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District 7

NEWS RELEASE

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Council Adopts Fiscal Year 2024 Budget with No-New-Revenue Tax Rate City Remains Committed to Property Tax Relief, Focuses on Community Priorities, Fiscal Sustainability

EL PASO, Texas—The City of El Paso proudly announces the adoption of its Fiscal Year 2024 City budget and approved a no-new-revenue tax rate, which means **the City will not increase property taxes**.

Under the direction of the Mayor and City Council, City staff developed a budget that is meticulously designed to alleviate the burden on property owners while ensuring that essential services and initiatives receive the necessary funding to enhance the lives of all residents. By striking a balance between financial prudence and investing in key areas, the City of El Paso remains at the forefront of responsible and sustainable growth.

"This budget represents our City's dedication to fostering a thriving community while alleviating the financial burden on our residents and businesses," said Mayor Oscar Leeser. "By prioritizing property tax relief and responsible spending, we are cultivating an economy where everyone can prosper, and our city can continue to thrive."

"One of the key highlights of the FY2024 budget is the adoption of the No-New-Revenue tax rate, or the tax rate that does not increase property taxes for the City," said interim City Manager Cary Westin. "The City recognizes that property taxes, along with the recent inflationary impacts, has placed a burden on families and businesses and we are working diligently to reduce the financial weight on our community."

"The approval of this innovative City budget is a testament to the City of El Paso's dedication to its citizens and commitment to being a forward-thinking and economically prosperous community," said Chief Financial Officer Robert Cortinas. "By promoting property tax relief and fiscally responsible spending on priorities, we continue to set the standard for effective governance and community-driven decision-making."

This budget continues to support critical priorities identified by the City Council and the community, while maintaining focus on the long-term financial sustainability.

One of the significant elements in the new budget includes adding annual funding for fleet, heavy equipment, streets, and facility improvements, thus minimizing the need to issue debt. The budget highlights include:

- Three police department and two fire department academies to increase public safety staffing levels
- \$10 million for street resurfacing projects
- \$14.4 million for City vehicle and heavy equipment replacement and \$6 million for City facility improvements and repairs
- Operating funding for the new La Nube Children's Museum, Mexican American Cultural Center, and the new penguin exhibit at the Zoo and Botanical Garden

For more information about the City of El Paso's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget and Tax Rate, visit the <u>City's</u> <u>Office of Management and Budget website</u>.



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