



# The Senate of the State of Texas

## COMMITTEES:

Health and Human Services  
Nominations  
Transportation and Homeland Security  
Veterans Affairs & Military  
Installations - Vice Chair  
Subcommittee on Base Realignment  
and Closure - Chair

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District 29

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Dear Friend:

Here's the record of your Senate office from 1997 to 2010:

## State Initiatives

During the 81st Legislative session, we:

- Secured \$48 million for our new medical school. In addition, we secured \$17 million for a new clinical faculty.
- Secured continued funding for the most successful dropout prevention program in Texas. Under S.B. 1 (the state budget), \$41.9 million was appropriated for the Communities in Schools (CIS) program.
- Secured \$12.3 million in additional funding in S.B. 1 to increase monthly visitation by Child Protective Services (CPS) caseworkers. Working with the chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, Senator Jane Nelson (R-Flower Mound), and the chair of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Steve Ogden (R-Bryan), I amended S.B. 69 to require that at least 95% of the children in the custody of the state are visited by a caseworker each month. The 95% benchmark is based on federal guidelines. Although S.B. 69 ultimately did not pass, the funds for this specific purpose were appropriated in the final budget.
- Reformed the appraisal district appeal process. Working with Representative Bill Callegari (R-Katy), I amended H.B. 1030 to require Texas' largest counties—including El Paso—to provide for electronic protest of property tax appraisals.
- Improved public education funding formulas for El Paso ISD. Working with Representative Scott Hochberg (D-Houston), I amended H.B. 3646 to include a special



funding allotment for students who are moving to Texas as a result of BRAC or whose families have been deployed in an active combat zone.

- Continued our efforts to increase financial literacy in El Paso and across Texas. Working with Representative Scott Hochberg (D-Houston), I amended H.B. 3646 to require regional Education Service Centers (ESCs) to train teachers on the financial literacy curriculum and offer individualized training and assistance on teaching personal financial literacy.
- Helped alleviate physician shortages throughout the Border region. I passed S.B. 202 to allow qualified, out-of-state doctors to begin seeing patients while waiting for their licensure applications to be processed. I also co-sponsored H.B. 2154, which will give doctors \$160,000 in loan repayment for practicing in medically underserved areas. Lastly, working with Representative Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston), I co-sponsored H.B. 3674 to allow specialty board certification to serve as proof of medical school equivalency, which will expedite the licensure process for foreign medical graduates. In addition, H.B. 3674 allows applicants who have been granted advanced standing by a recognized specialty board for graduate training that was performed overseas to count that training toward the required number of years in training.
- Created the El Paso County Ethics Commission, the first of its kind in Texas. S.B. 1368 will allow the county to establish an independent ethics commission that will adopt, publish and enforce an ethics code governing county public servants.
- Passed storm water fee exemption legislation. S.B. 1522 will exempt property owned by school districts, while S.B. 874 will exempt property owned by the county from fees.
- Enhanced Border security. Working with the chair of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security, Senator John Carona (R-Dallas), we amended H.B. 2086 to curb gang activity in Texas and stop violent transnational drug cartels. The bill will help transform the Department of Public Safety (DPS) by giving the agency new tools to identify, arrest and prosecute cartel leaders. I also co-authored S.B. 2225 to make it a third-degree felony for an individual to knowingly transport or transfer a firearm across the Texas-Mexico border.
- Stopped the spread of *colonias*. I sponsored H.B. 2833 to ensure that any new homes built in Texas counties will be held to the same high standards as those used in incorporated areas of the state.
- Protected orphan trusts from being moved outside of Texas. I passed S.B. 666 to create a system that will ensure that charitable foundations in Texas remain in the state by prohibiting a financial institution administering a charitable trust from changing the location if its administration to another state, unless otherwise authorized in the terms of a trust.

During past legislative sessions, we:

### **El Paso Medical School**

- Passed in the Texas Legislature authority for a four-year Medical School at Texas Tech's El Paso campus, and secured funding for a research building and a new classroom building for the first new medical school in the U.S. in thirty years.
- Secured \$48 million in funding to hire first and second-year faculty for the Texas Tech El Paso Medical School.
- Founded the Border Health Foundation.

### **Health and Human Services**

By any measure, Texas is now "the ground zero of health care" in America. Texas has more uninsured than any state in the country. One out of four Texans—6.1 million—does not have health insurance. Not a single Texas city meets the national average in citizens covered with insurance—not Austin, not Dallas, not Houston. In fact, El Paso has more insured by percentage than any large city in the U.S. today. Moreover, one in six uninsured American children lives in Texas. We have 1.5 million uninsured children, more than any other state in percentage and total number.

Knowing that Texas has consistently under-funded health and human service programs, we have fought hard over the years to address the issue of the uninsured, to expand the Children's Health Insurance Program, to reinstate 12-month enrollment in children's Medicaid, and to improve access to health and human services.

- Co-authored and served on the conference committee for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) bill and spearheaded El Paso's initiative to enroll more than 40,000 children with health insurance.
- Co-sponsored H.B. 109, which covers as many as 127,000 more uninsured children through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). About 11,000 El Paso children have lost their CHIP coverage since budget cuts in 2003.
- Co-sponsored H.B. 14, the enabling legislation for H.J.R. 90, which sent a proposal to the voters to fund \$3 billion in bonds for cancer research.
- Worked on key provisions in H.B. 1, which includes \$706 million to settle *Frew v. Hawkins*, increasing reimbursement rates by 25 percent for doctors and 50 percent for dentists who see children on Medicaid. H.B. 1 also addresses U.S. Department of Justice findings at the Lubbock State School with \$49 million to meet staffing ratio requirements and to integrate 250 state school consumers into the HCS Program for the biennium. Finally, H.B. 1 appropriates an additional \$34.5 million in general revenue and \$65.4 in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds to increase staffing levels to

lower caseloads, enhance training and provide additional technology for the Department of Family and Protective Services.

- Passed H.B. 1168, which regulates lodge homes for mentally ill, disabled and elderly Texans. The pilot program was previously established for registration, licensing and oversight of this category of residential homes. The legislation expands and makes the pilot program permanent and statewide.
- Authored the omnibus Adult Protective Services reform legislation, and co-authored S.B. 6, creating the Guardianship Certification Board, tightening procedures by providing more quality assurance of the state guardianship program, ensuring a more thorough review of cases by staff and special task units, and changing the emergency order process to provide a more immediate response.

### **Base Realignment and Closure - Military Affairs**

The 2005 round of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) is bringing to Fort Bliss and El Paso an astounding amount. As a result of these changes, Fort Bliss will grow by over 24,000 soldiers and will eventually become an installation almost three times its current size. Current estimates place the total net population gain by 2012 of over 52,000 soldiers, military students, and family members and an estimated impact per year to the local economy of \$4 billion.

Along with the economic benefit comes the challenges of a dramatically expanding population. Our office has led the fight to prepare for and respond to the changes brought about by BRAC.

- Authored and passed S.B. 652 that created \$250 million Texas Military Value Fund to be used by cities to enhance existing military bases by covering electricity, protecting training areas, and privatizing military highway projects.
- Passed S.B. 962, **which** helps build the fourteen new schools that troops and families will need. The bill reduces a school district's wealth per student by 25 percent for instructional facilities allotment (IFA) purposes if the district must construct, acquire, renovate, or improve an instructional facility as a result of incoming BRAC students. With a \$4.9 million budget allocation, S.B. 962 will help BRAC-impacted school districts secure the IFA funding necessary to properly serve the children of military personnel transferring due to BRAC.
- Passed S.B. 1912, which assists teachers moving into the community as a result of BRAC. Texas law provides for a one-year temporary teaching certificate for teachers to use while the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) determines what tests the teacher must take to be certified in Texas. The bill will extend the temporary certification period for one year past the date that SBEC informs the teacher of the required tests to ensure that teachers in BRAC-impacted districts have an adequate time in which to comply with SBEC's testing requirements.
- Amended H.B. 3107 to recreate statutorily the Veterans' Assistance Fund. A contingency

rider in H.B. 1 appropriated \$2 million into the Fund to help our state's veterans with costs associated with transportation to medical care, surgery and treatment.

- Co-authored S.B. 685, which exempts mandatory fees, in addition to tuition, for members of the Texas Military Forces attending institutions of higher education for up to 12 credit hours per semester through the Texas National Guard Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).
- Co-authored S.B. 1058, which requires the Adjutant General's Department to develop a referral program to provide referrals to service members for reintegration services. The bill also requires the Department of State Health Services and the Health and Human Services Commission to develop a directory of services and other resources, tools, and counseling programs available to aid veterans and their immediate families in the reintegration process.
- Authored S.B. 1479, the Texas Soldier's Payday Protection Act, to prevent predatory lending abuses on Texas soldiers.

