

**PROCLAMATION DECLARING SEPTEMBER 2015 AS
VALLEY VOTER AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, the framers of the Constitution established the United States as a representative democracy that relies on civic engagement; and

WHEREAS, a fundamental element of effective democracy is the principle that all eligible citizens should participate in fair and open elections; and

WHEREAS, the Rio Grande Valley has historically had low voter turnout. Although between 2010 and 2014 voter registration rates increased by 72 percent, only about 24 percent of registered voters cast a ballot in the 2014 mid-term election; and

WHEREAS, in order to reach those who have not fully embraced their rights and responsibilities as citizens, the community must expand opportunities for voter education and nonpartisan voter registration. Vital contributions in this regard can be made by grassroots organizations, by the media, by educational, cultural, and religious institutions, and by other entities in both the public and private sector; and

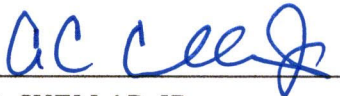
WHEREAS, across the Rio Grande Valley, there is an urgent need to increase participation in the electoral process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby proclaims September 2015 as Valley Voter Awareness Month in Hidalgo County and encourages all citizens to exercise their right to vote and to promote participation in the electoral process to their friends, families and neighbors in local, state and national elections.

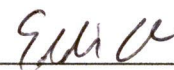
Dated this 18th day of August 2015.



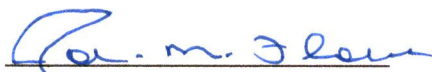
RAMON GARCIA
County Judge



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



EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU
County Commissioner, Pct. 2



JOE M. FLORES
County Commissioner, Pct.3



JOSEPH PALACIOS
County Commissioner, Pct. 4



Attest: ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.
County Clerk