

**CORONAVIRUS BRIEFS**

Here is the latest news on coronavirus in El Paso from Wednesday.

If you have a news tip or update, email it to us at [borderland@elpasotimes.com](mailto:borderland@elpasotimes.com). Stay safe, El Paso.

**Presumptive positive coronavirus cases in El Paso**

There are 2,872 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 88 deaths in El Paso County as of Wednesday afternoon.

There are 1,330 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Juárez and 294 deaths.

The Texas Department of State Health Services is reporting 68,271 cases and 1,734 coronavirus deaths in the state.

There are 8,140 cases in New Mexico, including 479 in Doña Ana County. There are 375 coronavirus deaths in the state.

**Juárez reports 12 COVID-19 deaths, 49 cases**

Chihuahua public health officials reported 12 deaths from COVID-19 in Ciudad Juárez Wednesday, bringing the city's deaths to 294.

Officials also reported 49 new COVID-19 cases in Juárez. Of the city's 1,330 confirmed cases, 1,033 are considered active and 297 patients have recovered.

There are 2,140 COVID-19 cases and 362 deaths across the state of Chihuahua.

**El Paso reports 5 COVID-19 deaths, 39 cases**

El Paso public health officials reported the deaths of five COVID-19 patients

Wednesday, bringing the total deaths to 88.

The latest patients are two men in their 50s, a woman in her 60s, a man in his 70s and a man in his 90s. All but one had underlying medical conditions, the city said in a news release.

Officials also reported 39 new COVID-19 cases. Of the county's 2,872 confirmed cases, 987 are considered active and 1,797 patients have recovered.

As of Wednesday morning, 91 COVID-19 patients were hospitalized, city data show. Of those, 54 were in intensive care and a record 30 were on ventilators.

**Texas extends mobile COVID-19 testing in El Paso through June 12**

The Texas Military Department Mobile Testing Team will remain in El Paso through June 12, the city of El Paso announced Monday.

The drive-thru COVID-19 testing is free and available to residents with or without symptoms. Residents should make an appointment 24 hours in advance online at [txcovidtest.org](http://txcovidtest.org) or by calling 512-883-2400.

The testing dates, times and locations are:

**Through Friday, June 12 (9 a.m.-5 p.m.)**

- Armijo Recreation Center, 710 E. 7th Ave.
- Nations Tobin Park, 8831 Railroad Drive
- Esperanza Acosta Moreno Library, 12480 Pebble Hills Blvd.
- Memorial Swimming Pool, 3251 Copper Ave.

The team will have test sites in rural El Paso County communities



**Airlines are beginning to see a slight uptick in travelers as coronavirus restrictions are slowly lifted across the country.** MARK LAMBIE/EL PASO TIMES

- June 11 — Horizon First Baptist Church; 17018 Darrington Road in Horizon City
- June 12 — El Paso County ESD #2 District Office; 16001 Socorro Road in Fabens

**What are the symptoms of the coronavirus?**

Symptoms can range from mild to severe, and some people don't have any symptoms at all. The most common symptoms resemble the flu and include fever, tiredness and dry cough. Some people also develop aches and pains, nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat or diarrhea.

About one in six people become seriously ill and develop difficulty breathing, according to the World Health Organization. If you experience fever, cough and shortness of breath, call your doctor.

Symptoms can appear anywhere between two to 14 days after exposure, with the average patient seeing onset at around five days, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

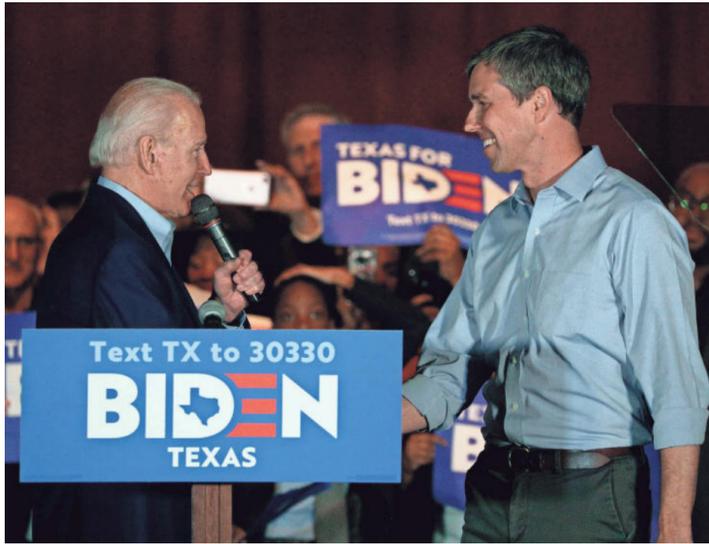
**CDC coronavirus safety tips**

The CDC's website offers the following safety tips:

- Wash hands often.
- Avoid close contact with others by keeping at least 6 feet of distance.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others.
- Cover coughs and sneezes.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Monitor your health.

