



Hidalgo County Elections  
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## Press Release

# Election Day is here!

## *Covid-19 preventative safety measures at the polls are a top priority*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Monday, July 13, 2020

**EDINBURG** - With Election Day upon us, the Hidalgo County Elections Department wants to ensure county voters that they will continue to implement preventative protocols that will maintain safety and will assist in stopping the spread of COVID-19.

“The Elections Department strategized with the poll workers and created a plan that included COVID-19 preventative and safety measures at all of the poll locations. They implemented these processes and procedures throughout Early Voting and will continue to do so on Election Day,” said Elections Administrator Yvonne Ramón. “Their preventive plan begins with poll workers encouraging voters to wear a facial covering. If a voter does not have one, the poll workers will provide a facial covering to the voter.”

Upon entering the polling location, voters will see that all poll workers are implementing these preventive measures themselves. They are all wearing masks, face shields and gloves, and they consistently disinfect and sanitize the voting areas. Voters are asked to place their form of identification in a plastic bin, so that the poll worker can verify the voter’s identity. Voters are then instructed to sign a combination form with a sterilized pen and are given an access code that is entered into the voting machine. Once at the voting machine, the voter is given a disposable stylus device that is used for marking their ballot selection. After completing their ballot selection, the voter will be instructed to discard the stylus device in the trash. This will conclude the voting process with limited physical interaction with the poll worker and the voting machine.

The Elections Department encourages voters to follow four safety prevention measures before heading to and while they are at the poll locations. They include:

1. Self – screening for COVID-19 symptoms, such as, fever, cough, shortness of breath, muscle pain and etc.
2. Wearing facial coverings; (If a voter has forgotten their facial covering, one will be provided to the voter.)
3. Following safe and clean voting procedures by disinfecting

and washing hands

4. Practicing social distancing

“With this pandemic upon us, we are working hard to provide a safe and smooth voting experience for our voters,” said Ramón. “In order for this to be accomplished, we need to work together as a community to stop the spread of COVID-19.”

Election Day is Tuesday, July 14, 2020 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more election information, please visit our website at [www.hidalgocounty.us/elections](http://www.hidalgocounty.us/elections) or call our office at (956) 318-2570.

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