

**ORDER OF ELECTION ON THE CREATION OF A COUNTY HOSPITAL DISTRICT FOR  
HIDALGO COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, under Chapter 1122 of the Texas Special Districts Local Laws Code , the County of Hidalgo may create a countywide Hospital District to furnish medical aid to the indigent persons residing in the District; and,

**WHEREAS**, if created, the Hospital District funds will be used for indigent healthcare in Hidalgo County, for the new UTRGV Medical School, and to obtain federal /state matching funds for healthcare services; and,

**WHEREAS**, under Chapter 1122 of the Texas Special Districts Local Laws Code, the Hospital District may be created only if the creation is approved by a majority of the qualified voters of the county in which the proposed District is to be located who vote in an election called and held for that purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, under Chapter 1122 of the Texas Special Districts Local Laws Code, the County Commissioners Court shall order a creation election on the presentation of a petition for a creation election signed by at least fifty (50) voters of the county; and,

**WHEREAS**, on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2014, a petition has been presented to the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court for the creation of a countywide Hospital District with taxing authority in Hidalgo County; and,

**WHEREAS**, the petition to create a countywide Hospital District was signed by at least fifty (50) qualified property tax paying voters of the county, thus satisfying the requirements of Chapter 1122 of the Texas Special Districts Local Laws Code; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Elections Voters Registrar's Office has reviewed and verified the petition and has found that the petition conforms to the requirements of Chapter 1122 of the Texas Special Districts Local Laws Code.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, having found the facts set out above in the preamble of this Order to be true and correct, the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court hereby orders the following:

**1. Special Election**

The Special Election on the creation of a countywide Hospital District shall be held on Tuesday, November 4, 2014, which is 84 days or more days from the date of the issuance of this Order (the "Order") to consider the question of whether to create a countywide Hospital District with taxing authority in Hidalgo County and to levy a tax not to exceed seventy-five (\$.75) on each One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) of the taxable value of property taxable by the Hospital District.

The election shall be held within and throughout Hidalgo County, and all residents, qualified voters of the county shall be entitled to vote in the election.

The hours during which the polling places are to be open on Election Day are from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.

## **2. County Election Precincts and Polling Places**

Voting in the election shall be conducted within and throughout Hidalgo County at those election day polling places designated by the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court for the November 4, 2014 Election, such sites listed in Attachment A attached hereto and incorporated herein at this point for all purposes.

## **3. Ballots**

Voting in the election for the proposition shall be by use of an electronic voting system, which is to display the ballots in both English and Spanish and which shall conform to the requirements of the Texas Election Code.

The electronic voting system used in the election shall have displayed thereon the following ballot:

### **OFFICIAL BALLOT**

Place an [X] in the square beside the statement indicating the way you wish to vote.

#### **PROPOSITION**

The creation of the Hidalgo County Hospital District, providing for the imposition of an ad valorem tax at a rate not to exceed 75 cents on each \$100 valuation on all taxable property in the district. Approving the initial tax rate of \$0.08 per one hundred dollars (\$100.00) valuation; funds will be used for indigent healthcare in Hidalgo County, for the new University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Medical School, and to obtain federal and/or state funds for healthcare services.

[ ] FOR

[ ] AGAINST

## **4. Oral Assistance**

Voter assistance will be given in accordance with the Election Code. Any person requiring voter assistance should contact the presiding judge of the election precinct in which the person is voting, or the early voting clerk.

The Hidalgo County Elections Department will be responsible for the preparation of instructions, ballots and other materials pertinent to the election.

#### **5. Election Judges and Clerks**

The presiding election Judges and alternate presiding election judges shall be those persons appointed in accordance with Sections 32.001, 32.002 of the Texas Election Code.

#### **6. Early Voting**

Early voting by personal appearance in the election shall occur on each weekday of the early voting period beginning on October 20, 2014 and ending on October 31, 2014, between the hours of 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, except for Sunday, October 26, 2014 when the hours are 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

#### **7. Election**

- A. The election will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Texas Election Code.
- B. On election night, the election officer shall prepare the final report setting forth election returns for the election; and, the election officer shall present such report to the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court for canvass of the election.

#### **8. Mail in Ballots**

- a. **Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:**

**Yvonne Ramon, Hidalgo County Elections Administrator (Early Voting Clerk)**

**101 South 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue**

**Edinburg, TX 78539**

**Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on October 24, 2014.**

#### **9. Canvass of Election**

The returns for the election shall be canvassed by the Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court as prescribed by Chapter 67 of the Election Code.

**10. Governing Law**

This Order shall be governed, interpreted, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the United States of America.

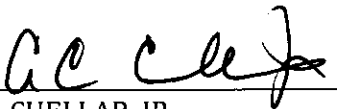
**11. Severability**

If any provision of this Order shall be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the other provisions of the Order shall nevertheless remain valid, legal, and enforceable.

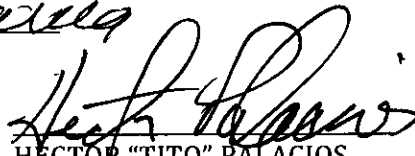
**12. Effective Date**

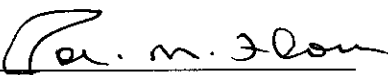
This Order is effective immediately upon its approval.

**PASSED, APPROVED, and ORDERED** on this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2014.

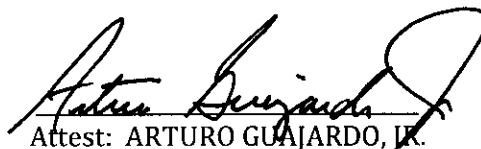
  
A.C. CUELLAR, JR.  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

  
RAMON GARCIA  
County Judge

  
HECTOR "TITO" PALACIOS  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

  
JOE M. FLORES  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

  
JOSEPH PALACIOS  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

  
Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.  
County Clerk