



2025

POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

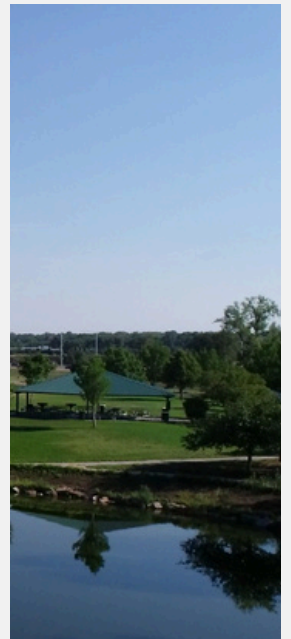
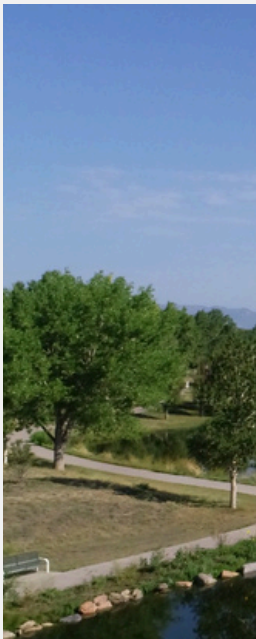
**REGIONAL
LEADER**

**KNOWN FOR
EXCELLENCE IN
COUNTY SERVICE
DELIVERY**

FISCAL YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025
elpasoco.com

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LETTER TO RESIDENTS



BRET WATERS
County Administrator



NIKKI SIMMONS
Chief Financial Officer

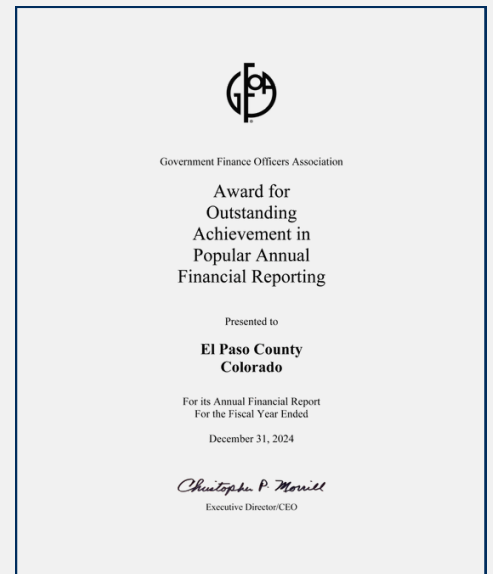
El Paso County remains committed to serving residents with transparency, accountability, and measurable results that strengthen our community. Guided by our Strategic Plan, we continue to enhance the services, infrastructure, and systems that support daily life. As our region grows, so does our responsibility to plan wisely and invest strategically to ensure every resident benefits from reliable, efficient public services. All financial information presented has been derived from the County's independently audited Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, further underscoring our commitment to openness and accuracy.

Delivering on this commitment requires responsible stewardship of public resources. By using realistic projections, closely monitoring expenditures, and maintaining strong reserves, we have ensured organizational stability in the face of changing needs. Our conservative approach to budgeting has positioned El Paso County to weather uncertain economic conditions, allowing us to avoid reducing personnel, mandating operational cuts, or making other budget reductions while still providing all essential County services. These disciplined practices support our long-term goals and reinforce transparency across County operations.

In 2025, we advanced key projects that improve quality of life and support our growing region. Investments in roads, stormwater systems, transportation networks, and parks were designed to meet immediate needs while preparing the County for long-term growth. These improvements strengthen resilience and ensure our infrastructure can sustain the demands of a thriving community.

Our ability to deliver these improvements depends on a dedicated and skilled workforce. Consistent with our Strategic Plan, we invested in retaining employees, attracting talented professionals, and strengthening internal processes that improve service delivery. Their commitment to excellence ensures residents receive responsive, high-quality support across all County programs. A strong workforce remains central to achieving our goals and sustaining the level of service our community deserves.

El Paso County will continue prioritizing transparency, responsible stewardship, and measurable results that contribute to a thriving and resilient community. We appreciate the trust of our residents and remain committed to serving with integrity and professionalism.





EL PASO COUNTY, COLORADO

HOME TO AMERICA'S MOUNTAIN, PIKES PEAK

At the foot of Pikes Peak, “America’s Mountain”, El Paso County is where natural beauty, rich history, and vibrant community come together. It’s here that Katharine Lee Bates was inspired to write *America the Beautiful*, and that same sense of wonder continues to shape the region today. With nearly 300 days of sunshine, fresh mountain air, and a landscape that stretches from sweeping plains to alpine peaks, El Paso County offers a setting that is both energizing and welcoming.

Spanning more than 2,100 square miles, El Paso County is home to over 750,000 residents and eight distinct municipalities, each contributing its own unique character. From the dynamic energy of Colorado Springs to the historic charm of Manitou Springs, and from the close-knit communities of Monument and Palmer Lake to the agricultural roots of Calhan and Ramah, the region reflects

a blend of cultures, lifestyles, and traditions. Fountain and Green Mountain Falls further enrich the community, creating a unique and connected place where people can find a community grounded in service, tradition, and opportunity.

El Paso County is also proud to play a vital role in national defense, with five major military installations and a strong Veteran presence that reflects a deep commitment to service. This spirit of dedication, combined with a thriving economy, outdoor recreation, and a high quality of life, sets El Paso County apart. Whether you’re drawn by opportunity, community, or the call of the outdoors, you’ll find more than just a place to live - you’ll find a place to call home.

COMMUNITY SNAPSHOT



757,040
POPULATION



\$89,549
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME



\$488,444
MEDIAN HOME VALUE



+3.8%
5-YEAR POPULATION
GROWTH

COUNTY SERVICE DELIVERY



2,239
MILES OF ROAD
MAINTAINED



7,883
ACRES OF PARKS &
OPEN SPACES



6,947
DEVELOPMENT
APPLICATIONS



281
BRIDGES
MAINTAINED



148
MILES OF
TRAILS



1,129
NEW HOUSING
APPLICATIONS



319,207
MOTOR VEHICLE
TRANSACTIONS



80,254
DRIVER'S LICENSES
ISSUED



502,574
2025 REGISTERED
VOTERS



114,220
DOCUMENTS
RECORDED



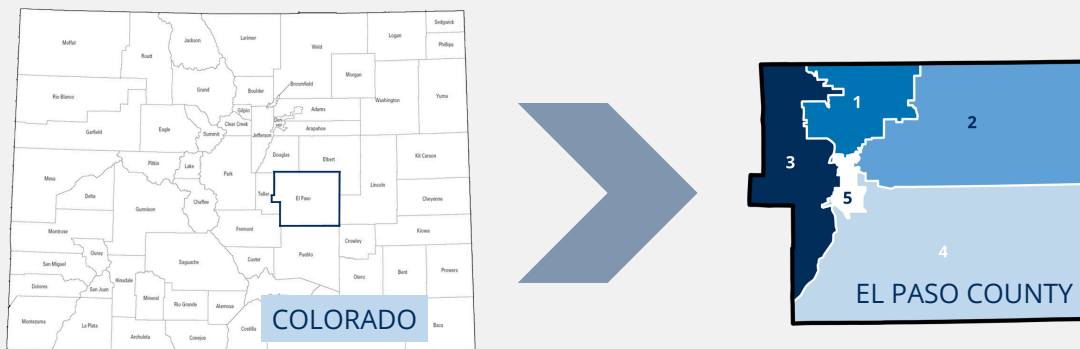
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) serves as the administrative and policy-making body for El Paso County, the most populous of Colorado's 64 counties. As a political subdivision of the State of Colorado, its authority is granted by the Colorado General Assembly and defined in Article XIV, Section 6 of the Colorado Constitution



HOLLY WILLIAMS (1) | CORY APPLGATE (4)
CARRIE GEITNER (2) | LAUREN NELSON (5) | BILL WYSONG (3)

In 1976, voters approved expanding the Board to five commissioners, each elected from equally populated districts. District boundaries are reviewed and adjusted every two years to maintain fair representation.



The Board conducts regular public meetings in accordance with Colorado's open government laws, including the Sunshine Act and Open Records Act. To uphold accountability and transparency, the Board annually reviews its rules, procedures, and ethics standards. Meetings are streamed online across the County's social media platforms, on the County broadcast channel, and on the El Paso County Clerk & Recorder's website. To learn more about the El Paso County Board of Commissioners visit bocc.elpasoco.com.

VALUES & STRATEGIC PLAN

A TRUSTED REGIONAL LEADER FOR EXCELLENCE IN COUNTY SERVICE DELIVERY

We provide essential public services to the Pikes Peak Region in support of our residents, businesses, and communities, enhancing the freedom for all to thrive.



EL PASO COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN

El Paso County's Strategic Plan provides a clear framework for aligning priorities, resources, and services with the needs of our community. Focused on infrastructure, service quality, community trust, and health and safety, it supports consistent decision-making and responsible stewardship while guiding long-term planning and annual budgeting.



INFRASTRUCTURE



SERVICE QUALITY



COMMUNITY TRUST



HEALTH & SAFETY

Our vision and mission define our direction and purpose, while our core values establish the principles that guide how we deliver services. Together, they reflect our commitment to effective, responsive, and accountable public service.



