

performing the Services that it will use proper professional standards, comply with any and all appropriate laws and regulations in providing the Services, and devote such time as is necessary to safely and efficiently provide the Services. County reserves the right to evaluate any services provided by the Company and to reject the same if not in compliance with the specifications as provided in **Exhibits “A” and “B”**. If the County finds it necessary to require changes in the work provided because of errors made by the Company, the County shall require the Company to correct the work at no cost to the County and without amendment to the Agreement. Further, Hidalgo County reserves the right to request these services from other sources other than the successful vendor and shall not be in violation of any terms or conditions of said contract.

3. **Term.** The period of performance of Company’s Service and term of this contract shall be effective **November 15, 2023** and before **December 6, 2023** in accordance to the Texas Election Code, Chapter 14, Section 14.001 and/or guidance provided by the Texas Secretary of State as stated in Appendix “A” (“Specification”). The County also reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the of the contract for unforeseen delay of award for the next term and under the same rates, terms and conditions.

4. **Consideration.** As consideration for rendering the Service provided for in this Contract, the County agrees to pay Company the amounts specified in **Exhibit “B”**, payable against written invoice submitted by Company in accordance with the Texas Prompt Payment Act, Tex. Govt. Code Ch. 2251.

5. **Licenses/Certifications.** As a condition of this Contract, Company shall hold and maintain throughout the term of this Contract all licenses and permits required, or which may be required by any authority, including the State of Texas, during the term hereof to provide the Services. Company further represents that it is qualified to perform and execute the services described above. If such license or permit is suspended or revoked, this Contract shall automatically be terminated and Company shall immediately notify the County. Company shall provide the County with all current state certifications, permits, and/or licenses with applicable seals, or as otherwise required by the State of Texas.

6. **Equipment.** If applicable, Company shall provide a sufficient number of trucks, vehicles, personnel and equipment available to safely and efficiently provide the Services. All trucks or vehicles operated by the Company to perform the Services shall contain all equipment required by any authority to operate on streets and roads and all persons in the employ of Company who operate such trucks or vehicles shall have the required licenses, qualifications, skill, and expertise to perform such Services and shall comply with all laws, rules, and regulations prescribed by any agency or authority having jurisdiction with regard to the operation of such trucks or vehicles in providing the Services.

7. **Independent Contractor.** The Company must comply with all applicable Hidalgo County policies and with any applicable federal, state, or local laws, regulations, orders, or ordinances applicable to the Services provided by Company under this Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, Company represents and maintains that Company is an Independent Contractor and is not an employee of the County, or any agency thereof, and represents and warrants that Company does not desire or request any fringe benefits provided to employees of

County, and/or any agency of the County, including but not limited to benefits associated with Hidalgo County's Civil Service Program. This Contract and the performance by the Parties hereunder does not create an agency relationship or master-servant relationship. Company agrees to be responsible for any federal income tax, withholding or social security tax liability that might arise from payments received hereunder. Company will incur no financial obligation on behalf of the County without prior written approval of the County. Company will be responsible for all personal and professional expenses, including, but not limited to, membership fees and dues and expenses of attending conventions and meetings. The County will have no right to direct or control the details, manner or means by which Company or its affiliates provide the Services, except as otherwise set forth in this Agreement. Company agrees to not take any action that is detrimental to, or not in the best interest of the County.

8. **Termination.** County may terminate this Agreement without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice.

9. **Non-Exclusive Services of Company.** Hidalgo County reserves the right to request this Product, Good and/or service from other sources other than the Company and shall not be in violation of any terms or conditions of this Agreement.

10. **Insurance.** Consistent with its status as an independent contractor and at its sole expense, Company agrees that throughout the duration of the work under this contract and any extension hereof, it shall provide and maintain any and all insurances and abide by any requirements which are specified in the Procurement Packet/Specifications and/or which may be necessary in providing Services or are otherwise required by law. Insurance policies shall cover, but are not limited to, Company's activities and all persons, vehicles, equipment and property connected with providing Services, to include theft or loss. The amount of insurance required shall be in accordance with amounts specified by the County or as prescribed by law, but in no event shall any amount be less than the minimum amounts prescribed by law, including, but not limited to the Texas Tort Claims Act. These requirements do not establish limits of Company's liability. Any and all applicable insurance requirements and amounts are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes. Company is responsible for ensuring all required insurance policies are valid for the duration of the contract. All insurance policies are to be issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of Texas and acceptable to County. Company shall cause all subcontractors utilized by Company to also comply with these specifications. Company shall furnish to County certificate(s) of coverage, and all renewals throughout the duration of the Project, issued by the insurer that such insurance is in full force and effect. (See **Exhibit "C"** attached hereto and incorporated herein for all purposes). For each applicable policy, Company shall name the County as an additional insured. Company shall notify County a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of cancellation of all or part of a policy. Company shall make any other insurance documentation available to County upon request. Company will be considered in breach of contract should the Company fail to maintain an insurance policy in the minimum limits of liability and requirements identified above while performing services for and under this Agreement, and will be subject to default and immediate termination of the Agreement. Additionally, Company covenants and agrees to use its best efforts to maintain an insurance policy in the minimum limits of liability and requirements identified above until one year following the conclusion of this Agreement.

11. **INDEMNIFICATION.** COMPANY SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD COUNTY, ITS ELECTED OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS HARMLESS FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, ACTIONS, LIABILITY, DAMAGES, LOSSES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING COSTS OF JUDGMENTS, SETTLEMENTS, COURT COSTS, AND ATTORNEYS' FEES, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF SUCH CLAIM OR ACTION) CAUSED BY, RESULTING FROM, OR ALLEGING NEGLIGENT OR INTENTIONAL ACTS OR OMISSIONS OR ANY FAILURE TO PERFORM ANY OBLIGATION UNDERTAKEN OR ANY COVENANT IN THIS CONTRACT, WHETHER SUCH ACT, OMISSION, OR FAILURE WAS THE COMPANY'S OR THAT OF ANY PERSON PROVIDING SERVICES HEREUNDER THROUGH OR FOR THE COMPANY. UPON WRITTEN NOTICE FROM THE COUNTY, THE COMPANY WILL RESIST AND DEFEND AT ITS OWN EXPENSE, AND BY COUNSEL REASONABLY SATISFACTORY TO COUNTY, ANY SUCH CLAIM OR ACTION. THE COMPANY WILL CARRY PROPER INSURANCE WITH THE COUNTY AS AN ADDITIONAL NAMED INSURED. THIS INDEMNIFICATION CLAUSE SHALL SURVIVE THIS AGREEMENT AND BE ENFORCEABLE AS A SEPARATE AGREEMENT IN THE EVENT ITS SURVIVAL AND ENFORCEMENT BECOME NECESSARY.

12. **Notice.** Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, all notices, demands, requests, or communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall either be (i) personally delivered against a written receipt, or (ii) sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid and addressed to the parties at the addresses set forth below, or at such other addresses as may have been theretofore specified by written notice delivered in accordance herewith:

If to County: The County of Hidalgo
 Attn: County Judge
 100 E. Cano, 2nd Floor
 Edinburg, Texas 78539

If to Company: Usio Output Solutions
 Silas Green
 216 Brockton Street #105
 San Antonio, Texas 78217

Each notice, demand, request, or communication which shall be delivered or mailed in the manner described above shall be deemed sufficiently given for all purposes at such time as it is personally delivered to the addresses or if mailed at such time as it is deposited in the United States mail.

13. **GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

- a. **Assignment.** Except as otherwise herein provided, Company shall not assign the obligations or rights under this Agreement to any person without the prior written consent of County.
- b. **Conflict with Applicable Laws.** Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to require the commission of any act contrary to law, and whenever there is any conflict between any provision of this Agreement and any present or future law, ordinance or administrative, executive or judicial regulation, order or decree, or amendment thereof, contrary to which the

parties have no legal right to contract, the latter shall prevail, but in such event, the affected provision or provisions of this Agreement shall be modified only to the extent necessary to bring them within the legal requirements and only during the time such conflict exists. In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision thereof and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

- c. **No Waiver.** No waiver by County of any breach of any provision of this Agreement shall be deemed to be a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provision hereof.
- d. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created hereunder are performable in Hidalgo County, Texas. The Company hereby consents to personal jurisdiction in Hidalgo County, Texas.
- e. **Successors.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns where permitted by this Agreement.
- f. **Commitment of Current Revenues Only.** In the event that, during any term hereof, the Commissioners Court does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of County under this Agreement, County may terminate this Agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice to Company. County agrees, however, to use reasonable efforts to secure funds necessary for the continued performance of this Agreement. The parties intend this provision to be a continuing right to terminate this Agreement at the expiration of each budget period of County. *Agreements for the acquisition, including lease of real or personal property under Tex. Loc. Govt. Code §271.903:* In the event that, during any term hereof, the Commissioner's Court does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of County under this Agreement, County may terminate this Agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice to Company, County agrees, however, to use a best efforts attempt to obtain and appropriate funds for payment of the Agreement. The parties intend this provision, if applicable, to be a continuing right to terminate this at the expiration of each budget period of County in accordance with the Texas Local Government Code.
- g. **Immunities.** Nothing in this Agreement is intended to and County does not hereby waive, release or relinquish any right to assert any of the defenses County enjoys by virtue of the state or federal constitution, laws, rules or regulations, and any sovereign, official or qualified immunity available to County as to any claim or action of any person, entity, or individual against County.

- h. **Headings.** The headings and captions contained in this Agreement are solely for convenient reference and shall not be deemed to affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision or paragraph hereof.
- i. **Gender and Number.** All pronouns used in this Agreement shall include the other gender, whether used in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, and the singular shall include the plural whenever and as often as may be appropriate.
- j. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and each party acknowledges that neither has made (either directly or through any agent or representative) any representations or agreements in connection with this Agreement not specifically set forth herein. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by an agreement in writing executed by County and Company, and not otherwise.
- k. **Purchasing Ethics.** Company represents and warrants it has not, during the process of being awarded this contract violated the following ethical standards of County and, upon and after the execution of this Agreement, agrees to abide by the following ethical standards of County:
 - i. It shall be a breach of ethics to offer, give or agree to give any elected official, department head or employee, or former elected official, department head or employee, of County, or for any elected official, department head or employee or former elected official, department head or employee of County, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, entity or organization, a gratuity or an office of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation or any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing, or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or proposal therefore pending before any department or agency of County.
 - ii. It shall be a breach of ethics for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor for any contract for County, or any person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.
- l. **Void Contract.** Company understands that an awarded contract may immediately become void if the County determines that a lack of compliance with applicable policies and/or statutes has occurred in the procurement process.
- m. **Nondiscrimination.** Company, including subcontractors, assignees and successors in interest, ensures that no person shall on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, or any other protected class under law, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination or retaliation in any federally or non-federally funded program or activity when providing any services described herein under

this contract/agreement. Applicable nondiscrimination statements and provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, were provided as part of the initial procurement packet and are incorporated herein and made a part of this agreement for all purposes.

- n. **Additional Documents.** The parties hereto covenant and agree that they will execute each such other and further instruments and documents as are or may become necessary or convenient to effectuate and carry out the terms of this Agreement.
- o. **Required Contract Provision for Contracts Subject to Federal Award (*if applicable*).** Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.327, a non-federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions described in appendix II to 2 CFR 200-Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts under Federal Awards. Additionally, County contracts under Federal award which are subject to assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are also required to contain additional contract clauses. The applicable required contract clauses were provided as part of the initial procurement packet and are incorporated herein and made part of this agreement for all purposes.
- p. **Authority to Execute.** The execution and performance of this Agreement by County and Company have been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions, or corporate action, and this Agreement constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of County and Company in accordance with its terms.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

EXECUTED as of the day and year first written above.

APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT ON November 14, 2023.

Agenda Item No. 93105

Executive Office: _____

VENDOR:

Usio Output Solutions

COUNTY:

COUNTY OF HIDALGO, Texas

Usio Output Solutions Authorized Representative

Hon. Richard F. Cortez, County Judge

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Office of the Hidalgo County
Criminal District Attorney,
Toribio "Terry" Palacios

ATTEST:

Robert Viña, Assistant District Attorney

Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)
PROCUREMENT PACKET**
- B. RESPONSE**
- C. CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE**

SUPPLEMENTAL SIGNATURES:

(If Applicable)

EXHIBIT “A”

REQUEST FOR BIDS (RFB)

PROCUREMENT PACKET



**HIDALGO COUNTY
PROCUREMENT PACKET**

REQUEST FOR SEALED QUOTES

RFSQ No.: 23-0390-10-30-05

**MAIL-OUT VOTER REGISTRATION
CERTIFICATES**

Acceptance Due Date: October 30, 2023 at 3:00 pm

Ignacio Amezcua MBA, CTCM, CTCD
Hidalgo County Purchasing Director

Project Contact Information:

Pedro Cuadros, Contract Specialist I
(956) 318-2626 Ext: 4859
pedro.cuadros@co.hidalgo.tx.us

Hidalgo County
REQUEST FOR SEALED QUOTES
Mail-Out Voter Registration Certificates

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. INVITATION LETTER.....

