

Precinct 2 Newsletter

EL PASO COUNTY COMMISSIONER DAVID C. STOUT'S PRECINCT UPDATE



What's New

A WORD FROM COMMISSIONER STOUT

.....

COVID-19 UPDATE

.....

ASCARATE PARK UPDATE

.....

Overview

by David Stout

The pandemic has brought us into a new reality. While many of us did not think that we would still be largely working from home, we must accept this new normal until we can safely return to any semblance of what used to be. My staff and I have continued to work throughout, not skipping a beat. I would actually venture to say that we are busier now, and have had more virtual meetings, phone calls, and policy work than we normally did before the pandemic.

We send you and your loved ones warm greetings and hopes of continued safety and health. Please accept this newsletter as a comprehensive report and update about what our office has been up to these past six months (two quarters), during the pandemic. And as always, should you need anything, please do not hesitate to contact our office at (915) 546-2111.

Fiscal Year 2020-2021 County Budget and Tax Rate

The Fiscal Year 2020-21 (FY21) budget was the subject of a full week of budget hearings in August, and it was wrapped up and adopted on September 14, 2020. I will outline what was included in the budget, but I want to communicate to you that I voted **against** the budget **and against** the tax rate. One of the main reasons I voted against the budget was because I do not believe there was equity for all county employees and I voted against the tax rate because, although the tax rate stayed the same, because property values increased, El Pasoans will pay more in taxes. Thus, the court effectively raised your taxes.

As you know, this year has been very difficult and the budget has been a topic of consternation. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the County's revenues, including fees collected by the County for various

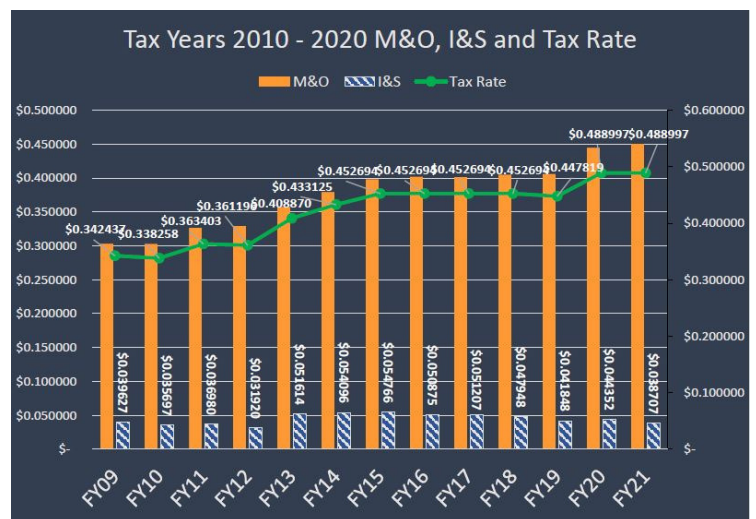
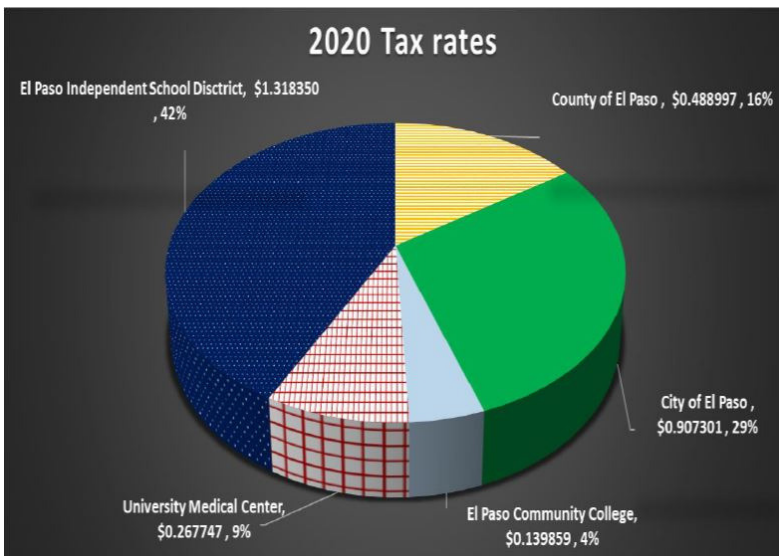
services such as vehicle registration, court-assigned fees, as well as sales tax, among others. These projected revenue losses amounted to about \$13.4 million. Given that figure, in March and April, Commissioners Court asked all County departments to cut their budgets for the end of the current fiscal year, and we instructed all departments that this would be a "hold-the-line" year, meaning no new positions, no wage adjustments, no salary increases. This was done in an effort to ensure the County's fiscal solvency and preserve all County employee positions, now and into future fiscal years, as we anticipate the ramifications of COVID-19 to linger for months and years to come.

However, there were employees who received wage adjustments and salary increases. Some of them are

covered by the Sheriff's Collective Bargaining Agreement. The only others who received increases were the constables, who have no CBA. Law enforcement does critically important work for our community, but I do not believe it is fair for them to receive this increase while all other employees are asked to buckle down and share the burden. Their salary increases will cost the county a little more than \$2 million, and the constable increases will cost a little more than \$500,000. Funding that could be used to leave us better prepared for next year, which may be an even harder year financially. Unfortunately, my calls to re-evaluate the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) in light of this financial situation went unanswered. I'm firmly against actions that prioritize law enforcement above other County employees, and I think that's exactly what happened with this year's budget.