SERVICE FOCUSED



COLLABORATIVE



ACCOUNTABLE

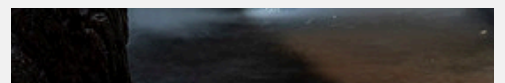
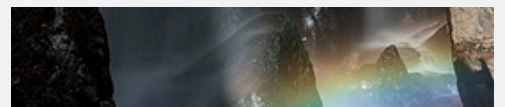


TRUSTWORTHY



TRANSPARENT

We measure progress through a strategic performance dashboard that tracks key indicators tied to our goals. This transparent approach provides clear insight into performance and ensures accountability to our residents and stakeholders. To learn about our successes and where we are visit elpasoco.com/strategic-plan.



RESULTS THAT MATTER

SERVING OUR REGION AND COMMUNITY

El Paso County is delivering meaningful results that reflect our strategic plan and core values. Our vision, to be a trusted regional leader known for excellence in service delivery, is made possible by the dedication of our employees, all while maintaining a fiscally responsible approach.

COUNTYWIDE WATER STUDY LAUNCHED TO ASSESS LONG-TERM SUPPLY

LAND DEVELOPMENT CODE UPDATE UNDERWAY TO STREAMLINE THE PROCESS

\$3.6 M

ANNUALIZED COST SAVINGS THROUGH STRATEGIC PLANNING AND AGENCY-WIDE COLLABORATION

\$1.5 M

SAVINGS ON CAPITAL PROJECTS

99%

PASS RATE FOR CDL OPERATORS

70%

CUSTOMER SERVICE BACKLOG REDUCTION

365

BUSINESSES RECEIVED TAX CREDITS

\$5.5 M

DONATIONS PROCESSED TO SUPPORT 45 ENTERPRISE ZONE (EZ) PROJECTS

267

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS FUNDED

13,000+

RESIDENTS SUPPORTED THROUGH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDING

ONLY COUNTY IN STATE WITH A VETERANS APPEALS PROGRAM
SECURED OVER \$24.2M IN ONGOING BENEFITS & \$3.8M IN RETROACTIVE BENEFITS

63

ACRES OF WILDFIRE MITIGATION COMPLETED

100+

VOLUNTEER RESTORATION CREW

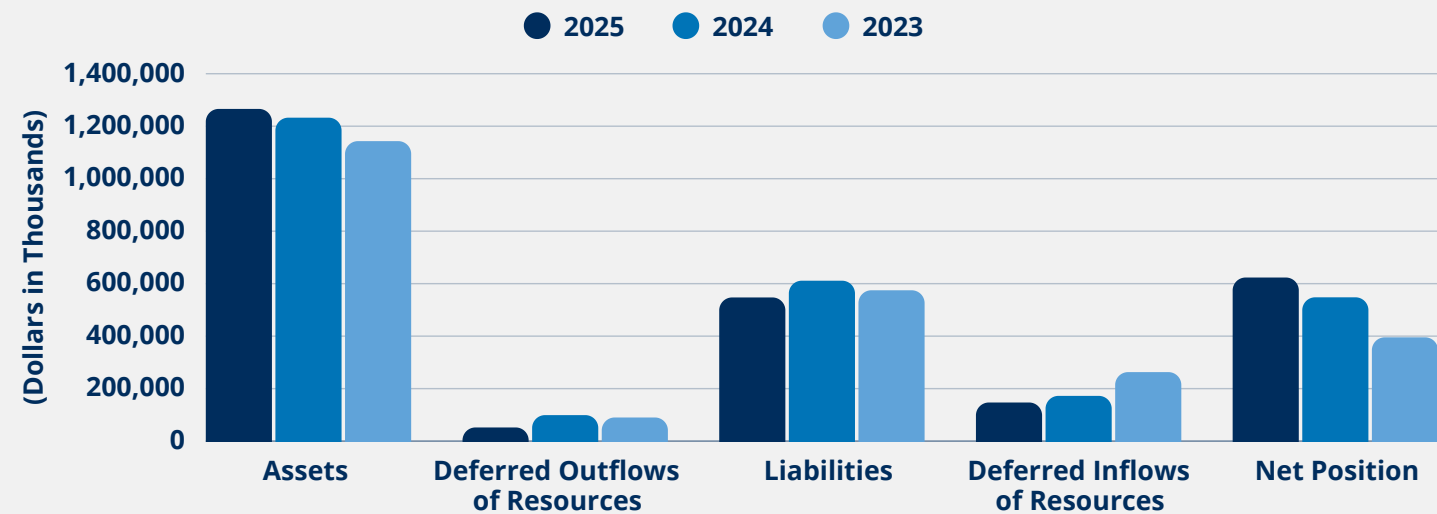
NET POSITION

The statement of net position presents all of El Paso County's assets, deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, and deferred inflows of resources, with the difference reported as the net position. It is a snapshot of account balances as of December 31, 2025. Over time, the increases or decreases in the County's net position may serve as a useful indicator of whether the County's financial position is improving or deteriorating. Total net position has increased \$75.4 million (13.8%) from 2024 to 2025.

