

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
THE EL PASO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT'S
TAX RATIFICATION ELECTION

WHEREAS, in 2005 the Texas Supreme Court ordered the Texas 79th Legislature to give local school districts discretion in setting local maintenance and operation tax rates;

WHEREAS, in 2006 through H.B. 1, the State of Texas enacted policy that sets the reduced base rate at \$1.00 per \$100 valuation and gives local school districts discretion in increasing the maintenance and operation tax rate up to 4 cents per \$100 beyond the base;

WHEREAS, in 2006 through H.B. 1, the State of Texas enacted policy that requires local school districts to secure voter approval to increase the tax rate for maintenance and operation when it exceeds the reduced base rate;

WHEREAS, a Tax Ratification Election (TRE) gives local voters the opportunity to support raising taxes above the reduced base rate, currently set at \$1.04, and votes in support of the TRE will result in an increase of thirteen cents per \$100 valuation, a rate which will remain in effect year-after-year;

WHEREAS, the El Paso Independent School District has improved student performance considerably within the last five years. By FY 2008-2009, 19 district schools were rated 'exemplary,' up from zero and 40 schools were rated 'recognized,' up from 15 in 2005;

WHEREAS, the El Paso Independent School District has improved student performance on state accountability measures in all five core subject areas of reading, writing, math, science and social studies consistently for the past five years;

WHEREAS, the El Paso Independent School District has managed its budget efficiently, saving \$29 million since 2005 and reinvesting it into the following initiatives which includes but is not limited to: maintaining low teacher-student ratios, tutoring and academic coaches, the development and alignment of standards-based curriculum, and dropout intervention;

WHEREAS, the money invested by the El Paso community will be matched dollar to dollar by the State of Texas, and will result in \$19 million state dollars being drawn for \$17 million local dollars raised, to remain in effect year-after-year;

WHEREAS, the El Paso Independent School District requests additional funding for maintenance and operation purposes, which will be directed towards retaining and maintaining quality teachers and effective programs that have made the district successful;

WHEREAS, the El Paso Independent School District worked with community stakeholders during its 2007 bond initiative to ensure that infrastructure projects within the district were completed in a fiscally responsible manner and within an appropriate timeline;

WHEREAS, investing money into the quality of education provided to El Paso students is an investment in the financial and economic future of the community.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY:

RESOLVED, that The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce supports the efforts of the El Paso Independent School District to seek additional state funding in conjunction with local dollars raised through local taxes.

RESOLVED, that The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce urges the local voters to vote in favor of the Tax Ratification Election scheduled for May 8, 2010.

Approved by the Governing Board of The Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce on February 23, 2010.