

September 2024 Congressional Update

Congresswoman Veronica Escobar



- First woman to represent TX16
- First of two Latinas from Texas to serve in Congress
- Co-Chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee, making her the only Texan in both the House and Senate to hold a leadership position.

Member of the following House committees:

- Judiciary Committee
- Ethics Committee
- Armed Services Committee

District Office Team



Emily Loya
District Director



Benito Torres
Senior Caseworker



Mariel Larios
Caseworker



Priscilla Contreras
District Representative



Kayley Castillo
District Representative



Sharon Zambrano
District Representative



Olga Avant-Mier
Office Manager

Investing in our Veterans

\$700 Million for a new El Paso VA Healthcare Center was secured in the FY22 Appropriations. Groundbreaking for this space was held on August 28th.

PACT Act:

- The largest health care and benefits expansion in VA history.
- TX-16 is home to over 48,000 veterans.
- As of July 2024, the El Paso VA has received almost 10,000 PACT Act related claims.
- Nationwide, the VA reported completion of at least 5.6 million total toxic exposure screenings.



The Dignity Act

- Congresswoman Escobar and Rep. Maria Salazar (FL) introduced the Dignity Act in May 2023.
- Currently, the bill has 37 cosponsors- 29 Democrats and 8 Republicans.

The Dignity Act accomplishes four main things:

- Opens robust legal pathways.
- Recognizes that migration happens long before migrants arrive at the border.
- Reforms border processes.
- Addresses the undocumented population in the U.S.



Why the Dignity Act Matters for El Paso

The Dignity Act:

- Manages the border by reforming outdated immigration processes
- Ensures Border Patrol agents are back out on the line instead of performing administrative tasks;
- Invests \$10 billion in infrastructure and technology at our land ports of entry; and
- Ensures El Pasoans don't shoulder the cost of housing migrants by making the Shelter and Services Program permanent

Active Shooter Alert Act of 2024

On August 12th, Congresswoman Escobar introduced the Active Shooter Alert Act of 2024.

- This piece of legislation would appoint an Active Shooter Alert Coordinator within in the Department of Justice (DOJ) and create a program similar to the AMBER Alert System for law enforcement to alert the public to active shooters in their community.
- The Coordinator would offer support and best practices to local and state law enforcement to effectively implement active shooter alert systems.

FY25 Community Project Funding Requests

City of El Paso Projects Selected*:

- \$3,000,000 for the Ysleta Port of Entry Engineering Project Design
- \$250,000 for the Innovation Factory Phase II



*Congress is still considering the Fiscal Year 2025 appropriation bills to fund various federal programs and services, including all Community Project Funding (CPF) requests.

FY 22-24 Community Project Funding Requests

City of El Paso Projects Awarded:

- \$1,000,000 for the Paso del Norte Trail waterfront shared-use path along the Franklin Canal from the entrance of El Paso Zoo to Tobin
- \$525,000 for the El Paso Police Department Body Worn Camera Program
- \$1,750,000 for the El Paso International Airport Solar Covered Parking Project
- \$500,000 for the Business One-Stop Shop (BOSS) Facility Acquisition and Expansion
- \$850,000 for the Terminal Bridge Reconstruction
- \$720,000 for the Sun Metro Micro Transit Fleet

Community Project Funding

FY25 - \$15.6 Million

- Congress is still considering the Fiscal Year 2025 appropriation bills to fund various federal programs and services, including all Community Project Funding (CPF) requests.

Total Project amounts funded

- FY24 - \$19.2 Million
- FY23 - \$21.1 Million
- FY22 - \$10.3 Million

Over \$50 Million for El Paso in the last 3 years!

City of El Paso Federal Grant Awards

FY24 Projects Awarded:

- \$15,000,000 for the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program.
- \$2,000,000 for the Paso del Norte and Station International Bridges Feasibility Study.
- \$250,000 Communities LEAP: Intersection of Community and Commerce.
- \$4,084,028 for the Shelter and Services Program.
- \$900,000 for the El Paso County Equitable Mobility Plan collaboration.

City of El Paso Federal Grant Awards

FY24 Projects Awarded:

- \$30,597,000 for the Sun Metro Bus Replacement and Facility Enhancement Project.
- \$10,616,196 to the El Paso International Airport: Construction and Rehabilitation Project.
- \$2,424,072 to the El Paso Police Department for the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program.
- \$11,625 to the El Paso Museum of Art: The Retablo Project.



City of El Paso Federal Grant Awards

Total Federal Grants awarded:

- FY24 - \$83,264,262
- FY23 - \$66,276,498
- FY22 - \$64,868,676

Over \$214 Million for El Paso in the last 3 years!

Constituent Services

How Can Our Office Assist?

- Navigating and understanding government agencies can be confusing so we are here to help.
- If your issue is regarding a Federal Agency, we can assist by requesting status updates, submitting requests and at times filling gaps that may be holding your case up.
- It is important to us that our constituents are informed of what is going on with their cases, regardless of the agency. Please note that we do not have the authority to change or overturn the agency's decision.

How do I know if my issue or concern is Federal?

- Department of State
- Department of Homeland Security
- Department of Treasury
- U.S. Small Business Administration
- Department of Defense
- Department of Veteran's Affairs
- U.S. Social Security Administration
- Department of Justice
- Department of Labor
- U.S. Postal Services
- & more!



Process to Receive Assistance

- Step 1–Provide a Privacy Release Form in which you outline your issues and concerns. Properly filling this form out is essential to our office aiding you. You can access this digital form on our website at www.escobar.house.gov
- Step 2–Allow the agency adequate time to provide our office with an update or formal response to your inquiry. Agency responses can take anywhere between ~~90~~ 30 days.
- Step 3–Our office will provide the agency response to you; per House Ethics rules we are not able to intervene in any established processes or ongoing investigations.

Mobile Office Hours

Mobile Office Hours

Do you need assistance navigating our federal government? Need help with an agency?

My team is hosting Mobile Office Hours near you.
Stop by!

Wednesday, August 7th
1-5pm

Rally Point Coffee

4726 Woodrow Bean Transmountain Suite D
El Paso, TX 79924



Questions?

Call my office at
915-541-1400
or visit escobar.house.gov



Mobile Office Hours

Do you need assistance navigating our federal government? Need help with an agency?

My team is hosting Mobile Office Hours near you.
Stop by!

Wednesday, August 14th
1-5pm

Flautas y Paeteria Tepalca
5198 Doniphan Dr.
El Paso, TX 79932



Questions?

Call my office at
915-541-1400
or visit escobar.house.gov

Mobile Office Hours

DISTRICT 3:

Thursday, September 12th

3 to 5 p.m.

Michelle T. Adjemian Recreation Center
9031 Viscount Blvd, El Paso, TX 79925

DISTRICT 2:

Friday, September 27th

12 to 2 p.m.

Wayne Thornton Community Center
3134 Jefferson Ave., El Paso, TX 79930

DISTRICT 7:

Wednesday, October 9th

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pavo Real Recreation Center
9301 Alameda Ave, El Paso, TX 79907

DISTRICT 1:

