

ORDER

**AUTHORIZING AN EMERGENCY APPROPRIATION TO THE HIDALGO COUNTY
FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET FOR PAYMENT OF MODIFICATIONS TO THE VOTING
EQUIPMENT**

WHEREAS, Senate Bill (SB) 598 which amends Texas Election Code Chapters 127 and 129 requires a voter-verifiable paper audit trail for elections systems and as prescribed by the Texas Secretary of State by instituting a pilot program to use the paper audit trail in order to ensure that the tabulated results match the votes cast by voters with increased certainty, thus ensuring that elections are conducted with the highest standards as set forth in Senate Bill (SB) 598; and

WHEREAS, the recent passage of Senate Bill (SB) 598 has created an emergency situation with respect to the existing voting equipment and the immediate need to modify the equipment in order to comply with the legislative mandate; and

WHEREAS, the immediate need for the modification of the voting equipment was previously unforeseen; and

WHEREAS, Texas Local Government Code §111.070 provides for the creation of an emergency appropriation for the purpose mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Budget and Management is recommending an emergency appropriation in the amount of **\$2,648,740.00** to budget line item 1-1301-414-00-130-029-0-660 Voting Equipment Retrofit – Furniture & Equipment Controlled to be offset by an increase to budget line item 1-1100-270-00-000-000-0-000 General Fund - Budgeted Fund Balance in order to pay for the modifications required for the voting equipment.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby authorizes an emergency appropriation in the amount of **\$2,648,740.00** to budget line item 1-1301-414-00-130-029-0-660 Voting Equipment Retrofit-Furniture & Equipment Controlled to be offset by an increase to budget line item 1-1100-270-00-000-000-0-000 General Fund - Budgeted Fund Balance in order to pay for the modifications required for the voting equipment.

DATED the **21st** day of **September** 2021.

Richard F. Cortez
Hidalgo County Judge

ATTEST:

Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk