



Former Astronaut Visits EPCC for 'VOTE FOR FREEDOM'

El Paso, Texas, September 28, 2026 — El Pasoan and former NASA astronaut Danny Olivas is leading a new mission: 'VOTE FOR FREEDOM' and he chose El Paso Community College (EPCC) for the launch in theregion.

EPCC Student Government Association (SGA), Campus Life & Student Leadership hosted a 'fireside chat' with former NASA astronaut Dr. Danny Olivas, a Burges High School alumnus, who represents the group Astronauts For America (AFA) as part of the "VOTE FOR FREEDOM" non-partisan national college tour.

VOTE FOR FREEDOM is a nationwide non-partisan initiative to encourage young Americans to seek common ground and help heal our nation by being active participants in our representative democracy.

"Going to the polls is a small step for each American, but a giant leap for our country," Dr. Olivas, Astronauts For America steering committee member, said.

Dr. Olivas, along with SGA Vice President Erick Gutierrez-Carlson, held a question and answer session with EPCC students at the Valle Verde AST Flexitorium.

"I think it's a really good thing to assist students to register and remind them to vote," Abril Aguilar, a multidisci-



Erick Gutierrez-Carlson, right, Vice President of the EPCC Student Body Association, moderated a discussion by former NASA Astronaut Dr. Danny Olivas with EPCC students.

plinary studies major, said. "It's great to have it here on campus and have a voice."

"I was really touched by the message, seeing someone who grew up in El Paso and accomplished so many things, it was a great message," Jalen Rodriguez, a Nursing major, said. "You can make it big, and how important it is to vote, just an important message."



Dr. Danny Olivas talking with a William Cuellar, a kid who wants to become astronaut on Sept 28, 2026 by IIV. Danny Olivas is a former astronaut who studied in El Paso.

"Young voters are the stewards of our shared future," Olivas added. "By working across generations, we can contribute to a more robust and deliberative democracy where elected officials are held accountable and constitutional rights are respected and upheld for the long term."

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