Key Drivers

Change in net position was \$75.4 million and \$152.5 million in 2025 and 2024 respectively, with the lower 2025 increase primarily attributable to fewer transportation projects completed, reduced donated infrastructure, and higher public safety and public works costs.

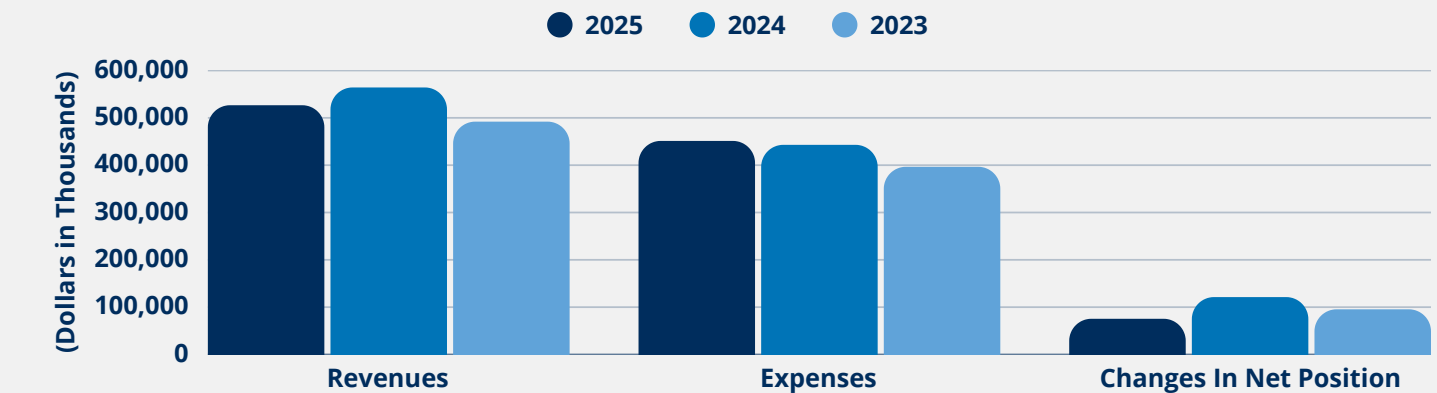
Governmental Activities



CHANGES IN NET POSITION

The statement of activities presents information that indicates how the County's net position changed during the year reported, and shows total revenues earned and expenses incurred. When revenues exceed expenses, the County's net position increases. If expenses were to exceed revenues, net position would decrease.

Governmental Activities





TAX DISTRIBUTION

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

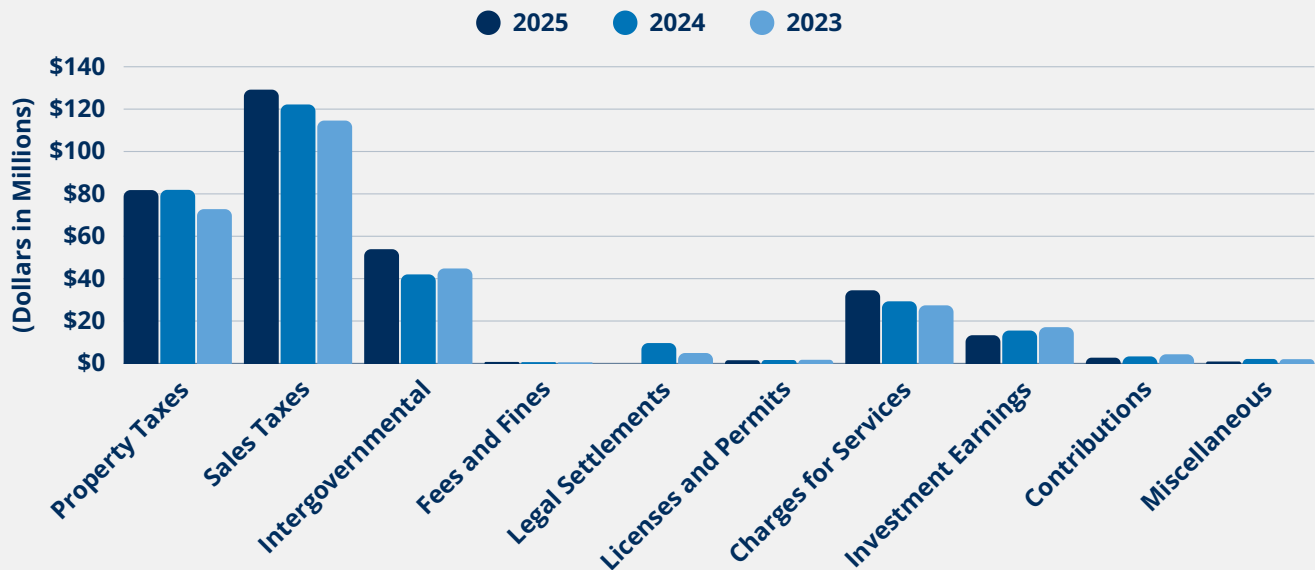
In addition to collecting property taxes for the County, the El Paso County Treasurer's Office also collects property taxes on behalf of many other taxing authorities such as schools, cities, metro districts, water districts, fire districts and library district. After collection, the amounts due to other taxing authorities are distributed monthly to the appropriate parties. In 2025, the Treasurer's Office collected \$883,267,940 in property taxes. Of that amount, less than 10% remained with the County after collection. See below for a breakdown of where your property taxes go.



