

**ORDER OF ELECTION ON THE CREATION OF A COUNTY HEALTHCARE DISTRICT FOR
HIDALGO COUNTY**

WHEREAS, under Chapter 1122 of the Texas Special Districts Local Laws Code , the County of Hidalgo may create a Healthcare District to furnish medical aid to the indigent persons residing in the District; and,

WHEREAS, if created, the Healthcare District funds will be used for District purposes, including improving health care services for residents of Hidalgo County, supporting the School of Medicine at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, training physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals, obtaining federal or state funds for health care services, and providing community health clinics, primary care services, behavioral and mental health care services, and prevention and wellness programs; and

WHEREAS, under Chapter 1122 of the Texas Special District Local Laws Code, the Healthcare District may be created only if the creation is approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the county in which the proposed District is to be located who vote in an election called and held for that purpose; and

WHEREAS, under Chapter 1122 of the Texas Special District Local Laws Code, the County Commissioners Court shall order a creation election on the presentation of a petition for a creation election signed by at least fifty (50) voters of the county; and,

WHEREAS, on this 9th day of August, 2016, a petition has been presented to the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court for the creation of a countywide Healthcare District with taxing authority in Hidalgo County; and,

WHEREAS, the petition to create a Healthcare District was signed by at least fifty (50) qualified property tax paying voters of the county, thus satisfying the requirements of Chapter 1122 of the Texas Special District Local Laws Code; and,

WHEREAS, the Elections Voters Registrar's Office has reviewed and verified the petition and has found that the petition conforms to the requirements of Chapter 1122 of the Texas Special District Local Laws Code.

NOW, THEREFORE, having found the facts set out above in the preamble of this Order to be true and correct, the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court hereby orders the following:

1. Special Election

The Special Election on the creation of a countywide Healthcare District shall be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2016, which is 91 days or more days from the date of the issuance of this Order (the "Order") to consider the question of whether to create a countywide Healthcare District with taxing authority in Hidalgo County and to levy a

tax not to exceed twenty-five cents (\$0.25) on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of the taxable value of property taxable by the Healthcare District.

The election shall be held within and throughout Hidalgo County, and all resident qualified voters of the county shall be entitled to vote in the election.

The hours during which the polling places are to be open on Election Day are from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

2. County Election Precincts and Polling Places

Voting in the election shall be conducted within and throughout Hidalgo County at those election day polling places designated by the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court for the November 8, 2016 Election, such sites listed in Attachment A attached hereto and incorporated herein at this point for all purposes.

3. Ballots

Voting in the election for the proposition shall be by use of an electronic voting system, which is to display the ballots in both English and Spanish and which shall conform to the requirements of the Texas Election Code.

The electronic voting system used in the election shall have displayed thereon the following ballot:

OFFICIAL BALLOT

Place an [X] in the square beside the statement indicating the way you wish to vote.

PROPOSITION

The creation of the Hidalgo County Healthcare District, providing for the imposition of an ad valorem tax on all taxable property in the district. The initial ad valorem tax shall be imposed at the rate of eight cents on the \$100 valuation of all taxable property in the district. District funds shall be used for district purposes, including improving health care services for residents of Hidalgo County, supporting the School of Medicine at The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, training physicians, nurses, and other health care professionals, obtaining federal or state funds for health care services, and providing community health clinics, primary care services, behavioral and mental health care services, and prevention and wellness programs.

FOR

AGAINST

4. Oral Assistance

Voter assistance will be given in accordance with the Election Code. Any person requiring voter assistance should contact the presiding judge of the election precinct in which the person is voting, or the early voting clerk.

The Hidalgo County Elections Department will be responsible for the preparation of instructions, ballots and other materials pertinent to the election.

5. Election Judges and Clerks

The presiding election Judges and alternate presiding election judges shall be those persons appointed in accordance with Sections 32.001, 32.002 of the Texas Election Code.

6. Early Voting

Early voting by personal appearance in the election shall occur on each weekday of the early voting period beginning on October 24, 2016 and ending on November 4, 2016 between the hours of 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, except for Sunday, October 30, 2016 when the hours are 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

7. Election

- A. The election will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code.
- B. On election night, the election officer shall prepare the final report setting forth election returns for the election; and, the election officer shall present such report to the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court for canvass of the election.

8. Mail in Ballots

- a. Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:

**Yvonne Ramon, Hidalgo County Elections Administrator (Early Voting Clerk)
101 South 10th Avenue
Edinburg, TX 78539**

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on October 28, 2016.

9. Canvass of Election

The returns for the election shall be canvassed by the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court as prescribed by Chapter 67 of the Election Code.

10. Governing Law

This Order shall be governed, interpreted, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the United States of America.

11. Severability

If any provision of this Order shall be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the other provisions of the Order shall nevertheless remain valid, legal, and enforceable.

12. Effective Date

This Order is effective immediately upon its approval.

PASSED, APPROVED, and ORDERED on this the 9th day of August, 2016.

RAMON GARCIA
County Judge

A.C. CUELLAR, JR.
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

JOSEPH PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk