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**Mission:**

To make legislative  
recommendations to  
help the Texas Border Region  
grow and prosper economically.



December 18, 2023

The Honorable Richard Cortez  
County Judge  
Hidalgo County  
100 E. Cano, 2nd Floor  
Edinburg, TX 78539

Re: Invoice for Fiscal Year 2023 Texas Border Coalition Dues Payment

Dear Judge Cortez:

On behalf of the Texas Border Coalition (TBC), please find attached an invoice for coalition dues for the current fiscal year. Also attached is an update on the coalition's activities during the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature.

As you know, when the collective elected and business leaders from Texas border communities speak with one voice, we impact issues that affect the border region's quality of life. Toward that end, TBC has been instrumental in fostering bipartisan collaboration, advocating for our shared goals, and driving positive change that helps Texas border communities grow and prosper. We highly value your membership and voice and are grateful for your continued support.

Below, you will find the details of the invoice:

Invoice Number: 1231  
Date of Invoice: December 18, 2023  
Amount Due: \$10,000.00

Kindly include the invoice number in the payment reference to help us track and reconcile the payment efficiently. If there are any specific instructions or additional information required for processing the payment, please let us know. Should you require any documentation, let us know and we will promptly provide the necessary details.

We greatly appreciate your prompt attention. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly or reach out to Julie Hillrichs at Vianovo by phone (972) 971-0117; or email [jhillrichs@vianovo.com](mailto:jhillrichs@vianovo.com).



Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to another fruitful year of collaboration within TBC.

Sincerely,



David Stout  
Chairman, Texas Border Coalition  
County Commissioner, El Paso County, Texas

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**About the Texas Border Coalition (TBC)**

The Texas Border Coalition (TBC) is a collective voice of border mayors, county judges, economic development commissions focused on issues that affect 2.8 million people along the Texas-Mexico border region and economically disadvantaged counties from El Paso to Brownsville. TBC is working closely with the state and federal government to educate, advocate, and secure funding for transportation, immigration and border security, workforce development, economic development and health care. For more information, visit the coalition website at [www.texasbordercoalition.org](http://www.texasbordercoalition.org). Follow TBC on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) [#TXBorderCoalition] to keep up to date on all of the latest news about the coalition and its activities.





## 2023 TBC Legislative Accomplishments

Speaking as one voice for border communities in the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, the Texas Border Coalition (TBC) achieved great success on its priorities including education, broadband, water resources and healthcare. TBC drove success for border communities by advocating for stable, policy-based solutions, testifying and indicating support or opposition to dozens of bills over the session and conducting over 50 meetings with lawmakers, committee leaders and staff.

TBC focused on the priorities identified by border leaders before the legislative session, and supported legislators of both parties to pass laws that benefit Texans for years to come. Our effort was aided by earned media generating 122 mentions on local, state, and national media platforms, including 81 stories in Texas media. TBC legislative accomplishments include:

Broadband internet: \$1.5 billion for the proposed dedicated Texas Broadband Infrastructure Fund, pending voter approval. The fund will be critical to the drawdown of dollars from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) broadband expansion program. Broadband accessibility is a key factor to escaping poverty.

Water: Over \$2 billion to improve water infrastructure and improvement of flood and drainage projects, including \$1 billion for the proposed Texas Water Fund, pending voter approval, and \$625 million for flood and drainage infrastructure. In addition, \$550 million was set aside for coastal barrier projects. The package also includes \$125 million to match IIJA federal funding for water infrastructure projects.

Community colleges: \$691 million in additional formula funding, grants for workforce needs, and additional financial aid to help implement community college finance reform.

Other accomplishments include:

- A 16.2 percent increase in funding for Health and Human Services programs.
- A 2.9 percent increase in funding for the Border Health Operations program.
- Increased TxDOT funding for projects near land ports of entry.
- New funding for the construction of health care facilities in Starr County.
- Funding for a study of water/sewer disparities in colonias along the border.
- Funding for the Starr County Upper-Level Center, UT Rio Grande Valley.
- \$250 million to conduct a needs assessment, financial plan, and feasibility study for the establishment and operation of a law school at the University of Texas-El Paso.

TBC's success in the 88<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature comes after a remarkably successful effort in the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress, including billions in new funding for infrastructure, healthcare, workforce training, water resources and broadband expansion. These successes demonstrate the value and reward of Texas border communities speaking with one voice through the Texas Border Coalition.





Monica Salinas <[monica.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:monica.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us)>

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## Re: Follow-Up: Hidalgo County's Texas Border Coalition Dues for 2024

1 message

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Julie Hillrichs <[jhillrichs@vianovo.com](mailto:jhillrichs@vianovo.com)>

Thu, Jan 4, 2024 at 5:54 PM

To: Monica Salinas <[monica.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:monica.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us)>

Thank you, Monica!

To confirm, TBC dues are for 2024.

Appreciate all your help!

Warm regards,

Julie

**Julie Hillrichs**

Vianovo

[812 San Antonio St, Suite 315](#)

Austin, TX 78701

512.744.0044

[jhillrichs@vianovo.com](mailto:jhillrichs@vianovo.com)

972-971-0117

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**From:** Monica Salinas <[monica.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us](mailto:monica.salinas@co.hidalgo.tx.us)>

**Date:** Thursday, January 4, 2024 at 5:19 PM

**To:** Julie Hillrichs <[jhillrichs@vianovo.com](mailto:jhillrichs@vianovo.com)>

**Subject:** Re: Follow-Up: Hidalgo County's Texas Border Coalition Dues for 2024

[Hello and Happy New Year!](#)

Approval of membership dues is on our next agenda which is our first mtg. of 2024 (1/9/24). Payment gets issued on the following check run/agenda which is 1/26/24.

Our last mtg. of 2023 was 12/19/23.

Can you just confirm that these are dues for 2024? We work on a calendar year and not a fiscal year.

Please advise.

**Respectfully,Error! Filename not specified.**

**Monica Salinas, Court Administrator**

**Hidalgo County Executive Office**

**505 S. McColl Rd., 2nd floor**

**Edinburg, Texas 78539**

**(956)292-7655 ext. 5602Error! Filename not specified.Error! Filename not specified.**

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On Thu, Jan 4, 2024 at 5:07 PM Julie Hillrichs <[jhillrichs@vianovo.com](mailto:jhillrichs@vianovo.com)> wrote:

Dear Monica:

Happy New Year! I trust this email finds you well and that you had a wonderful holiday season.

I wanted to follow up on our email exchange from December 19 regarding Hidalgo County's Texas Border Coalition dues for 2024. Could you kindly confirm if the request has been submitted to the Commissioner's Court for consideration? If not, I was wondering if there is a way to expedite the process and have it placed on the agenda for the next court meeting.