

*Proclamation Declaring
September as Deaf Awareness Month*

- Whereas* The deaf population includes a wide range of individuals, from those who were born profoundly deaf and use American Sign Language (ASL) as a primary means of communication, to those with a degree of hearing loss who use hearing aids or other forms of amplifications and communication modes; and
- Whereas* People who identify as Deaf belong to a cultural and linguistic community with shared language, social norms, rules of behavior, and history. Hidalgo County is enriched by the diverse and unique heritage, language and culture of the Deaf community; and
- Whereas* The purpose of Deaf Awareness Month is to highlight the culture of people who are deaf, and increase public awareness of the issues they face; and
- Whereas* This occasion promotes equal access to information and services for deaf individuals, as well as an opportunity to educate the public about the misconceptions of being deaf; and
- Whereas* Deaf Awareness Month gives us the chance to learn about the types of educational programs, support services, and resources available in Hidalgo County for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community like the ones that our local Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centers (DHHC) provide; and
- Whereas* Celebrating Deaf Awareness Month is about ensuring equal access, breaking communication barriers, and supporting our neighbors who are deaf, hard of hearing, or living with hearing loss.

Now, therefore, be it proclaimed that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby declares September as Deaf Awareness Month and encourages community leaders and businesses to foster opportunities and support residents who are deaf or hard of hearing in our community and workforce.

Approved this 22nd day of September 2026.

RICHARD F. CORTEZ
County Judge

DAVID L. FUENTES
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

EDUARDO “EDDIE” CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

EVERARDO “EVER” VILLARREAL
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

ELLIE TORRES
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: _____
ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk