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McAllen’s Momentum Continues: Record Growth, Safer Streets and Major Investments Shape the City’s Future

2026 State of the City Address highlights opportunity, quality of life and milestones

City leaders highlighted record setting growth, national recognition, and transformative projects during the 2026 State of the City Address, affirming McAllen’s continued momentum as one of the nation’s most dynamic and opportunity driven communities.

More than 1,300 attendees gathered at the McAllen Convention Center to hear Mayor Javier Villalobos outline the city’s achievements in public safety, economic development, infrastructure, quality of life and fiscal strength.

“The state of our city is strong, advancing and serving our residents better than ever before,” said Mayor Javier Villalobos. “This year’s theme, *Next is Now* and *Aquí se Vive Mejor*, reflects the reality our community is experiencing today. Because of our people, our partnerships and our shared vision, McAllen continues to lead with opportunity, innovation, and a quality of life that families and businesses can count on.”

City data presented during the address showed:

- Nearly \$5 billion in taxable retail sales, producing almost \$100 million in sales tax revenue, one of the highest totals in Texas for cities over 100,000 residents.
- More than \$507 million in residential and commercial construction value, a 40 percent over year increase.
- A 40-year low in crime, with 81.4 percent less crime than in 1995, reinforcing McAllen’s status as one of the safest major cities in Texas.
- Over \$11.5 million in grant funding supporting housing stability and community programs.
- A \$578 million city budget supporting services, infrastructure and more than 120 capital improvement projects, while maintaining strong financial reserves.

“These milestones reflect disciplined planning, responsible budgeting and a relentless commitment to delivering results for our residents,” said City Manager Isaac J. Tawil. “McAllen is financially secure, strategically positioned for growth and focused on building opportunity for the next generation.”

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Leaders also highlighted quality of life, education, and infrastructure investments:

- Continued national rankings place McAllen as a top place to live, top destination for inbound moves and top city for first time homebuyers, supported by one of the nation's lowest costs of living.
- Record enrollment and major medical and academic expansion at regional higher education institutions.
- Expansion of parks, libraries, environmental programs, and community events generating more than \$75 million in economic impact.
- A \$200 million terminal expansion at McAllen International Airport following consecutive years surpassing one million annual passengers.

A major announcement brought joy to golf enthusiasts, as the city revealed an extraordinary partnership with golf legend and World Golf Hall of Famer Lorena Ochoa to create a signature golf destination unlike any other. The excitement in the room was undeniable. Additional details will be shared in a forthcoming news release.

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About the City of McAllen

Founded in 1904 and incorporated in 1911, the City of McAllen has grown from a small agricultural community into one of the most vibrant and fastest-growing cities along the U.S.–Mexico border. Known as the “City of Palms,” McAllen serves as a hub for international trade, retail, tourism, and culture in the Rio Grande Valley. Today, the city employs more than 2,600 dedicated public servants across 41 departments, delivering essential services to a community of more than 150,000 residents. McAllen city leaders remain committed to transparent governance, fiscal responsibility, and enhancing quality of life through innovation, infrastructure, and community engagement. For more information, visit www.mcallen.net and follow us on social media @cityofmcallen