II. SUBMISSION DETAILS

III. PROCUREMENT OVERVIEW

IV. LEGAL NOTICE (as applicable).....

V. APPENDIX A - REQUIREMENTS/SPECIFICATIONS

VI. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION DOCUMENTS

Attachments:

A - Appendix A - Specifications/Requirements

C - Appendix D - COI Questionnaire

D - Appendix E - Vendor Acknowledgment and HUB Declaration

E - Appendix F - Certification Regarding Debarment

F - Appendix H - 2 CFR

G - Appendix I - FHWA 1273

H - Appendix J - Proposer's Affidavit

I - Appendix M - Reference Form

J - Appendix K - Draft Contract

1. INVITATION LETTER

1.1. Summary

RELEASE DATE: Monday, October 16, 2023

RE: HIDALGO COUNTY - REQUEST FOR SEALED QUOTES

RFSQ NO.:23-0390-10-30-05 –Mail-Out Voter Registration Certificates

Dear Prospect Offeror:

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department welcomes and appreciates your interest and participation. For your review and consideration, enclosed find the details for the aforementioned project. Modifications and new requirements have been added and implemented. Please ensure to carefully read and review all instructions, requirements and specifications. All times referenced in this project are Central Standard Time – CST.

If assistance is required, please do not hesitate to call the Purchasing Department at (956) 318-2626.

Sincerely,

Ignacio Amezcua, MBA, CTCM, CTCD

Hidalgo County Purchasing Director

1.2. Contact Information

Project Contact:

Olga Garza

Contracts Division Manager
2802 S. Business Highway 281
Edinburg, TX 78539
Email: olga.garza@co.hidalgo.tx.us
Phone: [\(956\) 318-2626 Ext: 4882](tel:(956)318-2626)

Procurement Contact:

Pedro Cuadros

Contract Specialist I
2812 S. Business Hwy. 281
Edinburg, TX 78539
Email: pedro.cuadros@co.hidalgo.tx.us
Phone: [\(956\) 318-2626 Ext: 4859](tel:(956)318-2626)

Department:

Election Department

1.3. Timeline

Release Project Date	October 16, 2023
-----------------------------	------------------

Question Submission Deadline	October 25, 2023, 4:00pm
Question Response Deadline	October 27, 2023, 5:00pm
Quote Submission Deadline	October 30, 2023, 3:00pm

2. SUBMISSION DETAILS

2.1. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Respondents shall submit their responses electronically.:

- A. Submit responses electronically via the PORTAL: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/co-hidalgo-tx> on or before Monday, October 30, 2023, at 3:00 pm.

Any Proposal received after this deadline will not be accepted and will be returned unopened to the sender.

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will only accept electronic responses that are submitted via the PORTAL: <https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/co-hidalgo-tx>. The COUNTY will NOT accept telegraphic, emailed, nor responses submitted via facsimile.

*When submitting a response electronically, the firm will be required to complete all the sections found in this solicitation in order for the submission to be valid.

3. PROCUREMENT OVERVIEW

THE RESPONDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR READING AND UNDERSTANDING ALL DOCUMENTS, FORMS, SPECIFICATIONS, AND INSTRUCTIONS WITHIN THIS ENTIRE DOCUMENT. Follow all instructions; you are responsible for obtaining any information needed in order to respond to this solicitation. Further, the Respondent is responsible for providing any and all relevant information necessary to submit a response. Failure to do so will be at the Respondent's risk and may result in rejection of the response as non-conforming.

General Requirements apply to all advertised solicitations; however, these may be superseded, whole or in part, by OTHER DATA CONTAINED HEREIN. Be sure your submission is complete.

3.1. INTRODUCTION

Hidalgo County (hereinafter referred to as "COUNTY") is seeking qualified respondents interested in providing services for the "Mail-Out Voter Registration Certificates". Quotes will be received in accordance with the requirements attached hereto as Appendix "A". The response should address all requirements.

3.2. AWARD

Hidalgo County may award the Bid on a lump sum basis to one (1) bidder or to multiple bidders, whichever is in the best interest of the County.

- a. Before awarding any contract, Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will verify, using the Federal System for Award Management (SAM) and the Texas Comptroller's Debarred Vendor List, that the offeror recommended for contract award has no unsatisfactory performance history that would prohibit awarding them a contract.
- b. The contract will be awarded to that responsible offeror(s) whose offer, conforming to the solicitation, will be most advantageous to the county, price, and other factors considered. A responsible offeror is one who affirmatively demonstrates to the County that the offeror has adequate financial resources and the requisite capacity, capability, and facilities to perform the contract within the delivery period or period of performance, has a satisfactory record of performance on other comparable projects, has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics, and is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under the solicitation and laws or regulations applicable to this procurement.
- c. The County reserves the right to accept other than the lowest offer, reject any or all offers in part or in total for any reason, to accept any offer if considered best for its interest, and to waive informalities and minor irregularities in offers received.
- d. The County may accept any item or group of items of any offer unless the offeror qualifies the offer by specific limitations. Unless otherwise provided in Pricing Schedule, offers may not be submitted for any quantities less than those specified, and the County reserves the right to make an award on any item for a unit quantity less than the quantity offered at the unit prices offered unless the offeror specifies otherwise in the offer.
- e. The County's execution of the Contract shall be deemed to result in a binding contract without further action by the offeror.

f. The County may, within the time specified therein, accept any offer or part thereof, as provided in (c) above, whether or not there are negotiations subsequent to its receipt unless the offer is withdrawn by written notice received by the County prior to award.

g. The County may award a contract, based on initial offers received, without discussion of such offers. Accordingly, each initial offer should be submitted on the most favorable terms from a price and technical standpoint, which the offeror can submit to the County.

3.3. TERM

The period of performance of Company's Service and term of this contract shall be, effective, November 15, 2023 and before, December 6, 2023 in accordance to the Texas Election Code, Chapter 14 and Section 14.001 and/or guidance provided by the Texas Secretary of State as stated in Appendix "A". The County also reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the contract term for unforeseen delay of award for the next term and under the same rates, terms and conditions.

3.4. Electronic Submissions

Respondents shall submit their responses electronically. Please see the Submission Details above for submission options, procedures, and requirements. Any Proposal received after the provided deadline will not be accepted and will be returned unopened to the sender.

3.5. SIGNING OF SUBMISSION

In order to be considered, all submittals **must** be signed by an authorized representative of the firm. **For electronic submissions, please ensure all appropriate certifications are marked.**

3.6. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

If applicable, questions must be submitted via the PORTAL'S Question and Answer Tab (Q&A) no later than Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 4:00 pm. Responses to properly submitted questions will be published in the PORTAL and emailed to all planholders who are listed as a Follower in the PORTAL. Telephone inquiries will not be accepted.

3.7. RESTRICTIVE OR AMBIGUOUS REQUIREMENTS

It is the responsibility of the Proposer to review the procurement packet and to notify the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department if the requirements are formulated in a manner that would unnecessarily restrict competition or request clarification of any requirements that are ambiguous. Any such protest or question regarding the requirements or proposal procedures must be received in writing via the PORTAL'S Q&A Tab by the deadline stated for Questions and Answers.

3.8. COST OF SUBMISSION

Hidalgo County will not be liable for any costs incurred by the vendor in preparing a response to this procurement packet. Each Proposer acknowledges it is submitting a response at their own risk and expense. Further, no reimbursement for such charges or expenses shall be passed onto Hidalgo County. Hidalgo County makes no guarantee that any products or services will be purchased as a result of this solicitation and reserves the right to reject any and all submissions received. All responses and accompanying documentation will become the property of Hidalgo County.

3.9. WAIVING OF INFORMALITIES

Hidalgo County reserves the right to waive minor informalities or technicalities when it is in the best interest of Hidalgo County.

3.10. NOTICE OF COMMUNICATION

All communications by a vendor to the county, its officials, and department heads regarding this procurement shall be done through the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department. No vendor, its' representative, agent, or employee shall engage in private communication with a member of the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court or county department heads regarding any procurement of goods or services by the County from the date that this procurement packet is released. No private communication regarding the purchase shall be permitted until the procurement process is complete and a purchase order is granted or a contract is entered into. "Private Communication" means communication with any vendor outside of a posted meeting of the governing body, a regular meeting of a standing or appointed committee, or negotiation with a vendor which has been specifically authorized by the governing body.

4. LEGAL NOTICE (as applicable)

These General Provisions are considered standard language for an Offeror (hereinafter referred to as “Offeror”, “Vendor”, “Respondent”, or “Contractor”) submitting a response for a Request for Bids, Proposals, Qualifications or other solicitation (hereinafter referred to as “Procurement Packet”) made by the County of Hidalgo (hereinafter referred to as “Hidalgo County” and “County” or any other governing body/agency for which the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department has been authorized to perform procurement services. The Hidalgo County Purchasing Department webpage may be found at <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/143/Purchasing-Department>.

It is the Offeror’s sole responsibility to be in compliance of all federal, state, and local laws, requirements, rules, codes, ordinances, and regulations applicable to their proposed goods and/or services. In the event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of these requirements and the specifications, the specifications shall govern. In the event of any conflict of interpretation of any part of this overall procurement packet, Hidalgo County's interpretation shall govern. Referenced appendices may be subject to change.

The following is a link to all adopted Hidalgo County policies (<https://www.hidalgocounty.us/805/CountyAdministrative-Policies>), which for all purposes, when applicable and whether specified explicitly or not, are incorporated by reference as part of this procurement packet and any resulting agreement.

4.1. ACCEPTANCE OF SUBMISSION

Receipt of the submission shall under no circumstance obligate Hidalgo County to accept the response, or make an award. The Offeror is responsible for obtaining any information needed in order to respond and for all costs of submitting its response. An Offeror’s submitted response is to remain firm for a minimum of ninety (90) days after opening. Hidalgo County is not responsible for any missing, lost, or late submissions.

4.2. ACCESS TO RECORDS

In special circumstances, Vendor may be required to allow duly authorized representatives of Hidalgo County, or the state and federal government access to contracts, books, documents, and records necessary to verify the nature and extent of the cost of services provided by Vendor. Vendor must keep records within Hidalgo County or note in their submission that records will be available within the boundaries of Hidalgo County to those representatives within one (1) business day of request by the County.

4.3. ACCOUNT CREATION FOR PAYMENT

Upon award and prior to execution of a contract, Offeror shall cooperate with and submit any required information to the Hidalgo County Auditor’s Office in order to establish an account with the County for payment, including information requested on Hidalgo County Vendor Enrollment Solution, Appendix “E” on this procurement packet. This information must be on file with the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department and the Hidalgo County Auditor’s Office. Failure to provide this information may result in a delay in payment and/or back-up withholding as required by the Internal Revenue Service.

4.4. ADDENDA

When specifications interpretations, amendments, corrections or changes are revised, the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will issue an Addendum addressing the nature of the change. All released

Addenda will be e-mailed to all point of contact(s) who are known to have received or requested a copy of the procurement packet directly from the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department. Offeror must sign in blue ink and include it in the returned submission package.

4.5. ASSIGNMENT

The successful Offeror shall not assign, sell, transfer, convey, or otherwise transfer its rights under any awarded contract, in whole or in part, without the prior written consent of County of Hidalgo County Commissioners Court (hereinafter referred to as “Commissioners Court”), or other applicable governing body.

4.6. AWARD

Hidalgo County reserves the right to award this contract on the basis determined on the Procurement Overview, and when applicable, listed on Appendix “B”, in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, to waive any formality or irregularity, to make awards to more than one Offeror, and to reject any or all submissions received. After Hidalgo County Commissioners’ Court approves an award, and the awarded Contractor defaults in meeting the general requirements and/or specifications in complying with the contract agreement, Hidalgo County reserves the right to seek the services of the next lowest bidder(s) and/or qualified Offeror(s). In such event, Hidalgo County shall charge the Awarded Vendor the difference for any additional cost of such item. Hidalgo County reserves the right to add or delete items during the term of the contract under the same rates and conditions.

4.7. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS

The County will search a database maintained by the Texas State Comptroller which contains relevant vendor information. A contract may not be entered into with an entity that is identified therein. Search results shall be incorporated for all purposes as part of any resulting agreement entered into by the parties. The Offeror shall follow all federal, state, and local laws, requirements, rules, codes, ordinances, regulations and Hidalgo County Policy & Procedures applicable to their proposed goods and/or services, including, but not limited to those addressed within this procurement packet, the resulting agreement and the following:

4.7.1 Attestation Terrorist Organizations - TEX. GOVT. CODE CH. 2252. Pursuant to the Texas Government Code, including but not limited to Chapter’s 2252, 806 and 807, the Offeror warrants, represents, certifies and attests that, by submitting a response to this procurement packet and/or at the time of execution of this Contract, Agreement, or supplemental agreement thereafter, neither the Offeror, nor any wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, parent company or affiliate of the same (i) engages in business with Iran, Sudan, or any foreign terrorist or (ii) is a company listed by the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts.

4.7.2 Breach of Ethics. Contracts awarded hereunder shall be in compliance with Tex. Loc. Govt. Code Chapter 171: Regulation of Conflicts of Interest of Officers of Municipalities, Counties and Certain Other Local Governments.

It shall be a breach of ethics to offer, give, or agree to give any elected official, department head or employee, or former elected official, department head or employee, of the County, or for any elected official, department head or employee or former elected official, department head or employee of the County, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, entity or organization, a

gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation or any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing, or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or response to a request therefore pending before any department or agency of the County.

It shall be a breach of ethics for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor for any contract for the County, or any person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.

4.7.3 Bonds. If this procurement packet requires submission of bid bond or proposal guarantee, and performance and payment bonds, an explanation of these requirements will be detailed on the Projects Requirements Acknowledgement listed in **Appendix “C”**. Responses submitted without the required bond or cashier's checks may be deemed unresponsive, thus disqualified from participation.

4.7.4 Boycott Energy Companies Verification – TEX. GOVT. CODE 2274. In accordance with changes to the law from the 87th Legislature in 2021, a for-profit company, not including a sole proprietorship, with ten or more full-time employees, is required to verify in writing that it does not boycott energy companies, and it will not boycott energy companies during the term of the Contract, if it is a contract for goods or services that has a value of at least \$100,000 that is paid wholly or partly from public funds of the governmental body. **Written verification may be provided by signing the Legal Notice Declarations page.** Please provide a written notification if your company is unable to provide the written verification referenced above.

As per Tex. Gov't. Code §809.001(1), "Boycott energy company" means “without an ordinary business purpose, refusing to deal with, terminating business activities with, or otherwise taking any action that is intended to penalize, inflict economic harm on, or limit commercial relations with a company because the company: (A) engages in the exploration, production, utilization, transportation, sale, or manufacturing of February 15, 2023 fossil fuel-based energy and does not commit or pledge to meet environmental standards beyond applicable federal and state law; or (B) does business with a company described by Paragraph (A)”.

As per Ch. 2274(c), this verification requirement does not apply to the County if it determines that this requirement is inconsistent with the County's constitutional or statutory duties related to the issuance, incurrence, or management of debt obligations or the deposit, custody, management, borrowing, or investment of funds.

4.7.5 Boycott Israel Verification - TEX. GOVT. CODE 2270. In accordance with the Texas Government Code, including but not limited to Chapters 2270 and 808, a company, other than a sole proprietorship, with ten or more full time employees is required to certify in writing that it does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of the Contract, if the Contract has a value of \$100,000 or more.

4.7.6 Certification Regarding Debarment, Suspension Ineligibility, and Voluntary Exclusion. The Offeror warrants and represents by execution of an award from their response to this procurement packet that it is not debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in any Federal programs, or state assistance, as described under Executive Order 12549, “Debarment and Suspension.” The Offeror agrees to include this certification in all contracts between itself and any subcontractors in

connection with the services performed under any subsequent Contract or Agreement arising from this award. The Offeror also acknowledges that it is their sole responsibility to immediately notify Hidalgo County, in writing, if they or a subcontractor is not in compliance with Executive Order 12549 during the term of this contract. Further, Offeror agrees to refund Hidalgo County for any payments made to the contractor while ineligible. Pursuant to federal regulation 45 CFR Part 76, the Offeror is required to furnish a certification or acknowledgement stating that they are free from suspension and debarment through registration on System for Award Management at <http://www.sam.gov> with their response.

4.7.7 Davis-Bacon Act/Hidalgo County Adopted Prevailing Wage Rate. When applicable, in accordance with Texas Government Code, Chapter 2258, as well as any other applicable laws, any Contractor or Subcontractor performing contracts in excess of \$2,000, for the construction, alteration, or repair (including painting and decorating) of public buildings or public works must pay their laborers and mechanics employed under the contract no less than the locally prevailing wages and fringe benefits for corresponding work on similar projects in the area as per the Davis Bacon Act or the rates adopted by Hidalgo County.

The Offeror warrants and represents that it will pay all its workers all monies earned by its employees including, but not limited to regular wages, any overtime compensation, or any additional payments pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, 29 U.S.C. Section 207 9a(1), as amended; the Texas Pay Day Act; the Equal Pay Act; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. Section 2000e, et al., as amended; and/or any provisions of the Texas Labor Code Ann., as amended, without cost or expenses to the County.

Awarded Vendors, its officers, agents, and/or employees will not be entitled to any benefits of an employee or elected official of Hidalgo County, including, but not limited to, benefits associated with Hidalgo County's civil service system.

4.7.8 Disclosure of Conflict of Interest.

4.7.8.1 As an Offeror. Pursuant to Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 176, an Offeror must disclose an interest between the Offeror, the Offeror's employees and any Hidalgo County employees arising from relationships within the first degree of consanguinity or affinity. A financial interest arises if the County's elected official, department head, or employee, or a member of their family, received any gifts valued in excess of \$250 during the preceding twelve (12) month period, or employment of any County's elected official, department head, or employee, or the County official's family member.

The Offeror shall not use funds to directly or indirectly pay any person for influencing or February 15, 2023 attempting to influence any County employee or official in connection with the awarding of any contract or the extension, continuation, renewal, amendment or modification of any contract.

4.7.8.2 Certificate of Interested Parties (Form 1295). Hidalgo County cannot enter into a contract until Form 1295 is submitted, as Texas law, including, but not limited to Tex. Govt. Code Ch. 2252, Title 1 Tex. Ethics Comm. Rules – Title 1, sec. 46 and the Tex. Admin. Code, requires all parties who enter into any contract with the County which must be approved by its governing body, to disclose all interested parties. Form 1295 must be completed in its entirety through the Texas Ethics Commission at the following website: https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/whatsnew/elf_info_form1295.htm prior to awarding the Contract. Failure to do so may result in delay of award, or deem your response unresponsive, thus disqualified from participation.

4.7.8.3 Collusion. The Offeror affirms that by responding to any solicitation made by Hidalgo County, it has not communicated directly or indirectly the response made to any competitor or any other person engaged in such line of business. Any or all responses may be rejected if the County believes that collusion exists among the Offerors, and/or the County believes prices provided by the Offerors are inappropriately unbalanced. Respondent's Affidavit (Appendix "J") must be included in the response.

4.7.8.4 Consultants Excluded from Competition. An outside Consultant or Contractor is prohibited from submitting a response for goods or services requested on a Hidalgo County project of which the Consultant or Contractor was a designer or other previous contributor, assisted in developing or drafting specifications, requirements, statements of work, or requests for goods and/or services must be excluded from competing for such procurements. If such, a Consultant or Contractor submits a response, that response shall be prohibited, and disqualified on the basis of conflict of interest, no matter when the conflict is discovered by Hidalgo County.

4.7.8.5 Disclosure of Interested Parties (Form CIQ). Offeror must fully disclose the existence of any relationships as defined above in its response to this procurement packet. The Conflict of Interest Questionnaire (CIQ), attached hereto as Appendix "D", must be filed with the Hidalgo County Clerk, located inside the Hidalgo County Courthouse no later than the seventh business day after the date the person becomes aware of facts that require the statement to be filed. Hidalgo County Clerk contact information may be found at <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/161/CountyClerks-Office>. **Completion and submission of Form CIQ is the sole responsibility of the Offeror.** Additionally, the Offeror must immediately notify Hidalgo County if the information provided in its response changes at any time.

4.7.8.6 Disclosure to Report Lobbying. When applicable, pursuant to 31 U.S.C.A. §1352(2003), if at any time during the contract term funding to Contractor exceeds \$100,000.00, Contractor shall file with the County the Federal Standard Form LLL titled "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying" as detailed in Appendix "H".

4.7.9. Discrimination Against Firearm Entities or Trade Associations Verification - Tex. Gov't. Code Ch. 2274. In accordance with changes to the law from the 87th Legislature in 2021, a for-profit company, not including a sole proprietorship, with ten or more full-time employees, is required to verify in writing that it does not have a practice, policy, guidance, or directive that discriminates against a firearm entity or firearm trade association and will not discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association during the term of the Contract, if it is a contract for goods or services that has a value of at least \$100,000 that is paid wholly or partly from public funds of the governmental body. Written verification may be provided by signing the Legal Notice Declaration page. Please provide a written notification if your company is unable to provide the written verification referenced above.

As per Tex. Gov't. Code §2274.001(3), except as otherwise indicated, to "discriminate against a firearm entity or firearm trade association " means "with respect to the entity or association, to: (i) refuse to engage in the trade of any goods or services with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm February 15, 20237entity or firearm trade association; (ii) refrain from continuing an existing business relationship with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association; or (iii) terminate an existing business relationship with the entity or association based solely on its status as a firearm entity or firearm trade association".

As per Ch. 2274, this verification requirement does not apply to the County if it contracts with a sole source provider, does not receive any bids from a company that is able to provide the required written

verification above, or the contract is exempt from compliance under Tex. Gov't. Code sec. 2274.003 relating to the issuance, sale or delivery of notes.

4.7.10 Disqualification of Offeror. By submitting a response to this request, an Offeror offering to sell supplies, materials, services, or equipment to Hidalgo County certifies that the Offeror has not violated the antitrust laws of this state codified in Texas Business and Commerce Code §15.01, et seq., as amended, or the federal antitrust laws. If multiple submissions are made by an Offeror and after they are opened, the Offeror requests to withdraw one of the submissions is requested to be withdrawn, the result will be that all of the responses submitted by that Offeror will be withdrawn; however, nothing herein prohibits an Offeror from submitting multiple responses for different products or services.

4.7.11 Ethical Business Practices. Hidalgo County operates its business ethically and in compliance with the law. We ask that any Offeror, their representative, and/or employee doing business with Hidalgo County, who believes they have witnessed any suspected ethical violation or fraud immediately report the allegations to the Hidalgo County Purchasing Director, 2802 S. BUS HWY 281, Edinburg, TX 78539, (956) 318-2626, ignacio.amezcua@co.hidalgo.tx.us.

Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will conduct a prompt and thorough investigation. At the conclusion of the investigation, Hidalgo County Purchasing Department will refer any suspected criminal activity to the Hidalgo County District Attorney or other appropriate law enforcement agency. Any Offeror who reports suspected ethical violations or fraud can do so without fear of retaliation. Retaliating against any offeror for reporting suspected ethical violations or fraud is strictly prohibited.

4.8. COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS (CONTINUED)

4.8.1 Historically Underutilized Business/Disadvantaged Business Enterprises. The County is committed to ensuring that Historically Underutilized Businesses (HUB) and Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) such as small business enterprises (SBE), minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBE) receive a fair and equal opportunity for participation in the County's procurement process. The County encourages the use of these enterprises both as prime and subcontractors as listed in **Appendix "E"**.

When federal funds are expended by the County, the County will take affirmative steps set forth in 2 CFR200.321 to assure that small, minority, women-owned businesses and labor surplus area owned firms are used when possible. Pursuant to 2 CFR 321, the County requires that a prime contractor who uses subcontractors take affirmative steps set forth in 2 CFR 200.321, including:

- a. Placing qualified small and minority business and women's business enterprises on solicitation lists;
- b. Assuring that small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises are solicited whenever they are potential sources;
- c. Dividing total requirements, when economically feasible, into smaller tasks or quantities to permit maximum participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises;
- d. Establishing delivery schedules, where the requirement permits, which encourage participation by small and minority businesses, and women's business enterprises; and
- e. Using the services and assistance, as appropriate, of such organizations as the Small Business Administration and the Minority Business Development Agency of the Department of Commerce.

f. Nothing in this section is to be construed to require the County to award a contract other than as required by law and Hidalgo County policies and procedures.

When procurement is related to road construction projects with the Texas Department of Transportation February 15, 20237(TxDOT), all respondents must submit their HUB/DBE plans as part of their submission to be qualified to participate.