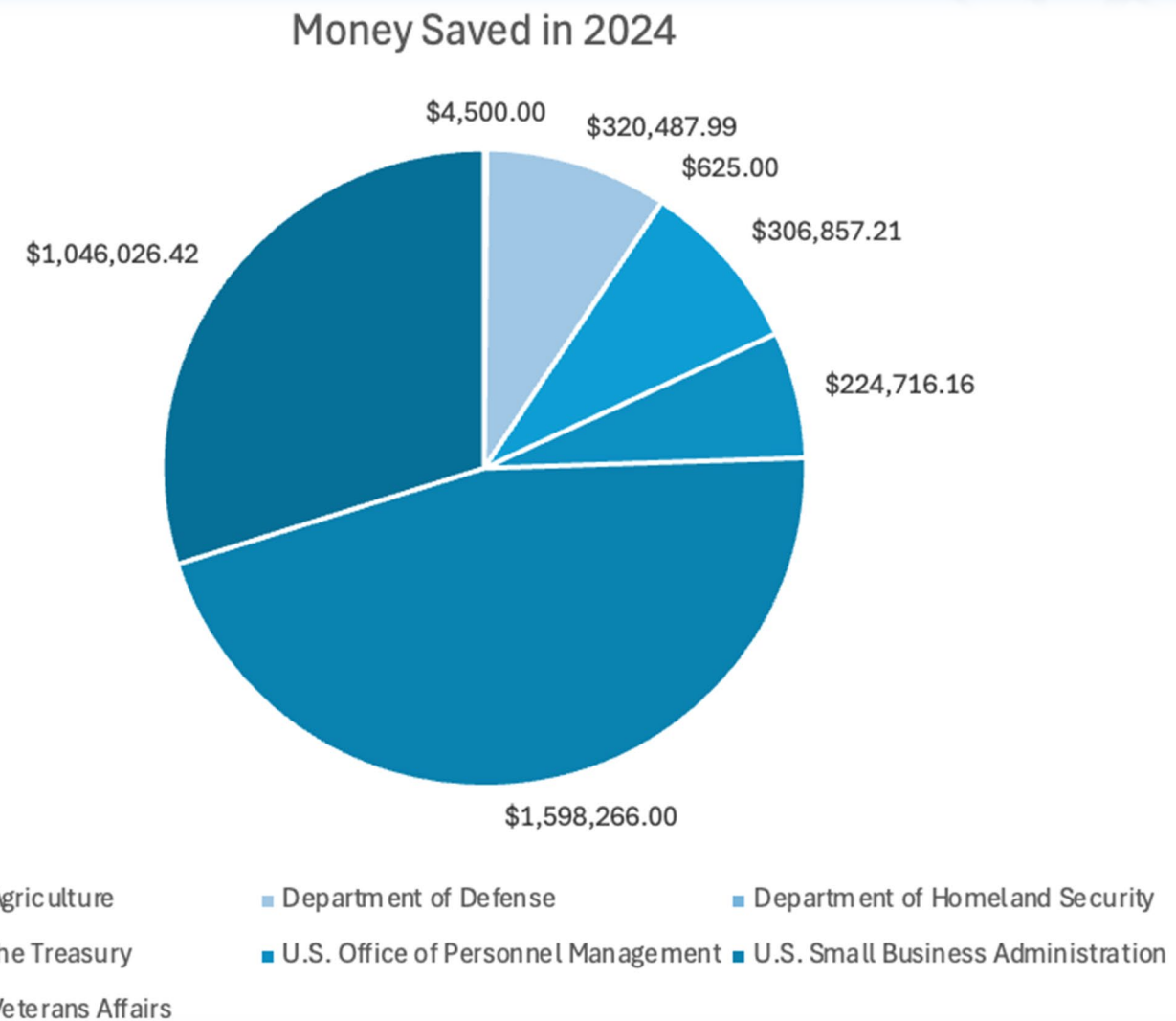
Wednesday, October 30th

3 to 5 p.m.

Don Haskins Recreation Center
7400 High Ridge Dr, El Paso, TX 79912

Casework Corner

- Cases Completed in 2024 as of 9/1/24:
 - 955
- Money Saved in 2024:
 - \$3.5 million



Youth Programs



Congressional Art Competition

- Annual Art Competition that takes place every Spring.
- Open to all high school students who live in or attend school in TX16.
- Winning artwork is displayed in U.S. Capitol for 1 year.

Questions? Email Priscilla.Contreras@mail.house.gov



Congressional App Challenge

- Annual coding competition that takes place every Fall.
- Open to all 6th-12th grade students living or attending middle or high school in TX.
- Winning app is displayed in U.S. Capitol for 1 year
- The deadline for the 2024 Congressional App Challenge is Octoberth24

Questions? Email Priscilla.Contreras@mail.house.gov



Library of Congress Surplus Books Program

- TX-16 participates in the Library of Congress Surplus Books Program.
- The program offered by the Library of Congress through which books that are not needed for the Library's own uses are made available for donation to eligible organizations and institutions across the 16th Congressional District.

