

# Hidalgo County

## Proclamation declaring September 2020 Valley Civic Engagement Month

- Whereas* the framers of the Constitution established the United States as a representative democracy that relies on civic engagement; and
- Whereas* the U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years, and the information collected by the Census Bureau is confidential and protected by law under Title 13 of the U.S. Code; and
- Whereas* the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets, and also determines how more than \$675 billion is spent, supporting state, county, and community programs; and
- Whereas* as a fundamental element of an effective democracy, it is a principle that all eligible citizens participate in fair and open elections; and
- Whereas* an accurate census count and active voter participation is vital to our community and residents' well-being. This participation brings access to funding and resources that determine where to locate schools, day care centers, roads for public transportation, hospitals, and other facilities; and
- Whereas* the Rio Grande Valley's census participation is less than 50% and voter turnout has been low for decades - it was only 49% in the 2016 general election - compared to that of other parts of the state; and
- Whereas* in order to reach residents who have not fully embraced their rights and responsibilities as citizens, the community must expand opportunities for voter education, respond to the census, and nonpartisan voter registration. Vital contributions in this regard can be made by grassroots organizations, media, and by educational, cultural, and religious institutions or other entities in both the public and private sector.

*Now therefore, be it resolved* that the Hidalgo County Commissioners Court hereby proclaims September 2020 as Valley Civic Engagement Month and calls upon the residents of Hidalgo County to participate in Valley Civic Engagement Month activities in order to promote voter awareness, the 2020 Census, and voter registration programs.

Approved this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September 2020.



**RICHARD F. CORTEZ**  
County Judge

**DAVID L. FUENTES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 1

**EDUARDO "EDDIE" CANTU**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 2

**JOE M. FLORES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 3

**ELLIE TORRES**  
County Commissioner, Pct. 4

Attest: **ARTURO GUAJARDO, JR.**  
County Clerk