

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
§
THE COUNTY OF HIDALGO §

HIDALGO COUNTY ORDER APPROVING THE RECONFIGURATION OF COUNTY ELECTION PRECINCTS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND DIRECTING THAT REQUIRED NOTICES BE GIVEN.

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2021, Hidalgo County (the “County”) adopted reconfigured commissioner precincts in order to comply with the “one-person, one-vote” (equal population) principle established by the U.S. Constitution, after population imbalances were revealed by the 2020 Census;

WHEREAS, the Legislature of the State of Texas has adopted redistricting plans establishing new boundaries for districts for the Texas House of Representatives, the Texas Senate and the State Board of Education, and for the state’s congressional districts, which intersect the County; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 42 of the Texas Election Code provides that county election precincts may not contain territory from more than one of each of the following types of territorial units: a commissioner precinct, a justice precinct, a state representative district, a state senatorial district, a State Board of Education district, and a congressional district; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 42 of the Texas Election Code also provides that county election precincts may not contain unincorporated territory and also incorporated territory of a city of 10,000 or more population, except under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 42 of the Texas Election Code provides that a county election precinct must contain at least 100 but not more than 5000 registered voters; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 42 of the Texas Election Code provides that the effective date for changes to county election precincts shall be the first day of the first even-numbered voting year following the voting year in which the change is ordered, except under certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 42 of the Texas Election Code provides that, after adoption of reconfigured election precincts, certain notices be given; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County has determined that, because of districting changes, and growth and shifts in population and numbers of registered voters in the County’s election precincts, the County’s election precincts require reconfiguration under Chapter 42 of the Texas Election Code; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court of Hidalgo County has determined that combining incorporated and unincorporated territory in two election precincts is necessary under the exception in Section 42.007 of the Texas Election Code because the areas cannot constitute a separate election precinct of suitable size or shape that contain the permissible number of voters; and

WHEREAS, the County engaged the law firm of Bickerstaff Heath Delgado Acosta LLP to act as the County's redistricting consultant, including advising and assisting the County in the preparation of a revised plan for elections precincts in compliance with applicable state and federal law; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioners Court finds the attached election precincts plan to be in the best interest of the County and its citizens, and believes the proposed election precincts to be in compliance with all state and federal requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS:

A. That, under the authority of Chapter 42 of the Texas Election Code, the configurations and boundaries for the County's election precincts are hereby amended, and the election precincts plan depicted on the map attached hereto as **Exhibit A** defining new election precincts, as such new election precincts are further described in the tables attached hereto as **Exhibit B** reporting population, demographic data and registered voter numbers for such election precincts, is hereby adopted and designated to define the County's election precincts from and after the Effective Date for reconfigured election precincts; that **Exhibits A** and **B** are incorporated by reference in and made a part of this Order, and shall be kept on file in the County Election Administrator's Office.

B. That this Order respecting reconfigured election precincts shall take and be given effect on January 1, 2022, and that thereafter the adopted election precincts shall be used in all elections for Hidalgo County officers and other elections administered by the County, subject to the provisions of Chapter 42 of the Texas Election Code or its successor statute, as applicable, until such time as a subsequent lawfully-enacted election precincts plan shall be adopted to replace this plan in whole or part.

C. That the County Election Administrator is hereby directed to make and provide all notices concerning the adoption of the reconfigured election precincts required under Chapter 42 of the Texas Election Code, or other law.

BE IT SO ORDERED.

Adopted on this _____ day of _____, 2021.

HIDALGO COUNTY, TEXAS

Hon. Richard F. Cortez, County Judge

Hon. David L. Fuentes, Commissioner, Precinct 1

Hon. Eduardo Cantu, Commissioner, Precinct 2

Hon. Everardo Villarreal, Commissioner, Precinct 3

Hon. Ellie Torres, Commissioner, Precinct 4

ATTEST:

Hon. Arturo Guajardo Jr., County Clerk

EXHIBIT A

Election Precincts Plan Map

EXHIBIT B

Election Precincts Data Tables