

# SENATOR ROLAND GUTIERREZ

Senate District 19 • Fall 2022 Capitol Report



*Dear Friends and Neighbors,*

It is an honor to serve as your State Senator in Texas' 19th District. As one of the most diverse districts in the state, I will work hard to make sure that your voice is heard in the Capitol. Together, our voice is powerful and we will rise to meet the challenges facing our state and local communities. We must continue to work together to bring about common sense solutions.

The devastating tragedy that took place in Uvalde on May 24th at Robb Elementary School has forever changed us. We cannot and will not allow another community in Texas to go through the heartbreak and pain that Uvalde has experienced. We deserve communities that are safe for our children and a state that will make any change necessary to protect them. The outpouring of support for the community of Uvalde gives me reason to believe that real change and reform are within our grasp. Please keep the community of Uvalde in your prayers and think of them as we move forward through our next legislative session in 2023.

In the 87th Legislative Session I fought for the working families of our state – writing bills to fund our education system, reduce taxes, fix the grid, take care of pregnant women, and provide mental healthcare in rural Texas. In 2023, my priorities are to continue pushing for full funding of our education system, protecting our environment, making healthcare of all Texans accessible and affordable, and gun safety reform so we can keep our families safe.

I look forward to serving you and working with my colleagues in the Senate to tackle the pressing issues that continue to face our state in the 88th Legislature.

Senate District 19 has offices in San Antonio, Uvalde, and Austin that are here to listen and serve you. Please call us if you need help with state government services.

Sincerely,

State Senator Roland Gutierrez,  
Senate District 19

# GETTING OUR DISTRICT CONNECTED

## THE FCC'S AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

Access to reliable, high-speed internet is no longer a luxury, it's a necessity in modern life. That's why I coauthored Senate Bill 5, expanding broadband access to every Texan. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill of 2021 invests over \$65 billion dollars toward expanding access to high-speed broadband internet services for rural and low-income households across the nation. Among these investments is a new program from the Federal Communications Commission with the goal of helping to reduce the cost of high-speed internet for households.

### WHAT IS IT?

The program provides a **discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service** for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can **also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers** if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

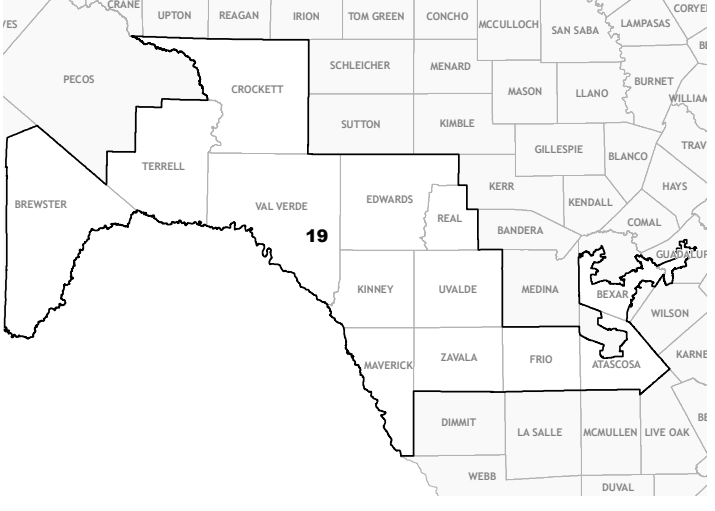
*The Affordable Connectivity Program is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.*

My office estimates that over 125,000 households—about 48% of Senate District 19—qualifies for the Affordable Connectivity Program. I encourage you to continue reading to find out if your household is eligible.

If you need to talk to someone about your eligibility or application status, call the ACP Support Center at: (877) 384-2575.

## THE NEW SENATE DISTRICT 19

Last year, Governor Abbott convened a special session to conduct redistricting for our state. Pictured below is the new map of what Senate District 19 will look like in 2023 when the 88th Legislature meets in Austin. Our district is diverse in its geography, including both downtown San Antonio and sprawling rural counties of southwest Texas. If you need clarification as to who your Senator is under this new map, I encourage you to call one of my offices.



## WHO'S ELIGIBLE FOR THE AFFORDABLE CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM?

A household is eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) if the household income is at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or if a member of the household meets **at least one of the criteria below**:

- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income internet program;
- Participates in one of these assistance programs:
  - The National School Lunch Program or the School Breakfast Program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision;
  - SNAP
  - Medicaid
  - Federal Public Housing Assistance
  - Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - WIC
  - Veterans Pension or Survivor Benefits
  - or Lifeline;

### HOW DO I APPLY?

There are **three different ways to apply** for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP):

#### 1. Go Online

Login or create a new account to complete the ACP application online. If you apply online, you may be able to receive an immediate approval. You can apply online or with the assistance of your internet company. You can also use the camera on your smart device to **scan the QR Code** on the right to begin the application process.



