



NEWS RELEASE:

BUDGET & FISCAL POLICY

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El Paso County FY2024 Budget Hearings Set to Begin

Since February 2023, the County has engaged in various budget hearings throughout the year as they prepare to propose a budget for FY2024 which begins on October 1, 2023. As such, El Paso County Commissioners Court will hold a budget hearing summarizing the \$564.5 million proposed budget for FY2024 during its regular meeting on Monday, August 14th. The budget hearing may be followed by a follow-up hearing, if necessary, during the regular Commissioners Court meeting on Monday, August 21st. Thereafter, a tax rate public hearing will take place on August 21st at 5:30 p.m. with the actual tax rate adoption expected to take place on Monday, August 28th during the regular Commissioners Court meeting. All meetings are open to the public and will be held in the Alicia Chacon County Commissioners Courtroom in the Enrique Moreno Courthouse located at 500 E. San Antonio St. We encourage the community to participate!

The FY2024 proposed budget includes community-based initiatives that advance the County toward the mission and vision set forth by the Commissioners Court. Further, the proposed budget is based on sustainable revenue sources to fund current and future priorities, such as personnel and the Sheriff's Office collective bargaining agreement, ongoing capital improvement planning (CIP) needs and integrating diverse financing tools for larger projects such as storm water mitigation projects, deferred maintenance projects, mobility projects, and park improvements.

The proposed budget is an integral component that will allow the County to function effectively in the current environment and ensure that it is prepared for challenges well in the future. To do so, this budget will again require the use of a large portion of the fund balance with the expectation that revenues will be higher than projected. For this reason, funding for certain initiatives (CIP, new personnel, and any potential step increases) may be placed in reserves and considered later once the revenue is available.

Lastly, when reviewing the proposed budget, it is important to reflect on the various unfunded mandates imposed on the County. Unfunded mandates are laws passed by the Texas Legislature that require counties to provide services or care without funding to support those costs. As a result, these laws, or unfunded mandates, increase costs for county governments, which in turn place an additional burden on local taxpayers.



These services include, but are not limited to:

Judicial System	Indigent Defense
Juror Pay	Indigent Burials
Bail Bond Boards	Child Protective Services Attorneys
County Jail	Collection Improvement Programs
Inmate Health Care	Collection of Motor Vehicle Fees
Adult & Juvenile Probation	Veterans Assistance Offices
Elections	Cost of Open Meetings
Medical Examiner Services	Support for DPS

In El Paso County, the cost to provide these services in FY2024 is approximately \$242,452,329, or 54% of the annual general fund budget.

Read. Watch. Listen. Participate.

For detailed information on the FY24 Recommended Budget, please visit: [00 – FY2024 Requested Book TO PRINT.pdf \(epcounty.com\)](#). For prior year budgets, you may visit: [County of El Paso Texas – Budget and Fiscal Policy \(epcounty.com\)](#).

To view a live broadcast of the meetings, please visit:
<https://www.youtube.com/@elpasocountycommissionerscourt>.

Instructions to participate during public comment are as follows:

Speaking time limits will be observed. During Public Comment, the speaking time limit is five (5) minutes. During discussion of an agenda item, the speaking time limit is five (5) minutes per person, and time cannot be delegated from one speaker to another.

IN PERSON PARTICIPATION

You may address the Commissioners Court in person by attending the meeting in the Alicia Chacon County Commissioners Courtroom, RM 303 on the 3rd floor of the Enrique Moreno County Courthouse located at 500 E. San Antonio, El Paso, Texas 79901. On the day of the



meeting you choose to participate in, please visit with a Commissioners Court Coordinator (Jessica Dominguez or Cesar Nava) to complete a form prior to your public comment item being discussed.

WEBCAM – MICROSOFT TEAMS PARTICIPATION

To participate in Public Comment using your webcam, please complete the form on this page: <https://epcounty.com/public-comment.htm>. Thereafter, you will receive a link to join the meeting.

PHONE PARTICIPATION

The County has established a phone number for members of the public wishing to participate in public comment of the meetings via telephone. Participants can dial **1-888-835-7276**. You will be required to leave a name, number, address and the item you wish to speak about during the meeting. You will then receive a phone call and be placed in a que in a phone bank program.

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