



**CITY OF EL PASO**

# **El Paso Days in DC**

**Strategic and Legislative Affairs**

City Council Work Session: April 14, 2025

**Goal 6: Set the Standard for Sound Governance and Fiscal Management**

# Council Direction

## City Council Action (March 18, 2025)

- That the City Manager prepare a presentation in the next 30 days on establishing a travel fund dedicated toward advocating for the City's state and federal agendas during the upcoming budget workshops for Fiscal year 2026
- That the City Manager coordinate and arrange federal legislative meetings, inclusive of City Staff and each of the City Council Districts and Mayor, in Washington, D.C., with federal lawmakers, agencies, and key stakeholders



# Federal Legislative Agenda

On March 3, 2025, the El Paso City Council approved the Federal Legislative Agenda for the 119th Congress

## Policy Positions

- Maximizing federal resources
- Minimizing legal and financial burdens
- Upholding Local Authority
- Strengthening local-federal partnerships

## Priority Areas

- Critical Infrastructure
- Critical Public Services
- Public Safety
- Veterans and Military Affairs



# National League of Cities (NLC)

The National League of Cities (NLC) is an organization comprised of city, town and village leaders that are focused on improving the quality of life for their constituents.

- NLC membership: 2,761 cities across the nation (2024)
- NLC membership takes positions on federal actions, programs, and legislation that directly impact municipalities: [National Municipal Policy](#)
- The City of El Paso is a member of NCL and participates in the following Federal Advocacy Committees:
  - Large Cities Council
  - Transportation and Infrastructure Services
  - Military Communities





# National League of Cities (NLC)

NLC supports local leaders with training and peer-to-peer networking, including:

- **Federal Advocacy:** Access to policy resources, and participate in advocacy committees
- **Training:** Policy areas like transportation, housing, economic development via NLC University, webinars, workshops, and multiple conferences
- **Networking:** NLC connects elected officials from communities across the nation via NLC councils, caucuses, and virtual and in-person events
- **Resources:** NLC provides reports, briefs, case studies, and toolkits designed for elected officials



<https://www.nlc.org/membership/>

# National League of Cities (NLC)

NLC benefits for City staff include:

## **Funding Competitive Advantages**

- New grant programs and announcements
- Copies of successful grant applications from other cities

## **Access to Legislators and Federal Agencies**

- 10+ federal agencies attend NLC
- Meetings with White House IGR and U.S. Senators

## **Technical Training**

- MPO process training
- Benefit-cost analysis estimation
- Understanding funding models and engineering documents



# El Paso Days in DC Planning

- Staff reviewed travel and site costs for hosting an event in Washington, DC similar to El Paso Days in Austin
- Staff developed cost estimates and an event itinerary in coordination with [NLC Congressional Cities Conference](#)
- Staff met with Members of Congress, federal agency contacts, NLC staff, and local stakeholders, including:
  - El Paso County
  - El Paso Chamber
  - City of Socorro
  - Rio Grande Council of Governments
  - UTEP and EPCC
  - Nonprofit partners
  - Private sector partners

# El Paso Days in DC Planning

- El Paso Days in Austin includes advocacy meetings with state officials, technical meetings with state agencies, and networking events.
- To host a similar event in DC, staff recommends that:
  - [1] the City of El Paso take the lead on scheduling and leading advocacy and technical meetings
  - [2] utilizing NLC to coordinate free and low-cost networking events and receptions.
- The City of El Paso should prepare for compliance with Open Meetings Act and Council quorum rules. Compliance will include Council actions, meeting notice postings, and managing Council member schedules.



# El Paso Days in DC Planning

## Itinerary: NLC Training and Legislative Meetings

	Time	Activity	Details
Sunday, March 15	5:45 AM (flight) 1:15 PM (arrive)	El Paso Team arrives	NLC Conference check-in Hotels check-in
	2:00 PM	NLC Infrastructure Committee	
	4:00 PM	Meeting slot (early arrivals)	(City staff scheduled)
Monday, March 16	7:30 AM	NLC Transportation Committee	
	8:30 AM	Opening General Session	
	10:30 AM	NLC Training Sessions	
	12:30 PM	NLC Military Committee	
	2:00 PM	Afternoon General Session	
	4:00 PM	NLC Training Sessions	
	5:30 PM	Texas Reception	
Tuesday, March 17	9:00 AM	NLC Training Sessions	
	11:30 AM	NLC Training Sessions	
	12:45 PM	General Session	
	2:15 PM	Fed Agency Expo	
	3:30 PM	NLC Hill Day Training Session	
	1:30 PM	Meeting Senator Cornyn	(with NLC)
	4:00 PM	Meeting Senator Cruz	(with NLC)
Wed, March 18	9:00 AM	Meetings Federal Agencies	(City staff scheduled)
	11:00 AM	Congresswoman Escobar	(City staff scheduled)
	2:00 PM	Congressman Gonzales	(City staff scheduled)
	4:00 PM	Meetings Federal Agencies	(City staff scheduled)
Thurs, March 19	2:00 PM (flight) 9:25 PM (arrives)	El Paso Team returns	

# El Paso Days in DC Planning

**Proposed Dates: March 15 – March 19, 2026**

**Estimated cost: \$4,417 per person**

- Airfare: \$601
- Hotel: \$2,578 (4 days)
- Per Diem: \$368 (4 days)
- NLC Registration: \$780
- NLC Texas Reception: \$50
- Metro transport: \$40
- + any additional networking costs



*NLC Congressional Cities 2025*

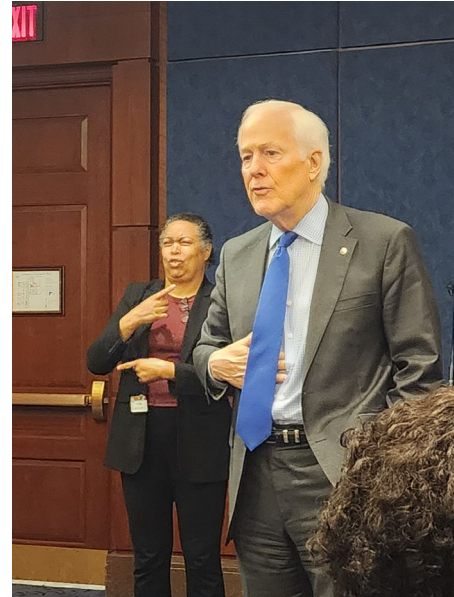
***\*Early registration and booking can help reduce costs***

# El Paso Days in DC Planning

	1 Person	2 Persons	3 Persons
Mayor	\$4,417	\$8,834	\$13,251
District 1	\$4,417	\$8,834	\$13,251
District 2	\$4,417	\$8,834	\$13,251
District 3	\$4,417	\$8,834	\$13,251
District 4	\$4,417	\$8,834	\$13,251
District 5	\$4,417	\$8,834	\$13,251
District 6	\$4,417	\$8,834	\$13,251
District 7	\$4,417	\$8,834	\$13,251
District 8	\$4,417	\$8,834	\$13,251
Total	\$39,753	\$79,506	\$119,259



# NLC Congressional Cities 2025





## MISSION

**Deliver exceptional services to support a high quality of life & place for our community.**



## VISION

**Develop a vibrant regional economy, safe & beautiful neighborhoods, & exceptional recreational, cultural & educational opportunities**



## VALUES

**Integrity, Respect, Excellence, Accountability, People**