#### 2. Apply by Mail

Contact one of our offices and request that an application and Household Worksheet be mailed to your home or print out an application and Household Worksheet online. It is strongly recommended that you include a Household Worksheet with your application. Complete the application and Household Worksheet and send them, along with copies of your proof documentation, to the address below:

ACP Support Center  
PO Box 7081, London, KY 40742

#### 3. Contact Your Internet Company

Ask your internet company if they participate in the ACP. Participating companies can help you apply through their company's application process.

To learn more, contact our office or visit: [www.affordableconnectivity.gov](http://www.affordableconnectivity.gov)

# ACROSS OUR DISTRICT

## INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE THROUGH EDUCATION

### COMPUTER SCIENCE

Our economy is becoming increasingly digital. Comprehensive knowledge and skillsets in computing technology are becoming vital for employment in virtually every high-paying professional career. That's why I supported Rider 86 in Article III of the 2022-2023 state budget. Rider 86 directed the Texas Education Agency to establish a grant program for schools to create an Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles (AP CSP) course for high schools across Texas.

These courses will equip Texas students with foundational knowledge that will earn them college credits towards degrees that will, in turn, make them competitive applicants in our current and future economies.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

I fought to secure funding for our world-class universities across south-central Texas throughout the passage of Senate Bill 52. This funding will further academic excellence and ensure these universities remain on the cutting edge of research and technology. Including:

- Over \$52 million for the University of Texas at San Antonio to construct their Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Careers building;
- Nearly \$50 million for the University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio for the construction of the Glenn Biggs Institute for Alzheimer's & Neurodegenerative Diseases Building;
- Over \$44 million for University of Texas A&M San Antonio for construction of a public health and education building;
- And \$1 million for Sul Ross State University's institutional enhancement.

## COMMUNITY RECOGNITION



*The Farias Family with Senators Menendez and Gutierrez.*

Last session I filed SR 429 in memory of Angela Maria Farias, the late wife of former State Representative Joe Farias. Angie was a treasure to the South Side community and her four beloved sons. The Senate adjourned later that day in memory of Angie Farias.



*The Stockbridge Family, The Dittmar Family, and the White Family meet Senator Gutierrez in the State Capitol for a memorial resolution honoring their loved ones.*

During the 87th Legislative Session, my colleagues and I honored the lives of the Wildlife Biologist Dewey Stockbridge, Fish and Wildlife Technician Brandon White, and State Wildlife Veterinarian Dr. Bob Dittmar, the three employees of TPWD who we tragically lost while conducting aerial surveys for desert bighorn sheep in West Texas. It was an honor to meet their families and express my deepest condolences.



*From left to right: Eagle Scouts Tex Scott Anderson, Justin David Maspero, Zander Kage Temple, Wanish Isahia Tortes-McGinnis hold their Texas Senate resolutions.*

This past summer, I had the pleasure of recognizing four Eagle Scout recipients of Boy Scout Troop 194 from Pleasanton, Texas for their hard work and dedication to leadership within their community.

These fine young Texans have demonstrated outstanding leadership ability throughout their scouting career, winning the respect and admiration of their fellow troop members as they worked toward the highest rank offered by the Boy Scouts of America. The dedication of these young men to excellence and their perseverance in the pursuit of their goals have proven them worthy to stand among scouting's elite, and they may indeed reflect with pride on a job well done. I have no doubt that these young men will go on to be some of the leaders of tomorrow.

# REMEMBERING UVALDE



The tragic event that occurred at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde on May 24, 2022, will forever mark a dark day in our state's history. The 21 lives that were taken from us that day by this senseless act of cruelty and violence will never be forgotten. When faced with tremendous grief, it is important that we pull together to help this community heal.

I have opened a district office in Uvalde so that my staff and I may better provide assistance to the community. I will continue to demand answers from our state's leadership and ensure that the affected families continue to receive the care they need.

If you or a loved one have been affected by this tragedy, I strongly encourage you to take advantage of these mental health resources.