El Paso County has one of the five lowest county tax rates in Colorado, a commitment to stewardship of public funds for the betterment of our residents.

GENERAL FUND REVENUES

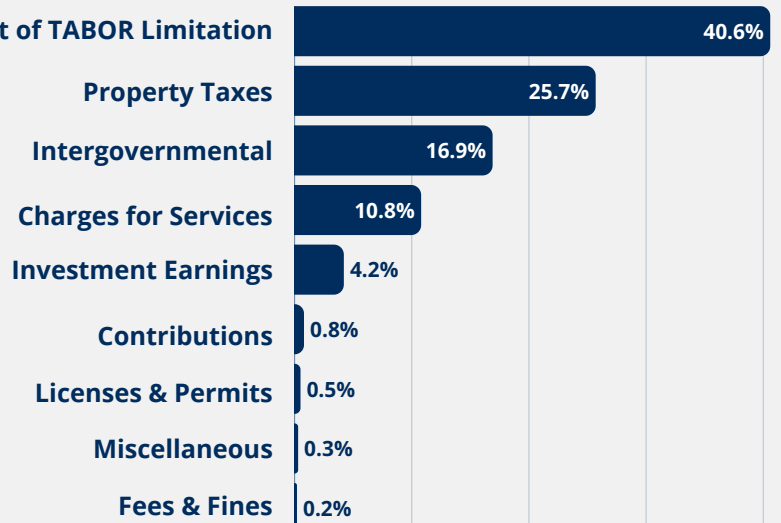
These charts summarize the data found in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Fund Balances for the General Fund.



County Revenue Source Percentage

Total General Fund Revenues
2025 = \$318.6 Million

Sales Tax | Net of TABOR Limitation



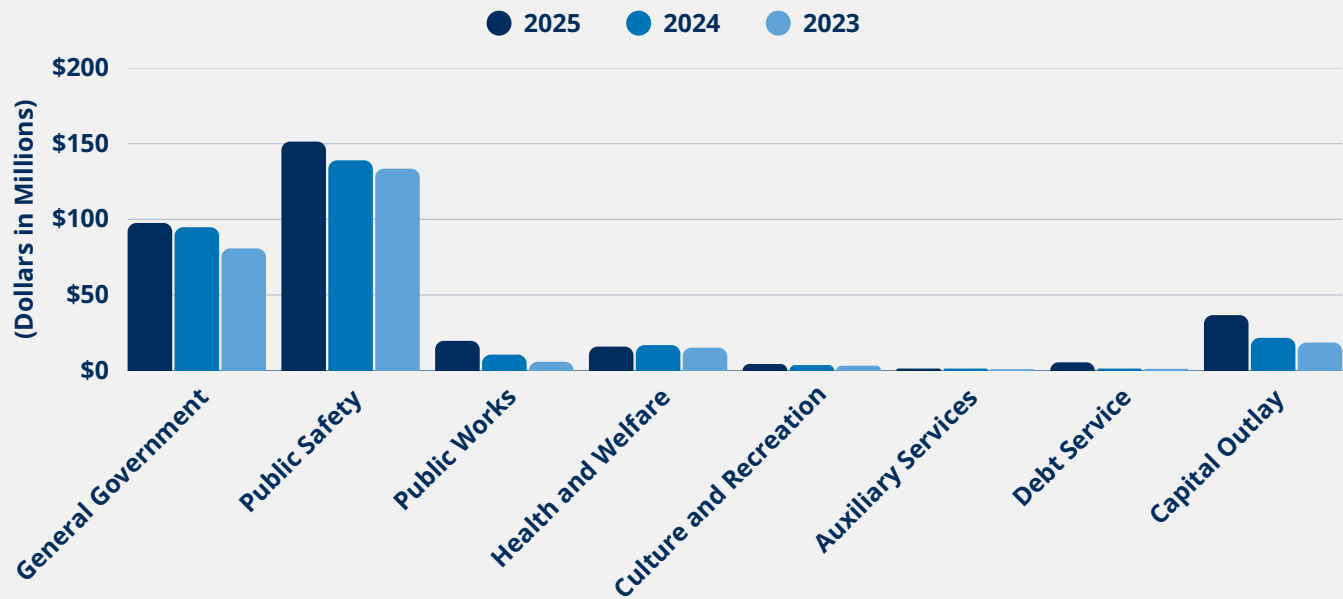
Five Largest Sales and Use Tax Categories in El Paso County for 2025 (in thousands)

In 2025 El Paso County collected \$207.5 million in sales and use taxes. 77.9% was collected from the top five categories.

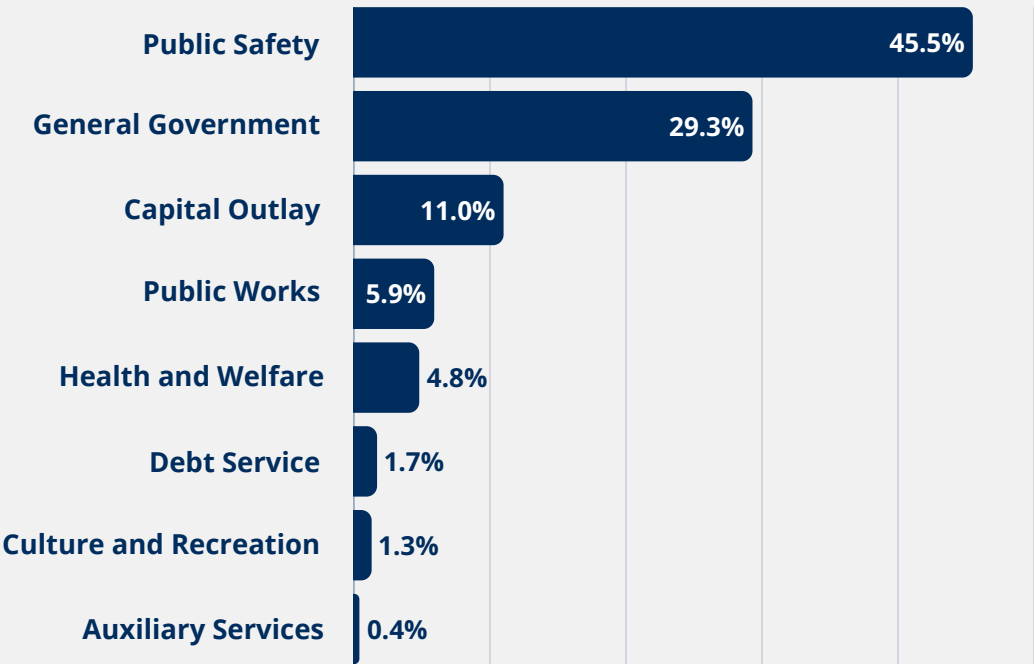
Sales and Use Tax Category	Amount
Retail Trade	\$110,508
Food Services	\$22,572
Wholesale Trade	\$10,673
Clerk and Recorder Collections	\$9,763
Accommodations	\$8,329

GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES

These charts are presented on a non-GAAP (generally accepted accounting principles) basis. A more detailed GAAP basis financial detail can be found in the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report in its entirety available online at www.admin.elpasoco.com/financial-services/budget-finance/annual-comprehensive-financial-reports/.



County Expenditures Source Percentage
Total General Fund Expenditures 2025 = \$332.7 Million

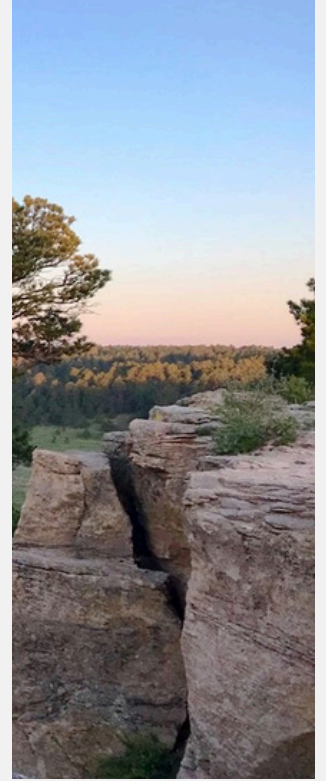


Long-Term Debt and Obligation

El Paso County occasionally issues debt to fund major capital projects, land acquisitions, and equipment purchases, often through Certificates of Participation (COPs). For the year ended December 31, 2025, the County’s governmental activities had \$71.1 million in long-term debt outstanding, a \$10.6 million decrease from the prior year due to scheduled principal payments on COPs.

2026 BUDGET

A COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY TRUST & SERVICE QUALITY



El Paso County adopted a forward-thinking approach that emphasizes long-term economic sustainability and targeted investments to its 2026 process. This approach reflects our ongoing commitment to maintaining low taxes, delivering high-quality public services, and strengthening community trust through transparent governance. The adopted budget focuses on the top priorities in our Strategic Plan: Infrastructure, Service Quality, Community Trust, and Health and Safety.

The 2026 budget includes a TABOR refund of \$4,477,783 from 2024 excess revenues, to be issued as a flat credit to residential property owners. In addition, the County adopted a temporary mill levy reduction of 1.308 mills to remain under the 2026 TABOR cap for property tax revenue. This reduction affects property tax collections for 2025, which are already among the lowest of Colorado's ten largest counties.

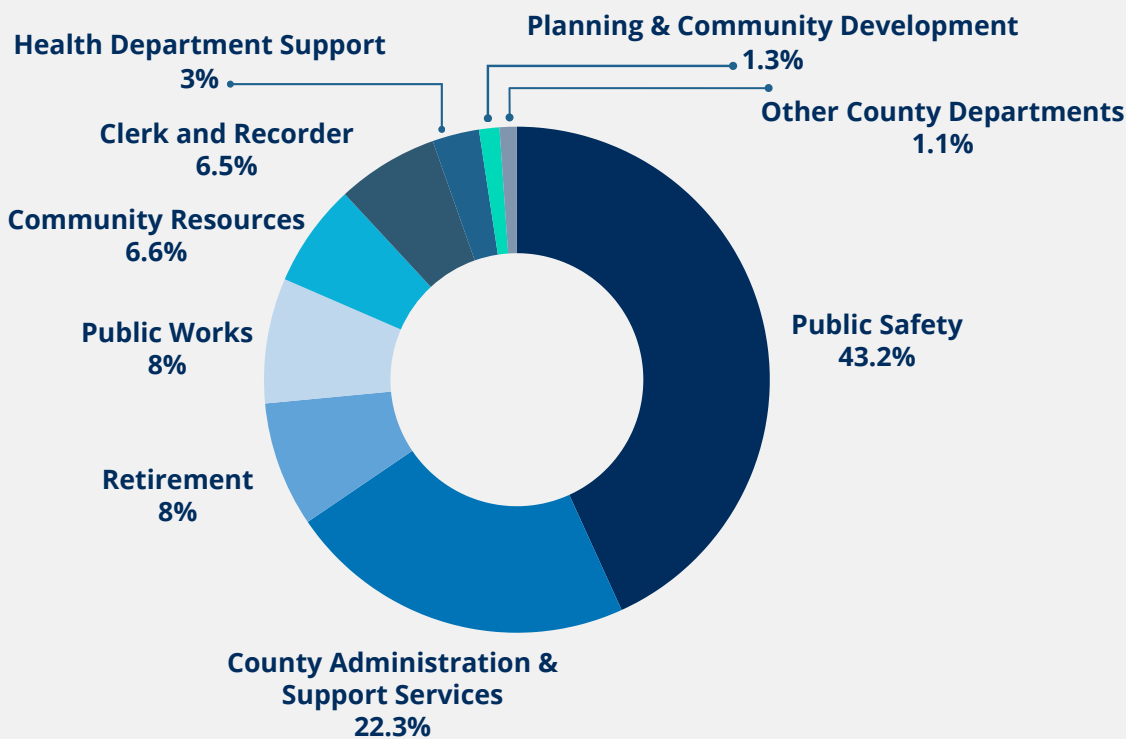
This fiscal framework positions the County to address immediate needs while also prioritizing long-term development. Within these constraints, we continue funding critical infrastructure upgrades, human capital growth, and expanded road improvements.

While resources are strained due to inflation and service demands, we remain committed to meeting service requirements.