4.8.2 Independent Contractor. Offeror must comply with all applicable Hidalgo County policies and with any applicable federal, state, or local laws, regulations, orders, or ordinances applicable to the Services provided by Offeror under a contract entered into by the parties. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, Offeror represents and maintains that Offeror is an Independent Contractor and is not an employee of the County, or any agency thereof, and represents and warrants that Offeror does not desire or request any fringe benefits provided to employees of County, and/or any agency of the County, including but not limited to benefits associated with Hidalgo County's Civil Service Program. Any contract entered into between the parties and the performance of the same does not create an agency relationship or master servant relationship. Offeror agrees to be responsible for any federal income tax, withholding or social security tax liability that might arise from payments received under a contract. Offeror will incur no financial obligation on behalf of the County without prior written approval of the County. Offeror will be responsible for all personal and professional expenses, including, but not limited to, membership fees and dues and expenses of attending conventions and meetings. The County will have no right to direct or control the details, manner or means by which Offeror or its affiliates provide the Services, except as otherwise set forth in this packet and/or any contract entered into by the parties. Offeror agrees to not take any action that is detrimental to, or not in the best interest of the County.

4.8.3 Nondiscrimination. By submitting a response to this procurement packet, the Offeror certifies that it will conform to the provisions of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended and related state and federal law. Offeror, during the performance of this contract, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, disability or any other protected class under law (except as allowed in the case of bona fide occupational qualifications).

4.8.4 Texas Public Information Act. The Offeror understands and agrees that Hidalgo County is a governmental body for purposes of the Public Information Act, codified as Chapter 552 of the Texas Government Code and as such is required to release information in accordance with the Public Information Act (the "Act"). Hidalgo County must rely on advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General of the State of Texas relative to the disclosure of data or information. Submissions will be kept confidential in accordance with the Act and applicable law, and **submissions are subject to inclusion into the public record after award.** To the extent permitted by law, Offeror may request in writing non-disclosure of any information that it considers to be confidential, proprietary, and/or trade secret in its submission. Such data shall accompany the submission, be readily separable from the response, and shall be CLEARLY MARKED "**CONFIDENTIAL, PROPRIETARY and/or TRADE SECRET**". Hidalgo County will make reasonable efforts to provide Offeror notice in accordance with the Act in the event the County receives a request for information under the Act for information that the Offeror has marked as indicated above. E-mail addresses provided by Offeror to the County as part of its response to this procurement packet are not confidential. Additionally, Offeror provides its affirmative consent to the disclosure of its email addresses, including from its employees, officers, and agents acting on its behalf, that are provided to Hidalgo County. This consent shall survive termination of this agreement and apply to any e-mail address provided in any form for any reason whether related to this procurement packet or otherwise.

4.8.5 Title VI Notice. The County of Hidalgo, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat.252, 42 U.S.C. §§2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all respondents that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit Bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award. Further, Title VI has been broadened by related statutes, regulations and executive orders as found in Appendices “A” through “E” as attached hereto as Appendix “G”. Offeror agrees to comply with Title VI as may be required. The Hidalgo County Title VI Nondiscrimination Plan may be found at <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/2071/Title-VINondiscrimination-Plan>.

4.9. CONTRACT OBLIGATION

Before a contract becomes binding on Hidalgo County or the Offeror, it must be awarded by the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court, signed by the Hidalgo County Judge, funds for it must be certified by the Hidalgo County Auditor, and an official Hidalgo County Purchase Order must be issued for it by the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department. Elected officials, department heads, other County employees or representatives are NOT authorized to sign agreements for Hidalgo County, unless prior authorization is approved by the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court, or respective governing body. Binding agreements shall remain in effect until all products and/or services covered by this procurement packet have been satisfactorily delivered and accepted.

4.10. CONTRACT RENEWALS

Any extension or renewal of the agreement entered into by the parties are made at the County’s sole discretion and under the same rates, terms and conditions as the initial agreement, or as amended.

4.11. CONTRACT TRANSITION (Grace Period)

In the event services end by either contract expiration or termination, it shall be required that the successful respondent continue services if requested by the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department, until new services can be completely operational. The successful respondent acknowledges its responsibility to cooperate fully with the replacement vendor and Hidalgo County to ensure a smooth and timely transition to the replacement vendor. Such transitional period shall not extend more than sixty (60) days beyond the expiration termination date of the contract, or any extension thereof. The successful respondent shall be reimbursed for services during the transitional period at the rate in effect when the transitional period clause is invoked by Hidalgo County. During any transition period, all other terms and conditions of the contract shall remain in full force and effect as originally written and subsequently amended.

4.12. COST OF GOODS AND SERVICES

Discount payments will be considered when offered. If during the life of any contract, or response awarded, the successful respondent’s net prices generally available to other customers for items awarded herein are reduced below the contracted price, it is understood and agreed that the benefits of such reduction shall be extended to Hidalgo County. Failure by the Vendor to notify the County of a decrease in costs for items and/or supplies for which the Vendor was granted a price adjustment, may result in immediate termination of this contract and the County shall not be obligated to pay the Vendor the difference between the contract price and the price adjustment.

4.13. COUNTY APPROVED HOLIDAYS

The Offeror is advised that official County business will not be conducted on approved County holidays. The link of approved holidays can be found on: <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/115/County-Holidays>.

4.14. EVALUATION

Evaluation shall be used as a determinant as to which proposed items or services are the most efficient and/or most economical for the County, considering all factors which have a bearing on price and performance of the items in the user department's environment. All submissions, except for Requests for Bids, may be subject to evaluations and negotiations by the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department, or authorized Hidalgo County representative as approved by Hidalgo County Commissioners Court, with recommendation to the appropriate governing body. Compliance with all requirements, delivery and needs of the user department are considerations in evaluating the responses received. **Pricing is NOT the only criteria for making a recommendation.** A preliminary evaluation by Hidalgo County will be held and appropriate responses will be subjected to the negotiating process and a request for a Best and Final Offer. Upon completion of the negotiations, Hidalgo County will make an award. All responses that have been submitted shall be available and open for public record after the contract is awarded, except for trade secrets or confidential information contained in the responses and identified as such.

Hidalgo County reserves the right to refuse and reject any or all submissions and to waive any or all formalities or technicalities, or to the qualifications considered the best and most advantageous to Hidalgo County. Additionally, Hidalgo County reserves the right to separate and accept or eliminate any item(s) listed under this procurement packet that it deems necessary to accommodate budgetary or operational requirements.

4.15. FISCAL FUNDING

Hidalgo County has the discretion to utilize grant funding or general funding, however, should grant funding be utilized "Grant Funding" rules will apply. The award of a contract hereunder will not be construed to create a debt of the County which is payable out of funds beyond the current fiscal year. February 15, 2023⁷ Additionally, should funds not be appropriated by the applicable governing body to continue the lease or contract in their sole discretion, said lease or contract shall become null and void on the last day of the current appropriation of funds.

4.15.1 General Funding. A multi-year lease or lease/purchase arrangement, or any contract continuing as a result of an extension option, must include a fiscal funding out provision in the lease or contract. Funds for this procurement have been provided through the County budget for this fiscal year only. Hidalgo County, on an annual basis and at their discretion, has the right to reconsider a contract during the budget process for ensuing years if financial resources of Hidalgo County are insufficient to meet the liabilities of said contract. After expiration of the lease, leased equipment shall be removed by the Vendor from the user department without penalty of any kind or form to Hidalgo County. All charges and physical activity related to delivery, installation, removal and re-delivery shall be the responsibility of the Vendor

4.15.2 Grant Funding. Any contract entered into by the County that is to be paid from grant funds shall be limited to payment from the grant funding, and the Offeror understands that the County has not set aside any County funds for the payment of obligations under a grant contract. If grant funding should become unavailable at any time for the continuation of services paid for by the grant, and further funding cannot be obtained for the contract, then the contract shall be null and void.

Additionally, County contracts subject to assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), require inclusion of the contract terms found in **Appendix “H”**. It is the County’s intention to comply with FEMA requirements; therefore, any conflict in terms should be resolved as such.

4.16. FORCE MAJEURE

If by reason of Force Majeure either Party shall be rendered unable, wholly or in part, to carry out its responsibility under this contract by any occurrence by reason of Force Majeure, then the Party unable to carry out its responsibility shall give the other Party notice and full particulars of such Force Majeure in writing within a reasonable time after the occurrence of the event, and such notice shall suspend the Party’s responsibility for the continuance of the Force Majeure claimed, but for no longer period. Force Majeure means acts of God, floods, hurricanes, tropical storms, tornadoes, earthquakes, or other natural disasters, acts of a public enemy, acts of terrorism, sovereign conduct, riots, civil commotion, strikes or lockouts, and other causes that are not occasioned by either Party’s conduct which by the exercise of due diligence the Party is unable to overcome and which substantially interferes with operations

4.17. GOVERNING LAW

This procurement packet is governed by the competitive bidding requirements of the County Purchasing Act, Texas Local Government Code, §262.021 et seq., as amended. Offerors shall comply with all applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations. Offeror is further advised that these requirements shall be fully governed by the laws of the State of Texas and venue shall be performable in a federal or state court or competent jurisdiction in Hidalgo County, Texas. Hidalgo County may request and rely on advice, decisions and opinions of the Attorney General of Texas and the Hidalgo County District Attorney concerning any portion of these requirements. The County does not agree to binding arbitration and does not waive its right to a jury trial.

4.18. HIPAA COMPLIANCE

When applicable, the Offeror agrees to comply with the requirements of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-191 (codified at 45 C.F.R. Parts 160and164), as amended ("HIPAA"); privacy and security regulations promulgated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services ("DHHS"); Title XIII, Subtitle D of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Pub. L. No. 111-5, as amended ("HITECH Act"); provisions regarding Confidentiality of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Patient Records (codified at 42 C.F.R. Part 2), as amended; and TEX. HEALTH & SAFETY CODE ANN. §§81.046, as amended, 181.001 et seq., as amended, 241.151 et seq., as amended, and 611.001 et seq., as amended collectively referred to as "HIPAA", to the extent that the Offeror uses, discloses or has access to protected health information as defined by HIPAA. Offeror may be required to enter a Business Associate Agreement pursuant to HIPAA.

4.19. INDEMNIFICATION

COMPANY SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD COUNTY, ITS ELECTED OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS HARMLESS FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, ACTIONS, LIABILITY, DAMAGES, LOSSES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING COSTS OF JUDGMENTS, SETTLEMENTS, COURT COSTS, AND ATTORNEYS’ FEES, February 15, 20237REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF SUCH CLAIM OR ACTION) CAUSED BY, RESULTING FROM, OR ALLEGING NEGLIGENT OR INTENTIONAL ACTS OR OMISSIONS OR ANY FAILURE TO PERFORM ANY OBLIGATION UNDERTAKEN OR ANY COVENANT IN THIS CONTRACT, WHETHER SUCH ACT, OMISSION, OR FAILURE WAS THE COMPANY’S OR THAT OF ANY

PERSON PROVIDING SERVICES HEREUNDER THROUGH OR FOR THE COMPANY. UPON WRITTEN NOTICE FROM THE COUNTY, THE COMPANY WILL RESIST AND DEFEND AT ITS OWN EXPENSE, AND BY COUNSEL REASONABLY SATISFACTORY TO COUNTY, ANY SUCH CLAIM OR ACTION. THE COMPANY WILL CARRY PROPER INSURANCE WITH THE COUNTY AS AN ADDITIONAL NAMED INSURED. THIS INDEMNIFICATION CLAUSE SHALL SURVIVE THIS AGREEMENT AND BE ENFORCEABLE AS A SEPARATE AGREEMENT IN THE EVENT ITS SURVIVAL AND ENFORCEMENT BECOME NECESSARY.

4.20. INSPECTIONS & TESTING

Hidalgo County reserves the right to inspect any item(s) or service location for compliance with specifications and requirements and needs of the user department. If an Offeror cannot furnish a sample of a proposed item, where applicable, for review, or fails to satisfactorily show an ability to perform, the County can reject the response as inadequate. The successful respondent shall warrant that all items/services shall conform to the specifications and/or all warranties provided under the Uniform Commercial Code and be free from all defects in material, workmanship and the like. Items supplied under a contract pursuant to this procurement packet shall be subject to the County's approval. Items found to be defective or not meeting specifications shall be replaced by the successful Offeror within two (2) business days at no expense to the County. Items that are not picked up within one (1) week after notification shall be deemed a donation to the County and may be used or disposed of at the County's discretion, without waiver of any other rights of the County as to the items' nonconformity.

4.21. INSURANCE

Contractor shall procure and maintain, with respect to the subject matter of this procurement packet, appropriate insurance coverage including, as a minimum, public liability and property damage with adequate limits to cover contractor's liability as may arise directly or indirectly from work performed under terms of this procurement packet. Certification of such coverage must be provided to the County as part of this response. (See Appendix "C": Insurance Requirements). Prior to award, Hidalgo County must be listed as a Certificate Holder to the policies.

4.22. LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Offeror should submit any agreement for products and/or services which may be required by their organization to enter into a contract with Hidalgo County. The awarded vendor will be required to execute an agreement with Hidalgo County which finalizes the terms and conditions set forth in their response, best and final offer, and any negotiations between the Offeror and Hidalgo County. The agreement is subject to review and amendment by the Hidalgo County District Attorney's Office.

4.23. MAINTENANCE

Maintenance required for equipment proposed should be available in Hidalgo County by a manufacturer-authorized maintenance facility. Costs for this service shall be shown on Appendix "B". If Hidalgo County opts to include maintenance, it shall be so stated in the purchase order and said cost will be included. Service will commence only upon expiration of applicable warranties and should be priced accordingly.

4.24. MARKET VOLATILITY AND UNIT PRICE ADJUSTMENTS

When applicable, Hidalgo County recognizes that during periods of national crisis and unstable economic conditions, unforeseen price increase might affect costs for goods and services contracted on an annual

basis. As such, upon written request of the Vendor to the County Purchasing Agent, the County may review evidence of prevailing industry-wide market conditions that may warrant an adjustment in bid prices contained in the contract. When applicable, the following procedure and conditions may be employed to mediate price volatility:

- A Vendor shall:
 - make its Market Volatility and Unit Price Adjustment request in writing to the County Purchasing Agent.
 - tie any price change clause to an industry-wide or otherwise nationally recognized index, or some other form of verifiable document. Such written request must be accompanied by a certified copy of the supplier's advisory or notification to the Vendor of the price changes.
 - put the Purchasing Agent on the mailing lists for such publications so that the Purchasing Agent can monitor said changes. Such membership shall be at no cost to the County.
 - notify the County at the time when the Vendor's costs for items, supplies, and or services reduce due to stabilization in the market at which time prices for items on this contract shall be reduced accordingly. Failure by the Vendor to notify the County of a decrease in costs for items and/or supplies for which the Vendor was granted a price adjustment, may result in immediate termination of this contract and the County shall not be obligated to pay the Vendor the difference between the contract price and the price adjustment.
- Price adjustment reviews may only be requested by the Vendor on a quarterly basis; however, the County may at its own discretion, conduct temporary price adjustment reviews at any time.
- The County Purchasing Agent retains the right to determine whether or not such proposed price changes are in the best interest of the County.
- The County may only grant a price increase if the evidence presented is deemed reliable.
- No price escalation will be authorized in excess of the amount of the increase referred to in the supplier's notice.
- The total increase in contract price shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the original contract price during the contract term.
- Should the County allow a price increase, the approved price change shall be honored for all orders received by the vendor or contractor after the effective date of such price change. Approved price changes are not applicable to orders already issued and in process at time of price change.
- Price increases are only valid for the quarter in which they are requested and approved.
- Prices shall return to the original contract price at the beginning of the following quarter unless a Vendor notifies the County in writing within ten (10) days of expiration of the quarter in which the price increase is in effect, that it desires to have the price increase continue or that the Vendor is requesting a different price increase for the following quarter. Such request must be

supplemented with sufficient justification to demonstrate that the price increase remains necessary. The County Purchasing Department shall have sole discretion whether to grant the price increase extension.

- The County Purchasing Agent and/or the County Auditor reserve the right to audit and/or examine any pertinent books, documents, papers, records or invoices relating directly to the contract transaction in question after reasonable notice and during normal business hours.
- The County too, shall have discretion to unilaterally reduce, eliminate or extend a price adjustment to the Vendor at any time upon written notice from the County to the Vendor demonstrating justification for such reduction, elimination or extension of the price adjustment.

4.25. MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEETS

Under the "Hazardous Communication Act", commonly known as the "Texas Right to Know Act", an Offeror must provide to the County with each delivery, safety data sheets which are applicable to hazardous substances defined in the Act. Failure of the Offeror to furnish the required documentation will be cause to reject any response applying thereto.

4.26. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR RESPONSIBLE PROSPECTIVE RESPONDENTS

With their submitted response, the Offeror must affirmatively demonstrate their responsibility as listed on **Appendix "A"**. A prospective respondent, by submitting a response, represents to County that it meets the requirements listed.

4.27. NAME BRANDS

Specifications may reference name brands and model numbers. It is not the intent of Hidalgo County to restrict or preclude competition in any way, but to establish a desired quality level of merchandise or to meet a pre-established standard due to like existing items. Offerors may offer items of equal stature and the burden of proof of such stature rests with Offerors. Hidalgo County shall act as sole judge in determining equality and acceptability of products offered.

4.28. NEW MILLENNIUM COMPLIANCE

All products and/or services furnished as part of this contract must be compliant for the present year and forward. This applies to all computers including hardware and software as well as all other commodities with date sensitive embedded chips.

4.29. PAYMENT UNDER CONTRACT

If the contract is for \$50,000 or less, no money will be paid to the contractor until completion and acceptance of the work or the fulfillment of the purchase obligation to the County, and, if applicable, the receipt by County of satisfactory evidence that all subcontractors and material men have been paid.

4.30. PERFORMANCE ENFORCEMENT

Hidalgo County reserves the right to enforce performance of any contract, agreement, supplemental agreement, as amended, or participation in the professional services pool, in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the County. Hidalgo County reserves the right to terminate the

contract awarded hereunder in any manner prescribed by law or deemed to be in the best interest of the County immediately in the event of breach or default by a successful respondent, including, but not limited to failure to maintain qualifications, meet schedules, pay any required fees or taxes, or otherwise failing to perform in accordance with the requirements of this procurement packet.

4.31. POST-AWARD DELIVERY INSTRUCTIONS

Title and Risk of Loss of goods shall not pass to Hidalgo County until Hidalgo County actually receives and takes possession of the goods at the point or points of delivery. Receiving times may vary with the user department. Generally, deliveries may be made between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on County approved holidays. The Offeror is advised to consult the user department for instructions, and be given at least seventy-two (72) hours prior notice of delivery, if applicable, before delivery will be accepted. The place of delivery shall be identified in the Requirements/Specifications attached hereto as **Appendix "A"** of this procurement packet and/or on the Purchase Order as a "Deliver To:" address.

4.32. POST-AWARD INVOICES AND PAYMENTS

Offerors shall submit an original, itemized invoice on company letterhead with their company name and address, detailing the deliverable(s) of goods and/or services provided, the respective price, product code, item number, quantity, etc. per line item, the name of receiving/requesting department or elected office, the delivery address, the awarded vendor's contract number, and issued purchase order number. Any invoice, which cannot be verified by the contract price and/or is otherwise incorrect, will be returned to the Offeror for correction. Under term contracts, when multiple deliveries and/or services are required, the Offeror may invoice following each delivery and the County will pay on invoice. Contracts providing for a monthly charge will be billed and paid on a monthly basis only. All payments are subject to compliance with the Texas Prompt Payment Act.

Deliverables or services will be considered complete only upon written acceptance by Hidalgo County. Nocharges may be billed to Hidalgo County unless such costs are explicitly included in the agreement or contract. For billing and payment questions please contact the Hidalgo County Auditor's Office, 2808 S. Business Hwy. 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539, (956) 318-2511.

4.33. PROCEDURES FOR VENDOR PROTEST

Any potential Offeror has the right to protest a solicitation packet or contract award. Details for these procedures can be found on our County website: <https://www.hidalgocounty.us/143/Purchasing-Department>. The Vendor also understands that an awarded contract may immediately become void if the County determines that a lack of compliance with applicable policies and/or statutes has occurred at any time, whether in the procurement process, or after award.

4.34. PROCUREMENT PACKET FORM COMPLETION

When submitting procurement packet response, Respondents must follow the procedures and requirements provided within the procurement packet, including, but not limited to those found in the Invitation Letter, Submission Details and Procurement Overview. An authorized representative of the Offeror should complete all necessary response documentation. **Failure to complete required forms or provide required information and/or to follow procedures and/or requirements may be cause to reject the entire response.**

4.35. PROCUREMENT PACKET SUBMISSION

Offeror must comply with the following procurement packet submission procedures.

4.35.1 Offeror must submit all completed responses in accordance with the provisions, procedures and requirements provided within the procurement packet, including, but not limited to those found in the Invitation Letter, Submission Details and Procurement Overview by the date and time indicated therein. **Failure to follow packet submission requirements may be cause to reject the entire response. Late submissions will not be accepted for any reason.**

4.35.2 Supplemental Materials. Offerors are responsible for including all pertinent product data in the submitted response to this procurement packet. Literature, brochures, data sheets, specification information, completed forms requested as part of the procurement packet and any other facts which may affect the evaluation and subsequent contract award should be included. Materials such as legal documents and contractual agreements, which the Offeror wishes to include as a condition of the submission, must also be in the submitted response. Failure to include all necessary and proper supplemental materials may be cause to reject the entire response.

4.36. PROOF OF BUSINESS

Offeror must be in business under its current name and in its current form (e.g., proprietorship, Chapter S Corporation). Information to be included as part of the Vendor Application, **Appendix “E”**.

4.37. PURCHASE ORDER AND DELIVERY

The successful Offeror shall not deliver products or provide services without a Hidalgo County Purchase Order, signed by the Hidalgo County Purchasing Director, or an authorized agent of the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department. When applicable, the fastest, most reasonable delivery time shall be indicated by the Offeror in the proper place on **Appendix “B”**. Any special information concerning delivery should also be included, on a separate sheet, if necessary. All items shall be shipped **F.O.B. INSIDE DELIVERY** unless otherwise stated in the specifications. This shall be understood to include bringing merchandise to the appropriate room or place designated by the user department. Every tender or delivery of goods must fully comply with all provisions of these requirements and the specifications including time, delivery and quality. Nonconformance shall constitute a breach which must be rectified prior to expiration of the time for performance. Failure to rectify within the performance period will be considered cause to reject future deliveries and cancellation of the contract by Hidalgo County, without prejudice to other remedies provided by law. **Where delivery times are critical, Hidalgo County reserves the right to award accordingly.**

Goods and/or Services must not be provided and **invoices will not be paid** without a purchase order signed by the Hidalgo County Purchasing Director.

4.38. QUALIFICATIONS OF OFFEROR

Offeror’s failure to qualify or maintain qualifications throughout the term of this agreement shall release Hidalgo County from all obligations to the Offeror with regard to the services. In such an event, Hidalgo County may elect to engage another qualified firm or reject all submissions and re-advertise.

4.39. RECYCLED MATERIALS

Hidalgo County encourages the use of products made of recycled materials and shall give preference in purchasing to products made of recycled materials if the products meet applicable specifications as to quantity and quality. Hidalgo County will be the sole judge in determining product preference application.

4.40. REFERENCES

If applicable, Offeror must provide a total of four (4) references in each response to a solicitation requested by Hidalgo County. **One of the four references listed should be of a project that was canceled. If Offeror has not had a project canceled, then please indicate so.** Offeror may provide this in form of Reference Letters from other individual(s)/entities or local government entities for whom the Offeror has provided similar services in the past twenty-four (24) months as demonstration of their prior experience, or if Offeror prefers, may utilize the Reference Form **Appendix “M”**. Letters or reference sheet must include the following information:

- Organization/Client Name/Government Entity (Include population of any local governmental entity – some procurements may require a specific population).
- Name of Contact Person
- Contact Telephone, Address, and Email
- Name of Project
- Scope of Work
- Contract Period
- Budget Project Amount; Actual Project Amount
- Expected project timeframe; actual project timeframe
- Include contact information for one (1) client that services have been canceled, and a description of why the project was canceled. If Offeror has not had a project canceled, then please indicate so.

4.41. SCANNED OR RE-TYPED RESPONSE

If in its response, Offeror either electronically scans, re-types, or in some way reproduces the County's published procurement packet, then in the event of any conflict between the terms and provisions of the County's published procurement packet, or any portion thereof, and the terms and provisions of the response made by the Offeror, the County's procurement packet **as published** shall control. Furthermore, if an alteration of any kind to the County's published procurement packet is only discovered after the contract is executed and is or is not being performed; the contract is subject to immediate cancellation. Regardless of how an Offeror requested or received a copy of this procurement packet to prepare a response, **the response must be submitted according to the instructions contained within this procurement packet.**

4.42. SEVERABILITY

If any section, subsection, paragraph, sentence, clause, phrase, or word of these requirements or the specifications shall be held invalid, such holding shall not affect the remaining portions of these requirements and the specifications and it is hereby declared that such remaining portions would have been included in these requirements and the specifications as though the invalid portion had been omitted.

4.43. SILENCE OF SPECIFICATIONS

The apparent silence of specifications as to any detail, or the apparent omission from it of a detailed description concerning any point, shall be regarded as meaning that only the best commercial practice is to prevail and that only material and workmanship of the finest quality are to be used. All interpretations of specifications shall be made on the basis of this statement. The items furnished under this contract shall be new, unused of the latest product in production to commercial trade and shall be of the highest quality as to materials used and workmanship. Manufacturer furnishing these items shall be experienced in design and construction of such items and shall be an established supplier of the item proposed.