### **Public Education**

One of the state's largest investments is in the public education system, with more than forty percent of the state's general revenue dedicated to pre-kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade education. The majority of local property taxes go to support school districts. Despite this investment, the funding available has not been able to meet the needs associated with an increasing enrollment of students across the state. Too many public schools are ranked as low performing, the state has a shortage of qualified teachers, and high school dropout rates are extremely high.

More than half of our state's 4.65 million students are economically disadvantaged, and 15 percent are considered limited English proficient. These figures are predicted to grow dramatically over the next thirty years. Unless the current generation of Texas leaders makes a dedicated effort to ensure that the funding needed to bring high-quality, experienced teachers and rigorous academic programs to the areas of the state that need it most, Texas will fall behind the rest of the nation in producing graduates ready for a 21st century workforce and higher education.

- Passed H.B. 1609 to further improve our most successful dropout prevention program, Communities in Schools (CIS). H.B. 1609, targets dropout prevention by expanding the Student Success Initiative to the 8th grade and funding teacher academies to the tune of \$42.1 million for the biennium.
- Authored S.B. 851 and sponsored H.B. 492, the Texas Financial Literacy Act, to ensure that every Texas child learns basic financial skills such as how to balance a check book, use a credit card responsibly, and plan for buying a home.
- Supported key provisions in H.B. 1, increasing the State's contribution to the Teacher Retirement System from 6.0 percent to 6.58 percent (\$645 million) and authorizing an increase in teacher contributions, making possible a 13th check paid to retirees. H.B. 1

also appropriates \$285 million to provide all Texas teachers with a \$430 pay raise for each of the next two years, and \$100 million for a new scholarship program for Top 10% students.

- Sponsored H.B. 2814, which creates a dual-language pilot program in no more than 30 campuses at 10 school districts across the state, to ensure our state leads the way in a multi-language world. Independent studies of dual language programs have shown that dual language is the best method in which to close the achievement gap between English learners and English speakers. Dual language programs also experience lower dropout rates than other bilingual education programs.
- Authored S.B. 396 to put laptops in all Texas schools.
- Authored S.B. 111, which guarantees that motivated high school students receive college credits for rigorous programs such as the International Baccalaureate Diploma program, the College Board's Advancement Placement Tests, College Level Exam Program tests, and dual credit courses.

### **Higher Education**

Economic vitality is associated with success in education. Border universities, especially recently, compete both statewide and nationally for student talent and research funding. Border schools are also at the forefront of the race to create another public university in Texas considered among the top tier of research institutions nationally. Texas cannot be competitive—not in the U.S. or globally—with only two public tier-one universities.

- Supported key provisions in the area of higher education under H.B. 1, including increased funding for UTEP by 17.82 percent with an appropriation of \$166 million; increased funding for Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center by 33.74 percent with an appropriation of \$352 million; and, adding Cancer Research as a special item for Texas Tech University HSC (\$4.8 million).
- Passed H.C.R. 159, which created a commission to draft a Texas Compact that develops a framework of state policy that encourages institutions of higher education to focus on their core missions, engage regional civic, business, and academic leaders to address local and statewide economic priorities, and establish globally recognized centers of excellence in education.
- Filed S.B. 1564, portions of which were amended into H.B. 51, the Tier One Challenge Funding bill. The bill guarantees UTEP an equal chance to compete for state funding aimed at incentivizing emerging public research universities in developing and maintaining programs of the highest tier.
- Passed S.B. 194, which reformed the Texas student lending industry by precluding a person employed by an institution of higher education in the financial aid office from owning stock or other ownership interest in a student loan lender, other than through

ownership of shares in a publicly traded mutual fund or a similar investment vehicle. The bill also prevents a person employed by an institution of higher education in the financial aid office from soliciting or accepting any gift from a student loan lender.

### **Transportation and Homeland Security**

Throughout my legislative career, I have been a member of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Homeland Security. Because of my extensive knowledge of transportation and homeland security issues, I always took a strong leadership role in the committee, providing input on combating international drug cartels, violent gangs, better highways, rail and on other important legislation before the committee. In the process, I always ensured that El Paso benefited in key transportation initiatives. Many of the bills I passed are critical for a state that is experiencing rapid population growth, increasing highway congestion, and growing narco-related violence along the Border.

- Authored S.B. 913, which created one-stop Border inspection stations to move commercial traffic across ports-of-entry faster and safer.
- Filed S.B. 2027 and later amended S.B. 11 to authorize the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to initiate a pilot program similar to one enacted recently in Washington under which DPS would issue an enhanced driver's license for individuals who apply for one. The enhanced driver's license will look much like a conventional driver's license, but will also include proof of citizenship and other information that can easily be scanned at border ports-of-entry.

