



EL PASO COUNTY STATE OF TEXAS

RESOLUTION



WHEREAS, within the County of El Paso the City of El Paso is the sixth largest city in Texas without a law school and yet there are at least two law schools in Texas within Cities one quarter or less the population size of El Paso; and,

WHEREAS, within the County of El Paso the City of El Paso is the only city of the 50 largest metropolitan areas in the United States without a law school; and,

WHEREAS, all the law schools within the State of Texas are located 345 miles to 747 miles from the County and attending those law schools creates a financial hardship on the citizens of the County; and,

WHEREAS, the State Bar of Texas situates the El Paso Metroplex number nine out of ten Metroplex's with the least number of attorneys per capita, one per 656 residents, compared to the number one metroplex which is Austin/Round Rock with one attorney per 170 residents; and,

WHEREAS, a citizens group has been formed for the purpose of advocating for the establishment of a law school in El Paso called the "El Paso Law School Initiative; and,

WHEREAS, the El Paso Law School Initiative has received the public support of the City of El Paso, El Paso Community College, the School Districts of El Paso, Ysleta, Socorro and Canutillo, El Paso BAR Association, Mexican American BAR Association, Young Lawyers Association, the Greater El Paso Board of Realtors and others; and,

WHEREAS, State Representative Evelina "Lina" Ortega has filed House Bill 157 with State Representatives Bill Moody, Mary Gonzalez, Claudia Ordaz as Co-Sponsors calling for the establishment of a law school in El Paso County; and,

WHEREAS, Commissioners Court believes county residents would benefit by establishment of a law school in El Paso County through increased educational opportunities, jobs, and the expansion of access to justice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the El Paso County Judge and Commissioners Court hereby support:

1. Commissioners Court supports the efforts of the El Paso Law School Initiative to establish a law school within the County of El Paso.
2. The establishment of a law school within the County of El Paso will be listed as a support measure in the County's Legislative Agenda for the 88th Legislative Session.
3. The County Judge is authorized to sign letters in support of the efforts of the El Paso Law School Initiative and House Bill 157.

SIGNED, this 12th day of December 2022

Commissioner Carlos Leon, Pct. 1

Commissioner David C. Stout, Pct. 2

Commissioner Iliana Holguin, Pct. 3

Commissioner Carl L. Robinson, Pct. 4

County Judge Ricardo A. Samaniego