

Exhibit "A"
HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT
"Printing and Massive Mail-out for Voter Registration Certifications"
RFB NO. 2015-307-00-00-MEG

Overview:

It is the intent of Hidalgo County to contract with the lowest and most qualified vendor to provide all materials, supplies, equipment, tools, services, labor and supervision necessary to **print** and **mail out** the voter registration cards as specified herein. In accordance with the Texas Election Code Section 31.003, this directive established the requirements for voter registrars to issue voter registration certificates including but not limited to the following:

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS

The County of Hidalgo is seeking bids to supply Hidalgo County Elections Department with a bid on the following items: Texas vendors are sought as an attempt to reduce costs for these services to the county.

Item I: Approximately 300,000 Printed and Mail-Out Voter Registration Certificates;

Item II: Additional 100,000 Blank Voter Registration Certificates to be available when needed throughout the contract term.

(See enclosed: Sample I-Printed Certificate and Sample II-Blank Certificate.

- **Samples **must** be included with your packet as per the specifications.**

CERTIFICATE INFORMATION :

- Hidalgo County is requesting bids for approximately 300,000 Voter Registration Certificates to be printed and mailed with barcodes and variable data as specified by the Texas Secretary of State Directive and to include a Quick Response Code (QR Code) that leads into Election Website. Certificates are to be cut sheet laser print.
- The certificate has been designed to meet the content requirements of Texas Election Code Sections 15.001, 15.002, and 15.003, bilingual requirements of the Federal Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 1973aa-1a, the mailing requirements of Texas Election Code Sections 14.001 and 14.002, and regulations of the United States Postal Service regarding size, thickness of paper, address placement and postage.
- Various other exigencies such as horizontal and vertical spacing for computers have been considered. To avoid any possible violations of state or federal law, no change to the specifications of the certificate, as provided by this directive, may be made without prior written approval by Hidalgo County and the Office of the Secretary of State of Texas.
- The layout of the certificate must be exactly as shown on the sample. If a laser printer is used, the certificates must be printed on an 8-1/2" x 14" with a 1" gripper at the top and a 1 ¼" margin on the left side of the paper.

COLOR AND PAPER SPECIFICATIONS:

- The color for the 2016-2017 Certificate is (**color dependent on the Secretary of State's mandate**) 1485. The stock is white index or the equivalent. To meet postal requirements, the paper must be **at least** .007" thick and not more than .016" thick.
- The sample attached is printed on #110 Index. When the paper is manufactured, there can be a variance in

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the thickness of the paper, so the paper must be meet postal requirements for calibration.

- The front side of the certificate is to be printed with (**color to be determined**). The language on the certificates will be in black ink. Using the (**color to be determined**) ink to "color" the paper will ensure that all certificates are printed uniformly across the state.
- The back side of the certificate may be printed either with the (**color to be determined**) or left plain white. The sample attached shows the area that is to be printed in (**color to be determined**) at 100% solid. (Note the (**color to be determined**) will change every two years; and will be submitted to the contractor at the renewal time, if required)

PRINTING OF NEW VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES:

Phase I: Design of laser overlay and printing Voter Registration Certificate:

- a) The awarded vendor will provide professional design assistance for the master overlay and assistance for the overlay placement of data on voter registration certificate form based on the State of Texas.
- b) Size: 4-1/8"x 6" Voter Registration Certificates;
- c) Certificates per page: **Four (4)** Perforated Voter Registration Certificates on blank, legal landscape of 8.5"x 14" sheet of paper;
- d) Color: Certificate must be (**color to be determined**) #1485;
- e) **Vendor must produce and provide a sample (mockup) of a Voter Registration Certificate with bid package;**

Phase II: Laser Processing of Voter Registration Certificates:

The contractor will process data received from Hidalgo County Elections Department through point of contract, Melanie Esparza, Accountant, on CDrom or through email.

Phase III: Mail Processing of Voter Registration Certificates:

Hidalgo County will supply 100% of the domestic postage and will reimburse for all foreign postage. The Contractor will maintain and present to Hidalgo County, postage receipts records that include the U.S. Postal Carrier Route Code and Zip+4 and 2-digit destination code plus the check digit for Cass provide postal qualification that will guarantee the lowest postal rate possible for the Voter Registration Certificates.

Postage: Mail Via First Class Mail (postage fee must be separate from total cost of bidding schedule);

- a) Mail service to include: Addressing, Collating, Packaging, Sorting and Delivery;
- b) CASS (Coding Accuracy Support System) certify and PAVE (Presort Accuracy, Validation and Evaluation) presort cards to yield maximum postage savings;
- c) Bar Code Report must be provided to Hidalgo County;

TERM OF CONTRACT:

1. Awarded vendor must start mail-out of certificates on or after November 14, 2015 but before December 5, 2015 as per Texas Election Code, Chapter 14, Section 14.001
2. Awarded vendor must be prepared to commence printing of the 300,000 certificates upon award of bid and receipt of an approved purchase order.
3. Awarded vendor shall be responsible for compliance with any changes or modifications to State laws

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affecting this bid and for complying with all revised deadlines required by federal, state or local laws that may come into effect during the term of the contract.

4. Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the contract term for unforeseen delay in award of new bid for next contract term.
5. County will seek purchases from state awarded vendors whenever it is, its best interest to do so.
6. Any contract awarded to a successful bidder will be in effect until;
 - i. The contract expires
 - ii. Delivery acceptance of products and/or performance of services ordered, or
 - iii. Terminated by County with thirty (30) days written notice prior to be cancellation.
7. Hidalgo County reserves the right to award to the lowest qualified bid to one bidder or to multiple bidders if the County determines it is in the best interest to do so.
8. Insurance requirements for this project to be maintained through out the contract term (Refer to limits on the Exhibit "C" for limits).
9. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any/all bids, to waive any/all formalities or technicalities, or to accept the bid considered the best and most advantage to the County.
10. Hidalgo County reserves the right to hold bids for a period of ninety (90) days without taking any action.
11. All cost and expenses associated with the preparation and submission of all (bid, proposals, statements of qualifications (RFQ) and quotes shall be responsibility of the bidder and no reimbursements for such charges or expenses shall be passed on to HIDALGO COUNTY.
12. After bid is awarded and low bidder(s) default(s) in meeting the terms and conditions of this bid and/or comply with the contractual agreement, Hidalgo County reserves the right to seek services from the next lowest bidder(s) or other vendor. In such event, County shall charge the successful bidder(s) the difference for any additional cost of such item(s).

MARKET VOLATILITY AND UNIT PRICE ADJUSTMENTS:

Hidalgo County recognizes that during periods of national crisis and unstable economic conditions, unforeseen price increases might affect costs for goods and services contracted on an annual basis. The following procedure may be employed to mediate price volatility:

1. **Requesting Price Adjustment:** Upon written request of the Vendor to the County Purchasing Agent, the County may review evidence of prevailing industry-wide market conditions that warrant an adjustment in bid prices contained in the contract.
 - A Vendor must tie any price change clause to an industry-wide or otherwise nationally recognized index, or some other form of verifiable document. Such written request must be accompanied by a certified copy of the supplier's advisory or notification to the vendor of the price changes.

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- The Vendor must put the Purchasing Agent on the mailing lists for such publications so that the Purchasing Agent can monitor said changes. Such membership shall be at no cost to the County.
 - The County Purchasing Agent retains the right to determine whether or not such proposed price changes are in the best interest of the County.
 - No price escalation will be authorized in excess of the amount of the increase referred to in the supplier's notice.
 - The County may only grant a price increase if the evidence presented is deemed reliable. Should the County allow a price increase, the approved price change shall be honored for all orders received by the vendor after the effective date of such price change. Approved price changes are not applicable to orders already issued and in process at time of price change.
2. **Price Reduction:** Vendor shall notify the County at the time when the Vendor's costs for items and/or supplies reduce due to stabilization in the market at which time prices for items on this contract shall be reduced accordingly. Failure by the Vendor to notify the County of a decrease in costs for items and/or supplies for which the Vendor was granted a price adjustment, may result in immediate termination of this contract and the County shall not be obligated to pay the Vendor the difference between the contract price and the price adjustment.
3. **Time frame for Adjusted Price Increases:** Price increases are only valid for the quarter in which they are requested and approved. Prices shall return to the original contract price at the beginning of the following quarter unless a Vendor notifies the County in writing within ten (10) days of expiration of the quarter in which the price increase is in effect, that it desires to have the price increase continue or that the Vendor is requesting a different price increase for the following quarter. Such request must be supplemented with sufficient justification to demonstrate that the price increase remains necessary. The County Purchasing Department shall have sole discretion whether to grant the price increase extension. The County too, shall have discretion to unilaterally reduce, eliminate or extend a price adjustment to the Vendor at any time upon written notice from the County to the Vendor demonstrating justification for such reduction, elimination or extension of the price adjustment.
4. **Allowable Review Periods:** Price adjustment reviews may only be requested by the Vendor on a quarterly basis. However, the County may at its own discretion, conduct temporary price adjustment reviews at any time. The County Purchasing Agent and/or the County Auditor reserve the right to audit and/or examine any pertinent books, documents, papers, records or invoices relating directly to the contract transaction in question after reasonable notice and during normal business hours.
5. **Dollar Limit to Price Changes:** The total increase in contract price shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the original contract price during the contract term.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Hidalgo County is requesting that any and all questions, inquiries, and clarifications regarding quotes, bids, proposals, or statements of qualifications be addressed to, Martha L. Salazar, CPPB, Purchasing Agent, 2812 S. Business Hwy. 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539. **TELEPHONE INQUIRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

ALL WRITTEN INQUIRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED VIA FACSIMILE TO (956) 292-7612 OR VIA E-MAIL TO elena.gomez@co.hidalgo.tx.us by NO LATER THAN TUESDAY AUGUST 4, 2015 @ 5:00 P.M. Responses will be sent to all applicants via facsimile or e-mail by no later *than* **FRIDAY AUGUST 7, 2015 @ 5:00 P.M..**