### **Natural Resources - Environment**

Protection of our natural resources and proper planning and utilization of these resources have been a top priority for our office. We have worked on a variety of issues to improve the quality of life for El Pasoans. These include increasing accessibility to and management of Franklin Mountains State Park, water resource management and flood planning, encouraging the use of renewable energy sources to reduce our dependence on foreign oil, and enhancing our environment by protecting endangered desert species and reducing illegal dumping.

- Strongly supported a key provision on H.B. 1 that increased funding for our State parks, currently ranked 49<sup>th</sup> nationwide, by 75 percent for a total \$171.7 million and appropriated \$47.7 million for state local parks grants. With this appropriation, it will be possible to invest \$500,000 in the creation of a visitor's center that will help engage and teach our community on the history and splendor that is the Franklin Mountain State Park. The city's master plan locates the center on the Northeast side of the Franklin Mountains.
- Filed S.B. 1588 and amended its provisions into S.B. 3 to ensure that counties adopt regulations for flood plain management that are not less stringent than those set forth by the National Flood Insurance Program, and provide for the imposition of penalties on landowners that are in violation of such measures.

- Passed S.B. 1762, which requires the Texas Water Development Board, in coordination with the Far West Texas Water Planning Group, to conduct a study on the impact of climate change on surface water. The bill also requires the board to submit a written report regarding its findings to the legislature.
- Based on recommendations from Tu Comunidad Environmental Summit breakout sessions, our office worked with the District Attorney, the County of El Paso and the state delegation to pass H.B. 1979 to create the first environmental court in Texas. All offenses that relate to environmental degradation, graffiti, dumping or other environmental offenses now go to County Criminal Court at Law 1 and Judge Almo Trejo, who has developed a national reputation on environmental issues.
- During the 77th Legislative Session, working with the El Paso Electric Company and other environmental groups, including the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), we passed the nation's first air emissions trading credit to use fines assessed by TCEQ in El Paso on those air emissions that most harmed our environment on either side of the border. The result of this bill was the design of a new low emissions brick kiln by NMSU to be used in Juarez and significantly reduce harmful emissions in the air shed of El Paso, Juarez, and Southern New Mexico. Increasingly, we must think and work regionally on environmental solutions for our common air, water, and desert space.
- Our office began working with the Solar 2020 group, which is comprised of architects, realtors, educators, business owners, Sierra Club members, and other solar energy professionals in El Paso. We sought recommendations on local, state, federal, and international policies regarding solar energy. The recommendations that the group produced, especially the sale by citizens of surplus electricity back to the utility, will be delivered in the *Solar 2020 Report* and will help shape the solar agenda for the 82nd Legislative Session. Texas receives enough solar energy to supply one and a half times the world's current energy consumption. El Paso's location and 300 days of sun per year make it *the* place to best take advantage of solar energy and related business development. Without question, El Paso should be the Solar Capital of the Chihuahua Desert.

#### **Other Pertinent Legislation**

- Co-authored S.B. 441, which created Border Job Creation Tax Credits for research and development.
- Sponsored H.B. 1355 to increase the penalty to a state jail felony for an owner of a dangerous dog that is not secured properly (roaming loosely off their property) and makes an unprovoked attack that causes serious bodily injury. In the event that such an attack causes the victim's death, the penalty is increased to a second-degree felony.



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### **Publications**

- Worked with former Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts, John Sharp, in creating the *Bordering the Future* report. The report is the first ever performance review of Border challenges and solutions.
- Wrote and distributed the *Texas Borderlands — Frontier of the Future* report, a comprehensive analysis of border challenges, issues, and solutions.
- Wrote and distributed *Texas on the Brink* to document how Texas ranks among the 50 states in numerous policy areas to drive investment in strategic areas.
- Wrote and distributed the *Five Ms*, a document that details a clear vision around clusters of value in our unique three-state, two-nation region. In this document, we outline initiatives that our community needs to take to make the most of our competitive advantages.
- Wrote and distributed the *Asarco in El Paso* publication to provide the definitive history of the operation of Asarco in El Paso with respect to their recent request for the renewal of an air permit, which would have put 7,000 tons of new pollutants into our air.

### **Local Initiatives**

- Secured \$1.7 million to create the International Center for Intelligent Transportation, a Texas Transportation Institute Center in El Paso, and the first of its kind along the U.S.-Mexico Border.
- Worked closely with the Public Service Board (PSB), and the City of El Paso, to add approximately 1,850 acres of land to the Franklin Mountains State Park (1,600 acres in Northeast El Paso and 200 acres in West El Paso). With this expansion come new trailheads, allowing the El Paso community and the thousands of visitors from all over the country each year, better access to the park. This transfer of land and development of trailheads illustrates my commitment to providing the best quality of life for El Pasoans, including the 21,000 troops and families coming to Fort Bliss over the next five years.
- On January 13, 2010, the Public Service Board unanimously approved the purchase of the 200-acre area known as the Palisades with the funds collected from storm water utility fees generated by S.B. 688. This acquisition will guarantee access to the 24,000-acre Franklin Mountains State Park and represents the culmination of four years of work to develop the C Road as an access point for downtown, central and university area El Pasoans.
- Spearheaded El Paso's initiative and coordinated with the County of El Paso, Lt. Governor Dewhurst and General Land Office Commissioner Jerry Patterson to create a \$12.2 million, 160 bed State Veteran's Home for El Paso.

- Worked with Boeing to bring 800 employees to El Paso.
- Increased funding at the University of Texas at El Paso, especially formula funding in the Research and Excellence Fund.
- Wrote historic Sun Bowl legislation that creates a rental tax used to fund, in part, the annual game.
- Founded Mission Valley Steering Committee to put more investment in Historic Mission Valley.
- Organized the Invest In The American Dream Conference, which brought together public and private sector stakeholders from across the nation to discuss, identify and celebrate innovative solutions to facilitating full economic community-wide participation in the American dream. Creative ideas with focus on engaging the Hispanic community, initiated a 5-year, community-driven initiative centered on creating wealth and financial stability, developing financial literacy, facilitating access to capital, and replicating financial best practices.
- Created the El Paso Pride program to improve the city's highways and neighborhoods.
- Collaborated with representatives from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), University of Texas at El Paso professors and graduate students, members of the Texas Master Naturalists, Trans-Pecos Chapter, and both instructors and students from Canutillo and Franklin high school to create the Franklin Mountains Flora website. This community generated Web site offers a variety of interactive applications, which include virtual tours on Google Earth, a database containing plant characteristics on each of the 250 most common and rare plant species found in the Franklin Mountains, and short videos of the different trails in the Franklin Mountain State Park. This Web site is part of the larger "No Child Left Inside Initiative," and will serve as the paradigm for future flora and fauna oriented Web sites in Texas.
- Organized the "Tu Comunidad Environmental Summit." Since September of 2000, our office has worked with TCEQ, the El Paso County Attorney's Office, Region 19 area schools, Keep El Paso Beautiful, the City of El Paso, the El Paso Electric Company, and neighborhood groups to organize an annual environmental summit to frame environmental issues for action and to provide accessible information on environmental and conservation issues to the public. Subjects at the summit included recycling, illegal dumping, neighborhood cleanups, use of plastic bags, regional air quality, and more recently, renewable energy, energy efficiency and electricity conservation. Area schools also participated in an annual poster contest in which the students created an image that communicated themes like "Don't Trash the Pass" and "A New Day in the Sun." Now a non-profit organization, ECO Wise El Paso will carry on the legacy of this summit, which is the perfect venue for agenda and coalition building.

