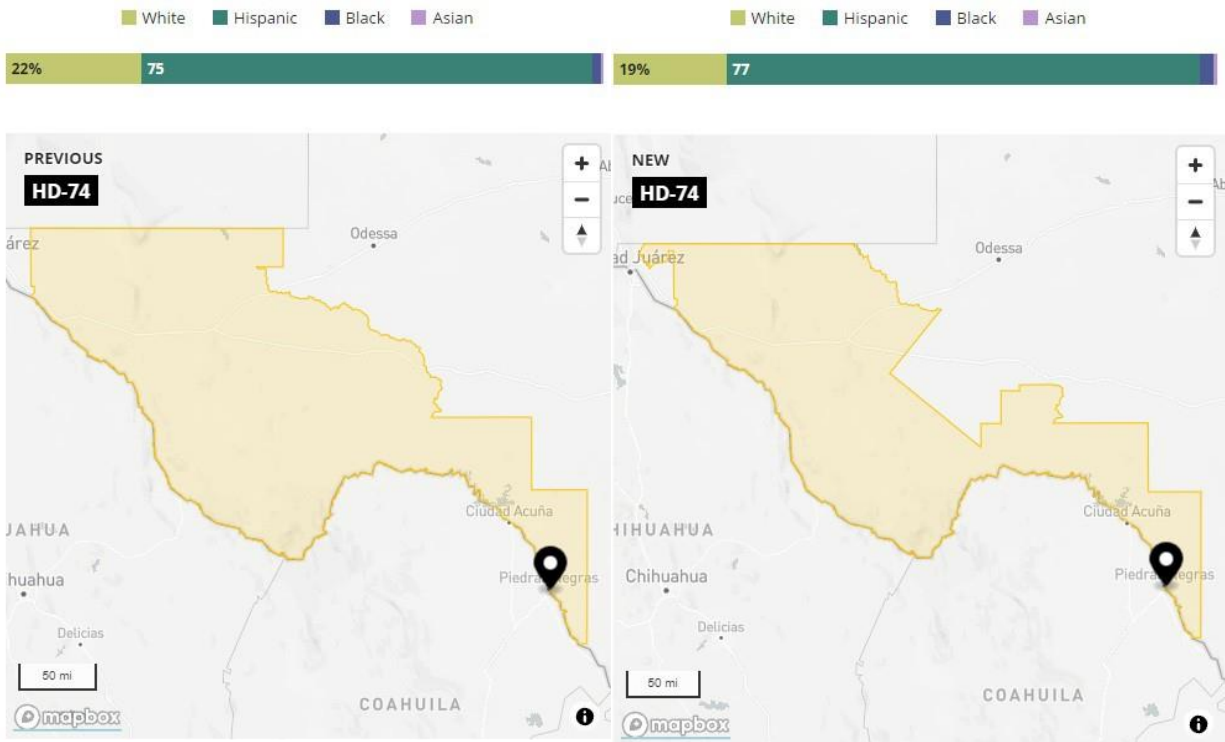
BORDER SECURITY GRANT AWARDS:

Brewster: \$926,711
Culberson: \$424,518
Hudspeth: \$1,071,362
Jeff Davis: \$235,280
Kinney: \$3,185,272
Maverick: \$1,578,743
Presidio: \$822,721
Terrell: \$339,851
Val Verde: \$2,843,994

New House District Maps

Previous HD 74

New HD 74



During the special session, the Texas legislature drafted and passed new maps. The counties in the new House District 74 are Brewster, Culberson, part of El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kinney, Maverick, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell, and Val Verde.

Maps also changed for US Congressional seats, Texas State Senate seats, and the Texas State Board of Education seats.

The Texas Tribune has launched an interactive data tool available here: https://apps.texastribune.org/features/2021/texas-redistricting-map/?_ga=2.94822492.1546434317.1635183545-1826216461.1610549364

GO VOTE! Current Election Information

There are 8 proposed constitutional amendments to the Texas Constitution that Texas voters will be able to vote on this November.

Early Voting is taking place right now!

Proposition 1: Rodeo Raffles

Would allow charitable raffles at rodeo events. Unauthorized raffles can be considered illegal gambling under Texas law.

Proposition 2: Tax Financing for County Infrastructure

Would authorize counties to issue bonds or notes to raise funds for transportation infrastructure in underdeveloped areas. Already, cities and towns have the authority to fund projects with this financing method.

Proposition 3: Restriction on Religious Liberties

Would ban the state from prohibiting or limiting religious services, including those in churches and other places of worship.

Proposition 4: State Judge Eligibility

Would require candidates to have 10 years of experience practicing law in Texas to be eligible for election to the Texas Supreme Court, the Court of Criminal Appeals, or a Texas court of appeals. Additionally, candidates running to be district judges would need 8 years of law practice or judicial experience in a Texas court.

Proposition 5: Judicial Misconduct Process

Would allow the State Commission on Judicial Conduct to have oversight of candidates running for judicial seats by accepting complaints or reports, conducting investigations and reprimanding them.

Proposition 6: Essential Caregiver Designation

Would allow residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities to designate one essential caregiver who cannot be denied in-person visitation rights.

Proposition 7: Property Tax Exemptions for Bereaved Families

Would put a limit on school district property tax increases incurred by the surviving spouse of a person with disabilities older than 65 who has died. The surviving spouse must be at least 55 years old at the partner's time of death and still live in the home.

Proposition 8: Property Tax Exemptions for Military Families

Would expand eligibility for residential homestead tax exemptions to include spouses of military members killed or fatally injured in the line of duty.

