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# City Presents FY 2027 Preliminary Budget Focused on Fiscal Responsibility, Core Services and Community Priorities

## City Begins Process Six Weeks Earlier to Increase Transparency, Council Input and Community Engagement

**EL PASO, Texas**—The City of El Paso has released its Fiscal Year 2027 Preliminary Budget, marking the beginning of the City’s annual budget discussion process and public review period.

This year, the City began the budget process **six weeks earlier than in prior years** to provide more time for City Council discussion, increase transparency, and expand communication with the community before final adoption.

As part of that effort, the City will host a series of community budget meetings across El Paso to give residents an overview of the preliminary budget, explain proposed investments and financial pressures, answer questions, and gather public feedback.

To address rising costs responsibly, departments conducted comprehensive reviews of operational needs and expenditures. The City also implemented cost reduction strategies, including unfunding or deleting 75 percent of vacant positions, while prioritizing core services residents rely on every day.

The FY 2027 preliminary budget reflects a disciplined, fiscally responsible approach during a period of increasing financial pressure, including rising operational costs, expiring federal relief funding, voter-approved debt obligations, and unfunded state mandates that continue to reduce local revenue.

The preliminary tax rate is estimated at \$0.783 per \$100 valuation, compared to the FY 2026 adopted rate of \$0.760 per \$100 valuation. This is an early estimate and the tax rate and budget will not be adopted until August.

Based on current projections, the average single-family home taxable value is estimated at \$233,549. At the preliminary tax rate estimate, the average homestead tax bill would increase by approximately \$105 annually, or about \$8.75 per month.

Despite these challenges, the preliminary budget maintains high-quality public services, avoids the use of fund balance or one-time revenues to support ongoing operations, and continues aligning City resources with the priorities identified through the adopted Strategic Plan and ongoing community engagement.

The preliminary budget also includes public safety annual salary adjustments consistent with current collective bargaining agreements, as well as a proposed minimum wage adjustment for non-uniform employees from \$15.75 to \$16.25, or at least 2.5 percent, to support workforce stability and reliable service delivery.

“The FY 2027 Preliminary Budget begins the City Council and community discussion process,” said City Manager Dionne Mack. “By starting six weeks earlier, we are creating more time for discussion, increasing transparency, and giving the community more opportunities to understand the proposal and provide feedback. This budget reflects a fiscally responsible approach focused on maintaining core services, supporting public safety, investing in infrastructure, and protecting the City’s long-term financial stability.”

“The preliminary budget also reflects the financial pressures facing the City, including rising operational costs, voter-approved debt obligations, and the impact of unfunded state property tax exemptions,” said Deputy City

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Manager and Chief Financial Officer Robert Cortinas. “As the process continues, we will keep working with City Council and the community before a final budget and tax rate are considered for adoption in August.”

The preliminary budget totals approximately \$1.405 billion across all funds, an increase of approximately 1.7 percent compared to FY 2026. Much of the increase reflects rising costs to maintain existing services, public safety operations, infrastructure obligations, contractual costs, and voter-approved commitments rather than major expansions in spending.

**Key highlights include:**

- Earlier budget workshops and public engagement efforts to allow for more Council input and greater community transparency
- Planned first responder academies, including **3 Police academies and 2 Fire academies**, to support recruitment and retention
- Continued funding for Vision Zero, the City’s traffic safety initiative focused on reducing serious injuries and deaths on El Paso roadways, as well as neighborhood traffic management and lane striping initiatives
- Maintenance of approximately **\$29.7 million** in annual pay-go funding for streets, vehicles, equipment, facilities, and parks
- Public safety annual salary adjustments consistent with current collective bargaining agreements, along with a proposed increase to the City’s minimum wage from **\$15.75 to \$16.25**, or at least **2.5 percent**, for non-uniform employees
- No increase to employee healthcare contributions for the ninth consecutive year
- Continued investments in infrastructure, facility maintenance, technology, and neighborhood quality of life initiatives

The City will continue engaging City Council and the public through budget workshops, district community meetings, and public discussions throughout the summer before final adoption of the budget and tax rate in August.

**FY 2027 Community Budget Meetings**

**Monday, June 1 • 5:30 p.m.**  
Irving Schwartz Library  
1865 Dean Martin Dr.

**Tuesday, June 2 • 6 p.m.**  
Westside Regional Command Center  
4801 Osborne Dr.

**Tuesday, June 2 • 6 p.m.**  
Municipal Service Center, Cotton Patch Rm  
7968 San Paulo Dr.

**Monday, June 8 • 5:30 p.m.**  
City Hall, Main Conf. Room, 2nd Floor  
300 N. Campbell St.

**Tuesday, June 9 • 6 p.m.**  
Memorial Senior Center  
1800 Byron St.

**Tuesday, June 9 • 6 p.m.**  
Northeast Regional Command Center  
9600 Dyer St.

**Wednesday, June 10 • 6 p.m.**  
Valle Bajo Community Center & Library  
7380 Alameda Ave.

**Thursday, June 11 • 6 p.m.**  
The Beast Urban Park  
13501 Jason Crandall Dr.

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