



# El Paso City Council Update Office of Congressman Tony Gonzales

February 27, 2024

# Agenda

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## 1. District Overview

- District Map
- El Paso Priorities

## 2. Legislative Overview

- Committee Assignments
- Legislative Accomplishments
- Notable Pieces of Introduced Legislation
- Other Legislative/Funding Accomplishments

## 3. Federal Funding

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- COPS Grant Programs

## 4. Constituent Services

- Technical Assistance for Federal Grants
- Service Academy Nominations & Other Services

# Texas' 23rd Congressional District

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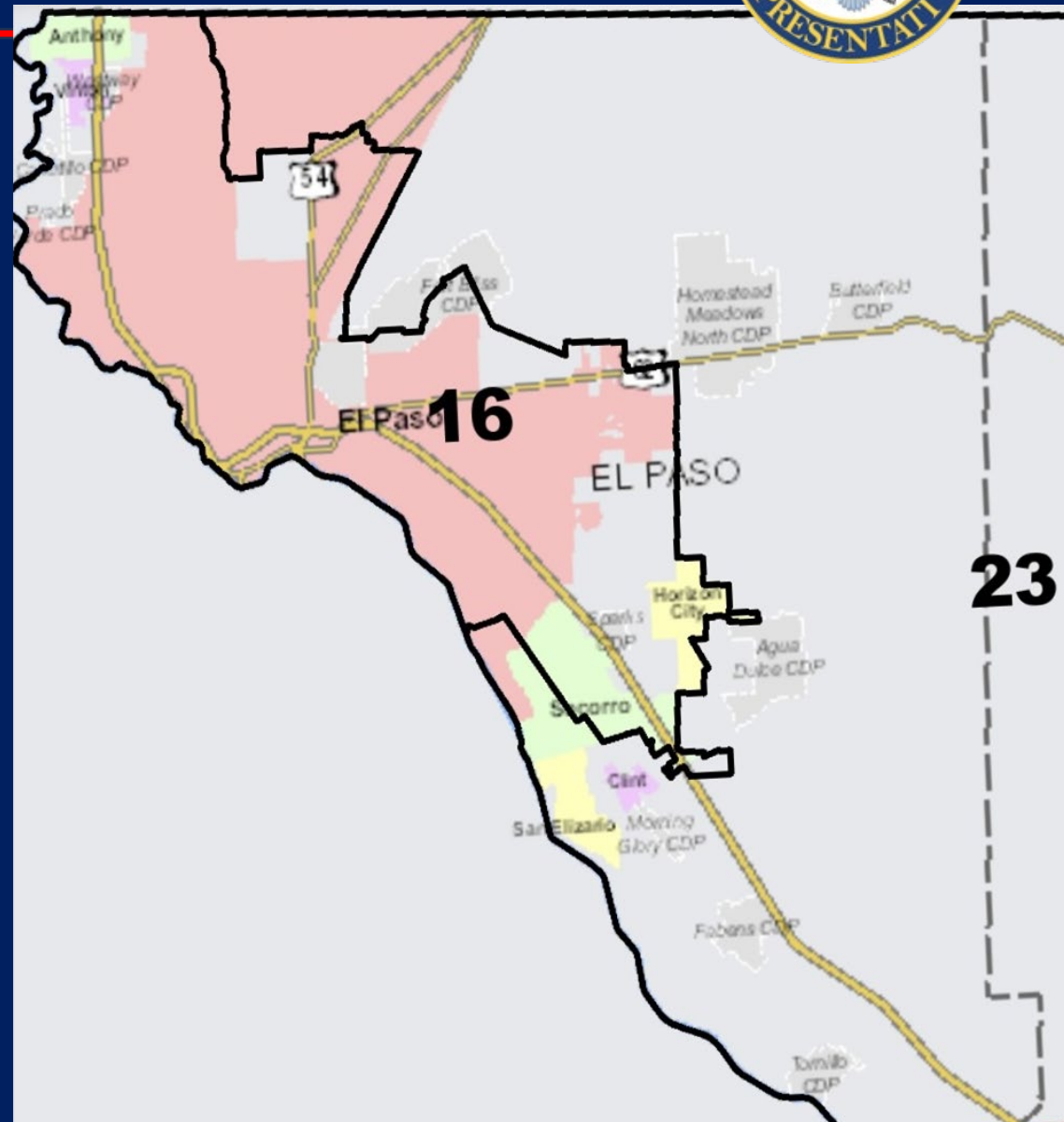
- 29 Counties
- 119 Towns/Cities
- 8 International Bridges & Border Crossings
- 4 Military Installations
- 2 National Parks
- Includes 42% of the United States – Mexico Border



# Texas-23, El Paso



- Northeast
  - North Hills
  - Sandstone Ranch Estates
  - Mesquite Hills
  - Campo del Sol
- Mission Valley / Lower Valley
  - Socorro
  - Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
  - San Elizario
  - Clint
  - Fabens
  - Tornillo
- Fort Bliss
  - Biggs Army Airfield
  - 3rd Infantry Division Artillery HQ
- Far East
  - Montana Vista
  - Hueco Tanks





