

Resolution

in support of an additional
District Court for Hidalgo County

WHEREAS, based on 2016 filings, reported to the Office of Court Administration, applied to case weights in “Measuring Current Judicial Workload in Texas, 2007”; and

WHEREAS, the study conducted provided Hidalgo County Key Data Used to Assess Requests for Additional District Courts. The weighted caseload approach utilized was designed to provide an objective and accurate methodology to properly evaluate the workload of the District Courts in the State of Texas. The study estimated total FTEs needed for Hidalgo County is 17.25. The reported actual FTEs is 13.78 to handle all the cases coming before the Courts in a timely, efficient and fair manner. Hidalgo County presently has eleven District Courts and two Master Courts; and

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Key Data used to Assess the Request for Additional District Courts reports a 2016 Clearance Rate of 83.2% compared to a Statewide District Clearance Rate of 96.8%; and

WHEREAS, the goal of Hidalgo County Judges, for the creation of a new District Court, is to provide the citizens of Hidalgo County with an adequate number of judicial officers to manage and resolve court business without delay while also delivering quality service to litigants; and

WHEREAS, the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court is supportive of creating a new district effective January 1, 2021 so as to allow for it to budget its resources in anticipation of the creation of the court and the construction of a new County Courthouse to adequately house a Justice Court; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hidalgo County

Commissioners Court supports the creation of a new Hidalgo County District Court as of January 1, 2021 so as to ensure the dispensation of justice without delay and ensure that the rights of all citizens are protected.

Approved this 18th day of April, 2017.