Additionally, I was disheartened that the Commissioners Court did not prioritize the Crisis Intervention Team for the Sheriff's Office. As an Emergence Health Network board member, I was a strong proponent for the partnership that lead to this program being implemented with the El Paso Police Department, which paired officers with trained mental health professionals. The Sheriff brought forth a proposal to fully fund this program, but the court only authorized \$300,000 in seed money to start the program. This was an area where we could have redirected the \$2 million that went to Collective Bargaining Agreement raises.

Furthermore, the court's inaction in funding important, community-oriented programs such as Project Arriba, while prioritizing law enforcement salaries, forced me to vote



Fiscal Year 2020-2021 County Budget and Tax Rate cont.

against the 2020-21 budget. Fundamentally, as we live through this crisis, I believe we should be spending more on programs that help people advance socioeconomically, like Project Arriba.

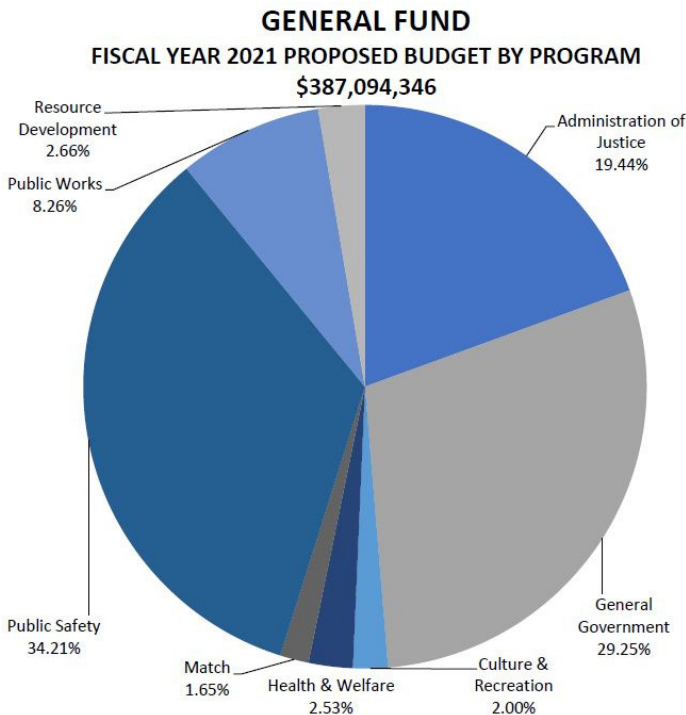
Many of the programs my office has championed and pushed are on hold including the Binational Affairs position and the Cross Border Survey have been put on hold. Thankfully, however, we were able to preserve and push the Digital Library and the Immigrant Services Coordinator position, which will eventually grow into creating the County's very own Office of New Americans, a one-stop shop to help immigrants learn about their rights, seek services, and even grow their small businesses.

The budget includes a \$1.5 million storm water mitigation commitment \$1.25 economic development impact,

fund build (which will be more important than ever as we overcome COVID-19), \$1 million for grant matches, another \$1 million for the August 3rd mass shooting contingency, \$800,000 for rural transit, \$314,000 for enhanced magistration (helping to ensure that only those who need to be in jail are), \$300,000 for the digital library referenced above, \$1.9 million for the Fabens Airport renovations, \$250,000 for our event/venue feasibility study, \$4.2 million for road paving and maintenance, \$4 million for mobility projects, \$8.3 million for capital equipment (includes \$3.8 million for ongoing equipment replacement), \$8 million for downtown annex renovation, and \$1.6 million for employee health and retirement.

As I expressed to staff before I took my respective votes against the budget and against the tax rate, my

opposition is not tied to the incredible work our County team has done throughout the pandemic. I am incredibly proud to be part of the County family, and I'm proud of the work our Chief Administrator and her team do day in and day out. Fundamentally, I simply could not support the priorities the court established demonstrating a clear preference for law enforcement over other County employees and over programs that I think the residents of El Paso County deserve now more than ever (nearly \$3 million to law enforcement instead of a Crisis Intervention Team or social services to help the neediest of El Pasoans during this unprecedented time). With respect to the tax rate, I truly felt that even if the money folks could have saved might not have been incredibly significant, it would have been something, especially as we live through these economically difficult times. We're all in this together, and I will continue to work and fight for my all of neighbors and all county employees.



PROGRAM NAME	FY21 Proposed Budget
Administration of Justice Total	\$ 75,263,589
Culture & Recreation Total	\$ 7,724,878
General Government Total (1)	\$ 113,214,039
Health & Welfare Total	\$ 9,799,819
Match Total	\$ 6,368,726
Public Safety Total	\$ 132,443,549
Public Works Total	\$ 31,964,089
Resource Development Total	\$ 10,315,657
GRAND TOTAL	\$ 387,094,346
(1) Includes appropriated unallocated fund balance	

University Medical Center Budget and Tax Rate

We also set the tax rate for University Medical Center (the County Hospital District). The rate stayed the same as last year's rate. However, it is important to note that while the tax rate is the same, revenue will increase and people will be charged more because of increased property value assessments. The average increase will be relatively small, a few dollars, but I am well aware that any increase during this time of economic uncertainty is difficult to force on taxpayers.