- Based on recommendations from Tu Comunidad Environmental Summit breakout sessions, our office along with TCEQ and the PSB spearheaded termination of substandard cow carcass operations in Canutillo, Texas, and the creation of El Paso's first grease trap removal and recycling plant. Unbelievably, up until now, El Paso restaurants and other establishments had to send grease removed from cooking processes all the way to Odessa, Texas and absorb all of the associated costs. On September 15, 2010, we cut the ribbon on Liquid Environmental Solutions' new wastewater treatment facility, a state-of-the-art facility that will help protect El Paso water resources by keeping grease out of the City water supply.
- Organized *Ganas!*, an international collaboration among our Senate Office, the City of El Paso, the Ciudad Juarez Municipal Government, the El Paso Independent School District, the Ysleta Independent School District, the Canutillo Independent School District, the Socorro Independent School District, and the International Museum of Art. *Ganas!* is an international art and essay contest designed to promote youth empowerment. Each year, on May 5th (*Cinco de Mayo*) a bi-national exposition displays the entries of students from junior high schools in El Paso and Ciudad Juarez. Students enter the contest by submitting their photos of people, culture, or places that have a positive influence on their values, families, and community. Working with teacher mentors, the students also submit a 100-word essay on what the photo means to them.
- Once a month for the last three years, our office has invited local student councils and UTEP student leaders to participate in an early morning leadership hike along the Smuggler's Pass trail in the Franklin Mountains in a program called *Rise and Shine*. We use this time to encourage students to talk about their future and to envision themselves as leaders in El Paso. During the hike, students learn about natural wildlife, vegetation, the history of the "Pass of the North," and about educational opportunities available at UTEP.
- Our office has worked with Project Navigator, the trustee charged with remediating and redeveloping the Asarco site, to engage the community in the Asarco redevelopment process. Our office, in conjunction with UTEP SGA, held the first of a series of public forums designed to introduce the trustee to our community. Earlier this summer, several community leaders traveled to Omaha, NE to meet with former city planners and Mayor Hal Daub to learn how their community financed, engineered, and created a vision for their Asarco site, which ultimately became the site for the Qwest Center and Freedom Park. We listened and saw firsthand how they were able to set a vision and re-develop their site in only ten years. The architecture firm of Dover & Kohl has been hired by the City of El Paso to draw a vision based on public input for what economic driver(s) could replace the smelter. Our office has worked hard with other stakeholders to ensure the development of a plan that incorporates the highest and best use of the land for our community.
- Our office coordinated the first annual Rattler Outdoor Challenge with the El Paso Marathon Foundation and TPWD to create an event that promoted El Paso's rich natural assets. The event started in Tom Mays Park where participants began a 5/10K down the

mountain, then got on their mountain bikes and cycled to the Rio Grande, and jumped in canoes to finish off the race in the Rio Grande. There were 90 participants that took part in the "First Annual Rattler Outdoor Challenge." Race results and photos can be viewed on the website (<http://www.elpasorattler.com>). The event was a success, and the El Paso Marathon Foundation is planning the second annual event to take place in June 2011. Our office and others have asked the County to make the 20 canoes, which are still in packing crates at Ascarate, available for use in the 2011 challenge.

- In 1999, Karla Rosa Valenzuela and Carlos Callejo came to our office with a project to create murals under the spaghetti bowl at I-10 and U.S. Highway 54. Briefly, the idea was to paint murals at San Diego Chicano Park. Our office coordinated the murals with the Texas Workforce Commission, TXDOT and students in the area. The murals became a part of a highway aesthetics program and workforce program for summer students. Today, the spaghetti bowl murals are known nationally, and monthly events take place under the hospices of Lincoln Park Conservation Committee.
- In October of 2007, the PSB, TCEQ, Keep El Paso Beautiful, CEMEX, El Paso Electric Company, the City of El Paso and our office organized key environmental cleanups. This initiative was designed to clean up major, long-standing eyesores like the tire pike in northeast or the junk in the Westway arroyo. These major cleanup efforts evolved into annual competitions between area high schools in a Keep El Paso Beautiful program called "Gift to the Mountain." The high school that brings the largest percentage of its high school population to the cleanup wins \$1000 award for its student council fund. For several years now, Chapin High School has won the award.
- Organized the first *Candidate School* for El Paso young leaders. At the event, participants learned the essential tools needed to run a successful campaign from progressive and inspiring elected officials in our community and region. Expert organizers from successful campaigns (national and state wide) provided their expertise on campaign organization and strategy. Participants met other leaders in the community that want to help El Paso move forward. Candidate Schools were held in September of 2005 and 2009.
- Organized the Emerging Leaders—Young Professionals Capital Retreat. In this effort, held in August 2009 and 2010, young professionals from El Paso embarked on a vital mission to Austin, Texas. They spent three days networking with state leaders and worked to set a vision for the Borderlands' dynamic future. They discussed economic development, solar energy, legislation from the 81st Session, financial stability, downtown revitalization, and the incorporation of high-speed light rail initiatives into El Paso's future infrastructure. El Paso's Future Leaders gained the perspective and insight necessary to help them grow as leaders and cultivate their professional careers.
- Worked with El Paso Independent School District (EPISD) and community leaders to create Equipo Bowie, a unique community engagement strategy to improve academic achievement throughout the Bowie High School feeder pattern through proven evidence-based early childhood education through twelfth grade initiatives. Equipo Bowie will

seek to perform a comprehensive baseline analysis on the Bowie High School feeder pattern, identify best practices, and develop solutions to key, prioritized challenges, deliver resources where needed, and measure progress. Equipo Bowie provides the El Paso community a unique opportunity to work with EPISD to implement systemic change throughout the Bowie High School feeder pattern.

