

May 5, 2010

The Honorable Rene Ramirez
County Judge
Hidalgo County
100 N. Closner Blvd.
Edinburg, Texas 78539-3523

Dear Judge Ramirez:

I am pleased to inform you that Hidalgo County has earned a Gold Leadership Circle Award. Your application scored 15 points of 15 possible on our ratings criteria to earn this award.

Your listing on our "Transparency Check Up" Web site now displays the Gold seal to indicate that you have received this award. Enclosed is your copy of a Leadership Circle Award Certificate. You will also receive a digital seal that you may post on your Web site.

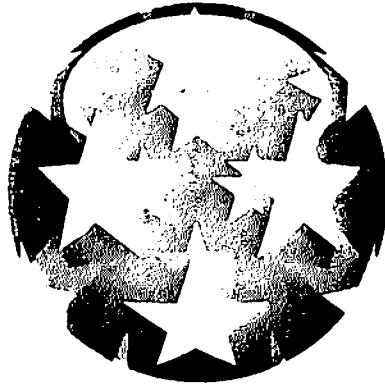
Congratulations on your success in moving forward on financial transparency and joining our Leadership Circle.

Sincerely,


Susan Combs

Enclosure





Texas Comptroller Gold Leadership Circle

This gold award recognizes **Hidalgo County** for setting the bar for financial transparency and opening your books to the public. The Texas Comptroller's Leadership Circle program recognizes local governments across Texas that are striving to meet a high standard for financial transparency online. By providing citizens with a clear, consistent picture of spending and sharing information in a user-friendly format, you are setting a strong example for other governmental entities to follow.

March 29, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Susan Combs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a solid horizontal line.

Susan Combs
Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts