



Hidalgo County Jury Plan

It is recommended to the Commissioner's Court of Hidalgo County, Texas, by a majority of the Judges of the District Courts of Hidalgo County, that the following plan for the selection of persons for jury service be adopted in accordance with Chapter 62 of the Texas Government Code. This jury selection plan shall be effective upon approval by the Commissioner's Court.

1. Prospective jurors shall be selected for jury/grand jury service through electronic equipment and software, and any other means as allowed by law.
2. The source of the names of persons for jury service shall be that provided by Sec. 62.001 of the Texas Government Code; and shall be determined from a list of the same furnished by the Secretary of State of Texas to Hidalgo County and certified by the Secretary of State stating that the list contains names required by Sec. 62.001 of the Texas Government Code. It shall further include the current voter registration lists from all the precincts in the county, and the current list to be furnished by the Department of Public Safety, showing the citizens of the county who hold either a valid Texas driver's license or a valid personal identification card or certificate issued by the department, and who are not disqualified from jury service. The method of selection will use the same record of names until the record is exhausted or wheel reconstituted, which ever occurs first.
3. The names of persons for jury service shall be those selected from the above source in a fair, impartial and objective method by the use of electronic or mechanical equipment.
4. The Hidalgo County District Clerk shall be the officer in charge of the selection process and shall make certain that the computer technicians in the selection process are properly supervised to ensure the impartial selection.
5. Under the supervision of the district clerk, the computer shall be programmed to generate a randomly selected list of qualified persons who are directed to respond telephonically to the district clerk regarding their basic qualifications and availability for jury service. Those persons who are tentatively qualified and available will be placed in a secondary pool of prospective jurors. From such secondary pool, the district clerk shall assign a list of names to each court based on the court's request. The period of time for which the secondary pool shall be subject to "stand by" for jury service shall be determined by the district clerk. A district judge may, from time to time, order a special venire which shall be selected from the secondary pool. A district judge may order a grand jury panel from the secondary pool by written order. The district clerk shall annually establish a schedule of dates for summoning jurors. The district clerk may, during the period of this plan, subject to funding therefore, develop a procedure for allowing communications between the district clerk and prospective jurors by computer in addition to mail and telephonic communication, as provided by Sec. 62.0111, Texas Government Code.
6. A true and complete written list of the names and addresses of the persons summoned to begin jury service shall be filed of record with the district clerk at least ten (10) days before the date the persons are to begin jury service; provided that when a capital jury may be selected from a jury panel, the notice provisions provided in the Code of Criminal Procedure shall also be followed.

7. The computer shall be so programmed that no person shall be selected as petit or grand juror more than once during a calendar year.
8. Petit jurors shall be selected in accordance with this plan to serve in all district courts, county courts at law and justice courts of Hidalgo County, Texas.
9. Random selection of grand jurors in accordance with Art. 19.01(b), Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, shall be conducted in accordance with this plan.
10. Special venires will be selected as ordered by the court requesting the same in accordance with this plan and special venireman so selected shall be identified within the computer so that they will not be selected again as petit or grand jurors during the period of the plan.
11. The method of selection provided herein shall use the same record of names for the selection of persons for jury service and grand jury service as allowed by law.
12. The district clerk shall file this jury selection plan among her records upon its adoption by the Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court and make the same available for inspection by the public.
13. Petit juror lists shall be kept by the district clerk until the same are ordered mailed by the court and all jurors shall then be summoned in accordance with Chapter 62 of Texas Government Code.
14. The Clerk of the court in which the jurors are summoned shall hear requests for and grant a postponement if the person summoned has not been granted a postponement within the preceding year. The substitute date shall be within six months of the date the person was originally summoned. The court may hear any additional requests for postponement or reasonable excuse of a prospective juror and release him/her from jury service entirely or until another day of the term.
15. Jury summons returned undeliverable shall be retained for a period of one year and then destroyed in accordance with Texas Administrative Code, Subchapter A, Rule 6.10.
16. Prequalification cards returned undeliverable shall be destroyed immediately upon return in accordance with the Texas Administrative Code, Subchapter A, Rule 6.7 Jury Prequalification cards do not qualify as state certified records.
17. Juror reimbursement checks will be generated and issued by the Hidalgo County Treasurer's Office as provided by law and the Hidalgo County Auditor's Office, which have concluded that "juror reimbursement checks is a core function of the county treasurer and must be performed by the treasurer."
18. This plan may be amended by the Commissioners' Court of Hidalgo County upon recommendation of the District Judges of Hidalgo County, Texas.
19. Where any item in this jury plan conflicts with State law, State law will supersede unless provided for within this plan.

Approved by the majority of the District Judges of Hidalgo County as evidenced by their signature on this _____ day of _____ 2010.

The Honorable Ricardo Rodriguez, Jr.
Judge, 92nd District Court

The Honorable Rudy Delgado
Judge, 93rd District Court

The Honorable Roberto Flores
Judge, 139th District Court

The Honorable Rose Reyna
Judge, 206th District Court

The Honorable Juan Partida
Judge, 275th District Court

The Honorable Mario E. Ramirez
Judge, 332nd District Court

The Honorable Noe Gonzalez
Judge, 370th District Court

The Honorable Letty Lopez
Judge, 389th District Court

The Honorable Aida Salinas Flores
Judge, 398th District Court

The Honorable Israel Ramon, Jr.
Judge, 430th District Court

The Honorable Jesse Contreras
Judge, 449th District Court
