

RFQ No: 2009-145-00-00CGV	Buyer: CRIS VILLARREAL	Tel. No: (956) 318-2626
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Hidalgo County
Edinburg, Texas

Consultant for Redistricting Plan-Hidalgo County
April , 2009

Contact Person:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2802 So. Business Hwy 281 - New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539

(956) 318-2626

Form HCPD-04

LEGAL NOTICE

Purchasing Agent

RFQ No: 2009-145-00-00CGV

1. **Sealed Statements of Qualifications** will be received for **"Consultant for Redistricting Plan-Hidalgo County"**, in accordance with the requirements attached hereto as Exhibit "A." RFQs should address all requirements set forth. Vendors may suggest substitutions of features which they feel would be in the best interest of Hidalgo County ("County"). Strong rationale must be presented for any deviation from the requirements. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject the deviation and its effect on the overall RFQ.

2. One (1) original and seven (7) copies of all RFQs are required, with the vendor's name and address clearly typed/printed on upper left hand corner and the proper notation clearly typed/printed on the lower left hand corner of the envelope and/or package, **REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS 2009-145-00-00CGV - "Consultant for Redistricting Plan-Hidalgo County"** and in County's Purchasing Department, 2802 So. Business Hwy 281, New Administration Building, Edinburg, Texas, **on or before 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 8, 2009. NO FACSIMILES OR LATE ARRIVALS WILL BE ACCEPTED. ANY RFQ RECEIVED AFTER THAT TIME WILL NOT BE OPENED AND WILL BE RETURNED. OVERNIGHT MAIL MUST ALSO BE PROPERLY LABELED ON THE OUTSIDE OF EXPRESS ENVELOPE OR PACKAGE WITH REFERENCE TO: RFQ No.: 2009-145-00-00CGV- "Consultant for Redistricting Plan-Hidalgo County".** Hidalgo County reserves the right to refuse and reject any/all RFQs and to waive any/all formalities or technicalities, or to accept the RFQ considered the best and most advantageous to Hidalgo County. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA FACSIMILE TO (956) 318-2629 OR VIA EMAIL TO martha.salazar@co.hidalgo.tx.us BY NO LATER THAN Wednesday, March 11, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.** Responses will be sent to all applicants via facsimile by Friday, March 13, 2009. **TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

3. Hidalgo County reserves the right to separate and accept, or eliminate any item(s) listed under this statement of qualifications that it deems necessary to accommodate budgetary and/or operational requirements. Hidalgo County also reserves the right to reject any or all statement of qualifications submitted and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best statement of qualifications for approval. Receipt of any statement of qualifications shall under no circumstances obligate County to accept the lowest dollar statement of qualifications. The award of this contract shall be made to the responsible offeror whose statement of qualifications is determined to be the best evaluated offer resulting from negotiation, taking into consideration the relative importance of price and other evaluation factors as herein set forth.

4. Failure of the delivered item(s) to perform as specified, or failure to meet the stated delivery schedule shall release Hidalgo County from all obligations to the contracting party with regard to the item(s) in question. In such event, County may elect to award the contract to the next-lowest responsible vendor, or to reject all RFQs and re-advertise.
5. For work to be performed at a County-owned or operated location, each vendor shall, in its sole discretion, visit the job site before preparing the RFQ and thoroughly familiarize himself/herself with existing conditions. Vendor should take field dimensions and note all circumstances which affect the RFQ.
6. No RFQ may be withdrawn within ninety (90) days from the scheduled time to accept RFQs.
7. Any interpretations, amendments, corrections or changes to this RFQ document must be in a written addendum and signed by the County Judge or his designee. Addenda will be mailed to all who are known to have received a copy of the Request for Qualifications. Vendors shall acknowledge receipt of all addenda as a part of their RFQ.
8. County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all RFQs.
9. Costs are to be net F.O.B. destination, County Prepaid.
10. County is exempt from Federal Excise Tax, State Tax and Local Tax. Tax exemption certificates will be furnished upon request.
11. Funds for this procurement have been provided through the County budget for this fiscal year only. County, on an annual basis, has the right to reconsider a contract during the budget process for ensuing years if financial resources of County are insufficient to meet the liabilities of said contract. The award of a statement of qualifications or contract hereunder will not be construed to create a debt of the County which is payable out of funds beyond the current fiscal year.
12. Upon award and prior to execution of a contract, Sole Proprietorships are required to submit a copy of their social security card to the Hidalgo County Auditor's Office in order to establish an account with the County. All awarded vendors must submit a completed W-9 and a copy of their Federal ID Number Certificate.
13. DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS (for applicable goods and/or services):
 - . No deliveries accepted after 3:00 P.M., Monday-Friday.

. At least seventy two (72) hours prior notice of delivery must be given to Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, before delivery will be accepted.

. If you need additional information call the office listed below:

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
(956) 318-2626

14. BILLING AND PAYMENT INSTRUCTIONS:

. Invoices must include:

- a) Name and address of successful vendor
- b) Name and address of receiving department or official
- c) Purchase Order Number (if any)
- d) Notation - "**Consultant for Redistricting Plan-Hidalgo County**"
- e) Descriptive information as to the items or services delivered, including product code, item number, quantity, etc.

. Discount payments will be considered when offered.

. Contact person for Billing and Payment questions:

Hidalgo County Auditor's Office
Ray Eufrazio, County Auditor
2810 So. Business Hwy 281
Edinburg, TX 78539
956-318-2511

15. Schedule of Events

RFQ Acceptance, 9:30 A.M.	<u>April 8, 2009</u>
Award of Contract	_____, 20__
Commence Work or Deliver Products	_____, 20__

16. ~~Bid or Performance Bond and Debarment Certification; Payment Under Contract:~~

. ~~If the contract proposed is for the construction of public works or is for a contract for goods and services exceeding \$100,000, all bidders shall furnish a good and sufficient bid bond in the amount of five percent of the total contract price. A bid bond must be executed with a surety company~~

authorized to do business in Texas. All participants are required to furnish a certification or acknowledgment stating that the contractor or vendor is free from suspension or debarment pursuant to federal regulation 45CFR76.

- . Together with the signing of a contract or issuance of a purchase order following the acceptance of a statement of qualifications, and prior to commencement of the actual work, the participant shall furnish a performance bond to the County for the full amount of the contract, if that contract exceeds \$50,000.
- . If the contract is for \$50,000 or less, no money will be paid to the contractor until completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County, and, if applicable, the receipt by County of satisfactory evidence that all subcontractors and material men have been paid.
- . If a contract is for the construction, alteration or repair of public buildings or public works, the contractor shall provide a payment bond for a contract in excess of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00), as required by Tex. Govt. Code Ch. 2253.
- . For requirements contracts, bond requirements are determined by applying the proposed unit price to the estimated quantities included in the specifications.

17. Ethical Standards:

It shall be a breach of ethics to offer, give or agree to give any elected official, department head or employee, or former elected official, department head or employee, of the County, or for any elected official, department head or employee or former elected official, department head or employee of the County, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, entity or organization, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation or any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing, or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or statement of qualifications therefor pending before any department or agency of the County.

- . It shall be a breach of ethics for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor for any contract for the County, or any person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.
- . No public official shall have an interest in a contract awarded hereunder except in accordance with Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Chapter 171.

18. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

Effective January 1, 2006, Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires that any vendor, person, consultant or contractor considering doing business with Hidalgo County ("the County") to disclose in the Conflict of Interest Questionnaire ("the CIQ") attached as Exhibit D, the vendor, person, consultant or contractor's affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with the County. By law, the CIQ must be filed with the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require that statement to be filed. The disclosure requirement applies to a person or business who contracts or seeks to contract with Hidalgo County for the sale or purchase of property, goods or service. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this process shall be considered null and void if the successful participant fails to comply with Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176. Vendors, consultants, contractors and others who desire to conduct business with Hidalgo County are encouraged to refer to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 for the details of this law. An offense under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 is a Class C Misdemeanor.

Please Submit completed CIQ forms to the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office located at 100 N. Closner, Edinburg, Texas 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse.

COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANT.

19. If, during the life of any contract or statement of qualifications awarded, the successful participant's net prices generally available to other customers for items awarded herein are reduced below the contracted price, it is understood and agreed that the benefits of such reduction shall be extended to County.

Section 64
in the Supp
Government Code
who desire

20. Statement of qualifications, and all goods and services provided thereunder, shall comply with all federal, state and local laws concerning this type(s) of goods and/or services.
21. Minimum Standards For Responsible Prospective Participants: A prospective participant must affirmatively demonstrate participant's responsibility. A prospective participant, by submitting a statement of qualifications, represents to County that it meets the following requirements:
- . Possess or is able to obtain adequate financial resources as required to perform under the statement of qualifications;
 - . Be able to comply with the required or proposed delivery schedule;
 - . Have a satisfactory record of performance;
 - . Have a satisfactory record of integrity and ethics;
 - . Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award.
22. Successful participant will pay or cause to be paid, without cost or expenses to County, all FICA, FUTA/SUTA and Federal Income Withholding Taxes of all employees, and all wages and benefits as required by Federal or State law. Successful participant's officers, agents and/or employees will not be entitled to any benefits of an employee or elected official of County, including, but not limited to, benefits associated with County's civil service system.
23. Any contract award to a successful participant will be in effect until (a) the contract expires, (b) delivery and acceptance of products, and/or performance of services ordered, or (c) terminated by County with thirty (30) day's written notice prior to cancellation.
24. County reserves the right to enforce performance of any contract awarded hereunder in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the County in the event of breach or default by successful participant; County reserves the right to terminate any contract immediately in the event a successful participant fails to:
- A. Meet schedules;
 - B. Pay any required fees or taxes; or
 - C. Otherwise perform in accordance with the requirements.
25. Successful participant shall defend, indemnify and save harmless County and all its elected officials, officers, agents and employees from all suits, actions, or

other claims of any character, name and description brought for or on account of any injuries or damages received or sustained by any person, persons, or property on account of any negligent act or fault of the successful participant, or of any agent, employee, subcontractor or supplier in the execution of, or performance under, any contract which may result from statement of qualifications award. Successful participant indemnifies and will indemnify and save harmless County from liability, claim or demand on their part, agents, servants, customers, and/or employees whether such liability, claim or demand arise from event or casualty happening or within the occupied premises themselves or happening upon or in any of the halls, elevators, entrances, stairways or approaches of or to the facilities within which the occupied premises are located. Successful participant shall pay any judgment with costs which may be obtained against County growing out of such injury or damages, and shall, upon request, provide a defense to County by counsel reasonably acceptable to County. Successful participant's indemnity hereunder shall include, but is not limited to, claims relating to patent, copyright or trademark infringement, and the like, arising out of the goods or services provided by successful participant.

26. Successful participant shall warrant that all items/services shall conform with the specifications and/or all warranties provided under the Uniform Commercial Code and be free from all defects in material, workmanship and the like. Items supplied under a contract pursuant to this Request for Qualifications shall be subject to County's approval. Items found to be defective or not meeting specifications shall be replaced by successful participant within two business days at no expense to County. Items not picked up within one (1) week after notification shall be deemed a donation to County and may be used or disposed of at County's discretion and without waiver of any other rights of County as to the item's nonconformity.
27. This document and any disputes arising hereunder shall be governed and construed according to the laws of the State of Texas, and will be performable exclusively in Hidalgo County, Texas.
28. The successful participant shall not assign, sell, transfer or convey its rights under any awarded contract, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of County.
29. Participants shall provide with the statement of qualifications response, a list of at least three (3) references where like services have been supplied by their firm. Include the name of the business or government, address, telephone number and name of representative or contact person.

30. Participants must provide **all** documentation requested with this Statement of qualifications in their response. Failure to provide this information may result in rejection of the statement of qualifications as non-conforming.

DRAFT

Request For Qualifications
for
Consultant for Redistricting Plan-Hidalgo County
RFQ No: 2009-145-00-00CGV

April 8, 2009

To: Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2802 So. Business Hwy 281 - New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539

In accordance with the Requirements, and subject to all laws and regulations of the United States and state and local laws, the undersigned bidder proposes and commits to furnish all labor, equipment, material, software and services as set forth in the documents hereinbefore mentioned. The undersigned bidder further agrees, upon acceptance of its statement of qualifications, to execute a contract and/or Purchase Order issued by Hidalgo County for performing and completing the work described in the Requirements within the time stated and for the prices proposed in the documents attached hereto and made a part hereof.

Bidder acknowledges receipt of all of the pages of the documents referenced in the Request For Qualifications Checklist presented in connection with this procurement. Bidder understands that Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any or all RFQs and further reserves the right to design the evaluation criteria to be used in selecting the lowest and best statement of qualifications.

Bidder agrees that this statement of qualifications shall be good and may not be withdrawn for a period of ninety (90) calendar days after the scheduled closing time for accepting RFQs, as contained in the Requirements.

Respectfully submitted,

Bidder: _____

Address: _____

By: _____

Printed Name: _____

Title: _____

Hidalgo County is inviting qualified legal firms statements of qualifications to provide for Consulting Services on an "As Needed Basis". The County of Hidalgo is seeking to (engage the services of a legal firm(s) to provide redistricting plan services) enter into a consulting services contract(s) with a state-registered (Texas) legal firm. The Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will receive sealed envelopes containing statements of qualifications for the provision of "**Consultant for Redistricting Plan-Hidalgo County**" as specified herein. Statements of qualifications will be accepted until **9:30 A.M., Wednesday, April , 2009. ANY RFQ RECEIVED AFTER THAT DATE AND TIME WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED AND WILL BE RETURNED UNOPENED.**

Deliver Submittal to:

RFQ Number: **2009-145-00-00CGV**

US Postal Mail Address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
New Administration Building
2812 So. Business Hwy 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Physical Address:

Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
New Administration Building
2802 So. Business Hwy 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539

The Submittal Envelope Must Show the RFQ Number, Name and Acceptance Date.

The following outlines the Request For Qualifications:

SECTION I GENERAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Hidalgo County is requesting that statements of qualifications be routed to Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, with a **Physical location of:** 2802 So. Business Hwy 281, **(Southeast Corner of Canton & Business Highway 281)** Hidalgo County New Administration Building, Edinburg, Texas, 78539. at 2802 So. Business Hwy 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539. **WRITTEN QUESTIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA FACSIMILE BY NO LATER THAN** Wednesday, , at 5:00 P.M. at (956) 318-2629. Responses will be sent to all applicants via facsimile by Friday, . **TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Effective January 1, 2006, Chapter 176 of the Texas Local Government Code requires that any vendor, person, consultant or contractor considering doing business with Hidalgo County ("the County") to disclose in the Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (the "CIQ") attached as **Exhibit D**, the vendor, person consultant or contractor's affiliation or business relationship that might cause a conflict of interest with the County. By law, the CIQ must be filed with the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require that statement to be filed. The disclosure requirement applies to a person or business who contract or seeks to contract with Hidalgo County for the sale or purchase of property, goods or service. Any purchase order or contract resulting from this process shall be considered null and void if the successful bidder fails to comply with Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176. Vendors, consultants, contractors and others who desire to

conduct business with Hidalgo County are encouraged to refer to Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 for the details of this law. An offense under Texas Local Government Code Chapter 176 is a Class C Misdemeanor.

Please submit complete CIQ forms to the Hidalgo County Clerk's Office located at 100 No. Closner, Edinburg, Texas 78539-Hidalgo County Courthouse **COMPLETION AND SUBMISSION OF FORM CIQ IS THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANT.**

PARTICIPANT'S AFFIDAVIT: Prior Contract award, respondents to this RFQ must submit a signed Participant's Affidavit (attached herein in **Exhibit E**) certifying that the submission is (1) not the result of Collusion as described in the Participant's Affidavit, (2) that the Respondent does not have a Conflict of Interest as described in the Participant's affidavit or that the Respondent has not and will not attempt to lobby directly or indirectly as described in the Participant's Affidavit.

NON-COLLUSION: Submitters, by submitting the signed Participant's Affidavit, certify that the accompanying submission is not the result of, or affected by, any unlawful act of collusion with any other person or company engaged in the same line of business or commerce, or any other fraudulent act punishable under Texas or United States law.

NON-DISCRIMINATION: Submitters, during the performance of this contract, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, sex, national origin or disability except where religion, sex, national origin or disability is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the contractor.

PROCESSING TIME FOR PAYMENT: Submitters are advised that a minimum of thirty (30) days is required to process invoices for payment.

ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION OF STATEMENTS OF QUALIFICATIONS: Hidalgo County's Purchasing Department will not accept telegraphic or electronically transmitted submissions.

PROOF OF FINANCIAL AND BUSINESS CAPABILITY: Submitters must, upon request, furnish satisfactory evidence of their ability to furnish products or services in accordance with the terms and conditions of these requirements. Hidalgo County will make the final determination as to the submitter's ability.

SUBMITTER DEFAULT: Hidalgo County reserves the right, in case of submitter default, to procure the articles or services from other sources and hold the defaulting submitter responsible for any excess costs occasioned thereby.

RESTRICTIVE OR AMBIGUOUS REQUIREMENTS: It is the responsibility of the submitter to review the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) packet and to notify the Purchasing Department if the requirements are formulated in a manner that would unnecessarily restrict competition. Any such protest or question regarding the requirements or request for qualifications procedures must be received in the Purchasing Department not less than seventy-two hours prior to the time set for the opening. These criteria also apply to requirements that are ambiguous.

RFQ DELIVERY: Hidalgo County requires submitters, when hand delivering statements of qualifications, to make sure that it is stamped with date and time by the County Purchasing staff.

SIGNING OF QUALIFICATIONS: In order to be considered all submittals **must** be signed. Please sign the original in **BLUE INK**.

WAIVING OF INFORMALITIES: Hidalgo County reserves the right to waive minor informalities or technicalities when it is in the best interest of Hidalgo County.

SUBCONTRACTING: The successful submitter may not subcontract the award without the written consent of the Commissioners' Court of Hidalgo County.

TERM: The term of the agreement will be through completion of scope of work on an "As Needed Basis" with the County's option to renew for an additional one (1) year term under the same rates, terms and conditions.

Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this agreement for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the agreement terms for unforeseen delay in award of the new request for qualifications.

All costs and expenses associated with the preparation and submission for (bids, proposal and/or quotes) shall be the responsibility of the participant and no reimbursement for such charges or expenses shall be passed onto Hidalgo County.

DAVIS BACON ACT: All selected and awarded firms are required to include the Davis-Bacon Act when advertising and developing specifications.

SECTION II-RFQ REQUIREMENTS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS: The required contents and limitations for the preparation of the RFQ are described in this section. Failure to provide the requested information or adhere to any County limitations will result in disqualification of the submitted RFQ. A total of **one (1) original and seven (7) copies** of the RFQ shall be submitted to the address on the cover letter.

CONTENTS: The required contents for the RFQ are presented below in the order they should be incorporated into the submitted document.

UNDERSTANDING OF THE PROJECT: This section should demonstrate the submitter's understanding of the project needs, the work required, and any local issues or concerns. This description should be concise, candid, and limited to 3 pages in length.

PROJECT OVERVIEW:

The County of Hidalgo is seeking to engage a competent law firm(s) registered and licensed to practice in the State of Texas that has experience in the area of "Redistricting Plan preparation based on most current census".

FIRM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must have a minimum of ten (10) years experience in the specific area of "Redistricting";
- Possess current licenses, certifications and/or registrations to practice law in the State of Texas;
- Has provided legal services related to "Redistricting" to other political subdivisions;

Personnel and Staffing: The firm should provide an organizational chart for the project and a summary paragraph of the project work to be performed by each proposed staff member. Biographic summaries that highlight the experience relevant to the specific project responsibilities should be provided for all proposed personnel. There is a one (1) page limitation for each biographic summary provided.

Required Certifications and Submittal: This section will contain any licenses and certifications for all assigned personnel and/or staff, as required by HIDALGO COUNTY, the STATE OF TEXAS, the AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION, etc.. The law firm(s) should provided copies of their license(s), certificates and a copy of their Professional Liability Insurance in the response.

INITIAL SCOPE OF SERVICES-PHASE I: Hidalgo County is requesting statement of qualifications from experienced consultants to provide the consulting services required for the development and implementation of a redistricting plan necessitated by the 2010 census for Hidalgo County including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Providing a pre-census analysis projecting current population of the County.
- b. Soliciting information from the County on important matters affecting the redistricting plan (i.e., road mileage equalization; drawing County lines modifying voting precincts to respective city, school district, and water district lines, etc.), including obtaining public input.
- c. Preparing series of plans utilizing current (2010) census information for County to consider:
 1. Preparation of Commissioners' Precincts Plans
 2. Preparation of Justices' of the Peace Precincts Plans
 3. Preparation of Constables' Precincts Plans
 4. Preparation of Election Administrations' Precincts Plans
 5. Preparation of Federal, State and local Precinct and District Boundaries

- d. Appear at Commissioners' Court, or Redistricting Committee if one is chosen, meetings regarding pre-census analysis; Commissioners' Court meeting regarding the approval of the redistricting plan; and public hearings, if such hearings are held, to answer any questions.
- e. Preparation of the Submission to the United States Department of Justice complying with the Federal Voting Rights Act and handle the administrative proceedings to gain Federal approval of the redistricting (pre-clearance of election changes).
- f. Full representation of the County in the event of litigation.
- g. Provide data in format compatible with County's GIS system (ERSI-ARCVIEW)

ADDITIONAL SCOPE OF WORK-PHASE II: Subsequent modifications or adjustments by Hidalgo County to initial scope of work.

PARTICIPANTS ARE NOT TO PROVIDE A FEE SCHEDULE WITH THIS SUBMITTAL: The fee will be negotiated after the ranking by Commissioners' Court of the most qualified firm.

SECTION III: SELECTION AND SCHEDULES

SELECTION PROCEDURES/EVALUATION SYSTEM: The evaluation consists of a 100-point scoring system. However, after the 100-point evaluation, Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court may elect to narrow the participating firms and request a presentation from a representative from firms.

- A. Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court and/or an Evaluation Committee (selected and/or designated by County Commissioner's Court) will review, score and evaluate the written Statements of Qualifications (SOQ's) received in response to this Hidalgo County Request for Qualifications.
- B. After the SOQ's have been reviewed, scored and evaluated, a grid will be presented to Commissioner's Court for the purposes of ranking.

Categories are further detailed in the Selection Criteria (Exhibit B) section of this RFQ.

NEGOTIATION PROCESS: The number one ranked firm will be contacted to submit a letter of engagement/contract for negotiations. If negotiations prove unsuccessful, Commissioner's Court will terminate negotiations with the firm and will contact the next highest ranked firm to open negotiations. The County of Hidalgo reserves the right to reject any and all RFQs.

TERMINATION OF SERVICES: Any contract awarded to a qualified firm will be in effect until (a) the contract expires or (b) performance of all services are completed, or (c) terminated by County with or without cause, with ninety (90) days written notice prior to cancellation.

RFQ SUBMISSION: An original and seven (7) copies of RFQ's shall be submitted to:

Martha L. Salazar, Purchasing Agent
Hidalgo County Purchasing Department
2802 So. Business Hwy 281
New Administration Building
Edinburg, Texas 78539

All RFQ's must be submitted by no later than 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, _____, 2009.

DRAFT

EVALUATION CRITERIA

“Consultant for Redistricting Plan-Hidalgo County”

RFQ 2009-145-00-00CGV

The submitter's RFQ will be evaluated based on the criteria presented below. These criteria will be scored on the scales shown on the enclosed “RFQ Evaluation Form.”

The provider must affirmatively demonstrate its responsibility and meet the following requirements:

- a) Have adequate financial resources, or the ability to obtain such resources as required;
- b) Be able to comply with the required or proposed delivery/implementation schedule;
- c) Have a satisfactory record of performance;
- d) Have a satisfactory record on integrity and ethics; and
- e) Be otherwise qualified and eligible to receive award.

1. Firm Qualifications (30)

The firm should provide information on their proposed professional team members, i.e. applicable certifications/registrations and other pertinent information that demonstrates their qualification to perform the legal services contract. Similar experience gained through other clients should be substantiated by reference. A list of, and scope of, similar projects for comparative purposes shall be included in an appendix.

2. Experience of Similar Services (40)

The firm shall have a minimum of ten (10) years experience in performing similar contracts for counties, cities, or other clients as stated in the Request For Qualifications (RFQ) requirements. The provider shall designate experienced legal staff to completely and efficiently perform the services related to “Redistricting Plan”. The designated individuals may not be replaced during the project unless approved by the County. The statement of qualifications shall identify the project team composition, project leadership, reporting responsibilities and address how sub-providers, if any, will fit into the management structure. Resumes of the key technical staff members, limited to two (2) pages per person, must be included in an appendix, as well as narrative descriptions of projects proposed as similar work experience.

3. Understanding the Services/Methodology (20)

Outline the firm's contingency plans for servicing the project in the event that one or more key personnel are not available for any reason during the period of performance. Reference information should be as current as possible, especially contact persons and telephone numbers

4. Experience in Analyzing Incoming/Outgoing Data from County GIS Platform (10)

The statement of qualifications shall include as much background information as to its' experience in providing similar services related to “Redistricting” to other political subdivisions. The RFQ should provide a description of the firm's approach to the methodology and management to the scope of services for the project.

**“Consultant for Redistricting Plan-Hidalgo County”
RFQ 2009-145-00-00CGV**

RFQ EVALUATION FORM

Selection Criteria	Max Points	Score
1. Firm Qualifications.....	30	_____
a) Includes copies of licenses, certificates and/or registrations;		_____
b) Years of experience in the specific area of “Redistricting”		_____
Comments: _____		
2. Experience of Similar Services To Political Subdivisions	40	_____
• Counties		
• Cities		
• Federal/State/Local		
• School Districts		
Comments: _____		
3. Understanding the Services/Methodology	20	_____
Comments: _____		
4. Experience in Analyzing incoming/outgoing data From County GIS Platform	10	_____
Comments: _____		
Total	100%	Total Score: _____

Provider: _____

Evaluator: _____ Date: _____