



RYAN GUILLEN

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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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GUILLEN HELPS PROVIDE WATER/WASTEWATER FUNDING TO ECONOMICALLY DISTRESSED AREAS

AUSTIN - Legislation providing \$200 million for the issuance of additional general obligation bonds by the Texas Water Development Board, that State Rep. Ryan Guillen (D-Rural South Texas) was a sponsor of, was recently approved by Texas voters and will immediately go into effect.

"The Economically Distressed Areas Program has helped build millions of dollars worth of infrastructure within our district," said Guillen, "and this measure is vital to providing water and wastewater infrastructure to Texas communities that need it most."

The Economically Distressed Areas Program (EDAP) helps provide drinking water and wastewater treatment to Texas residents previously without service, and improve existing utility systems that do not meet minimum state standards. Additionally, those projects must be located in an economically distressed area where the median household income is not greater than 75% of the median state household income.

Guillen has always been an advocate of EDAP, authoring and passing HB 2374 during the 81st legislative session which expanded EDAP funding usage, and sponsoring SJR 20 during the 80th legislative session, authorizing the issuance of \$250 million in bonds to finance the program. Continuing his involvement, Guillen was a sponsor of SJR 79, Proposition 2, during the 86th legislative session.

The recent voter approval of Proposition 2 will allow the Texas Water Development Board to issue general obligation bonds to economically distressed areas with significant water or sewer needs of up to \$200 million on a continuing basis without requiring a vote. Previously, these bonds were issued in increments of \$250 million, but required a vote to be dispersed.

"In order to ensure our most vulnerable communities have access to water and wastewater infrastructure, it is imperative that we help provide them with the resources they need." concluded Guillen, "and the voter approval of this funding is sure to allow the EDAP program to continue the great work that it has already achieved."

Serving ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, Ryan Guillen is known for his hard work, fierce independence, and relentless efforts for South Texas families. Recently, Capitol Inside called him a "House Bill Machine," and a "one-person assembly line for legislation." Since elected, few have passed more legislation than Guillen. Sign up for updates at ryanguillen.com, facebook.com/representative.guillen, and twitter.com/ryanguillen

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