I **did** vote in favor of this tax rate because years ago, when I voted to save El Paso Children's Hospital, we authorized the use of cash on hand, depleting UMC's cash levels. I felt that this year we

had a chance to make up that budgetary shift and help increase the credit rating for the hospital district - which actually did improve after the budget and tax rate were adopted.

Regarding UMC's budget, it is important to note that they are delaying a neighborhood clinic in my precinct that was promised to voters before I came into office to buy a micro-hospital to help during these COVID times. It was hard for me to accept that decision because it meant breaking a previous commissioners court's promise to my constituents, so I voted against the micro-hospital purchase. However, as I expressed above, given the help UMC lent Children's, I felt that the

additional revenue this year would lead towards replenishing the cash and improving the credit rating, helping the district if and when it chooses to go out for bond to improve infrastructure and increase services.

I would like to add that I am incredibly proud of UMC's care for ALL of their employees. While this year was difficult for accommodating wages so that minimum wage gets to \$15 an hour, UMC's commitment to making incremental changes has been positive. That and the constant reassurance from their union representatives that hospital administration always listens and is willing to help is something that I am very proud of.

	Fiscal year 2020 Current Tax Rate	Fiscal Year 2021		
		No New-Revenue Rate	Last year's rate	Voter-Approval Rate
Taxable value of existing properties	\$ 43,933,290,393	\$ 45,927,955,120	\$ 45,927,955,120	\$ 45,927,955,120
Taxable value of new properties/improvements	786,054,435	777,197,030	777,197,030	777,197,030
Total Taxable value	\$ 44,719,344,828	\$ 46,705,152,150	\$ 46,705,152,150	\$ 46,705,152,150
		4.44%		
Maintenance & Operations Tax Rate	\$ 0.214921	\$ 0.214718	\$ 0.216875	\$ 0.229979
Interest & Debt Service Tax Tax	0.052826	0.050587	0.050872	0.050587
Total Tax Rate	\$ 0.267747	\$ 0.265305	\$ 0.267747	\$ 0.280566
		(\$ 0.002442)	\$ -	\$ 0.012819
Maintenance and Operations	\$ 96,111,263	\$ 100,284,369	\$ 101,291,799	\$ 107,412,042
Interest and Debt Service	23,623,441	23,626,735	23,759,845	23,626,735
Expected property tax revenue	\$ 119,734,704	\$ 123,911,104	\$ 125,051,644	\$ 131,038,777
Total variance from prior year-		\$ 4,176,400	\$ 5,316,940	\$ 11,304,073
Variance from new properties/improvements		2,061,943	2,080,922	2,180,551
Variance from prior year existing properties		2,114,457	3,236,018	9,123,522
Variance from No New Revenue Rate			\$ 1,140,540	\$ 7,127,673
Average home value	\$ 133,590	\$ 135,290	\$ 135,290	\$ 135,290
Annual property taxes due	\$ 357.68	\$ 358.93	\$ 362.23	\$ 379.58
Annual tax \$ change from prior year		\$ 1.25	\$ 4.55	\$ 21.89
Annual tax \$ change from No New Revenue Rate			\$ 3.30	\$ 20.65

CARES Act Funding

One important tool we have had to address and mitigate COVID-19's effects on our community came from Congress by way of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The County of El Paso received \$27,484,280.40 in CARES Act funding. As of October 26, 2020, we have expended \$10,718,195.21 of these funds and committed \$10,009,245.50. After we received the funds, we established a rough budget to govern their use. We allocated \$750,000 for elections, nearly \$4 million for smaller municipalities, \$500,000 for the Food Bank, \$1 million for homelessness, \$1.5 million for financial assistance, nearly \$7 million for medical, personal protective equipment, and sanitation, \$1 million for school connectivity, \$1 million for technology, \$1.9 million for economic impact mitigation to help small businesses, \$200,000 for testing, \$3.9 million for operating expenses, and \$343,000 for equipment. We also set aside \$4 million for a second wave/reserve.

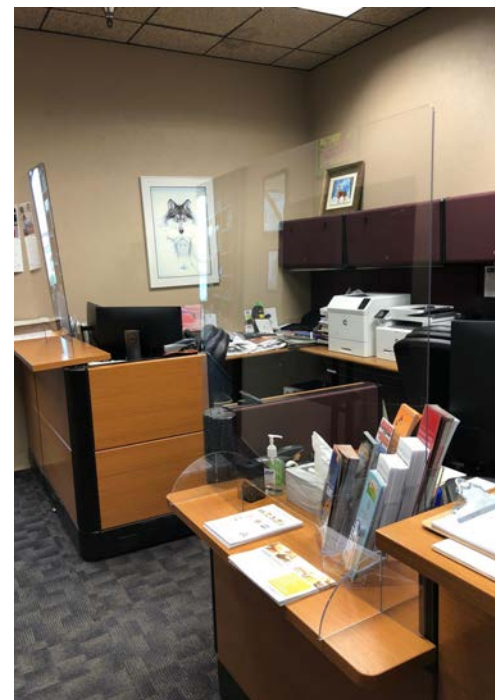
When we received CARES Act funding, I met with various groups around town and we advocated to take \$2 million of our CARES funding to help the neediest El Pasoans, folks left out of the cash payout stimulus contained in the CARES Act. Unfortunately,

my colleagues opposed helping these people, out of fear that the federal government might not believe it complies with Treasury Department regulations. I then advocated that we use our Emergency Reserves to cover this assistance. My colleagues also opposed this course of action, even though our reserve increased by \$6 million when the new budget was adopted. Ultimately the court agreed to use \$1 million of CARES Act funding for rental assistance and to help the Food Bank. I disagreed with the funding for the Food Bank, not because I believe their work is not helpful, but because I think the County should invest in long-term solutions such as Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) enrollment, which draws federal funding to our community directly and affords people the opportunity to do their own grocery shopping.