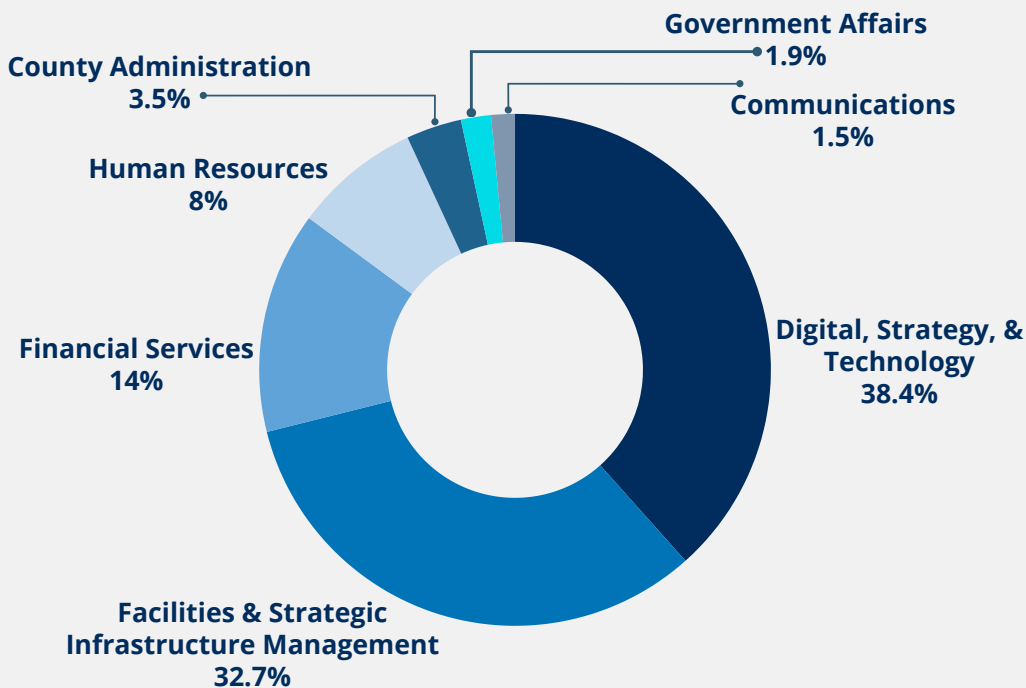
For the 2025 budget, the County's primary focus was on critical infrastructure and road needs and investing in human capital. The total 2026 expenditure budget is \$532,290,173, representing a 0.14% decrease from 2025. Through a collaborative process with departments and offices, we focused on aligning resources with the County's Strategic Plan and funding one-time items primarily from operational savings.

2026 BUDGET DETAIL

Total Unrestricted General Fund



General Fund Administration & Support Services



The 2026 El Paso County budget is available on the El Paso County website:
<https://admin.elpasoco.com/financial-services/budget-finance/county-budget/>

REVENUES & EXPENSES GLOSSARY

Revenues: Where the Money Comes From

Term	Definition
Property Taxes	Taxes based on assessed property values that help fund county services such as public safety, roads, and general government operations.
Sales Taxes	Taxes collected on certain retail purchases that help support county services, infrastructure, and operations.
TABOR	The Colorado Constitution imposes limits on government revenue and spending, requiring emergency reserves and voter approval for most tax debt changes, and mandates refunds of revenue collected above allowable limits.
Intergovernmental Revenues	Funding received from federal, state, or other local governments to support specific programs, services, or projects.
Fees and Fines	Amounts collected for violations, penalties, or administrative activities, often used to support related county services.
Legal Settlement Revenues	Funds received from legal settlements, claims, or enforcement actions involving the county.
Licenses and Permits	Fees collected for official approvals, such as building permits, licenses, and inspections.
Charges for Services	Fees paid by users for specific county services, such as recording documents, facility use, or other service-based activities.
Investment Earnings	Income earned from investing county funds in accordance with state law and the county's investment policies.
Contribution Revenues	Donations, grants, or other contributions from individuals, organizations, or other sources to support county programs or projects.

Expenses: Where the Money Goes

Term	Definition
General Government	Costs for core county functions such as elected offices, county administration, elections, facilities, and general operations.
Public Safety	Costs for law enforcement, detention, emergency management, court security, and other public safety services.
Public Works	Costs to build, operate, and maintain roads, bridges, drainage systems, and related infrastructure.
Health and Welfare	Costs for human services, assistance programs, and community support services.
Culture and Recreation	Costs for parks, trails, nature centers, recreational amenities, and related community programs.
Auxiliary Services	Costs for veteran support services and Colorado State University Extension operations.
Debt Service	Payments of principal and interest on borrowed funds used to finance long-term capital needs.
Capital Outlay	Costs to purchase, construct, or improve long-term assets such as land, buildings, equipment, roads, and infrastructure.



EL PASO COUNTY

www.ElPasoCo.com

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