## COUNSELING AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS IN THE UVALDE AREA

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|--|---|--|
| <p><b>National Suicide Prevention Hotline</b><br/>New Hotline Number: 988</p> <p><b>Bluebonnet Children's Advocacy Center</b><br/>830-278-7733<br/>141 E. Nopal Uvalde, TX 78801</p> <p><b>Community Health Development Inc.</b><br/>830-278-7105<br/>200 S. Evans St, Uvalde, TX 78801</p> <p><b>San Antonio Behavioral Healthcare Hospital</b><br/>210-541-5300<br/>8550 Huebner Rd, San Antonio, TX 78240</p> <p><b>Tri-County CASA Bluebonnet Children's Advocacy Center</b><br/>830-426-8848<br/>1901 Ave I, Hondo, TX 78861</p> <p><b>Children's Bereavement Center of South Texas</b><br/>210-736-4847<br/>205 W. Olmos Drive, San Antonio, TX 78212</p> <p><b>AgriStress Helpline</b><br/>833-897-2474</p> | <p><b>Hill Country Mental Health &amp; Development Disability Services</b><br/>830-278-2501<br/>328 Crystal City Hwy, Uvalde, TX 78801</p> <p><b>Uvalde Together Resiliency Center</b><br/>215 Veterans Ln, Uvalde, TX 78801</p> <p><b>K'Star Youth &amp; Family Services</b><br/>830-739-4415<br/>103 N. Piper Lane Uvalde, TX 78801</p> <p><b>Talking River Psychotherapy</b><br/>830-232-4343<br/>90 Childress, Leakey, TX 78873</p> <p><b>Denise Saucedo, LPC</b><br/>210-317-3451<br/>1712 Ave. K, Hondo, TX 78861</p> <p><b>Catholic Charities Grace Counseling</b><br/>210-377-1132<br/>911 S. New Braunfels Ave, San Antonio, TX 78210</p> <p><b>Laurel Ridge Treatment Center</b><br/>210-491-9400<br/>17720 Corporate Woods Dr. San Antonio, TX 78259</p> | <p><b>Crossroads Behavior Health Center</b><br/>(65 yrs &amp; older only)<br/>830-278-8144<br/>Uvalde Memorial Hospital, Uvalde, TX 78801</p> <p><b>Family Services Association</b><br/>830-374-0460<br/>129 Goldbeck St, Uvalde, TX 78801</p> <p><b>Nueva Vida</b><br/>210-616-0828 Ext. 3<br/>560 N. High St, Uvalde, TX 78801</p> <p><b>South Texas Rural Health</b><br/>830-591-1822<br/>1815 Garner Field Rd, Uvalde, TX 78801</p> <p><b>Let it Bee Counseling Services</b><br/>830-261-5900<br/>239-A Marsh Lane, Uvalde, TX 78801</p> <p><b>Laurel Ridge Treatment Center</b><br/>210-491-9400<br/>17720 Corporate Woods Drive, San Antonio, TX 78259</p> <p><b>Clarity Child Guidance Center</b><br/>210-616-0300 (Main Line)<br/>210-582-6412 (Crisis Line)<br/>8535 Tom Slick Drive, San Antonio, TX 78229</p> |
|--|---|--|



# INSIDE OUR TEXAS SENATE



## COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

During his tenure with the Texas Legislature, Senator Gutierrez has been a champion for our military servicemen and servicewomen. While in the House of Representatives, Gutierrez served as Chairman of the Defense and Veterans' Affairs Committee. Serving his first term in the Senate, Gutierrez was assigned to the Veterans Affairs Committee and continues to fight for veterans benefits.

Currently, Senator Gutierrez serves on four legislative committees:

- Veterans Affairs
- Local Government
- Nominations
- Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs

The Texas Veterans Commission presented Senator Gutierrez with a certificate of recognition for the work he does in supporting our veterans. Year after year, session after session, the Senator goes up to Austin to make sure our state is taking care of our troops and their families by filing legislation that makes sense. He looks forward to continuing the fight and the hard work on behalf of our Texas Veterans.



Chairman Hancock, Senator Gutierrez, Chairman Hughes, Chairwoman Kolkhorst discuss proposals to rectify issues with the Texas power grid.

## WINTER STORM URI

When a historic winter storm rocked Texas in February of 2021, my colleagues and I in the Texas Senate got to work immediately to provide much-needed relief to Texans left in the dark. The Legislature made important steps toward ensuring that our power grid equipment is winterized, but there is still more work to be done to ensure that the lights stay on during our next extreme weather event.

I proposed measures to protect energy consumers from price gouging, including a measure that would have provided every Texan household affected by the storm with a rebate toward their electricity bill to help cover the costs of the grid's failure. I was successful in amending HB 4497; unfortunately, the legislation went to conference committee and was removed from the final bill. I served on the Conference Committee for HB 4497 and fought hard to keep this important piece that would have helped many Texans.

