

HIDALGO COUNTY
R E S O L U T I O N
IN SUPPORT OF ONLINE VOTER REGISTRATION

WHEREAS: Texas voter registration laws require Voter Registrars to distribute, receive, decipher, process and archive millions of voter registration cards each year; and

WHEREAS: The current process for registering to vote on paper applications in Texas is inefficient, expensive and error ridden; and

WHEREAS: Twenty-four states have already authorized their citizens to register to vote through online systems that have proven to be more secure, dramatically lower costs, more accurate and, for many voters, easier to access; and

WHEREAS: Texas already authorizes voters to electronically register to vote when obtaining and renewing drivers' licenses and updating voter information online at SOS.gov; and

WHEREAS: A Texas online voter registration system would be more secure because Texas drivers' license numbers as well as audit numbers that are unique to each TDL would be required in order to be able to register online; and

WHEREAS: Online voter registration would enable state and local voter registrars to dramatically reduce mailing and data entry costs as demonstrated by a study of the Arizona Online Voter Registration System which determined that their costs were lowered from .83 cents per card to .03 cents; and

WHEREAS: Online Voter Registration would enable voters in this state, which has one of the lowest voter registration rates in the nation, an easy online alternative to register to vote; and

WHEREAS: The Secretary of State would continue to reimburse counties the same amount for voter registration cards processed electronically or by paper; and

WHEREAS: Online registration would in no way constitute a mandate on local Voter Registrars. voters could continue to choose to complete paper voter registration applications and Voter Registrars are required to receive electronic voter registration applications from DPS.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED;

That on January 9, 2015, the **Hidalgo County Commissioners Court**, meeting as a body in Edinburg, Texas, adopts this resolution and urges the Texas Legislature to authorize Texans to have the option to register to vote by electronic means that conforms to the security requirements of the Texas Secretary of State and the Department of Public Safety.

SIGNED, THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2015, A.D.

Ramon Garcia
HIDALGO COUNTY JUDGE