



The Senate of Texas

CÉSAR J. BLANCO

TEXAS SENATOR
DISTRICT 29

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

January 14, 2025

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Senator César J. Blanco Sworn in for Third Term as Texas Senator for District 29

Austin, Texas – Today, the opening day of the 89th Session of the Texas Legislature, State Senator César J. Blanco took his Oath of Office for his third term representing District 29 in the Texas Senate. Senate District 29 is made up of Brewster, Culberson, El Paso, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, and Reeves counties, including both rural and urban communities, as well as more than 350 miles of the Texas-Mexico Border.

“From El Paso to Big Bend to the Permian Basin, the families of West Texas are hardworking, resilient, and inspiring. It’s an honor to represent them in the Texas Senate,” said Senator Blanco. “This session, I will continue putting people over politics and delivering real solutions for our community. My priorities are clear: making Texas a safe, affordable place to live, work, raise a family, and do business. I’ll also focus on creating opportunities for families to get ahead and building the infrastructure needed to support our state’s growth and prosperity. Let’s get to work!”

Senator Blanco is proud to announce his staff this legislative session:

Josh Reyna, Chief of Staff & General Counsel, graduated from St. Edward's University with a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and the University of Texas School of Law with a Juris Doctorate (JD). Josh is a licensed attorney in the State of Texas and brings with him a wealth of experience from his 15 years of working in the Texas Legislature. Josh has also successfully managed political campaigns in the local, state, and federal arenas. Josh enters his 10th regular legislative session with 8 years of service to Senator Blanco and the communities of El Paso and West Texas. Josh will continue to be an effective leader and aide in delivering positive outcomes for the people of Senate District 29.

Cassandra Urrutia serves as the Legislative and District Director for Senator Blanco, bringing six years of dedicated experience in the Texas Legislature. A proud graduate of New Mexico State University and The University of Texas at El Paso, Cassandra is deeply committed to serving her community and advocating for the people of West Texas as part of Senator Blanco's team. Her work reflects a passion for public service and a steadfast dedication to making a positive impact in the region.



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Taylor Sanchez, Communications Director for Senator César Blanco, is a proud El Pasoan and a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, where she earned degrees in Political Communications and Business Administration. She has dedicated her career to serving her hometown, including working for Former Mayor Dee Margo and the El Paso Chamber. With three years of experience in Senator Blanco's office, Taylor brings a deep passion for her community and a commitment to making a positive impact.

Mayela Granados, Executive Assistant and Scheduler, is an El Paso native with nearly 20 years of public service experience. Known for her commitment to excellence and organizational expertise, Mayela plays a key role in ensuring seamless operations. She is dedicated to her community, volunteering with the El Paso Humane Society and supporting local initiatives.

Rahul Vanchinathan, a Houston native and Rice University graduate with a Master's in Bioscience and Health Policy, serves as a Policy Aide for Senator Blanco. Rahul previously worked as a Policy Analyst for Senator LaMantia and contributed to biological research in various academic and clinical roles.

Alex Rodriguez, Legislative Aide, is a proud El Paso native and recent graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso. During the 88th Legislative Session, Alex served as a Legislative Intern as part of a semester-long fellowship, where he focused on Border Security, Health and Human Services, and Transportation. His dedication to these critical issues reflects his strong passion for serving the border community.

Paulina Prieto Chivardi, Legislative Aide, is a recent graduate of The University of Texas at Austin, joining us through the Luna Scholar Program. A proud El Pasoan, she is excited to work on policy this session and give back to her community. Outside of work, she enjoys trying new fitness classes and spending time with friends and family.

Bianca Perez, Legislative Aide, is a member of the Texas Leadership Scholars program in her third year at The University of Texas at El Paso double majoring in Criminal Justice and Psychology. She recently completed a semester in Washington, D.C., as part of the Bill Archer Fellowship Program where she gained knowledge into federal policymaking and is joining us in Austin as part of the UT System's Texas Legislative Fellowship Program. Perez looks forward to gaining critical insight into state-level policymaking and broadening her understanding of the legislative process.

Arista Brianna Garcia, Arista Garcia, Digital Media Strategist, is a graduate of St. Edward's University, where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Photography and Media Arts. A proud McAllen native, Arista brings two years of experience with Senator



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Blanco's office, using her passion for digital media to foster meaningful connections within communities.

Alejandra Villarreal, a native of Socorro, Texas, and a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso, serves as Community Liaison for Senator Blanco. She earned a Bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice and recently completed her Master's degree in Legal Studies. With four years of dedicated service in Senator Blanco's office, Alejandra has found her passion in public service and is deeply committed to supporting the community.

Arely Villalobos, a native of Socorro, Texas, and a graduate of Sul Ross State University, serves as a Constituent Caseworker for Senator Blanco. At Sul Ross, she earned a degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry, while also excelling as a member of the Women's Soccer team. During her two years of dedicated service to Senate District 29, Arely has cultivated a deep passion for serving her community and ensuring constituents' voices are heard.

Lina Mendez, a native of Colombia, is an attorney licensed in both Colombia and the United States. She holds a Juris Doctor degree from Universidad Libre and is a proud graduate of the University of Houston, where she earned her Master's degree in U.S. Law and International Law. Lina previously served as Legal Counsel for the Consulate of Colombia in Houston. Passionate about public service, she is dedicated to using her expertise to advocate for and empower the communities she serves.

Veronica Carrasco, District Representative in the rural counties for Senator Blanco, is a passionate and driven individual from Fort Stockton, a graduate of Angelo State University, where she earned her Bachelor's degree and is currently working on her Master's degree in Social Work. She thrives on exploring new ideas and is always eager to learn and grow.

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