On September 21, 2020, the court approved \$35,000 of CARES funding to study the "SNAP Gap" so that we can be better positioned to help our neediest populations overcome food insecurity. I have advocated for investment in addressing the SNAP Gap, and I was glad the court agreed to take this

incredible process on. I was also a strong proponent of using CARES Act funding to help businesses pivot to medical device manufacturing, for small business assistance to eliminate the technology gap through Workforce Solutions and money for businesses in the county with PPE needs, as well connecting with our local schools to address broadband access and funding.

As you can see, this funding has been put to good use. We are doing our best to help our community, and I am grateful for all of the hard work our staff and our community have put into ensuring that we do good work for the people of El Paso County.



Ascarate Park Update

Ascarate continues to look incredible. Every time I have the chance to visit, I notice improvement, and that is a genuine joy for me. We observed the first anniversary of the August 3 shooting and had a small, socially distant, and safe ceremony at the park to mark the groundbreaking of the memorial that the County Judge's office has spearheaded. I am anxious to see the result and to join you all in reflecting and remembering the lives that were lost always remembering that the love that exists in this community is stronger than the hate that attacked us.

During these COVID times, my office has heard from a lot of you. We know that the golf course is a space you all enjoy and use to

exercise and get fresh air. Earlier in the pandemic, we followed the Public Health directive stating that tee times had to be in 45-minute intervals. When the order changed, the park adapted to 15-minute intervals. I know that there is a call to lower the intervals again to 10 minutes, and park staff is working with Public Health to implement this in the safest manner possible. I commend County staff for all of their work on this. It has not been easy. We also thank you, our neighbors and users and patrons of the park and golf course for your patience and commitment to the course and the park.

One thing you may notice is that there are fewer ducks and domestic

animals around the park. We coordinated with an entity recognized by Texas Parks and Wildlife to collect these domestic animals. Ascarate Park is not the proper home for animals that were bred to be pets. These animals do not have the natural instincts and capabilities to survive independently. As such, we did the humane thing and collected them and placed them in a home more suitable for their nature and needs.

There is currently a Parks Master Plan survey underway. You can find more information online at www.elpasocountyparks.com. You can tour the virtual meeting room and give your feedback as it pertains to Ascarate and all County parks. We want all kinds of feedback for this. We want to hear from residents, business owners, property owners, and anyone who uses our parks. The master plan will identify community preferences for parks, recreational facilities, and recreation programming, providing a road map of County parks for up to 10 years.



2020 Census

We have completed the 2020 Census count. The pandemic threw us for a loop, and the Trump Administration did little to help ensure an accurate count. We began this journey in 2018 by establishing the Paso del Norte Complete Count Committee. The County and City pledged more than \$750,000 toward this effort, knowing that an accurate count would pay dividends, based on a decennial's worth of federal funding tied to Census data. If our community was undercounted as it was in 2010, we would lose millions and millions in federal funding for schools, hospitals, and roads. Every person is worth about \$1,500 a year for our community, meaning that one person who isn't counted costs us \$15,000 during the next decennial, when that person would have the opportunity to be counted again. Multiplied

by 100 people, that's \$1.5 million we would lose, by 1,000 people, it would be \$15 million, by 10,000, it would be \$150 million. This is why we worked so hard to ensure our community was accurately counted.

My staff and I attended various events to further the count. Most recently we were at Guillen Middle School, Mary Webb Park, and at the Food City on Alameda engaging with folks and encourage they be counted before the count ended October 15.



Voting during COVID-19

Before the pandemic even began, I had been in close communication with Ms. Lisa Wise, the County's Elections Administrator. My office and I have long advocated for vote centers, which, after approval from the Texas Secretary of State, will be in place for the November General Election. Every polling site, every precinct across the county will operate as a vote center, meaning people can vote at any polling site, regardless of whether it is their assigned location. Much like early voting, where you can vote at any select site regardless of geographic location, vote centers enable El Pasoans to vote at which ever site is most convenient for them. That, coupled with extended hours at various early voting locations and expanded express curbside voting option, further illustrates that our Elections Department is doing everything possible to ensure El Pasoans can vote.

Election Day is November 3rd, 2020, and early voting continues through October 30.

As was mentioned previously in the CARES section of this newsletter, the County allocated \$750,000 for the Elections Department. This funding was used for mail-in ballots, personal protective equipment, and additional staff at polling locations solely dedicated to keeping the facility clean, as well as other materials and to ensure we have a safe and successful general election.

