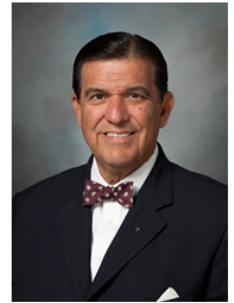




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SEN. LUCIO REAPPOINTED TO CHAIRMANSHIP

(Austin, TX) Today (Friday), Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick announced Senate Committee appointments, and the reappointment of Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr., (D-Brownsville) as Chairman of the powerful Senate Intergovernmental Relations Committee (IGR), which has jurisdiction over local units of governments, housing, and land development. "As a former Cameron County Commissioner and Treasurer, I am truly humbled Lieutenant Governor Patrick has entrusted me with serving in the committees that impact my constituents the most and sincerely thank Lt. Gov. Patrick for this critical leadership appointment."

Senator Lucio is also reappointed as Vice Chairman of the influential Senate Education Committee. Commenting on the need to reform Texas' School Finance System, the top priority of the 86th Legislature, Senator Lucio said, "As a former educator, I am cognizant of what the Vice-Chairmanship represents. I will use my experience to be a steadfast advocate for stronger education initiatives and greater resources for South Texas schools and school teachers, especially to those that need it most. I will work tirelessly with Chairman Larry Taylor, and the members of Senate Education, to reform the broken School Finance System. We need to do everything in our power to ensure every child has a quality education second to none and has an equal ability – regardless of zip code-- to achieve success in public schools.

Senator Lucio will also continue to serve as a member of the State Affairs Committee and the Veteran Affairs and Border Security Committee.

"Without a doubt assisting our local units of government, schools districts, and those who help our veterans improve the manner by which they address the needs of our constituents is my top priority as a Rio Grande Valley Senator!", Senator Lucio said.

Third in seniority of the 31 member Senate, Senator Lucio has the distinction of being the only border Senator appointed to chair a major standing committee. Additionally, along with the Dean of the Texas Senate, the Honorable John Whitmire, Senator Lucio is one of the two Democrats appointed chairmen in the sixteen committees of the Senate.

"I look forward to building on my experience and success in the Texas Senate to address the critical issues important to local and regional economies, especially developing initiatives to increase affordable housing opportunities, strengthening Texas' disaster recovery efforts, and comprehensively addressing critical infrastructure needs," Senator Lucio said.

Sen. Lucio went on to say that "This 86th Legislative Session will prove to be a session of education reforms. I wholeheartedly support Lt. Governor Patrick's proposal in providing all Texas teachers a \$5,000 pay increase - a long-overdue pay raise for the crucial role they play in the development of our next generation of Texas leaders. Sen. Lucio concluded saying, "By working with Governor Abbot and Lt. Governor Patrick, we will make sure Texas never forgets the efforts, long hours and commitment provided by our retired educators, who dedicated their lives to the selfless pursuit of teaching. Not only do they merit the undying thanks of our state, they also deserve for us to develop pension and health care plans that reflect the value the State of Texas places on their service."

BACKGROUND: The Senate IGR Committee has standing jurisdiction over local, county, and regional government, including housing, municipal annexation, special purpose districts, and disaster recovery. In addition to Chairman Lucio, members of the IGR Committee include: Sen. Charles Schwertner (Vice-Chair); Sen. Carol Alvarado; Sen. Donna Campbell; Sen. Pat Fallon; Sen. José Menéndez; and, Sen. Robert Nichols. A complete list of Senate Committee Assignments is attached.

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