## THE BUDGET

The budget is the only bill required by the Texas Constitution to be passed by our Legislature each session. The 87th Legislature passed a \$248 billion budget, allocating \$116 billion in revenue toward government operations and programs. This budget signals a \$13.5 billion reduction in overall spending from last session's budget. The budget allocates roughly \$8.6 billion toward higher education, ensuring that Texas universities will continue to build the brightest minds of tomorrow.



Senator Gutierrez with Senator Eckhardt of Austin.



Senator Roland Gutierrez stands with Councilwoman Laura Koerner, receiving an award from the Texas Veteran's Commission (TVC) for their dedication to serving our state's veterans.

## JUNETEENTH: SAVE THE DATE

With the recognition of Juneteenth as a federal holiday in 2021, the Texas Legislature invited Ms. Opal Lee, the Grandmother of Juneteenth, to the Senate to congratulate her on civil rights leadership. I was proud to cosign Senate Resolution 19 in celebration of Ms. Lee's tireless advocacy in the State of Texas and beyond to enshrine this uniquely Texan day in American history as a national holiday.



Senator Gutierrez with Opal Lee, the Grandmother of Juneteenth.

# CONTACT SENATOR GUTIERREZ

## Important Dates To Remember

- ★ Last Day to Register to Vote: October 11th, 2022
- ★ Mail-In Ballot App Deadline: Friday, October 28th, 2022
- ★ First Day of Early Voting: October 24th, 2022
- ★ Last Day of Early Voting: November 4th, 2022
- ★ Election Day: November 8th, 2022 (7am - 7pm)



Email: [District19.Gutierrez@senate.texas.gov](mailto:District19.Gutierrez@senate.texas.gov)

**Capitol Office**  
 (512) 463-0119  
 The Honorable Roland Gutierrez  
 P.O. Box 12068 Capitol Station  
 Austin, TX 78711

**San Antonio Office**  
 (210) 532-2302  
 3175 Sidney Brooks  
 Building 470  
 San Antonio, TX 78235

**Uvalde Office**  
 (830) 278-1234  
 2401 Garner Field Rd  
 Building Q2  
 Uvalde, TX 78801



## Texas Senator Roland Gutierrez

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- Office of the Governor Information and Referral Hotline: 1-800-843-5789
- Office of Attorney General Child Support: 1-800-252-8014
- Consumer Protection Hotline: 1-800-621-0508
- Crime Victims Compensation: 1-800-983-9933
- Office of Consumer Credit Commissioner Consumer HelpLine: 1-800-538-1579
- Public Utility Commission of Texas Consumer Protection Division: 1-888-782-8477
- Division of Worker's Compensation Injured Worker Hotline: 1-800-452-9595
- Safety Violations Hotline: 1-800-452-9595
- Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Hotline: 1-888-368-4689
- Texas Workforce Commission Hotline: 512-463-2222
- Texas Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-800-252-5400
- Texas Abuse/Neglect Hotline: 1-800-252-5400
- Texas Youth Hotline: 1-800-989-6884
- Office of Internal Affairs Hotline: 1-800-720-7777
- Family and Community SVC: 1-800-422-2956
- Foster Care & Adoption Inquiry Hotline: 1-800-233-3405
- Texas Health & Human Services Commission WIC: 1-800-942-3678
- Consumer Complaint Hotline: 1-800-201-9353
- Texas Medical Board Office of the Ombudsman: 1-800-252-8154
- Substance Abuse Services: 1-866-378-8440
- Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP): 1-877-543-7669
- Disaster Assistance: 1-800-582-5233
- Medical Hotline: 1-800-252-8263
- Regulatory Services Division: 512-424-7293
- Emergency Roadside Assistance: 1-800-525-5555
- Texas Crime Stoppers Hotline: 1-800-252-8477
- Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Offender Parole Review Status Line: 1-844-512-0461
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality Hotline: 1-888-777-3186
- Texas Department of Insurance Consumer Help Line: 1-800-252-3439
- Texas Department of Criminal Justice Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division: 1-800-848-4284
- Offender Status Line: 1-800-535-0283
- Division of Worker's Compensation Texas Department of Motor Vehicles Injured Worker Hotline: 1-866-393-6432
- Safety Violations Hotline: 1-800-452-9595
- Consumer Complaint Hotline: 1-800-252-8387
- Texas Department of Public Safety Driver License Customer Service: 512-424-2600
- Consumer Complaint Hotline: 1-800-201-9353
- Texas Veterans Land Board Veterans Hotline: 1-800-942-3678
- Office of the Ombudsman: 1-800-252-8154
- Substance Abuse Services: 1-866-378-8440
- Children's Health Insurance Plan (CHIP): 1-877-543-7669
- Disaster Assistance: 1-800-582-5233
- Medical Hotline: 1-800-252-8263
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