Questions? Email Priscilla.Contreras@mail.house.gov



Congressional Youth Advisory Council

- Congresswoman Escobar started the Congressional Youth Advisory Council (CYAC) as a leadership opportunity for high school students with an interest in public service and the legislative process.
- Our application has closed. However, for upcoming school years, students living in TX and in grades 10-12 are eligible to apply.
- To apply, students must submit:
 - Resume
 - Cover Letter
 - Guardian Authorization & Media Release Form
 - One Recommendation Form, from a non-relative



Internships in El Paso and DC Offices

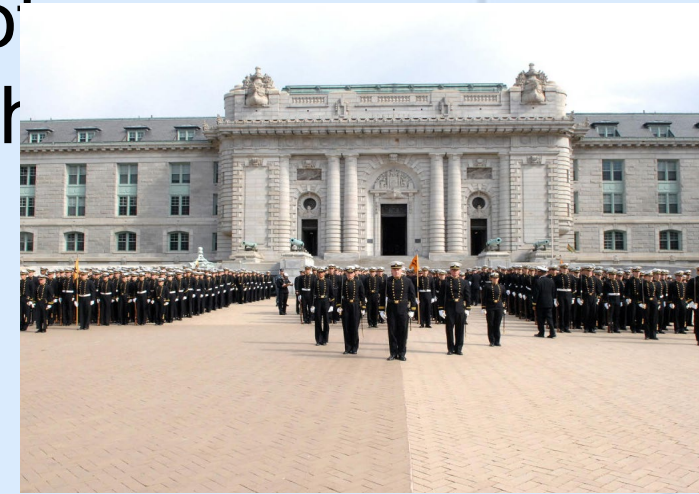
- Congresswoman Escobar offers both part-time and full-time internships in her Washington, DC and El Paso offices. Internships are open to high school, college and graduate students and many affiliated schools and programs offer academic credit.
- New classes are selected in the Fall, Summer and Spring
- To apply, the following needs to be submitted:
 - Resume
 - One letter of recommendation
 - Cover letter

Questions? Email Olga.Avant-Mier@mail.house.gov



Congressional Nomination to a Service Academy

- Congresswoman Escobar can nominate a limited number of extraordinary youth to four of the five service academies. The honor of attending a service academy comes with an obligation and commitment to serve in the military for a minimum of five years upon graduation.
- To be considered for a Service Academy nomination, applicants must download and complete the ~~TX~~ Service Academy Nomination Application found on our webpage and return it with all supporting documentation no later than 5:00 p.m. on December 6, 2024.



United States Naval Academy



United States Air Force Academy



United States Merchant Marine Academy



United States Military Academy

Questions? Email ServiceAcademy.TX16@mail.house.gov

Grant Services

Grants Newsletter & Webinars

- Our monthly newsletter contains highlights of recent ~~TX~~ grant awardees, upcoming funding opportunities and announcements from federal agencies, webinars hosted by both my office and federal grant-making agencies, and local resources for small businesses.

Request a Letter of Support

- Grant applicants may request that our office provide a letter to federal and state agencies in support of their grant application.

Research Services

- Authorized personnel from eligible grant organizations in ~~TX~~ can request that our office research available funding opportunities that are in alignment with their mission and work.

Questions? Email TX16.Grants@mail.house.gov

Additional Services

Congressional Commendations

- Appointment to public office
- Awards or honors
- Citizenship
- Eagle Scout
- Election to public office
- Girl Scout Gold Award
- Graduation
- Heroism
- & more!

Washington, DC Requests

- White House Tours
- US Capitol Tours
- Library of Congress Tours
- Presidential Greetings for milestone occasions
- Flag Requests



Contact Us!

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@RepEscobar