- Organized the Far West Texas Climate Change Conference in conjunction with the Texas Water Development Board and the Region E Water Planning Group. This statewide conference provided a unique opportunity to hear from expert panelists in the areas of climate change, its impacts on Far West Texas, and potential water management strategies to address these impacts. In addition, conference attendees engaged in dynamic breakout sessions designed to promote dialogue and recommendations for the 81st legislative session.
- Based on complaints from constituents across El Paso, with County Attorney Jose Rodriguez and District Attorney Jaime Esparza, we spearheaded a 1997 “Graffiti Busting” Summit to devise comprehensive solutions to fight graffiti in our community. The first rule of graffiti busting is to remove it within 24 hours. So, working with Mayor Larry Francis, then Carlos Ramirez, our office identified grants and revenues to fund a City graffiti removal program, which was based on Los Angeles' initiative. In addition, our office passed S.B. 758 in 1997 to increase criminal penalties for graffiti offenders, create a graffiti eradication fund, and require businesses to restrict access to aerosol paint. Today, the City of El Paso taking a proactive approach with the purchase of three "Unitized Graffiti Removal Vehicles." The incorporation of these three multimedia units will provide each assigned graffiti eradication crew a means to remove tagging from numerous surfaces through environmentally friendly means without unnecessary waste of resources or time.
- Passed S.B. 688 to assist the city with creating storm water districts, which manage and control storm water drainage.
- Passed H.B. 4008, which adds two additional county criminal courts at law in El Paso, County Criminal Courts at Law No. 3 and No. 4.
- Amended S.B. 1951 to create the 448th District Court and the El Paso County Criminal District No.1 to focus on felony drug cases.
- Passed legislation to refurbish and open the Wyler Aerial Tramway.
- Worked to create a new Business Incubator at UTEP.
- Our office spearheaded the Camino Real Soccer Council in collaboration with the City of El Paso, Ft. Bliss, the Sun Bowl Association, El Paso Independent School District, El Paso Water Utilities, El Paso Community College, Canutillo Independent School District, community members, and soccer enthusiasts in order to make El Paso the “Soccer Capitol of the West.” With outstanding young talent, great coaching and quality

facilities, El Paso/Juarez can emerge as the best place to play soccer in the entire West. The Council focused on the following goals: create a nationally recognized "Sun Bowl International Youth Soccer Tournament;" create quality soccer complexes; start 250 South/Central Youth Soccer League Teams; start two quality select club teams; and create 50 quality regional soccer fields. The Westside Sports Complex was completed in 2008. This facility has eleven lighted fields, a concession stand and modern amenities. The Sun Bowl International Soccer Tournament matches are held at the Westside Sports Complex and this event creates a great economic opportunity for El Paso.

- Initiated the Texas National Guard – Letters from Home Project, which is a letter writing campaign that gives area school children the opportunity to express their gratitude to our troops serving throughout the state. Elementary school students from Canutillo, Socorro, Ysleta, Clint and El Paso school districts participate in the pen pal project.
- Prior to being sworn into office, I worked with new staff and a software engineer to develop the Correspondence Management Database, which is currently being used by both chambers of the Texas Legislature as the electronic template for operation in all legislative offices.
- Pioneered the first personal Web site in the Texas Legislature for the weekly delivery of electronic information, including news in three-minute video format.

### **National Initiatives**

- Organized *the Americas 2020 Summit*, which brings together government and private sector stakeholders from the United States, Mexico and Canada to discuss the challenges and opportunities to improve North American security and economic competitiveness in the 21st Century. Expert panelists provided dynamic, enlightening presentations on the topics of intelligent Border crossings, North America infrastructure competitiveness, and secure trade manufacturing. Simultaneous breakout sessions resulted in concrete recommendations for specific state and federal legislative proposals.
- Organized the Border Legislative Conference's Economic Development Committee and launched Secure, Fast, Smart Border 2020.
- Worked with the Border Legislative Conference, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Paso del Norte Group (PDN) to spearhead the creation of a "Beyond Merida" initiative to address pillars two, three, and four of the new U.S.-Mexico "Beyond Merida" policy framework outlined by Secretary of State Clinton in March 2010.

### **Awards and Honors**

In addition, for our work, our office has been honored with these key awards:

## **National**

- ***2006 Distinguished Service Award*** (National Sierra Club)
- ***Visionary Technology Innovator Award for 2003*** (Center for Digital Government)
- ***National Legislator of the Year*** (American School Health Association)
- ***National Top 25 Doers, Dreamers and Drivers of Information Technology*** (Government Technology Magazine)

## **State**

- ***National Association of Social Workers Texas Public Elected Official of the Year 2009*** (National Association of Social Workers, Texas Chapter)
- ***Matt Garcia Public Service Award 2007*** (MALDEF)
- ***Friend of Education Award 2007*** (Texas Council for the Social Studies)
- ***Texas Technology Champion 2007*** (American Electronics Association)
- ***Freedom To Teach Award 2006*** (Association of Texas Professionals)
- ***Advocate Award 2006*** (Texas Council on Adult Literacy)
- ***Texas Education Leadership Award for 2005*** (Texas Association of Mexican American Chambers of Commerce)
- ***Freedom to Teach Award 2005*** (Association of Texas Professionals)
- ***Visionary Award 2005*** (Texas Guardianship Association)
- ***Public Interest Champion 2005*** (TexPIRG)
- ***Texas Legislator of the Year for 2005*** (Texas International Baccalaureate Schools)
- ***Texas Legislator of the Year*** (Mexican American Bar Association)
- ***Texas Legislator of the Year*** (Hispanic Journal)
- ***Texas Legislator of the Year*** (Texas AARP)
- ***Texas Legislator of the Year*** (Texas Pharmacy Association)



- ***Texas Legislator of the Year*** (Texas Sierra Club)
- ***Texas Legislative Champion for School Children*** (Texas Equity Center)
- ***Texas Classroom Advocate of the Year*** (Classroom Teachers Association)
- ***Texas Advocate for Children Award*** (Child Crisis Centers of Texas)
- ***Texas Advocacy Award*** (American Cancer Society)
- ***Conscience of the Senate*** (Texas Monthly)
- ***Legislative Excellence Award*** (Texas Independent Living Council)
- ***Champion of Choice Award*** (NARAL)

### **Local**

- ***Outstanding Community Service, Leadership and Advocacy Award, September, 2010***  
(Trans Pecos Counseling Association)  
Senator Shapleigh was honored to be the first recipient of this award from the El Paso Chapter of the Texas Counseling Association.
- ***Crossing Borders Award 2009*** (Border Learning Conference)
- ***Certificate of Appreciation Award 2010*** (Black El Paso Democrats)  
Each year, Black El Paso Democrats recognize an individual for his or her exceptional achievement and excellence in leadership. The Certificate of Appreciation award recognized Senator Shapleigh's accomplishments and his outstanding contributions to and in support of the Democratic Party and the Black El Paso Democrats. In doing this, Senator Shapleigh demonstrated a commitment to social responsibility, and an unwavering pursuit of excellence in promoting a better response to public needs.
- ***Mental Health Hero Award 2008*** (El Paso Mental Health & Mental Retardation)
- ***Public Official of the Year 2008*** (National Association of Social Workers, Texas Chapter, El Paso Branch)
- ***Legislator of the Year 2006*** (El Paso Municipal Police Association)
- ***Community Service Award 2006*** (Ray Pearson Group)
- ***2004 "Best of the Border" Public Servant of the Year Award*** (What's Up Magazine)
- ***Humanitarian of the Year 2004*** (The Black El Paso Democrats)

- ***BIZTECH Hall of Fame Inductee 2003*** (El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce)  
In 2003, Senator Shapleigh was inducted into the BIZTECH Hall of Fame for his work in bringing technology to classrooms, low income neighborhoods and cross border trade. BIZTECH is the Technology/Business Group founded by the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.
- ***El Paso Conquistador Award*** (El Paso City Council)
- ***El Pasoan of the Year*** (El Paso Inc.)  
Senator Shapleigh received this award for his considerable efforts on behalf of the El Paso medical school (now known as the Paul Foster School of Medicine, Texas Tech University – El Paso).
- ***Hannah G. Solomon Award*** (National Council of Jewish Women - El Paso Section)
- ***Advocacy Award*** (El Paso Lighthouse for the Blind)
- ***City of Socorro ~ District 3 Community Service Award*** (City of Socorro)
- ***First Recipient of Community Service Award by Institute of Interfaith Dialog of El Paso*** (November 2010)

Our office has worked harder, passed more legislation, and spearheaded more key initiatives than any other person to hold the office. We are proud of that record.

Very truly yours,



Eliot Shapleigh