There are 35 Early Voting locations, including locations that offer Saturday and Sunday hours of both weekends (from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm). Ten locations will be open until 10:00 pm the last week of Early Voting (October 26-30). These sites are Arlington Park Shelter, Bassett Place, El Paso County Coliseum, El Paso County Eastside Annex, El Paso County Northwest Annex, Marty Robbins Rec Center, Officer David Ortiz Rec Center, Oz Glaze Senior Center, Pebble Hills High School, and Sunland Park Mall. Arlington Park, Bassett Place, the Coliseum, Marty Robbins, David Ortiz, Oz Glaze, and Sunland Park Mall will also have dedicated staff facilitating express curbside voting.

Finally, if folks would like to drop off their mail-in ballots, they can do so at the El Paso County Courthouse on San Antonio Street in Downtown. Elections staff will be on hand and ready to accept ballots. The ballot MUST be returned by the person casting the vote in the envelope provided with their ballot by mail and they MUST produce a valid form of identification. Lastly, folks can call (915) 834-8222 to confirm that the Elections Department has received their ballot by mail. I am so proud of all Ms. Wise and her team are doing to make this election safe, successful and easy. I am, as always, honored and happy to support any efforts that facilitate the democratic process in El Paso County.



Our Office COVID-19 Update

While my physical office has been closed since March 23, 2020, we have worked remotely, working to ensure the people of Precinct 2 and across the county are represented and heard as we live through this pandemic. Though our work life has shifted as a result of the global health crisis, I remain committed to the same topics that I have been passionate about since I was first elected. I remain focused on ensuring fiscal responsibility in light of an economic crisis, pursuing constant improvement in public safety, and being responsive to public health needs, including both mental and physical.

Through that we still accomplish and manage day-to-day work as we would if we were in the office. I still attend Commissioners Court meetings, Emergence Health Network board meetings, Project BRAVO board meetings, NAMI Texas board meetings, as well as meetings of the Conference of Urban Counties, Texas Association of Counties and National Association of Counties.

I have been a strong proponent of releasing more cluster data, enhancing and increasing testing, advocating for spending CARES Act funding and other County tax dollars to help our community both by helping individuals and families in need as well as

small businesses who need a hand to keep their doors open. My staff and I have been involved a great deal in addressing homelessness, supporting immigrants and tackling food insecurity, all of which have taken on a new light since March. The pandemic has uncovered inequities and issues in systems that were barely surviving and has shown us what happens when a crisis hits and needs exceed capacity to serve.

I attend weekly meetings with the County Judge, Catholic Bishop, and officials from CBP and ICE; weekly meetings with the homeless community; and biweekly meetings with the food security task force. My monthly meetings with the CEO of UMC have continued as well as my meetings with the CEO of El Paso Children's Hospital. Earlier in the pandemic my staff and I were attending two weekly Bio El Paso-Juarez meetings coordinated by the Medical Center of the Americas focused on addressing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) needs and testing needs in general. A lot came of that work, and I was recently appointed by the Commissioners Court to serve on the COVID-19 City/County Taskforce.

I have advocated for using CARES funding to help grant matches with the smaller school districts in the County. They,

more than ever, need assistance in implementing technology in their classrooms. My staff and I, as well as County staff, have worked diligently in conjunction with our state partners to ensure that that match is available to them. In line with helping our community, I have advocated and helped push small business loans using both economic development funds and CARES funds to help our local businesses survive.

More recently, we established a partnership with the Hunt Foundation and the Family Independence Initiative to contribute \$575,000 in direct funds to help struggling families get cash in their pockets.

That, along with loosening our General Assistance requirements, make me optimistic that we will be able to help El Pasoans most in need.

Adapting and living in this new world has not been easy. I genuinely hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well. We are at your service and while we may not be in the office, we are answering phones Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at **(915) 546-2111**. Feel free to also send us an email to **commissioner2@epcounty.com**.

Health Update

A short update on my health: In July, I donated a kidney to my father. Thankfully the operation went smoothly, and I am feeling a lot better and recovering well, though my father is not out of the woods yet. His recovery, of course, is a lot more strenuous than mine. He is on a lot of medication to ensure the kidney takes to his body, and he has regular checkups. He is as well as can be, and we are grateful for all of the thoughts and prayers that have been shared with both of us.

Special Thanks

My Veterans Board Advisory appointee, Mr. Burrell McCollum has relocated with his family. I wanted to take a moment to highlight him and the work that he has done for my office and our community – from championing the Veterans Needs Assessment Survey to being engaged in our office’s efforts to curb military suicide. Mr. McCollum was a responsive board member always keeping me informed of the board’s efforts, which I helped create when I was first elected. I am grateful for the insight he brought to the board, and for his service as Chair. I know that Precinct 2 will miss Mr. McCollum, but we do sincerely thank him and wish him the very best during this new chapter.

NACo Leadership Academy

I’m pleased to say that I have recently started in the National Association of County’s Leadership Academy, along with County Veteran Service Coordinator Carl Dwyer. I am excited to take on this new learning experience and bring some knowledge and skills to the County. NACo is an incredible organization with which I have been heavily involved. As you may recall, the NACo Immigration Reform Task Force came to El Paso last year. My staff and I helped show them around El Paso and Juarez. Showing them firsthand what folks here experience and how national policies impact everyday people was an important way to contextualize life in the Borderland for a national audience of elected officials and staff.

Medical Examiner Recognition

One of the offices that has often been consistent in their work throughout the pandemic and dating back to the August 3rd shooting is the Medical Examiner’s Office. They have been valiant heroes working day in and day out in our worst moments, providing an invaluable service for data and justice. On August 17, 2020, I was proud to join County Judge Ricardo Samaniego and Chief Administrator Betsy Keller in unveiling a plaque honoring the ME’s office for their service to our community after the August 3rd massacre. Remembering the role they played then, and will play in ensuring justice is served has not escaped us, and we are immensely grateful to them for their work.





EL PASO COUNTY, TEXAS
DAVID C. STOUT
COUNTY COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT TWO

August 19th, 2020

Homeless community COVID containment a success story in El Paso a special in El Paso Matters
 By David C. Stout

The pandemic has forced many quick actions. In the best cases, local leaders have had at least a moment to reflect, converting reactions into deliberate responses.

One of the most pressing issues where local government has worked these past few months involves homelessness, and those efforts have been successful.

Homeless populations, especially when sheltered, hold great potential to be a flashpoint. New York City saw some alarming numbers during its peak, and some cities have struggled to contain spread among the homeless.

However, other cities, like ours, have minimized spread within emergency shelters.

In El Paso, a group involving county and city staff, as well as many agencies serving the homeless, came together to establish a better system that accommodated social distancing and linked folks in need with a place to stay.

We organized around the Opportunity Center for the Homeless, which desperately needed an overflow location and a way to handle new intakes as pre-pandemic numbers prevented social distancing within their location on Myrtle Avenue near Downtown.

We needed something under city or county control, to avoid protracted lease negotiations and to save rental payments for serving people. The City offered up the Hilos de Plata Senior Center and the Chalio Acosta Sports Center, on Delta Drive, which had successfully housed displaced people during Hurricane Rita and were already designated as emergency sites. These facilities had been vacated because of COVID-19, making them viable. Additionally, they are near the Salvation Army and Rescue Mission, allowing those organizations to provide support.

At these locations, the Delta Welcome Center and Delta Haven have popped up on a temporary basis, to centralize intakes for all shelters, isolating and referring for testing as needed, and to accommodate overflow from the Opportunity Center.

In its first four months, the Delta site had 989 unduplicated intakes, and among them, only 16 had tested positive for COVID-19. That's a positive rate of 1.62 percent, with zero known cases that originated within the Delta site.

The Opportunity Center operates the Delta site in conjunction with Endeavors, and those numbers are a testament to their constant vigilance in screening, as they follow quarantine guidelines and develop their own best practices where none existed previously. Their success has become El Paso's success.

Having seen this, on Aug. 17, my colleagues and I finalized an additional \$1 million to keep the Delta site in operation ahead of its transition, building on the city's initial seven-figure investment.

The city has committed \$3.9 million to help stand up the Welcome Center as a going concern, enabling a transition to a new and permanent location soon and capitalizing on the unprecedented collaboration seen recently in the homelessness community.

This work is especially important as evictions have started to return. Since the Delta site started tracking evictions about three weeks ago, 11 households have sought shelter because of an eviction.

Even with deliberation, actions have consequences. The pandemic has lingered far beyond expectation, and this temporary solution has affected folks in the nearby neighborhood. My office has worked with county and city staff to help find solutions such as increasing access to healthy food for seniors in the neighborhood and increasing the frequency of trash cleanup.

Normally, senior centers offer access to air conditioning, and we're working to find a solution for folks who lost their cooling station when Hilos de Plata closed. We continue to listen, working to normalize life for those folks as much as possible.

It has not been a perfect solution, but no one can dispute that we achieved our goal of containing COVID-19 spread among homeless people in El Paso.

David C. Stout has represented Precinct 2 on El Paso County Commissioners Court since 2015.

An Equal Opportunity Employer
 500 E. San Antonio, Suite 301, El Paso, TX 79901
 Phone: 915-546-2111 · Fax: 915-543-3817
 Email: commissioner2@epcountv.com

Precinct 2 Resolutions

Resolution recognizing April 2020 as Census Month in El Paso County, Texas

Resolution urging immigrant support during the COVID-19 pandemic

Resolution urging for release of those in immigrant detention as a result of the risk of COVID-19

Resolution recognizing Historic Preservation Month in El Paso County, Texas

Resolution Honoring Project BRAVO for their 55th anniversary in El Paso County, Texas

Resolution recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month

Resolution to recognize the work needed to address Veteran Suicide in our community

