



Contact: Karina Cardoza
Phone: 956.343.0011
Email: public.info@co.hidalgo.tx.us

2011 General Election, Election Precinct Redistricting Boundaries on Hold, & Potential Changes to 2012 Procedures

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2011

Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

Joel Quintanilla
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Hector "Tito" Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joseph Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 4

Executive Office

Valde Guerra
Executive Officer

Public Affairs Division

Karina Cardoza
Director

2818 S. Business Hwy 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 292-7026 P
(956) 292-7766 F
www.co.hidalgo.tx.us W
public.info@co.hidalgo.tx.us E

2011 GENERAL ELECTION

Hidalgo County would like to remind all residents that the 2011 General Election is currently underway. Up for consideration on the ballot are ten proposed amendments to the Texas constitution that may affect Hidalgo County residents, including homestead exemptions for disabled veterans' spouses, general obligation bonds for water improvement projects, bonds to finance educational loans to students, and more. [View the proposed constitutional amendments here >>](#).

In addition to the constitutional amendments, several city and school elections are also taking place. The City of McAllen, Sharyland ISD, and Weslaco ISD have propositions on the ballot for consideration by the electorate that may affect taxpayers in these areas. County officials urge residents to take active participation in the democratic process and voice their preference on these matters under consideration. Early voting ends Friday, November 4 at 7:00 pm; Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, and polls will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm. [View the Election Day schedules and polling locations here >>](#).

ELECTION PRECINCT REDISTRICTING BOUNDARIES ON HOLD

Each year, counties are statutorily obligated to finalize changes to County election precinct lines by October 1. This year, a federal court order was signed on September 29, relieving Counties of this deadline until the redistricting plans for the Texas House of Representatives and the United States House of Representatives are precleared by the U. S. Department of Justice, pursuant to Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. As such, counties are also relieved of issuing voter registration certificates to each voter in the County until further order. Hidalgo County Elections Administrator Yvonne Ramon requests that voters exercise patience while this matter is resolved by the Department of Justice, allowing the Elections Department is allowed to resume final changes to election precinct lines. Once complete, voters can expect their new Pantone yellow voter registration certificate to be mailed to their residence on record, with the election precinct where they will vote.

- MORE -

Visit us online at www.co.hidalgo.tx.us, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HidalgoCounty
on Twitter at www.twitter.com/HidalgoCounty, and on Youtube at www.youtube.com/HidalgoCountyTx



Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

Joel Quintanilla
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Hector "Tito" Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joseph Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 4

Executive Office

Valde Guerra
Executive Officer

Public Affairs Division

Karina Cardoza
Director

2818 S. Business Hwy 281
Edinburg, Texas 78539
(956) 292-7026 **P**
(956) 292-7766 **F**
www.co.hidalgo.tx.us **W**
public.info@co.hidalgo.tx.us **E**



Contact: Karina Cardoza
Phone: 956.343.0011
Email: public.info@co.hidalgo.tx.us

POTENTIAL CHANGES TO 2012 PROCEDURES

Aside from the delay in finalizing election precinct lines, Ramon would like to inform the public that there are potential changes to election procedures that may affect future elections. Senate Bill 14, passed by the Texas Legislature in 2011, requires voters to show a valid form of photo identification at the polling location before permitted to cast a vote; however, this requirement has also not yet received preclearance by the Department of Justice.

While this matter is pending resolution, the Texas Secretary of State has suggested that Elections Administrators distribute the Notice of Required Identification for Future Elections to all voters to inform them of the potential changes for future elections. As mentioned above, whether or not the requirement will take effect is contingent on preclearance by the Department of Justice. The Elections Department will continue to keep the public informed on this and any other changes that will affect voters and election procedures.

Voters are encouraged to contact the Elections Department with any questions they may have regarding the 2011 General Election or to follow up on the status of the issues pending DOJ approval. For more information, please visit the Hidalgo County elections website at www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/elections or contact 956-318-2570.

###