

Date: January 28, 2026

LRGVDC

2026 STATEMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP DUES

LRGVDC Member Hidalgo County

Amount: \$47,697.00

Please make check payable to the
Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council and mail to
301 W. Railroad St. Weslaco, TX 78596-5104

(Please return lower portion of this statement with your remittance.)

Please pay from copy of invoice/credit memo

PO # Reg 26001514
Acct # 1100-13125-130-000-508100

Date: January 28, 2026

Invoice Received By: [Signature] on 2/3/26

Goods/Services Received By: [Signature] on Jan-Dec '26

AI # 102364-cc
2/17/26 [Signature]

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Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council

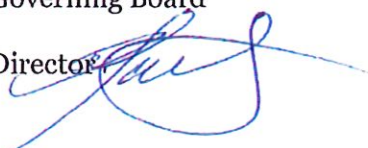
Mayor Norie Gonzalez Garza, Mission President
 Judge Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County 1st Vice President
 Mayor John Cowen, Brownsville 2nd Vice President
 Mayor Norma Sepulveda, Harlingen Secretary
 Mayor Omar Ochoa, Edinburg Treasurer

BOARD MEMBERS

- Adrian Gonzalez
Mayor, Weslaco
- Joey Lopez
Commissioner, Cameron County
- Ellie Torres
Commissioner, Hidalgo County
- Rosa Perez
Mayor, La Villa
- David Moreno
Mayor, Donna
- Alma Salinas
Mayor, Sullivan City
- Oscar Montoya
Mayor, Mercedes
- Javier Villalobos
Mayor, McAllen
- Alejandro Flores
Mayor, Los Fresnos
- Ambrosio "Amos" Hernández
Mayor, Pharr
- Edward Gonzales
Commissioner, Raymondville
- Ricardo "Rick" Guerra
Mayor, San Benito
- Marco "Markie" Villegas
Commissioner, San Juan
- Veronica Gonzales
UT Rio Grande Valley
- Paul Hernandez
South Texas College
- Luke Lucio
Texas State Technical College
- Troy Allen
Delta Lake Irrigation District
- Ernesto Cavazos
Willacy County Navigation Dis.
- Jim Darling
Member-at-Large
- Oscar Garcia
Member-at-Large
- Andres Chavez
Member-at-Large
- Lupita Sanchez Martinez
Grassroots Organizations

MEMORANDUM

TO: LRGVDC General Membership & Governing Board

FROM: Manuel "Manny" Cruz, Executive Director 

DATE: January 28, 2026

CC: Crystal Balboa, Finance Director

SUBJ: **Membership Dues - Strategic Importance of Continued Membership in the LRGVDC.**

The Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC) is the region's designated Council of Governments for Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy Counties and remains a critical partner in advancing coordinated planning, regional collaboration, and access to state and federal resources. Continued membership in the LRGVDC is essential to protecting our jurisdiction's eligibility, influence, and voice in regional decision-making.

Active participation in the LRGVDC directly qualifies member entities for inclusion in projects, plans, and programs supported by state and federal funding sources—representing approximately 99 percent of development and infrastructure funding available to the region. This partnership ensures our priorities are aligned with and represented in regionally adopted strategies, including the Lower Rio Grande Valley Strategic Plan and others that have been established within the many programs.

Beyond funding access, LRGVDC membership provides tangible operational benefits, including technical assistance for project development, access to meeting and virtual collaboration facilities, and direct engagement with the Council's governing body to advance initiatives that address shared regional needs. These services strengthen our capacity to compete for resources, respond to emerging challenges, and pursue opportunities that no single jurisdiction can effectively address alone.

Membership dues are structured equitably and represent a modest investment when weighed against the significant return in funding eligibility, regional influence, and collaborative support. To maintain full membership status and voting privileges, **dues must be paid by April 15, 2026, in advance of the May 2026 elections.**

Maintaining our partnership with the LRGVDC affirms our commitment to regional cooperation, economic growth, and long-term community prosperity. Continued membership is not only beneficial, but also strategically necessary to ensure our jurisdiction remains positioned to compete, collaborate, and lead within the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Manuel "Manny" Cruz

Get to Know the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council (LRGVDC)



What are COGs?