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Former Texas Rep. Beto O'Rourke endorses Democratic presidential candidate former Vice President Joe Biden at a campaign rally on March 2 in Dallas. Democrats won't be meeting in person for the state's convention. AP FILE

**Texas Democratic Party's state convention is virtual**

Eleanor Dearman El Paso Times  
 USA TODAY NETWORK - TEXAS

**Who are the speakers?**

The Texas Democratic Party is holding its state convention virtually amid the coronavirus outbreak.

The convention's programming, which kicked into full swing Monday and runs through Saturday, features appearances from a number of prominent party members, including presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and former presidential candidates Beto O'Rourke and Julián Castro.

Texas Democrats spokesperson Abhi Rahman linked the attention from national Democrats to Texas being in play in 2020.

"People from all over the country realize just how important Texas is in winning this election," Rahman said.

While this year's convention is being held online in response to the coronavirus, the state conventions are typically held in person.

In 2016, the last presidential election year, the Castro brothers were in the limelight at the convention held in San Antonio.

Here's what to know about this week's convention.

**How to watch**

The convention officially started May 15, but the lineup of speakers began Monday.

The convention is online-only, which means anyone can watch the lineup of speakers, by visiting the convention website or Texas Democrats' Facebook page.

Party business, such as caucus meetings, is being done through Zoom, according to a news release. Many of these sessions are also being streamed on Facebook, the release states.

There are a number of panels and speakers throughout the week, including Biden, whose remarks will be pre-recorded, and El Paso's O'Rourke. Both are set to appear virtually Saturday.

Other appearances include former presidential candidates Elizabeth Warren and Kamala Harris. El Paso U.S. Rep. Veronica Escobar is participating in a Friday panel with U.S. Rep. Sylvia Garcia called "Latina Influences on Texas Politics."

The panels cover a variety of subjects, including the fight against COVID-19. Other panels look at engaging Black, Latino and youth voters. There are also panels on ending gun violence, energy and the environment and reaching rural Texas.

Here's the full lineup schedule.

**When is the U.S. Senate debate?**

Democratic candidates for U.S. Senate M.J. Hegar and Royce West, who are in a runoff, will debate at 6 p.m. CT/5 p.m. MT on Saturday.

**Picking national convention delegates**

Texas' nearly 12,000 delegates are voting on the selection of national convention delegates, Electoral College electors and party officials using online ballots.

**When is the Republican convention?**

The GOP is set to hold its state convention in-person on July 16-18 in Houston.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE**

The Socorro Independent School District will hold a public meeting at 6 pm on Tuesday, June 16, 2020. DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS RELATED TO THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS, THIS MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY VIDEOCONFERENCE OR TELEPHONE CALL. NOTICE FOR THE MEETING AND ACCESS INFORMATION, INCLUDING METHODS FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ARE AVAILABLE AT <https://www.sisd.net/page/700>.

**The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

<b>Maintenance Tax</b>	\$ 0.966400	/ \$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
<b>School Debt Service Tax</b>	\$ 0.398954	/ \$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)

**Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget**

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Maintenance and operations	% increase	or	(1.17) % (decrease)
Debt service	% increase	or	(0.92) % (decrease)
Total expenditures	% increase	or	(1.14) % (decrease)

**Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Section 26.04, Tax Code)**

	Preceding Tax Year	Current Tax Year
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ 14,002,364,463	\$ 15,008,069,068
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ 448,348,067	\$ 435,647,126
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ 11,022,999,217	\$ 11,968,052,638
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ 401,451,856	\$ 405,051,294

\* "Appraised value" is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Section 1.04(8), Tax Code.  
 \*\* "New property" is defined by Section 26.012(17), Tax Code.  
 \*\*\* "Taxable value" is defined by Section 1.04(10), Tax Code.

**Bonded Indebtedness**

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$ 757,747,613

\* Outstanding principal.

**Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates**

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
<b>Last Year's Rate</b>	\$ 0.970000	\$ .398954 *	\$ 1.368954	\$ 3,337	\$ 7,062
<b>Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance &amp; Operations Revenue &amp; Pay Debt Service</b>	\$ 0.981110	\$ 0.397750 *	\$ 1.338670	\$ 3,425	\$ 6,959
<b>Proposed Rate</b>	\$ 0.966400	\$ 0.398954 *	\$ 1.365354	\$ 3,376	\$ 7,297

\* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

**Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence**

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 142,488	\$ 143,838
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 116,981	\$ 118,660
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 1.368954	\$ 1.365354
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 1,601.42	\$ 1,620.13
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ 18.71

**Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.**

**Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 1.365354. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of 1.365354.**

**Fund Balances**

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 52,139,037
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 15,900,306

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