# Congressman Gonzales in Local Media



**KFOX14**

**'We're at a breaking point':  
Rep. Gonzales addresses migrant  
crisis in El Paso conference**



**Exclusive: US Texas  
Congressman Tony Gonzales: Ft.  
Bliss has been forgotten**



**U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales  
secures district energy and water  
priorities in appropriations bill**

**El Paso Times**

**Fixing the H-2 visa program is  
a start to help labor shortage:  
Tony Gonzales, Woody Hunt**



**Tony Gonzales to host  
press conference after  
Title 42 ends**

**El Paso Times**

**US Rep. Tony Gonzales  
Announces Opposition to  
Climate Charter**

# Committee Assignments for 118th Congress

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## House Appropriations Committee

- Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies
- Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
- Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

## House Homeland Security Committee

- Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement
- Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence

# Legislative Overview- Advanced Legislation

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**H.R. 786:** To amend Title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Pecos Division of the Western District of Texas, and for other purposes

- Passed House and Senate; awaiting President Biden's signature

## **H.R. 2426: Find and Protect Foster Youth Act**

- Would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to find obstacles in identifying and responding to missing children in existing state foster care systems.
- Passed Committee on Ways and Means in a unanimous vote; awaiting House vote

**H.R. 5538:** To amend title 5 of the United States Code to provide special overtime pay for certain Border Patrol Agents, and for other purposes.

- Incorporated into FY24 NDAA; signed into law

# Legislative Overview- Notable Legislative Wins (NDAA)

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## Family Separation Allowance

- Servicemembers who live apart from their family members will see a \$150 increase in their separation pay
- First increase in 20 years

## Fort Bliss Rail Yard

- \$74 million to augment transportation resilience

## Other TX-23 Military Installations

- \$10.8 million for an F-16 Mission Training Center at JBSA
- \$158 million for JBSA for Child Development Center, Cyber Operations Center, and new Chapel



# Legislative Overview- Notable Bills

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## **H.R. 4025: Emi-Coke Accountability Act of 2023**

- The Emi-Coke Accountability Act of 2023 would provide local law enforcement and members of the public with an advanced warning system that can be used whenever there is a high-speed chase in their area.

## **H.R. 5838: SAFER Act**

- (1) imposes stricter asylum standards to close the asylum
- (2) strengthens enforcement partnerships with Latin American countries so that deportation flights can be more easily coordinated
- (3) commits more resources to the immigration court system to reduce backlogs that are leading to years-long overstays in the U.S. by migrants.

## **H.R. 3855: National Digital Reserve Corps Act**

- Would establish a Digital Reserve Corps that would allow reservists to sign up for a three-year period in which they would work for the federal government for 30 days each calendar year to take on digital and cyber security projects, digital education and training, and other work.

# Other Legislative/Funding Accomplishments

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## **Increased Funding for Operation Stonegarden**

- This is a federal grant program that creates partnerships between local law enforcement and Border Patrol to fight against human and drug trafficking. Congressman Gonzales secured the most Stonegarden grant funding in Congress (i.e. TX-23 received more than any other congressional district in the country).
- Of the \$37 million that Texas received this year, \$13 million (more than 1/3) will go to TX-23.

## **Authored and Passed an amendment that would end catch and release**

- Instead of releasing migrants into communities, this amendment mandates that all migrants must be detained and that detention facilities must be used to their fullest extent.

## **Helped introduce legislation to impose life sentences on human smugglers if anyone is killed**

- Under this legislation, failure to yield would be a felony, and if anyone is killed during the apprehension, smugglers could face life sentences.

# Community Project Funding

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Community Project Funding (CPF) provides investment in a wide variety of projects such as transportation, public facilities, emergency services, broadband, economic development and other critical infrastructure and services.

- For FY24 applications, each Member of the House was limited to 15 requests.
- Requestor MUST submit 3 examples of community support to the office of Rep. Tony Gonzales for the request to be considered.
- The recipient of the CPF must be a governmental entity or 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Requests made by for-profit entities are NOT permitted.
- FY 25 CPF Internal Deadline will be in Mid-March 2024.



# Grant Funding

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## COPS Hiring Program

- The goal of the COPS Hiring Program (CHP) is to provide funding directly to law enforcement agencies to hire and/or rehire additional career law enforcement officers in an effort to increase their community policing capacity and crime prevention efforts. Anticipated outcomes of CHP awards include engagement in planned community partnerships, implementation of projects to analyze and assess problems, implementation of changes to personnel and agency management in support of community policing, and increased capacity of agency to engage in community policing activities.
- Expected NOFO: Mid-March, 2024

The KENS 5 logo is displayed on a white, torn-edge paper background. The word "KENS" is in a bold, black, sans-serif font, and the number "5" is in a large, white, sans-serif font with a red outline, set against a red rectangular background.

**San Antonio wins federal law  
enforcement grant worth millions to  
bring 50 new officers on the force**





# Constituent Services

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- Grant Services
- Casework
- Weekly Updates
- Service Academy
- Nominations
- Congressional Art/App Challenges
- Flag Requests
- Recognition Requests
- Official Internships
- Surplus Library of Congress Books
- Letters of Support





**Questions? Email, [Benjamin.Shipkey@Mail.House.Gov](mailto:Benjamin.Shipkey@Mail.House.Gov)**