



Written by [Peter Rykowski](#) on September 22, 2021

Texas Governor Abbott Signs Massive Border-security Bill

Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed a bill tripling the state's border security spending for 2021 and 2022 and bringing it to a record high.

On Friday, Abbott signed [House Bill 9](#), which will spend [\\$1.88 billion](#) on border security over the next two years. This comes on top of another [\\$1.05 billion](#) signed earlier this year — itself [over \\$200 million](#) more than the previous budget — bringing Texas's total border-security spending to nearly \$3 billion.

This represents a significant increase from previous years. In Texas's 2008-09 budget, [only \\$110 million](#) was allocated to border security, and funding never surpassed \$800 million.

Among H.B. 9's other allocations, it devotes [\\$750 million](#) to construct additional border barrier — in addition to [\\$250 million](#) that Abbott allocated in June and the [\\$54 million](#) that the governor raised through crowdfunding. The bill also [allocates](#) over \$450 million to increase the deployment numbers of Texas National Guard and other law-enforcement personnel at the border. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice will also receive funds to help detain illegal migrants.

Speaking at the bill's signing ceremony, Governor Abbott [stated](#), "This funding will provide our agency partners with even more support to address the influx of unlawful migrants and prevent dangerous people and contraband from entering our state."

Abbott went on to [note](#), "It is the federal government's job to secure our border, but the Biden administration has failed to do its job, so Texas is stepping up to do what the federal government is supposed to do." He [blamed](#) "the Biden administration's open border policies" for the need for such legislation, as they "opened the floodgates to illegal immigration, to crime, to human trafficking, to drug smuggling."

Texas Taking on Federal Government's Role

Since the Biden administration began in January, Texas has been slowly, but steadily, [taking over](#) the federal government's abdicated duty of securing the southern border. According to the left-wing [Migration Policy Institute](#), the state is currently "challenging federal immigration policy on more fronts at one time than ever before."

Among other recent policy shifts, Abbott [authorized](#) Texas National Guard troops to enforce Texas law, something that [includes](#) arresting illegal migrants who break state law. Additionally, under a [new state law](#) that went into effect on September 1, it is [easier](#) for state officials to prosecute human smugglers.

Nonetheless, there is much more that Texas can do to secure the southern border. Abbott would be wise to [nullify](#) the various unconstitutional [court-imposed restrictions](#) on states' ability to enforce



AP Images
Greg Abbott



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immigration law. [Article VI](#) of the Constitution, which states that only laws “made in pursuance” of the Constitution are valid, provides a solid legal basis for such actions.

Border Surge Continues

Abbott’s signing of H.B. 9 couldn’t come at a more relevant time. The United States is currently grappling with the influx of [15,000 Haitian migrants](#) at Del Rio, Texas, a crisis [caused](#) by the Biden administration’s extreme open-borders policies. Not only will the Department of Homeland Security [release](#) many of these migrants into the United States, but the federal government’s [weak](#) response is likely to encourage [another 20,000](#) Haitians to enter illegally.

Meanwhile, border apprehensions remain at [record](#) levels, with over 200,000 migrant apprehensions in August. Many of these migrants are also being [released](#) into the country, a practice that Biden [revived](#) shortly after taking office.

On the refugee front, the Biden administration has already admitted [more than 48,000](#) Afghans into the United States, with [plans](#) to admit tens of thousands more. Many of these migrants are [unvetted](#) and pose [health](#) and [national-security](#) risks. None of this has deterred Biden, who [plans](#) to admit 10 times as many refugees in Fiscal Year 2022 as have been admitted this year.

Not only do many of Biden’s actions violate federal law, but [Article IV, Section 4](#), of the Constitution requires the federal government to “protect each [state] against Invasion.” As both [The John Birch Society](#) and [other organizations](#) have pointed out, the current and [planned](#) illegal migration surge clearly meets the definition of an invasion.

It is encouraging to see Texas and other states begin to stand up to the Biden administration’s subversive mass-migration agenda. However, they would be wise to take even stronger actions to secure the border and enforce the Constitution.

To urge your state legislators to enforce the Constitution by nullifying unconstitutional federal laws and edicts, visit The John Birch Society’s legislative alert [here](#). Additionally, to urge your U.S. representative and senators to oppose radical mass migration legislation, visit the JBS’s alert [here](#).



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