Resolution recognizing that Black Lives Matter

Resolution regarding the murder of George Floyd and subsequent protests

Resolution recognizing June as PRIDE Month in El Paso County, Texas

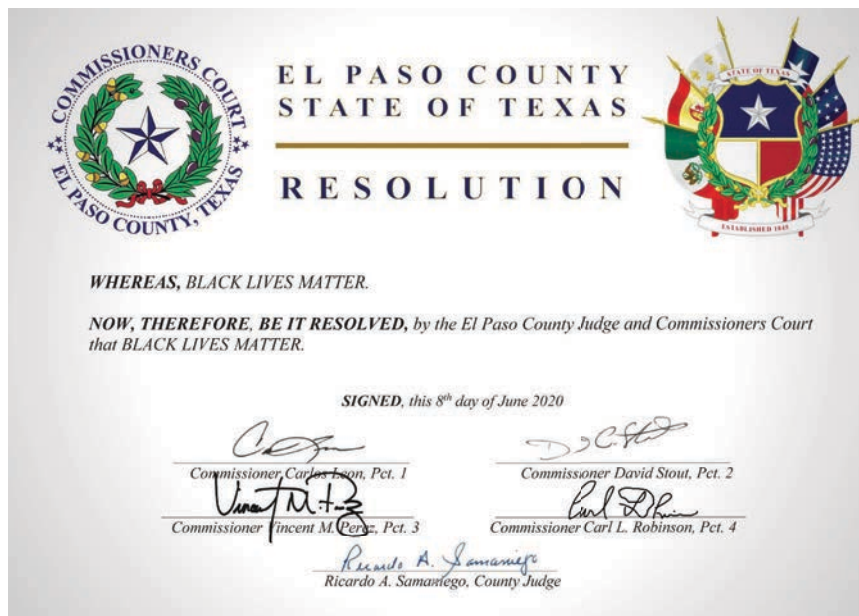
Resolution honoring the Americans with Disabilities Act signing anniversary

Resolution calling for congress to pass the HEROES ACT to aid communities in need

Resolution advocating for the drawing and creation of fair maps during the redistricting process

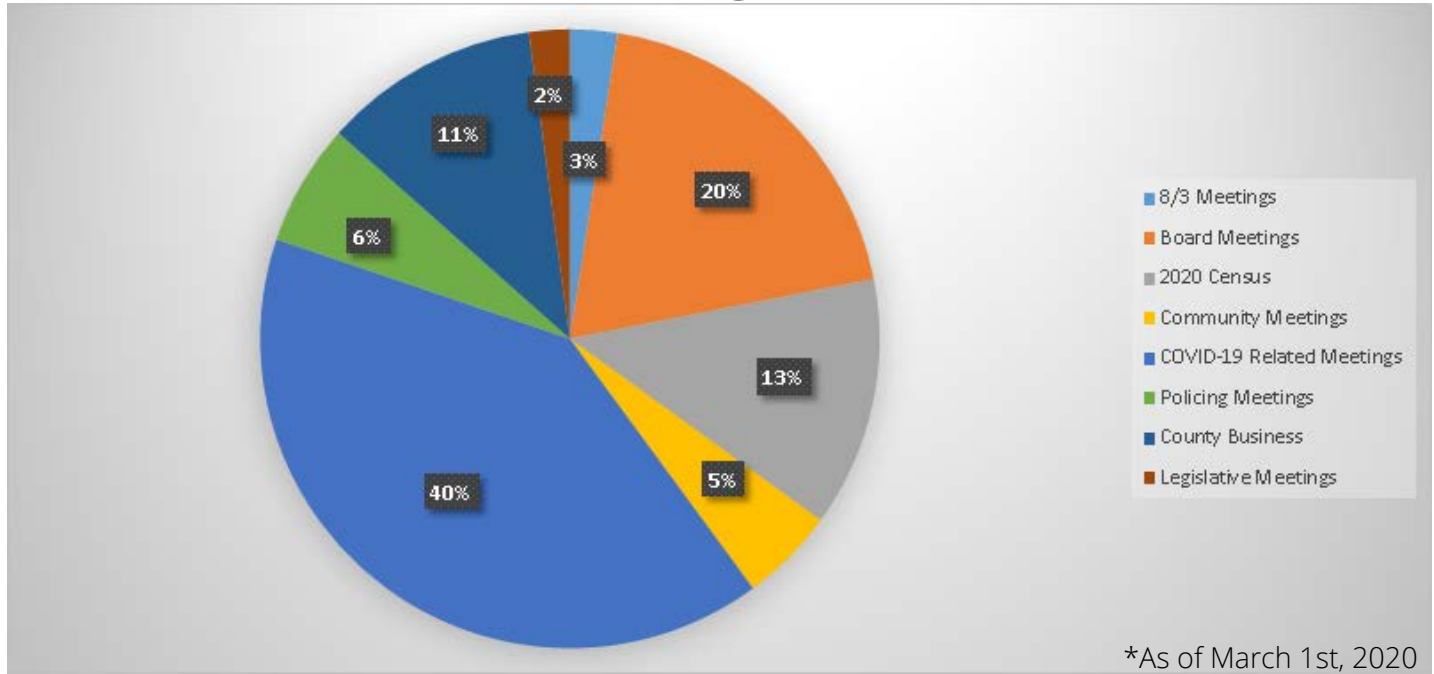
Resolution advocating Private Marcelino Serna be awarded the state and federal Medal of Honor

Resolution recognizing the celebration of El Paso County's very first Indigenous Peoples' Day



Precinct 2 by the Numbers

Office Meetings: Total 282



Office Statistics


- 30 Virtual Commissioners Court meetings since March 16th, 2020
- 1 in person meeting to adopt tax rate
- 4 days of budget hearings
- 19 resolutions sponsored
- 7 op-eds published

COVID-19 Response Ideas Proposed

- \$2 million for those left out of federal stimulus - rejected (ultimately \$500k was allocated for restricted debit cards and \$500k for the food bank)
- \$2 million for social welfare programs - rejected
- \$1.95 million for economic development funding
 - Money for pivot to medical device manufacturing
 - Small business loans and technology gap w/Workforce Solutions
 - Personal Protective Equipment for small businesses
 - Project with Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- \$1 million for school technology infrastructure
- \$750k for Elections
- \$165k for Senior Citizen Meals


COVID-19 Assistance/News from El Paso Electric and Project BRAVO

If you have experienced a COVID-related hardship, you may be eligible for Project BRAVO's COVID Relief Programs:



Emergency Housing Payment Assistance

You may be able to receive up to \$1,000 of assistance per month, up to three months, for past due rent from April 2020 to December 2020



El Paso Community Card Program


You may be able to receive a one time payment up to \$1,000 for essential household items like groceries.

For more information, visit www.projectbravo.org/covid19resources



Households who have experienced COVID-related hardship may be eligible for the following programs. Please see the back of this flyer for a checklist of required documents.

Emergency Housing Payment Assistance



Rent
You may be eligible for up to \$3,000.00 in rental assistance for up to three months.

Mortgage
You may be eligible for up to \$3,750.00 in mortgage assistance for up to three months.

El Paso Community Card

\$1,000.00 MasterCard

Eligible households may receive a Visa MasterCard that may be used for essential household items such as groceries and prescriptions. Households may be eligible for up to \$1,000.00.





Dear Valued EPE Customer,

El Paso Electric (EPE) is always available to help our customers, especially those having difficulties paying their bill.

We are reaching out to you because our records indicate a past due balance on your account.

EPE will resume in field collection activity as early as October 26, 2020.

We are asking you to contact our Customer Care Team immediately to learn about the availability of financial assistance, flexible payment arrangements and other payment options. While collection activity can ultimately include disconnection for non-payment, EPE is committed to working with our customers to reduce outstanding balances to avoid having to resort to customer disconnection.

EPE is here to help.
Contact our Customer Care Team at **(800) 351-1621** or by email at CustomerCare@epelectric.com.

We look forward to hearing from you and working through this together.

Please disregard this notice if you have recently paid your past due balance or entered into a flexible payment arrangement with EPE.

Estimado cliente de EPE,

El Paso Electric (EPE) siempre está disponible para ayudar a nuestros clientes, en especial a aquellos que puedan tener dificultades para pagar su factura.

Nos dirigimos a usted hoy porque nuestros registros indican un saldo vencido en su cuenta.

Le avisamos que EPE reiniciará la recaudación de facturas pendientes de pago tan pronto como el 26 de octubre de 2020.

Le pedimos que se comunique con nuestro Departamento de Servicio al Cliente inmediatamente para informarse sobre la asistencia financiera, los acuerdos de pago flexibles y otras opciones de pago disponibles para usted. Aunque la recaudación puede llegar a incluir la desconexión por falta de pago, EPE se compromete a trabajar con nuestros clientes para reducir los saldos vencidos y así evitar la desconexión del servicio.

En EPE estamos para ayudarle.
Contacte a nuestro Departamento de Servicio al Cliente llamando al **(800) 351-1621** o por correo electrónico en CustomerCare@epelectric.com.

Esperamos tener noticias suyas y poder trabajar juntos para seguir adelante.

Omita este aviso si ha pagado recientemente su saldo vencido o ha establecido un acuerdo de pago flexible con EPE.

COVID-19 Assistance/News from El Paso Water



You may be eligible for help if you:

- live within El Paso city limits
- meet the household low income thresholds
- show economic hardship due to COVID-19

To apply, go to epwater.org/covid19assistance
or call 915-263-4444

Puede ser elegible para recibir ayuda si:

- vive dentro de los límites de la ciudad de El Paso
- cumplir con los umbrales de bajos ingresos del hogar
- mostrar dificultades económicas debido a COVID-19

Para aplicar, vaya a epwater.org/covid19assistance
o llame al 915-263-4444



Commissioner Stout in the News

<https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/2020/03/13/coronavirus-census-can-respond-phone-mail-online-amid-covid-19/5004267002/>

<https://noticiasya.com/el-paso/2020/03/23/corte-del-condado-de-el-paso-cierra-indefinidamente/>

<https://www.wjtv.com/border-report-tour/border-county-hiring-outreach-coordinator-for-migrant-community/>

<https://noticiasya.com/el-paso/2020/04/01/comienzan-a-recibir-aplicaciones-para-ayuda-a-negocios-en-el-paso/>

<https://www.keranews.org/post/el-paso-leaders-call-release-nonviolent-detainees>

<https://www.texasmonthly.com/politics/ted-cruz-says-press-giddy-with-glee-over-coronavirus-pandemic-bull-session/>

<https://www.ktsm.com/local/covid-19-pandemic-causing-problems-for-el-paso-county-commissioner-who-is-wanting-to-donate-kidney-to-father/>

<https://fox40.com/news/el-paso-official-urges-ice-to-release-detainees-to-shelters-to-prevent-more-covid-19-cases/>

<https://kvia.com/news/el-paso/2020/05/26/el-paso-county-struggles-with-naming-virus-task-force-rep-seeks-regional-approach/>

Follow Us Online!

**Facebook.com/commissioner
DavidStout**

Twitter.com/CommStout

epcounty.com

Questions?

915-546-2111

commissioner2@epcounty.com