Councils of governments (COG), regional councils or regional planning commissions are political subdivisions created under Texas Local Government Code, Chapter 391. In Texas there are 24 COGs and are members of the Texas Association of Regional Councils (TARC) that assists by representing COGs before state, federal agencies and legislators.

LRGVDC Mission?

Encourage and permit local units of gov't to join and cooperate with one another and with representatives of major economic interests, citizen groups and groups experiencing economic distress to improve the health, safety, and general welfare of their citizens and to plan for future development of the Region.

Texas COG regions are made up of **counties, cities, school districts and special districts** and were developed from 1966 to the early 1970s.

Regional councils are **political subdivisions** but have no authority to make laws, levy taxes or exercise police powers.

Each council's policy decisions are made by its board of directors. At least two-thirds of this governing body **must be elected officials from participating counties or municipalities.**

COG activities typically include planning for:

-  Workforce Development
-  Housing Programs
-  Emergency Communications
-  Transportation Planning & Rural Transit
-  Disaster Preparedness & Recovery
-  Community & Economic Development
-  Aging & Disability Resource Centers
-  Services & Supports for Older Texans
-  Environmental Quality

How are COGs funded?

COGs primarily receive funding through federal grants but also receive funding from state and local sources. Serve as fiscal agents for RGVMPPO, RGV9-1-1, Region M.

\$1.02 BILLION

The amount of funding that Texas' 24 member COGs collectively received, administered and awarded in revenue from federal, state and local sources in FY2025. Each COG is **required by statute** to report certain data annually, including the amount and source of funds expended and received. They are frequently audited, both by funders and by independent auditing firms.

The Value of Regionalism

Texas' 24 COGs are comprised of city, county and special district members working together to implement cost-effective, results-oriented strategies that address statewide and local needs on a regional scale for more than 50 years.

99.9% of LRGVDC's funding is utilized for direct services & support benefiting local gov'ts & citizens in the Region.



Local expertise solving regional challenges | COGs are a bridge between federal, state and local governments.



Statewide coverage, regional focus | COGs help local governments find solutions to pressing emerging issues, from water and environmental quality to broadband and planning for older Texans.



Finding common ground across Texas | COGs work with state and federal partners on vital projects and its initiatives.



Building regional partnerships | COGs help spur economic development across Texas by strengthening efficiency and cooperation across geographic boundaries.

**TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR
AFFIDAVIT FOR PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP DUES
TO ASSOCIATIONS OTHER THAN THE TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES**

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO**

I, Richard F. Cortez, do hereby state that membership in the LRGVDC, and dues to be paid to the association, serve to accomplish one or more of the following County purposes:

To obtain statutorily required continuing professional education.

To obtain continuing education necessary to maintain a license or certification.

To access the association or organization's programs, services, and activities in order to strengthen professional skills and keep up-to-date on developments related to the Department's primary business activities:

- Publications
- Periodicals
- Training
- Annual Conference
- Award Programs
- Representation
- Technical Inquiry Services

FOR STATEWIDE ASSOCIATIONS ONLY

I further state that _____ is a statewide association with a minimum membership of at least 25 percent of eligible political subdivisions.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: 2/17/2026
TITLE: County Judge

Before me Monica Salinas, a Notary Public, appeared Richard F. Cortez and on his/her oath deposed and stated that the facts as set forth in the above affidavit to be true and correct in every respect.

(S E A L)

NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
THE STATE OF TEXAS

AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN AFFIDAVIT: LGC § 113.064(b)
AUTHORITY TO PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES: GC § 305.026

COUNTY AUDITOR'S FORM: RE-CA-041B
REVISED: 12-2012