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MEDIA ADVISORY

HIDALGO COUNTY TO COMMENCE PLANS FOR VOTE CENTERS

County to host Vote Center Community Workshop with Lubbock County Officials

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2013

Edinburg, Texas – Hidalgo County is hosting a community workshop **today** with Lubbock County officials, who will share their experience with vote centers, or countywide polling places. Hidalgo County is moving forward with plans to establish vote centers, which would give registered voters the option of voting at any polling location on Election Day instead of having to vote at their precinct polling locations.

In 2005, the Texas Legislature authorized a pilot program to permit vote centers, and the first program was implemented in Lubbock County in 2006. Since then, other counties have followed suit, successfully implementing vote centers throughout the state. Earlier this year, Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court approved the creation of a committee to oversee the process to develop vote centers; the committee held its inaugural meeting yesterday.

Lubbock County Commissioners Bill McCay and Mark Heinrich, along with Elections Administrator Dorothy Kennedy, will be in attendance at the workshop to share their experience and successes with their vote center program. Lubbock County supports the vote centers program so enthusiastically that officials have traveled to Hidalgo County to inform County leaders and residents about the benefits of the program and how it functions in Lubbock County. The workshop will be held at **10 am on Wednesday, April 17, 2013 at the Edinburg Conference Center** (118 Paseo del Prado in Edinburg). All media and the public are invited to attend.

DETAILS:

Who: Hidalgo County officials
Lubbock County officials

What: Vote Centers Community Workshop

When: Wednesday, April 17, 2013
10 am

Where: Edinburg Conference Center
118 Paseo del Prado, Edinburg TX

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Hidalgo County Commissioners' Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

A. C. Cuellar, Jr.
Commissioner, Precinct 1

Hector "Tito" Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joseph Palacios
Commissioner, Precinct 4

OFFICE OF HIDALGO COUNTY JUDGE RAMON GARCIA

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