



**JAMES MONTOYA  
DISTRICT ATTORNEY  
34TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT  
EL PASO, HUDSPETH, AND CULBERSON COUNTIES**

**NEWS ADVISORY: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, Jan. 9, 2026

**NEARLY 2,000 CASES CLEARED FROM CRIMINAL CASE BACKLOG SINCE 2024**

**EL PASO, Texas (01/09/2026)** – The number of pending felony and misdemeanor cases has dropped by 1,937 since El Paso District Attorney James Montoya took office on Jan. 1, 2025.

The District Attorney made the announcement as a part of a news conference Friday afternoon that looked at the progress the Office as a whole has made to address the backlog of cases, some dating back to 2021.

In an unprecedented move, DA Montoya shared data showing how many misdemeanors and felonies ranging from DWIs to Family Violence to Murders have been handled by prosecutors since 2019, before the COVID pandemic practically shut down the justice system.

Data showed that in 2023 and 2024, the number of disposed cases was returning to the numbers reflected in a pre-pandemic time. By Dec. 2025, the number of pending cases was 9,950, which was nearly 2,000 lower than Dec. 2024.

“I’m really proud of the progress our office has made moving cases, and being in the courtroom. The feeling that we are making progress is clear in the data,” Montoya said, adding, “It might not seem like a lot, but I have about 80 attorneys working on 10,000 cases at a time.”

Montoya said the 2026 goal is to hold more jury trials. He urged the community to take the time to serve on a jury. This, Montoya said, informs the District Attorney’s Office about the kind of justice system the community wants for our residents.

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