Texas Constitutional Amendment Election

Polling Locations & Times

Terrell County

Locations:
-105 E Hackberry St, Sanderson, TX 79848
Times:
-October 18th- 29th (8am-5pm)

Val Verde County

Locations:
-Old County Court-At-Law 207 E. Losoya St. Del Rio, TX 78840
Times:
-October 18th- 29th (8am-5pm)

Maverick County

Locations:
-1800 Lewis St, Eagle Pass, TX 78852
-2090 Williams St, Eagle Pass, TX 78852
-115 W Texas Blvd, El Indio, TX 78860
-2900 Diaz St, Eagle Pass, TX 78852
-20160 US-277 Quemado, TX 78877
Times:
-October 18th- 29th (7am-7pm)

Culberson County

Locations:
-County Clerk's Office 300 Lacaverna St., Van Horn, TX 79855
Times:
-October 18th- 29th(8am-12pm, 1pm-5pm)

Loving County

Locations:
-Loving County Judge's Office 100 Bell St., Mentone, TX 79754
Times:
-October 18th- 29th (8am-5pm)

Pecos County

Locations:
-200 S. Nelson, Fort Stockton, TX 79735
-1010 W 14th St., Fort Stockton, TX 79735
-321 Pine St., Sheffield, TX 79735
-508 S. Farr, Iraan, TX 79744
-W. HWY 11, Girvin, TX 79740
-4646 S. Frank St. Coyanosa, TX 79730
-115 W. 44th Lane, Fort Stockton, TX 79735
-208 S. Allison, Imperial, TX 79743
-500 N. Water, Fort Stockton TX 79735
Times:
-October 18th- 29th (8am-5pm)



STATE REPRESENTATIVE EDDIE MORALES, JR.

Texas Constitutional Amendment Election

Polling Locations & Times

Brewster County

Locations:
-Judge Val Clark Beard Complex (Old Library) 203 N 7th St, Alpine, TX 79830
Times:
-October 18th-21st (8am-5pm) / October 22nd (8am-7pm) / October 25-28th (8am - 5pm)

Culberson county
Locations:
-County Clerk's Office 300 La Caverna St., Van Horn, TX 79855
Times:
-October 18th- 29th(8am-12pm, 1pm-5pm)

Hudspeth County

Locations:
-Sierra Blanca Methodist Hall 104 Sierra Blanca Ave./ Ranch Rd. 1111, Sierra Blanca, TX 79851
-Fort Hancock Community Center , 1044 Knox Ave., Fort Hancock, TX 79839
-Desert Haven Fire station Of US 62-180 across from the Border Patrol Station, El Paso, TX 79938
-Fort Hancock Municipal Building 1419 N, Knox St, Fort Hancock, TX 79839
-Dell City Community Center 217 Main St., Dell City, TX 79837
Times:
-October 18th- 29th (8am-5pm)

Jeff Davis County

Locations:
-County Clerk's Office 111 North Front St., Fort Davis TX 79734
Times:
-October 18th- 29th (8am-5pm)

Kinney County

Locations:
-Kinney County Courtroom (1st floor) 501 S. Ann St., Brackettville, TX 78832
Times:
-October 18th- 29th (8am-5pm)

Presidio County

Locations:
-302 South Highland Ave, Marfa, TX 79843 / Presidio County Annex Building 300 O'Reilly Street, Presidio, TX 79845
Times:
-October 18th- 29th (8am-5pm)

Reeves County

Locations:
-1520 S Cedar St Pecos, TX 79772 / N 2nd St Toyah, TX 79785 / 114 S Main St Balmorhea, TX 79718 / 505 S Park St Pecos, TX 79772
Times:
-October 18th- 29th (8am-5pm)



STATE REPRESENTATIVE EDDIE MORALES, JR.

Letter to Biden: Rep. Morales fighting for FEMA Funds and a federal disaster declaration

Representative Morales wrote a letter to President Biden on October 13th to urge him to reverse his decision not to authorize a Federal Emergency Declaration in order for FEMA to distribute funds to families and those along the border, who have suffered property damage from the influx of migrants. Governor Abbott requested President Biden authorize the declaration, however President Biden has denied this request. Governor Abbott has requested an appeal.



October 13, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you may recall, on September 20th Governor Abbott submitted a request for a Federal Emergency Declaration in order to assist the state with much needed funds in order to secure the overwhelming amount of border crossings in our community. On September 29th, FEMA denied this request. Governor Abbott has submitted a formal appeal and I urge your support in granting this relief.

I am proud to represent a border city, and I am even more proud to represent the district with the most land bordering Mexico. As a result, I have been able to see firsthand how the surge in migrants is affecting our communities. Ranchers are continuously having their fences cut; homes are being broken into; water lines are being severed, and the victims of trespassing and property damage are having to foot the bill themselves without the approval of a Federal Emergency Declaration.

Families and individuals along the border are often scared for their safety. My office has received multiple videos that families in district 74 have shared with me of their home security footage that depicts dozens of migrants trespassing on their property. The people I represent—the people who live in these communities—do not deserve to be subject to this fear, nor should they be subject to having to pay for the damages to their property. It's not uncommon for those in our community to not be able to financially afford the burden of these costs. Moreover, my office receives calls almost daily seeking financial help from property damage of home invasion. This is unsustainable.

P.O. Box 1403 Austin, Texas 78768-1403 Phone: (512) 461-0155
EDDIE.MORALES@HOUSE.TXLEGIS.GOV

As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to my office for any assistance with a state agency or to record your opinion on proposed legislation. You can reach us by phone: (512) 463-0566, by email: **District74.Morales@house.texas.gov** or by physical mail: P.O. Box 2910 Austin, TX 78768.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie Morales, Jr.". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "E" and a long, horizontal flourish at the end.

State Representative Eddie Morales, Jr.

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