

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 474

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court recognizes that the Texas Legislature has under consideration House Bill 474, "Relating to the Thirteenth Court of Appeals District and to the creation of the Fifteenth Court of Appeals District; authorizing fees; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 474 proposes to create a new appellate court by splitting the twenty-county district encompassing the Thirteenth Court of Appeals into two separate appellate court districts, and the proposed Fifteenth Court of Appeals would consist of the counties of Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 474 would adversely affect the citizens of Hidalgo County because it has a racially discriminatory effect and unconstitutionally dilutes minority votes; the bill it seeks to pack the minority voters from the twenty-county district into only three counties where those Hispanic voters who have currently elected six Hispanic justices would only have the opportunity to vote on three judicial positions; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 474 provides no additional funding for the creation of an additional court and would thus be inefficient and costly for the citizens of Hidalgo County and the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Thirteenth Court of Appeals serves as one cohesive and integrated court which operates efficiently and economically for all of the counties in its geographic region, which includes Hidalgo County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HIDALGO COUNTY, by virtue of the authority vested in us, do hereby state that for the foregoing reasons, it is in the best interest of Hidalgo County and our taxpayers to oppose House Bill 474.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court on this the __ day of January, 2017.

RAMON GARCIA
County Judge

DAVID FUENTES
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

Attest: **LAURA HINOJOSA**
District Clerk