



Hidalgo County Commissioners Court

Ramon Garcia
County Judge

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

Eduardo "Eddie" Cantu
Commissioner, Precinct 2

Joe M. Flores
Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joseph Palacios
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, Oct. 16, 2015

Hidalgo County Tax Assessor and Collector Supports Proposition 1

EDINBURG – Property owners who claim the Homestead Exemption will get a nice surprise when they receive their tax statements this year; a lower tax bill. But the lower tax is contingent on voters approving Proposition 1 on the Nov. 3 ballot.

This year's tax statements, which are scheduled to be mailed to Hidalgo County residents in the next two weeks, will include a homestead exemption of \$25,000 – which is an increase over the current exemption of \$15,000.

Proposition 1 is a constitutional amendment increasing the amount of the residence homestead exemption from \$15,000 to \$25,000, thus reducing ad valorem taxes for public schools. The homestead exemption has not been increased since 1997, when voters approved a measure to increase it from \$5,000 to \$15,000.

As directed by the State, this year's tax statements, which are scheduled to be mailed to Hidalgo County residents in the next two weeks, will include the increased exemption of \$25,000, said Tax Assessor and Collector Pablo "Paul" Villarreal Jr.

"In 1997 nearly 94 percent of voters supported the increase to the homestead exemption," said Villarreal. "We're hoping that is the case this year as well. If the measure doesn't pass, we will have to send revised tax bills with the lower exemption."

Villarreal encourages all Hidalgo County residents interested in lowering their property tax bills to vote in favor of Proposition 1. Early voting starts Monday and the Constitutional Election will be Tuesday, Nov. 3.

A list of early voting substations is available on the county's website at: <http://www.co.hidalgo.tx.us/DocumentCenter/View/21302>

Early voting will run from Monday, Oct. 19 through Friday, Oct. 30. Polls will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Oct. 19 through Wednesday Oct. 28. Early voting locations will have extended hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the last two days of early voting (Thursday and Friday, Oct. 29 and 30).

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Hidalgo County is home to one of the fastest growing regions in the nation. We provide health and justice to the 800,000 residents of our county as well as a variety of services to residents who live outside city limits. We strive to be accessible and responsive to our citizens by providing excellent public service through the values of leadership, transparency, fairness, collaboration, respect and fiscal responsibility.