4.44. SUBCONTRACTING

Vendor may not subcontract services to another firm without prior written request detailing goods and/or services that are to be subcontracted, and approval of said written request by Hidalgo County Commissioners Court, or applicable governing body.

4.45. TAXES

Hidalgo County is exempt from all federal excise, state, and local taxes unless otherwise stated in this document. Hidalgo County claims exemption from all sales and/or use taxes under Texas Tax Code §151.309, as amended. Offerors are not to include tax in any cost figures (including in any supplemental project specific contracts applicable to pools). If it is determined that tax was included in the cost figure it will not be included in the tabulation of any supplemental project specific awards. Texas Limited Sales Tax Exemption Certificates will be furnished upon written request to the Hidalgo County Purchasing Department, and signed by the Agent, or authorized Purchasing Department representative.

4.46. TERM OF CONTRACTS

If the contract is intended to cover a specific time period, the term will be specified in the **Procurement Overview**. Awarded contract will be in effect until (a) the term expires, or (b) participation is terminated by County with thirty (30) days written notice prior to cancellation with or without cause. Any supplemental project-specific contract award to a successful respondent will be in effect until (a) the contract expires, (b) delivery and acceptance of products, and/or performance of services ordered, or (c) terminated by the County with thirty (30) days written notice prior to cancellation with or without cause, unless otherwise stated in the executed agreement.

4.47. TERMINATION

Hidalgo County reserves the right to terminate the contract for default if Offeror breaches any of the terms therein, including warranties of Offeror or if the Offeror becomes insolvent or commits acts of bankruptcy. Such right of termination is in addition to and not in lieu of any other remedies which Hidalgo County may have in law or equity. Default may be construed as, but not limited to, failure to deliver the proper goods and/or services within the proper amount of time, and/or to properly perform any and all services required to Hidalgo County's satisfaction and/or to meet all other obligations and

requirements. Hidalgo County may terminate the contract without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice, unless otherwise stated in the executed agreement.

4.48. TERMINATION FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY VIOLATIONS

Hidalgo County has the option to terminate this contract immediately without prior notice if Offeror fails to perform any of its obligations in this contract if the failure (a) created a potential threat to health or safety or (b) violated a law, ordinance, or regulation designed to protect health or safety.

4.49. USAGE REPORTS

Hidalgo County reserves the right to request, and receive at no additional cost during the yearly contract period, a usage report detailing the services furnished to date under an agreement resulting from this procurement packet. The reports must be furnished no later than five (5) business days after written request and itemize all purchases to date by Hidalgo County department, description of each service purchased, quantity of each service purchased, per unit cost and total amount of all services purchased.

4.50. WAIVER OF SUBROGATION

Offeror and Offeror's insurance carrier waive any and all rights whatsoever with regard to subrogation against Hidalgo County as an indirect party to any suit arising out of personal or property damages resulting from Offeror's performance under any award resulting from award from this procurement packet.

4.51. WARRANTIES

Offerors shall furnish all data pertinent to warranties or guarantees which may apply to items in the response to this procurement packet. Offeror may not limit or exclude any implied warranties. Further, Offeror warrants that product sold to the County shall conform to the standards established by the U.S. Department of Labor under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In the event product does not conform to OSHA Standards, where applicable, Hidalgo County may return the product for correction or replacement at the Offeror's expense. If Offeror fails to make the appropriate correction within a reasonable time, Hidalgo County may correct at the Offeror's expense.

4.52. CIVIL WORKS, CONSTRUCTION & PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS

Provisions of Tex. Govt. Code Ch. 2269 as amended by HB 2581 of the 87th Texas Legislature applicable to Civil Works and Construction Projects are hereby incorporated. Provisions of Texas Local Govt. Code Ch. 271, subchapter B applicable to competitive bidding on certain public works projects are hereby incorporated.

5. APPENDIX A - REQUIREMENTS/SPECIFICATIONS

5.1. PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

Respondents can find the Requirements, Specifications under [#ATTACHMENTS](#)

Appendix - A
Specifications/Requirements
HIDALGO COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT
“MAIL-OUT VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES”
RFSQ: 23-0390-10-30-05

The required contents and limitations for the preparation of the RFSQ are described in this section. Failure to provide the requested information or adhere to any County limitations may result in disqualification of the submitted response.

Section I: Executive Summary/ Required Documents (limited to 2 pages)

This section should demonstrate the respondent's understanding of the project needs, the work required, and any identify and local issues or concerns to demonstrate the Companies familiarity with the geographical area of County of Hidalgo.

Section II: VENDOR INFORMATION (Limit 5 pages)

- a. **Vendor History** - This section should include Vendor’s history, background, experiences and qualifications demonstrating the company competency and experience in, but not limited to the specialty areas listed in the Scope of Services, and relative projects located within Hidalgo County or in this general region of the state. The experience listed should include a description of the vendors most recent and varied projects, and identify key challenges, and the vendor’s solution to overcome such challenges.
- b. **References** – This section should list four (4) references, other than past or present employees of Hidalgo County, who can verify your performance as a Vendor within the past 24 months. Performance includes, but not limited to, sales and/or services, delivery, invoicing, and other items as may be required for Hidalgo County to determine Respondent’s ability to provide the intended goods and/or service of this procurement packet. Hidalgo County prefers references to be from Government customers. The name, address and phone number of the person(s) listed should be the one most closely associated with your company’s performance on that specific project. References must be able to verify the quality of service Respondent’s company provide and that the Respondent has completed a project of similar size and scope of work in this solicitation. Inaccurate, obsolete or negative responses from the listed references could result in rejection of your response. **One of the four references listed should be of a project that was canceled with a description of why the project was canceled.** Failure to supply the required references may deem your response as non-responsive and will not be considered for award.

Respondent’s involvement with reference checks is not permitted. Only Hidalgo County Purchasing Department or authorized designees will conduct reference checks. Any deviation to this may result in rejection of your response. You may use your own format, or use the Reference Form included as **Appendix “M”**.

Section III: Specifications/ Requirements

It is the intent of Hidalgo County to contract the vendor that has experience working at minimum, three (3) previous mass mail outs and is most qualified to provide all materials, supplies, equipment, tools and services. The qualified vendor must be physically located within a 250-300 mile radius of the Hidalgo County Elections Department and must personally oversee labor and supervision of the **printing** and **mail out** of the voter registration cards as specified herein. In accordance with the Texas Election Code Section 31.003, this directive establishes the requirements for voter registrars to issue voter registration certificates including; but not limited to the following:

Item I: Approximately **390,000 Printed**, perforated well and Mail-Out Voter Registration Certificates; any leftover stock needs to be perforated well and delivered to the Elections Department.

Item II: Additional **150,000 Blank** Voter Registration Certificates must be perforated well and delivered to the Elections Department.

Item III: Deliver Voter Registration Certificates to the Edinburg Texas Post Office located at: 410 South Jackson Rd, Edinburg, Texas 78539, utilizing the Election Department's Permit Number (to be provided to the awarded vendor). The Additional Blank Voter Registration Certificates **must be delivered to the Elections Department** located at: 213 S. Closner Blvd., Edinburg, Texas 78539, **on the same day as the mail out. Samples of the certificate with the correct number of squares must be included by the vendors with the Hidalgo County Elections Department Information in your packet as per the Specifications.**

(See enclosed: Sample I-Printed Certificate and Sample II-Blank Certificate.

- **Samples must be included with your packet as per the Specifications.**

CERTIFICATE INFORMATION:

- Hidalgo County is requesting bids for approximately **390,000** Voter Registration Certificates to be printed and mailed with barcodes and variable data as specified by the Texas Secretary of State Directive and to include a Quick Response Code (QR Code) that links to the Elections Website. Certificates are to be cut sheet laser print and any leftover stock needs to be perforated well and delivered to the Elections Department.
- The certificate has been designed to meet the content requirements of Texas Election Code Sections 15.001, 15.002, and 15.003, bilingual requirements of the Federal Voting Rights Act, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 1973aa-1a, the mailing requirements of Texas Election Code Sections 14.001 and 14.002, and regulations of the United States Postal Service regarding size, thickness of paper, address placement and postage.
- Various other exigencies such as horizontal and vertical spacing for computers have been considered. To avoid any possible violations of state or federal law, no change to the specifications of the certificate, as provided by this directive, may be made without prior written approval by Hidalgo County and the Office of the Secretary of State of Texas.
- The layout of the certificate must be exactly as shown on the sample. If a laser printer is used, the certificates must be printed on an 8-½" x 14" with a 1" gripper at the top and a 1 ¼" margin on the left side of the paper.

COLOR AND PAPER SPECIFICATIONS:

- The color for the **2024-2025** Certificate is: **Pantone 107U (Yellow) at 100% solid.** The stock is white index or the equivalent. To meet postal requirements, the paper must be **at least** .007" thick and not more than .016" thick.
- The sample attached is printed on #110 Index. When the paper is manufactured, there can be a variance in the thickness of the paper, so the paper must be meet postal requirements for calibration.

- The front side of the certificate is to be printed with **Pantone 107U (Yellow) at 100% solid**. The language on the certificates will be in black ink. Using the **Pantone 107U (Yellow) at 100% solid** ink to “color” the paper will ensure that all certificates are printed uniformly across the state.
- The back side of the certificate may be printed either with the **Pantone 107U (Yellow) at 100% solid** or left plain white. The sample attached shows the area that is to be printed in **Pantone 107U (Yellow) at 100% solid**. (Note the **Pantone 107U (Yellow) at 100% solid** will change every two years; and will be submitted to the contractor at the renewal time, if required)

PRINTING OF NEW VOTER REGISTRATION CERTIFICATES:

Phase I: Design of laser overlay and printing Voter Registration Certificate:

- a) The awarded vendor will provide professional design assistance for the master overlay and assistance for the overlay placement of data on voter registration certificate form based on the State of Texas.
- b) Size: 4-1/8”x 6” Voter Registration Certificates;
- c) Certificates per page: **Four (4)** Perforated well Voter Registration Certificates on blank, legal landscape of 8.5”x 14” sheet of paper;
- d) Color: Certificate must be **Pantone 107U (Yellow) at 100% solid**;
- e) **Vendor must produce and provide a sample (mockup) of a Voter Registration Certificate with bid package**; samples of the certificate with the correct number of squares must be included by the vendors with the Hidalgo County Elections Department information in the packet.

Phase II: Laser Processing of Voter Registration Certificates:

The contractor will process data received from Hidalgo County Elections Department through point of contact, Jairo Briones, Accounts Payable Specialist III, on CD-ROM or through email.

Phase III: Mail Processing of Voter Registration Certificates:

Hidalgo County will supply 100% of the postage. The Contractor will maintain and present to Hidalgo County, postage receipts records that include the U.S. Postal Carrier Route Code and Zip+4 and 2-digit destination code plus the check digit for CASS provide postal qualification that will guarantee the lowest postal rate possible for the Voter Registration Certificates.

Postage: Mail Via First Class Mail (Postage fees shall not be included in Cost of bidding schedule);

- a) Mail service to include: Addressing, Collating, Packaging, Sorting and Delivery to the Edinburg Texas Post Office; the awarded vendor will be provided the Elections Department’s Postal Permit number.
- b) CASS (Coding Accuracy Support System) certify and PAVE (Presort Accuracy, Validation and Evaluation) Presort cards to yield maximum postage savings;
- c) Bar Code Report must be provided to Hidalgo County;

TERM OF CONTRACT:

1. Awarded vendor must start mail-out of certificates on or after November 15, 2023, but before December 6, 2023, as per Texas Election Code, Chapter 14, Section 14.001 and/or guidance provided by the Texas Secretary of State.
2. Awarded vendor must be prepared to commence printing of the **390,000** certificates upon award of bid

and receipt of an approved purchase order.

3. Awarded vendor shall be responsible for compliance with any changes or modifications to State laws affecting this bid and for complying with all revised deadlines required by federal, state or local laws that may come into effect during the term of the contract.
4. Hidalgo County reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period at the end of the contract term for unforeseen delay in award of new bid for next contract term.
5. County will seek purchases from state awarded vendors whenever it is in its best interest to do so.
6. Any contract awarded to a successful bidder will be in effect until;
 - The contract expires
 - Delivery acceptance of products and/or performance of services ordered, or
 - Terminated by County with thirty (30) days written notice prior to the cancellation.
7. Hidalgo County reserves the right to award to the lowest qualified bid to one bidder or to multiple bidders if the County determines it is in the best interest to do so.
8. Insurance requirements for this project to be maintained throughout the contract term (Refer to limits on the Exhibit “C” for limits).
9. Hidalgo County reserves the right to reject any/all bids, to waive any/all formalities or technicalities, or to accept the bid considered the best and most advantageous to the County.
10. Hidalgo County reserves the right to hold bids for a period of ninety (90) days without taking any action.
11. After bid is awarded and low bidder(s) default(s) in meeting the terms and conditions of this bid and/or comply with the contractual agreement, Hidalgo County reserves the right to seek services from the next lowest bidder(s) or other vendor. In such event, County shall charge the successful bidder(s) the difference for any additional cost of such item(s).

