

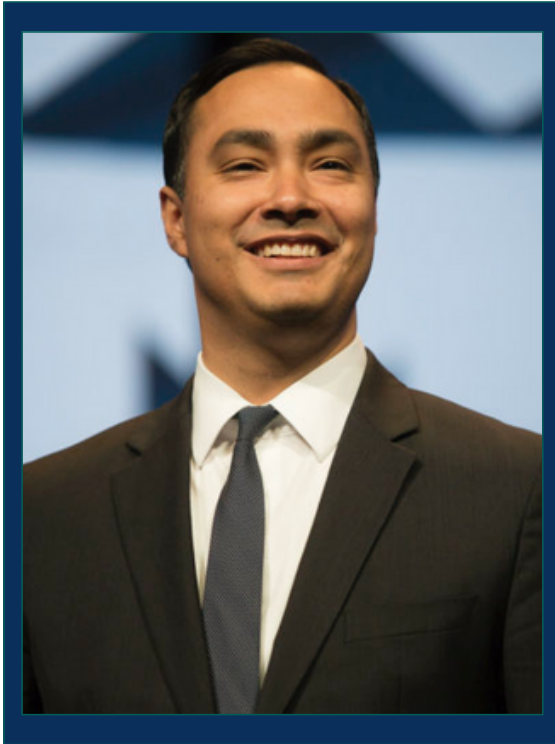
JOAQUIN CASTRO



CONGRESSMAN FOR THE 20TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

2022 END-OF-YEAR-REPORT

A Message From Joaquin



Dear neighbors,

As we look ahead to a new year, all of us are excited about new beginnings and a fresh start.

In 2022, my wife Anna and I welcomed our third child — a sweet, beautiful girl who is getting bigger by the day. One of my favorite things about raising our kids here is getting to take them to all the places I went growing up, from back-to-school shopping at Ingram Park Mall to the magic and fun of Fiesta.

With the new session of Congress beginning, my focus is on bringing the voices of San Antonio to Washington. San Antonians work hard, and you deserve a government that is committed to you.

Here in San Antonio, my office is open to help you with a wide range of federal issues, from Medicare and Social Security to VA benefits and federal tax returns. If you have questions about our services, please reach out by calling 210-348-8216 or visiting castro.house.gov.

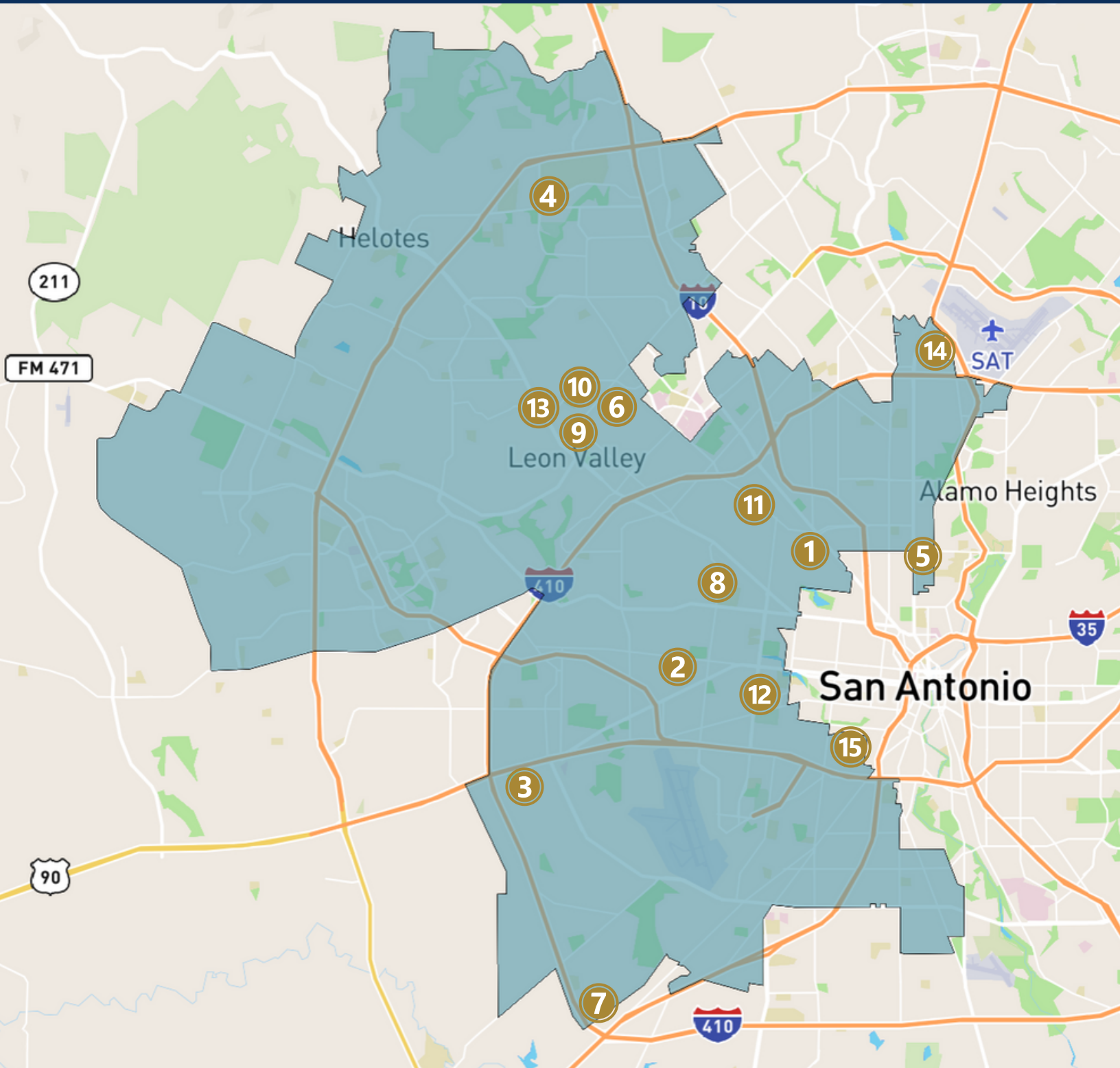
Thank you,

Joaquin Castro

Community Project Wins

In December, I got more than \$15 million for community projects in San Antonio as part of the 2023 government funding bill.

Here's where the money will go — and how it will make a difference for San Antonians from all walks of life.



Community Project Wins

If you have ideas about projects that should be in next year's funding bill, contact my office at castro.house.gov/contact or call 210-348-8216.

- 1** *Our Casas Resident Council*
\$1,057,257 to help Westside homeowners repair and renovate their homes and prevent demolition.
- 2** *City of San Antonio Westside Development Corporation / Prosper West*
\$1,000,000 to rehabilitate vacant Westside homes to maintain affordable housing stock.
- 3** *El Centro del Barrio / CentroMed*
\$1,000,000 to help renovate the South Park Medical Clinic and increase access to primary care.
- 4** *University of Texas at San Antonio*
\$492,370 for UTSA and Morgan's Wonderland to provide timely data and improve outcomes for people with disabilities and their caregivers.
- 5** *Guardian House*
\$483,963 to support vulnerable families and break the cycle of family violence.
- 6** *CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care Corporation Center for Miracles*
\$472,699 to train counselors, social workers, medical staff, and first responders to identify and treat child abuse and neglect.
- 7** *Texas A&M University - San Antonio*
\$300,000 for the Autism Mobile Assessment Bus & Learning Environment unit to support and train Edgewood ISD schools and other partner schools on autism issues.
- 8** *St. Mary's University*
\$5,561,000 to construct an Innovation Center and equip science and technology labs with more equipment.
- 9** *University of Texas School of Public Health San Antonio*
\$1,000,000 to help create a new school that focuses on public health access and outreach for those most in need.
- 10** *University of Texas Health Science Center at SA*
\$1,000,000 for the Center for Innovative Drug Discovery in Hepatic Steatosis to help researchers identify prevention and treatment options for liver failure and liver cancer.
- 11** *Centro Cultural Aztlan, Inc.*
\$95,000 to develop K-12 arts activities and lessons focused on Chicano art, culture, and history.
- 12** *LiftFund Inc.*
\$1,000,000 to support grants that will fund small business growth and resilience.
- 13** *University of Texas at San Antonio*
\$576,000 to support UTSA's HUB Government Contracting Academy and help small businesses win and complete government contracts.
- 14** *San Antonio International Airport*
\$1,500,000 for the Electric Shuttle Bus Program to purchase new electric buses, reducing wait time for travelers and protecting clean air.
- 15** *Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center*
\$102,250 to expand bilingual literacy & education programs for San Antonio children and adults.

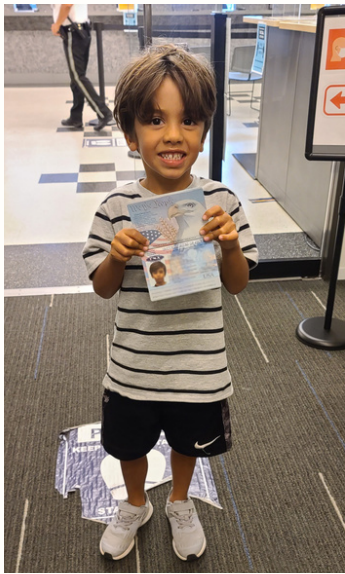
Constituent Services

This year, my office has helped hundreds of San Antonians get the results they need from the federal government.

Our 2022 work by the numbers:

- 377 constituent cases successfully resolved.
- \$3.2 million in federal benefits recovered for the people of San Antonio, including more than \$320,000 from the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- \$163 million in federal grants for programs and services in San Antonio

Success Stories



The Gutierrez Family

The Gutierrez family reached out to my office for help because their son's passport was about to expire before a family vacation. My office was able to get them an emergency passport appointment and the family vacation went on as planned.

“My wife was praying hard about it, and she told me ‘Marlon, why don’t you call up our congressman and tell him the situation.’ Not even knowing that you all did that kind of thing, I reached out, and Congressman Castro’s staff was able to get me a passport appointment in Houston. We drove to Houston, made the appointment, and my little boy was just ecstatic. We made the family vacation and the family reunion. I’m just eternally grateful.” - Marlon Gutierrez

Aaron Enriques

Aaron Enriques lost his wife to COVID-19 and exhausted his savings to cover her medical and funeral expenses. Searching for help, he applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s funeral assistance program but never received a response. After he reached out to me, my office escalated his case with FEMA, and he got the help he needed.

“Congressman Castro and his staff helped me out during a difficult time in my life and it was nice to hear from the Congressman himself. Their team made the process a lot smoother, and I will be forever grateful for the help his office gave me during my time in need. My wife was 31 years old and full of life, it was important to me to have her memory honored. Originally, we were saving for a house of our own and I used all our savings to cover funeral expenses. Through the FEMA program I was able to recuperate [our] costs.” - Aaron Enriques

Serving San Antonio in Washington

Lowering Health Care & Prescription Drug Costs

In the wealthiest country on earth, no family should struggle to afford the cost of medical care. This year, I've been proud to vote for major reforms to lower the cost of health care and make prescription drugs more affordable for seniors.

2022 progress for seniors and people with disabilities:

- *Slashing prescription drug costs* by capping Medicare out-of-pocket drug costs at \$2,000/year, with the option to break that amount into lower monthly payments.
- *Capping insulin costs* at \$35/month for Medicare beneficiaries.
- *Eliminating vaccine co-pays for seniors.*
- *Tackling price-gouging* by holding drug companies responsible for unjustified price hikes and allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices.
- *Expanding Medicare subsidies* for low-income seniors, saving eligible patients an average of \$5,000 annually.
- *Keeping Medicare affordable* by preventing premiums from rising more than six percent annually through 2029.

Progress for everyone:

- *Lowering the cost of health care* by extending health care subsidies, locking in lower premiums that save people an average of \$800/year.
- *Cutting down on surprise medical billing at Brooke Army Medical Center (BAMC)* by requiring BAMC to offer payment plans to civilian patients with financial need.



Good Jobs and Lower Costs for Working Families

A full day of work should earn enough to support your family. This year, I've voted for new laws that will create good-paying jobs, invest in American manufacturing, and lower the cost of living for Texas families.

2022 progress to create jobs and combat inflation:

- *Creating 100,000 new American manufacturing jobs* through the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act and the CHIPS and Science Act.
- *Building new careers in clean energy* through the Inflation Reduction Act and other new federal initiatives.
- *Improving public transit* with new federal investments.
- *Lowering home energy costs* through rebate and tax credit programs.

I also introduced the Strengthening Youth Apprenticeships Act, a bill to expand youth apprenticeship programs and help more students prepare for good-paying jobs in the workforce.

Supporting Veterans & Military Families

San Antonio is proud to be Military City USA and we have a sacred duty to care for our servicemembers, veterans, and military families. This year, I've been proud to vote for important progress to expand VA benefits and improve the lives of the families that serve.

