



August 22, 2011

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Dallas County

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Donald Lee

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San Patricio ~ Smith  
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To: Honorable Ramon Garcia, Hidalgo County Judge

CC: Honorable Joel Quintanilla, Hidalgo County Commissioner, Pct. 1  
Honorable Hector Palacios, Hidalgo County Commissioner, Pct. 2  
Honorable Joe Flores, Hidalgo County Commissioner, Pct. 3  
Honorable Joseph Palacios, Hidalgo County Commissioner, Pct. 4

From: Donald Lee, Executive Director

Re: **Tobacco Settlement Permanent Trust Account - Invitation to Nominate**

The Hidalgo County Commissioners Court is invited to nominate a candidate for appointment to the Tobacco Settlement Permanent Trust Account Administration Advisory Committee and a candidate for appointment to the Tobacco Settlement Permanent Trust Account Investment Advisory Committee. The pending appointments will fill one of four expired terms on each committee. The new terms will expire August 31, 2017.

Eligible to nominate candidates to the advisory committee are the 10 entities that received the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> greatest distribution amounts from the tobacco settlement trust in 2010. Hidalgo County is one of these entities.

These are important committees. These committees work in concert to provide oversight and adopt rules regarding annual distributions from the earnings of the Tobacco Settlement Permanent Trust Account.

The 76th Texas Legislature created the Tobacco Settlement Permanent Trust Account as a cooperative project between the Texas Department of Health (now DSHS) and the State Comptroller of Public Accounts in order to provide county hospitals, hospital districts, and public hospitals payments from the Tobacco Settlement Permanent Trust Account.

The Department of State Health Services collects reports from counties and hospital districts that identify the unreimbursed health care expenditures of each entity. That data is used to apportion the distribution of tobacco settlement funds to each entity. The Administration Advisory Committee is responsible for writing the rules by which entities report expenditures, and annually reviews the results of audited expenditure statements. The Committee in essence determines what is and is not an eligible expenditure.

The Investment Advisory Committee is responsible for overseeing the investment and management by the Texas Comptroller of over \$2 billion in tobacco settlement funds held in trust for Texas counties, hospital districts and public

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hospitals. In order for Texas counties to receive distributions, the committee must meet and conduct certain business each year.

The Urban Counties has three criteria of paramount importance when looking to make these appointments:

1. An absolute commitment to attend all committee meetings, including the fall meetings which have been scheduled for October;
2. The nominee to the Investment Committee should have experience with institutional investing; and
3. The nominee to the Administration Committee should have experience with the operations and finances of public hospitals, hospital districts and counties in regards to health care expenditures.

Nominations must be received by 5 p.m. on Friday, September 30th, 2011. Appointments will be made prior to the October Meetings.

Please forward a copy of your nominating resolutions along with a resume and contact information for each nomination to us prior to Friday, September 30, 2011.

Please feel free to contact me if I can provide any additional assistance on this matter. I can be reached at 512.476.6174.