BID PAGE

NIGP CODE: 966-76 (Internal use only)

In order for your Bid to be considered, Appendix “B” must be completely filled out and submitted in your return Bid response, INCOMPLETE OR ALTERED submittals may be a probable cause for disqualification.

Estimated Quantity	Description	Cost DO NOT INCLUDE Postage Fee or delivery fee in cost
ITEM I: Approximately 390,000	Vendor must provide all labor, materials, design assistance, laser processing of the Voter Registration Certificates, including Addressing, Sorting, Collating and Deliver - to Edinburg Texas Post Office. (As per Appendix “A”).	\$ _____
ITEM II: Additional 150,000	Printing of Blank Voter Registration Certificates Deliver - to Elections Department located at:213 S. Closner Blvd, Edinburg, Texas 78539, on the same day as the mail out. (As per Appendix “A”).	\$ _____
TOTAL BID PRICE: \$ (Do Not Include Postage Fee and/or Delivery fee in Total Bid Price)		
DELIVERY FEES	To the Edinburg Texas Post Office	\$ _____
	To the Election’s Department	\$ _____
<p>Awarded vendor commits to complete mail-out of the voter registration renewal certificates to all voters in the County in active status whose registration is effective on or before December 31, 2023 between November 15, 2023 and December 6, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">_____ Yes _____ No</p>		

****NOTE: BID AWARD WILL BE MADE IN THE AGGREGATE;
THEREFORE VENDOR MUST BID ALL ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED
FOR AN AWARD.**

6. ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION DOCUMENTS

- Companies/Firms must complete the following sections.
- Please proceed with completing all sections. Required documentation will need to be downloaded, completed, and uploaded.
- **Failure to submit a complete response may result in the rejection of the response as non-conforming.**

6.1. I confirm that I will be submitting my response electronically.*

Please confirm and proceed with the electronic submission requirements.

Please confirm

*Response required

6.2. APPENDIX B

6.2.1. BID PAGE*

I confirm that as part of my submission, I will download the documentation attached, complete, and upload.

- [Bid Page.pdf](#)

*Response required

6.3. APPENDIX C

6.3.1. PROOF OF INSURANCE*

Insurance Requirements

Applicable to the Acquisition of Goods and/or Services

(Other than Professional Services)

The Bidder awarded the contract shall furnish proof of insurance, which will also include any subcontractor that is subcontracted by the bidder in at least the following limits, to be in place prior to providing any services under this Contract and to continue at all times in force in effect during the term of this Contract and any extension hereof:

1. **Comprehensive General Liability insurance** policy with limits of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$500,000.00) providing additional coverage to all underlying liabilities of County. Policy shall cover, but not be limited to, Bidder's activities in providing the Services for County; all persons, vehicles, equipment connected with providing Services; and theft or loss of Bidder's property.
2. **Automobile liability insurance** policy, covering all owned, non-owned or hired/leased automobiles, with limits of at least Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) per person and Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) per occurrence. Coverage should include injury to or death of persons and property damage claims with limits up to five Hundred Thousand (\$500,000.00) arising out of the services provided to County hereunder.

3. **Uninsured/Underinsured motorist coverage** in an amount equal to the auto liability limits set forth immediately above;

4. **Workers Compensation Insurance:** Workers Compensation insurance in amounts established by Texas law, unless the Bidder is specifically exempted from the Texas Workers Compensation Act, Texas Labor Code Chapter 401, et. seq. Workers Compensation policies must include other States Endorsement to include TEXAS if the business is domiciled outside the State of Texas.

- Bidder shall obtain and maintain any and all other insurances which may be necessary in providing the good/service applicable to this procurement or are otherwise required by law.
- Any and all insurance policies shall be in amounts prescribed by law or otherwise specified by the County, but in no event less than the minimum amounts prescribed by law.

Additional Insurance Requirements:

- A. Bidder shall furnish to County certificate(s) of insurance, and all renewals throughout the duration of the Project, issued by the insurer that such insurance is in full force and effect.
- B. Certificates of insurance shall be submitted to County for approval prior to any services being performed by Bidder.
- C. **Hidalgo County will only accept certificates of insurance on an Acord form (below).**
- D. For each policy, except Workers' Compensation, Bidder shall name the County as an additional insured.
- E. Each policy of insurance required hereunder shall extend for a period equivalent to, or longer than the term of the Contract, and any insurer hereunder shall be required to give at least thirty (30) days written notice to the County prior to the cancellation of any such coverage on the termination date, or otherwise.
- F. This Contract shall be automatically suspended upon the cancellation, or other termination, of any required policy of insurance hereunder, and such suspension shall continue until evidence of adequate replacement coverage is provided to County. If replacement coverage is not provided within thirty (30) days following suspension of the Contract, this Contract shall automatically terminate.
- G. All insurance policies will be endorsed to provide a waiver of subrogation in favor of the County.
- H. County reserves the right to review the insurance requirements of this section during the effective period of the contract and to require adjustment of insurance coverage and their limits when deemed necessary and prudent by County based upon changes in statutory law, court decisions, or the claims history of the industry as well as the Bidder.
- I. Insurance policies shall be obtained at Bidder's sole expense. County does not maintain and will not obtain insurance of any type to protect Bidder against loss, damage or injury that may in any way result from Bidders performance of the services.

- J. In no event shall the County be liable for any loss, damage to or destruction of any property belonging to the Bidder.
- K. Bidder is responsible for ensuring all required insurance policies are valid for the duration of the contract.
- L. All insurance policies are to be issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of Texas and acceptable to County.
- M. Bidder shall make any other insurance documentation available to County upon request.

Please provide or upload your Certificate of Liability Insurance depending on your method of submission.

*Response required

6.3.2. *INSURANCE REQUIREMENT ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

I, an authorized representative for of my company, the company submitting this response, hereby acknowledge receipt of the County's required insurance limits. Said requirements:

- will be acquired within 10 working days after notification from Purchasing Department of award of the project by the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court;
- will acquire additional amount needed to meet the County's requirements within 10 working days after notification from Purchasing Department of award of the project by the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court; currently carry the following:
 - Professional Liability (Errors & Omissions)
 - Automobile Liability
 - General Liability
- have already been met, see attached copy of certificate of insurance.

Notice to Bidder:

A certificate of insurance for the required insurance limits shall be provided to the Purchasing Department in order to qualify for award of the project and to execute a contract between your Company and the County.

Failure to provide Certificates of Insurance to the Purchasing Department's Contract Managers will cause the award of the project to be rescinded and then re-awarded to next qualified vendor. Certificates of Insurance will be monitored and verified on a **quarterly basis** to ensure coverage policy is in place. It is the Company's obligation to maintain the appropriate insurance coverage throughout the term of the contract.

Please confirm

*Response required

6.4. *APPENDIX E*

6.4.1. *VENDOR ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Please read and acknowledge the required steps necessary to do business with Hidalgo County:

Step 1:

OpenGov will now serve as the primary source for all Hidalgo County solicitation postings, electronic bidding, and contract management. Any reliance on other information or sources not directly downloaded from OpenGov may result in a submission that is not in compliance.

Link can be found below:

-<https://procurement.opengov.com/portal/co-hidalgo-tx>

Step 2:

ConsiderMe (Vendor Enrollment Solution) is an innovative tool that facilitates the needs of Hidalgo County to secure qualified vendors. Local, state, and national vendors can apply using the vendor registration form in the link below.

-<https://www.hidalgocounty.us/2912/Potential-Vendors-ConsiderMe>

*The Vendor Registration Form does not guarantee a contract or agreement, however, it does guarantee your service or goods will be added to the list of potential vendors available to Hidalgo County.

Please confirm

*Response required

6.4.2. SAM.GOV REGISTRATION*

Please enter your company's Legal Name and/or dba Name

*Response required

6.4.3. FORM 1295*

Please provide a Form 1295.

- <https://www.ethics.state.tx.us/filinginfo/QuickFileAReport.php>
- Reference the number 23-0390 and Mail-Out Voter Registration Certificates on section 3 of the form.
- Be sure to complete section 6 of the form, in order to be valid.

*Response required

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF HIDALGO §

CONTRACT FOR SERVICE
C-23-0390-XX-XX

THIS CONTRACT is made and entered into this [redacted] day of [redacted] 20[redacted], by and between the **County of Hidalgo, Texas** by and through the **Hidalgo County Commissioners Court** (the "County"), and [redacted] ("Company").

WHEREAS, County requested responses to notices for Request for [redacted] RF([redacted]) for: "**(Type of Services)**" for the County (the "Services"). A copy of the procurement packet, including applicable specifications, is attached hereto as **Exhibit "A"** (the "**Procurement Packet**"), and is incorporated herein for all purposes;

WHEREAS, Company submitted a response to provide services in accordance with the specifications as proposed. A copy of the Company's response to the Procurement Packet is attached hereto as **Exhibit "B"** (the "**Response**"), and is incorporated herein for all purposes;

WHEREAS, County has determined that Company has submitted the lowest and best bid to meet County's requirements for the Service, as herein described.

WHEREAS, Company represents that it is qualified and desires to perform such services; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of and in consideration of Company's agreement to perform the Services in accordance with the Procurement Packet, the Commissioners Court of County awards this contract to Company.

NOW, THEREFORE, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants and conditions hereinafter set forth, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. County and Company hereby agree that this Contract is entered into in order to provide the Services to County. This Contract does not extend to any third parties any duties or benefits conferred in any manner hereunder or otherwise.
2. During the term of this Contract, Company shall be obligated and hereby promises and agrees to render and provide the Services in accordance with specifications and terms contained in **Exhibit "A"** Procurement Packet and **Exhibit "B"** Company's Response. Services shall be performed within Hidalgo County. The Company will not begin to work or incur costs until authorized in writing by the County with the release of an authorized Purchase Order or other appropriate written authorization by the County or its designated agent. Company agrees in

performing the Services that it will use proper professional standards, comply with any and all appropriate laws and regulations in providing the Services, and devote such time as is necessary to safely and efficiently provide the Services. County reserves the right to evaluate any services provided by the Company and to reject the same if not in compliance with the specifications as provided in **Exhibits “A” and “B”**. If the County finds it necessary to require changes in the work provided because of errors made by the Company, the County shall require the Company to correct the work at no cost to the County and without amendment to the Agreement. Further, Hidalgo County reserves the right to request these services from other sources other than the successful vendor and shall not be in violation of any terms or conditions of said contract.

3. **Term.** This Contract shall be for a period of _____ (____) year(s), commencing on [[MONTH]] [[DAY]], 20__ and expiring on [[MONTH]] [[DAY]], 20__, unless sooner terminated. The term of this agreement may be extended at the County’s sole discretion for _____ (____) additional one (1) year term(s) under the same rates, terms and conditions. Hidalgo County also reserves the right to continue this bid for an additional sixty (60) day grace period, under the same rates, terms, and conditions for the unforeseen delay in award of new bid for the next contract term.

4. **Consideration.** As consideration for rendering the Service provided for in this Contract, the County agrees to pay Company the amounts specified in **Exhibit “B”**, payable against written invoice submitted by Company in accordance with the Texas Prompt Payment Act, Tex. Govt. Code Ch. 2251.

5. **Licenses/Certifications.** As a condition of this Contract, Company shall hold and maintain throughout the term of this Contract all licenses and permits required, or which may be required by any authority, including the State of Texas, during the term hereof to provide the Services. Company further represents that it is qualified to perform and execute the services described above. If such license or permit is suspended or revoked, this Contract shall automatically be terminated and Company shall immediately notify the County. Company shall provide the County with all current state certifications, permits, and/or licenses with applicable seals, or as otherwise required by the State of Texas.

6. **Equipment.** If applicable, Company shall provide a sufficient number of trucks, vehicles, personnel and equipment available to safely and efficiently provide the Services. All trucks or vehicles operated by the Company to perform the Services shall contain all equipment required by any authority to operate on streets and roads and all persons in the employ of Company who operate such trucks or vehicles shall have the required licenses, qualifications, skill, and expertise to perform such Services and shall comply with all laws, rules, and regulations prescribed by any agency or authority having jurisdiction with regard to the operation of such trucks or vehicles in providing the Services.

7. **Independent Contractor.** The Company must comply with all applicable Hidalgo County policies and with any applicable federal, state, or local laws, regulations, orders, or ordinances applicable to the Services provided by Company under this Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, Company represents and maintains that Company is an Independent Contractor and is not an employee of the County, or any agency thereof, and represents and

warrants that Company does not desire or request any fringe benefits provided to employees of County, and/or any agency of the County, including but not limited to benefits associated with Hidalgo County's Civil Service Program. This Contract and the performance by the Parties hereunder does not create an agency relationship or master-servant relationship. Company agrees to be responsible for any federal income tax, withholding or social security tax liability that might arise from payments received hereunder. Company will incur no financial obligation on behalf of the County without prior written approval of the County. Company will be responsible for all personal and professional expenses, including, but not limited to, membership fees and dues and expenses of attending conventions and meetings. The County will have no right to direct or control the details, manner or means by which Company or its affiliates provide the Services, except as otherwise set forth in this Agreement. Company agrees to not take any action that is detrimental to, or not in the best interest of the County.

8. **Termination.** County may terminate this Agreement without cause upon thirty (30) days written notice.

9. **Non-Exclusive Services of Company.** Hidalgo County reserves the right to request this Product, Good and/or service from other sources other than the Company and shall not be in violation of any terms or conditions of this Agreement.

10. **Insurance.** Consistent with its status as an independent contractor and at its sole expense, Company agrees that throughout the duration of the work under this contract and any extension hereof, it shall provide and maintain any and all insurances and abide by any requirements which are specified in the Procurement Packet/Specifications and/or which may be necessary in providing Services or are otherwise required by law. Insurance policies shall cover, but are not limited to, Company's activities and all persons, vehicles, equipment and property connected with providing Services, to include theft or loss. The amount of insurance required shall be in accordance with amounts specified by the County or as prescribed by law, but in no event shall any amount be less than the minimum amounts prescribed by law, including, but not limited to the Texas Tort Claims Act. These requirements do not establish limits of Company's liability. Any and all applicable insurance requirements and amounts are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes. Company is responsible for ensuring all required insurance policies are valid for the duration of the contract. All insurance policies are to be issued by an insurance company authorized to do business in the State of Texas and acceptable to County. Company shall cause all subcontractors utilized by Company to also comply with these specifications. Company shall furnish to County certificate(s) of coverage, and all renewals throughout the duration of the Project, issued by the insurer that such insurance is in full force and effect. (See **Exhibit "C"** attached hereto and incorporated herein for all purposes). For each applicable policy, Company shall name the County as an additional insured. Company shall notify County a minimum of thirty (30) days in advance of cancellation of all or part of a policy. Company shall make any other insurance documentation available to County upon request. Company will be considered in breach of contract should the Company fail to maintain an insurance policy in the minimum limits of liability and requirements identified above while performing services for and under this Agreement, and will be subject to default and immediate termination of the Agreement. Additionally, Company covenants and agrees to use its best efforts to maintain an insurance policy

in the minimum limits of liability and requirements identified above until one year following the conclusion of this Agreement.

11. **INDEMNIFICATION.** COMPANY SHALL INDEMNIFY AND HOLD COUNTY, ITS ELECTED OFFICIALS, EMPLOYEES AND AGENTS HARMLESS FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS, ACTIONS, LIABILITY, DAMAGES, LOSSES AND EXPENSES (INCLUDING COSTS OF JUDGMENTS, SETTLEMENTS, COURT COSTS, AND ATTORNEYS' FEES, REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME OF SUCH CLAIM OR ACTION) CAUSED BY, RESULTING FROM, OR ALLEGING NEGLIGENT OR INTENTIONAL ACTS OR OMISSIONS OR ANY FAILURE TO PERFORM ANY OBLIGATION UNDERTAKEN OR ANY COVENANT IN THIS CONTRACT, WHETHER SUCH ACT, OMISSION, OR FAILURE WAS THE COMPANY'S OR THAT OF ANY PERSON PROVIDING SERVICES HEREUNDER THROUGH OR FOR THE COMPANY. UPON WRITTEN NOTICE FROM THE COUNTY, THE COMPANY WILL RESIST AND DEFEND AT ITS OWN EXPENSE, AND BY COUNSEL REASONABLY SATISFACTORY TO COUNTY, ANY SUCH CLAIM OR ACTION. THE COMPANY WILL CARRY PROPER INSURANCE WITH THE COUNTY AS AN ADDITIONAL NAMED INSURED. THIS INDEMNIFICATION CLAUSE SHALL SURVIVE THIS AGREEMENT AND BE ENFORCEABLE AS A SEPARATE AGREEMENT IN THE EVENT ITS SURVIVAL AND ENFORCEMENT BECOME NECESSARY.

12. **Notice.** Except as may be otherwise specifically provided in this Agreement, all notices, demands, requests, or communications required or permitted hereunder shall be in writing and shall either be (i) personally delivered against a written receipt, or (ii) sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid and addressed to the parties at the addresses set forth below, or at such other addresses as may have been theretofore specified by written notice delivered in accordance herewith:

If to County: The County of Hidalgo
 Attn: County Judge
 100 E. Cano, 2nd Floor
 Edinburg, Texas 78539

If to Company: Company Name:
 Attention:
 Address
 City, State, Zip Code

Each notice, demand, request, or communication which shall be delivered or mailed in the manner described above shall be deemed sufficiently given for all purposes at such time as it is personally delivered to the addresses or if mailed at such time as it is deposited in the United States mail.

13. **GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

- a. **Assignment.** Except as otherwise herein provided, Company shall not assign the obligations or rights under this Agreement to any person without the prior written consent of County.
- b. **Conflict with Applicable Laws.** Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed so as to require the commission of any act contrary to law, and whenever there is any conflict between any

provision of this Agreement and any present or future law, ordinance or administrative, executive or judicial regulation, order or decree, or amendment thereof, contrary to which the parties have no legal right to contract, the latter shall prevail, but in such event, the affected provision or provisions of this Agreement shall be modified only to the extent necessary to bring them within the legal requirements and only during the time such conflict exists. In case any one or more of the provisions contained in this Agreement shall for any reason be held to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision thereof and this Agreement shall be construed as if such invalid, illegal, or unenforceable provision had never been contained herein.

- c. **No Waiver.** No waiver by County of any breach of any provision of this Agreement shall be deemed to be a waiver of any preceding or succeeding breach of the same or any other provision hereof.
- d. **Governing Law.** This Agreement shall be construed under and in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas, and all obligations of the parties created hereunder are performable in Hidalgo County, Texas. The Company hereby consents to personal jurisdiction in Hidalgo County, Texas.
- e. **Successors.** This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of and be enforceable by the parties hereto and their respective heirs, executors, administrators, legal representatives, successors, and assigns where permitted by this Agreement.
- f. **Commitment of Current Revenues Only.** In the event that, during any term hereof, the Commissioners Court does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of County under this Agreement, County may terminate this Agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice to Company. County agrees, however, to use reasonable efforts to secure funds necessary for the continued performance of this Agreement. The parties intend this provision to be a continuing right to terminate this Agreement at the expiration of each budget period of County. *Agreements for the acquisition, including lease of real or personal property under Tex. Loc. Govt. Code §271.903:* In the event that, during any term hereof, the Commissioner's Court does not appropriate sufficient funds to meet the obligations of County under this Agreement, County may terminate this Agreement upon ninety (90) days written notice to Company, County agrees, however, to use a best efforts attempt to obtain and appropriate funds for payment of the Agreement. The parties intend this provision, if applicable, to be a continuing right to terminate this at the expiration of each budget period of County in accordance with the Texas Local Government Code.
- g. **Immunities.** Nothing in this Agreement is intended to and County does not hereby waive, release or relinquish any right to assert any of the defenses County enjoys by virtue of the state or federal constitution, laws, rules or regulations, and any sovereign, official or qualified immunity available to County as to any claim or action of any person, entity, or individual against County.

- h. **Headings.** The headings and captions contained in this Agreement are solely for convenient reference and shall not be deemed to affect the meaning or interpretation of any provision or paragraph hereof.
- i. **Gender and Number.** All pronouns used in this Agreement shall include the other gender, whether used in the masculine, feminine or neuter gender, and the singular shall include the plural whenever and as often as may be appropriate.
- j. **Entire Agreement.** This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the parties hereto, and each party acknowledges that neither has made (either directly or through any agent or representative) any representations or agreements in connection with this Agreement not specifically set forth herein. This Agreement may be modified or amended only by an agreement in writing executed by County and Company, and not otherwise.
- k. **Purchasing Ethics.** Company represents and warrants it has not, during the process of being awarded this contract violated the following ethical standards of County and, upon and after the execution of this Agreement, agrees to abide by the following ethical standards of County:
 - i. It shall be a breach of ethics to offer, give or agree to give any elected official, department head or employee, or former elected official, department head or employee, of County, or for any elected official, department head or employee or former elected official, department head or employee of County, to solicit, demand, accept or agree to accept from another person, entity or organization, a gratuity or an office of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation or any part of a program requirement or purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing, or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract, or to any solicitation or proposal therefore pending before any department or agency of County.
 - ii. It shall be a breach of ethics for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor for any contract for County, or any person associated therewith, as an inducement for the award of a subcontract or order.
- l. **Void Contract.** Company understands that an awarded contract may immediately become void if the County determines that a lack of compliance with applicable policies and/or statutes has occurred in the procurement process.
- m. **Nondiscrimination.** Company, including subcontractors, assignees and successors in interest, ensures that no person shall on the grounds of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, or any other protected class under law, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination or retaliation in any federally or non-federally funded program or activity when providing any services described herein under

this contract/agreement. Applicable nondiscrimination statements and provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, were provided as part of the initial procurement packet and are incorporated herein and made a part of this agreement for all purposes.

- n. **Additional Documents.** The parties hereto covenant and agree that they will execute each such other and further instruments and documents as are or may become necessary or convenient to effectuate and carry out the terms of this Agreement.
- o. **Required Contract Provision for Contracts Subject to Federal Award (if applicable).** Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.327, a non-federal entity's contracts must contain the applicable provisions described in appendix II to 2 CFR 200-Contract Provisions for non-Federal Entity Contracts under Federal Awards. Additionally, County contracts under Federal award which are subject to assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) are also required to contain additional contract clauses. The applicable required contract clauses were provided as part of the initial procurement packet and are incorporated herein and made part of this agreement for all purposes.
- p. **Authority to Execute.** The execution and performance of this Agreement by County and Company have been duly authorized by all necessary laws, resolutions, or corporate action, and this Agreement constitutes the valid and enforceable obligations of County and Company in accordance with its terms.

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO FOLLOW]

EXECUTED as of the day and year first written above.

APPROVED BY COMMISSIONERS' COURT ON Month 00, 20.

Agenda Item No.

Executive Office: _____

VENDOR:

ABC Company

COUNTY:

COUNTY OF HIDALGO, Texas

John Doe, Title

Hon. Richard F. Cortez, County Judge

APPROVED AS TO FORM

Office of the Hidalgo County
Criminal District Attorney,
Toribio "Terry" Palacios

ATTEST:

 , ADA

Arturo Guajardo, Jr., County Clerk

ATTACHMENTS:

- A. REQUEST FOR () (RF)
PROCUREMENT PACKET
- B. RESPONSE
- C. CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE

SUPPLEMENTAL SIGNATURES:

(If Applicable)

EXHIBIT “B”

COMPANY’S RESPONSE

BID PAGE

NIGP CODE: 966-76 (Internal use only)

In order for your Bid to be considered, Appendix “B” must be completely filled out and submitted in your return Bid response, INCOMPLETE OR ALTERED submittals may be a probable cause for disqualification.

Estimated Quantity	Description	Cost DO NOT INCLUDE Postage Fee or delivery fee in cost
ITEM I: Approximately 390,000	Vendor must provide all labor, materials, design assistance, laser processing of the Voter Registration Certificates, including Addressing, Sorting, Collating and Deliver - to Edinburg Texas Post Office. (As per Appendix “A”).	\$ <u>13,650</u>
ITEM II: Additional 150,000	Printing of Blank Voter Registration Certificates Deliver - to Elections Department located at:213 S. Closner Blvd, Edinburg, Texas 78539, on the same day as the mail out. (As per Appendix “A”).	\$ <u>6,776</u>
TOTAL BID PRICE: \$ 20,426 (Do Not Include Postage Fee and/or Delivery fee in Total Bid Price)		
DELIVERY FEES	To the Edinburg Texas Post Office	\$ <u>275</u>
	To the Election’s Department	\$ <u>275</u>
<p>Awarded vendor commits to complete mail-out of the voter registration renewal certificates to all voters in the County in active status whose registration is effective on or before December 31, 2023 between November 15, 2023 and December 6, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>		

****NOTE: BID AWARD WILL BE MADE IN THE AGGREGATE;
THEREFORE VENDOR MUST BID ALL ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED
FOR AN AWARD.**

EXHIBIT “C”

CERTIFICATE OF INSURANCE