2022 progress to support local heroes:

- *Passing the Honoring Our PACT Act.* This year, I voted to pass the Honoring Our PACT Act, a new law to expand health care and benefits for more than five million servicemembers who were hurt by burn pit fumes, Agent Orange, and other toxins. Learn more by visiting va.gov/pact
- *Improving military pay and benefits.* This year's federal funding bill includes:
 - A 4.6 percent raise for servicemembers, plus increases in the Basic Allowances for Housing and Subsistence and additional improvements to mental and dental health care.
 - New funding for facilities at Joint Base San Antonio, including
 - \$29 million for a new child care center at JBSA-Randolph
 - \$5.4 million for Basic Military Training recruit dormitories at JBSA-Lackland

Building Safer Communities

This year, Texas was rocked by the tragedy in Uvalde and acts of violence that shattered families and communities. In Congress, I've worked to pass legislation to keep our communities safe from violence and make sure every child can grow up healthy and strong.

2022 progress to build safer communities:

- *Expanding mental health services for children and families* through school-based mental health services, telehealth programs, and expanded Medicaid services.
- *Protecting vulnerable families* by banning criminals convicted of domestic violence from owning firearms, regardless of whether they were married to their victims.
- *Strengthening background checks* for gun buyers under 21 to reduce the risk of violence and self-harm.
- *Preventing gun violence* by providing \$250 million to fund community-based violence intervention programs.
- *Cracking down on illegal gun sales*, including sales that contribute to cross-border gun trafficking and violence.



Investing in Education

San Antonio's students are hard-working and brilliant and they deserve every chance to succeed. This year, I've introduced a number of bills to improve education in San Antonio and build new pathways to higher education.

Legislation introduced in 2022:

- *The Transparency for Transfer Students Act* would help San Antonians save time and money by requiring four-year colleges to be more transparent about the credits they accept from community colleges.
- *The HERE Act* would fund partnerships between Hispanic-serving colleges and school districts to help more students attend and complete college.
- *The Navigating to Success Act* would allow organizations to use federal funding to support career counseling and workforce navigation services.
- *The Feeding Hungry Students in Schools Act* would allow schools to set up food pantries with food donations from charitable organizations.

Immigration Justice

My family's story begins 100 years ago when my grandmother, Victoria Castro, came to the United States from Mexico as a young orphan. Immigrants are an essential part of our American story, and I'm committed to rebuilding a safe, orderly immigration system that treats all people with the respect and dignity they deserve.

This year, I've fought to pass:

- *The American Dream and Promise Act*, which would provide a pathway to citizenship for young, undocumented Americans who came to the United States as children.
- *The Citizenship for Essential Workers Act*, which would provide undocumented essential workers with a path to citizenship to recognize their contributions during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- *The Families Belong Together Act*, which would grant all families affected by Trump's family separation policy the opportunity to return to the United States and access a path to citizenship.
- *The Jakelin Caal Death in Custody Reporting Act*, which would require the federal government to report on and investigate all migrant deaths that occur in government custody.

An aerial photograph of San Antonio, Texas, taken at sunset. The sky is a mix of orange, pink, and blue. The city lights are visible in the distance, and the foreground shows a large, modern building with a grid-like facade of windows, many of which are illuminated from within. The building is surrounded by trees and other city structures.

Celebrating Nuestro Pueblo

San Antonio has long been a center of Mexican American life and culture. This year, I've worked to highlight our cultural contributions and bring new awareness to the role that San Antonio has played in shaping life in the United States.

My work in 2022 includes:

- ***Nominating San Antonio bands to the National Recording Registry.*** This year, I led the Congressional Hispanic Caucus in nominating two San Antonio bands — the Texas Tornados and Elida Reyna y Avante — to the national archive of recorded sound at the Library of Congress.
- ***Honoring San Antonio's Legends:*** I joined the Mexican American Civil Rights Institute (MACRI), Councilwoman Teri Castillo, and others to push for the designation of Emma Tenayuca Memorial Way in San Antonio to honor the famous labor leader and activist.

NEED HELP? HAVE QUESTIONS

CONSTITUENT CASEWORK:

My San Antonio office can help local residents with a wide range of issues related to the federal government, including:

- Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security claim denials and delays
- VA programs, including health care, education, and housing
- Small business loans and support through the Small Business Administration
- Passports, visas, and immigration issues
- Questions related to the Department of Defense, including relocation allowances, sign-on bonuses, and more.

GET IN TOUCH:

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