

EXHIBIT C

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
MCALLEN DIVISION

HILDA GONZALEZ GARZA and
ROSBELL BARRERA

Plaintiffs,

v.

STARR COUNTY, *et al.*,

Defendants.

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CIVIL ACTION NO.

DECLARATION OF HILDA GONZALEZ GARZA
IN SUPPORT OF APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER

STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF STARR §

1. My name is Hilda Gonzalez Garza, and I am a resident and registered voter of Starr County. I am over the age of 18 and fully competent to make this declaration. I have personal knowledge of each of the matters stated in this declaration.
2. I am a licensed attorney who practices in Texas and am a former Starr County assistant district attorney and assistant county attorney.
3. I have a long history of being involved in my community, including by engaging in electioneering activities during early voting and on Election Day. I have electioneered at county-owned polling places, including on the sidewalks and in the parking lots of the La Rosita, Starr County Courthouse, and El Cenizo polling places. My electioneering activities include distributing candidates' literature, bumper stickers and sample

Democratic ballots, encouraging people to vote in the Democratic primary, and offering information that will help voters make informed choices at the polls. I also wear campaign t-shirts and have political bumper stickers on my car.

4. In addition, I am a candidate for Precinct Chair for Starr County Precinct No. 10 in the upcoming March 6, 2018 Primary Election. As a candidate, in addition to my regular electioneering activities described above, I stand outside the polling place (beyond the 100 ft. marker), hand out sample ballots to voters and ask the voters to vote for me.
5. I enjoy talking to people during the primary and general election voting periods when I am electioneering. If still undecided in a particular race, my friends, family members, and neighbors often ask me which candidates I recommend.
6. I hear people say on the news sometimes that Latinos are apathetic or do not turn out to vote. They have called the Latino community “the sleeping giant.” That is why it makes me particularly proud during election season when I see people in my community prove the critics wrong by voting, encouraging others to vote, and speaking out about the issues and candidates they support. Sometimes, during early voting and on Election Day, campaign workers and volunteers set up under tents, bring barbeque grills, and hand out food plates, water and sodas to people on county-owned polling places after they vote. People bring signs and put bumper stickers on their vehicles for their favorite candidates.
7. I am concerned about the ban because I intend to electioneer during the early voting period (February 20, 2018 to March 2, 2018) and on Primary Election Day (March 6, 2018) on county-owned property as I have done in the past, including in the areas surrounding the La Rosita, Starr County Courthouse, and El Cenizo polling places. I intend to stay—as I always do when electioneering—beyond the statutory 100-foot

marker and encourage voter support of Democratic candidates and the 12 propositions on the Democratic ballot.

8. I worry that my electioneering activities will lead to my arrest. The County's order says violations of the electioneering ban constitute Criminal Trespass, a Class B misdemeanor.
9. I worry I could face up to six months of jail time and a hefty fine simply by participating in the political process as an engaged citizen.
10. I attended the meeting held on January 8, 2018 of the Starr County Commissioners' Court, during which the County instituted an order banning electioneering on county properties during the voting period.
11. At the January 8, 2018 meeting, when the Commissioners Court reached the electioneering policy item on the agenda, I attempted to express my concerns to the Commissioners over the illegality and scope of the county electioneering policy. I believe the ban is in conflict with Texas Election Code § 61.003. I started to communicate my concerns at the meeting, but County Judge Eloy Vera would not allow me to finish speaking. He said only the Commissioners could discuss the electioneering ban agenda item.
12. The order banning electioneering referenced five attached maps with red markings that purport to delineate the boundaries of those county properties. I cannot discern from the face of the order what distances in the attached maps are covered by the ban. Therefore, I went to the different county properties and measured the distances with my surveyor's wheel. I realized that the distances from the doors of the county buildings to the edge of the county properties are inconsistent depending on the location. For example, the distance from the outside door to the edge of County property is approximately 153 feet

at the County Courthouse, 468 feet at the La Victoria Community Center-Zarate Park site, approximately 155 feet at the La Rosita Commissioner Precinct #1 site and approximately 232 feet at the El Cenizo site.

13. I decided to consult the Starr County Notice of Election to view a list of other county-owned polling places. The Notice of Election was not posted on the County's website, so I called Alexa Rios, a clerk at the Starr County Elections Office and asked her to email it to me. A copy of the Notice of Election that she emailed me is attached as Exhibit 1 to this declaration.
14. On January 26, 2018, I sent a letter to the Starr County District Attorney Omar Escobar, and copied the County Commissioners and County Judge Eloy Vera. A copy of my letter is attached as Exhibit 2 to this declaration. In my letter, I informed Mr. Escobar that during early voting and on Election Day, I planned to stand in the Starr County Courthouse parking lot, and at other county polling places, and distribute bumper stickers, put up Democratic Party signs, encourage people to vote for the 12 propositions on the Democratic ballot, and recruit people to the Democratic Party. I asked whether these activities would be allowed under the electioneering ban as long as I stayed beyond the 100-foot marker from the outside entrance of the courthouse. I have not received a response to my letter.
15. I spoke with Commissioner Eloy Garza, who voted against the county electioneering policy, and he told me he received another concerned letter on the ban from Ross Barrera, the chair of the Starr County Republican Party. Commissioner Garza agreed to ask the County Judge to put the electioneering ban on the agenda for the next Commissioners' Court hearing.

16. I attended the February 12, 2018, Commissioners' Court hearing, and the electioneering policy was indeed placed back on the agenda for discussion. Again, I had hoped to express my concerns to the Commissioners' Court and get answers to the questions in my letter. However, the County Judge again refused to allow public comment. I am particularly concerned that, at the hearing, Starr County Attorney Victor Canales, Jr. reiterated that the Sheriff's office will enforce the county electioneering policy.
17. On February 14, 2018, I called the Texas Secretary of State Election Division's Legal Director, Christina Adkins, to inquire about the legality of the resolution. Ms. Adkins was unavailable, but a staff attorney named Tim Juro informed me that the Secretary of State's office had already told Starr County Elections Director John Lee Rodriguez that the resolution conflicts with state law.
18. On February 15, 2018, Ms. Adkins emailed me, stating that the Starr County electioneering ban "appears . . . to be in conflict with 61.003 (a-1) of the [Texas Election Code]," because it "appears to prohibit electioneering entirely, not just provide regulations as to the time, place, and manner of electioneering." A copy of the email from Ms. Adkins is attached as Exhibit 3 to this declaration.
19. On February 15, 2018, a staff member of the Texas Secretary of State's office was quoted in *The Monitor* saying the electioneering ban seems to conflict with state law. That article also quoted District Attorney Escobar, who indicated that the County intended to enforce its ban during the upcoming elections. A copy of the article is attached as Exhibit 4 to this declaration.
20. On February 16, 2018, I read a Facebook post by District Attorney Escobar. A screen shot of his Facebook post is attached as Exhibit 5 to this declaration. He wrote in his post

that “the public should know that parking areas and parking zones are specifically limited to parking vehicles for members of the public who have business in government buildings” and that “electioneering is prohibited in those areas.” District Attorney Escobar said nothing in his post about non-parking areas beyond the 100-foot marker that are covered under the County’s electioneering ban.

21. At about 11 a.m. on February 20, 2018, the first day of early voting in the primary election, I arrived at the Starr County Courthouse parking lot intending to electioneer. Almost immediately after my arrival, I saw my former high school classmate, who works at the Courthouse, walking quickly in the parking lot toward her car. Although my friend parked her car beyond the 100-foot zone, she told me that Starr County Election Director John Lee Rodriguez had directed her either to move her car or cover up the bumper sticker on the rear window of her car. The bumper sticker advocated for her brother who is a candidate for Starr County Treasurer.
22. After my friend and I finished speaking, a Justice of the Peace, who also works at the Courthouse, approached me and asked if I would help him cover up the re-election campaign displays on the two back side windows of his truck, which also was parked beyond the 100-foot marker. The Justice of the Peace told me that Starr County Election Director John Lee Rodriguez had directed him to cover up the campaign displays on the car. We used white legal paper to cover the campaign wording on the signs so that he would not have to move his truck out of the parking lot. While I was helping him, a voter walked by so I handed the voter the electioneering materials I had with me, including sample Democratic ballots.

23. My car has political bumper stickers on it and I feared that I was risking arrest by parking in the lot. I had intended to stay and electioneer on County Courthouse property but after I ran into the Justice of the Peace and my former high school classmate, I decided to stop electioneering and leave county property. I did not want to be arrested for violating the electioneering ban.
24. I am a practicing attorney, and I have cases that are heard in the Starr County courthouse. I fear I will be arrested when conducting my regular business at the courthouse simply because I have campaign stickers on my car and I park in the parking lot of the courthouse. I also fear I will get arrested when I visit or park at other county properties included in the electioneering ban, such as the Starr County Detention Center, the Starr County Sheriff's Office, the Starr County Adult Probation Office and the Starr County Commissioners' offices.
25. I have never seen the people who are electioneering on county property harass voters, disrupt County business, block emergency traffic or otherwise endanger the safety of residents. I have witnessed people electioneering on county property who care about the world around them and believe it is important to be politically involved. They peacefully advocate for their preferred candidates, political parties, and issues.

I declare under penalty of perjury pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed in Starr County, Texas on the 21st day of February, 2018.


Hilda Gonzalez Garza

EXHIBIT C-1

AW1-7
Prescribed by Secretary of State
Sections 4.004, 83.010, 85.004, 85.007, Texas Election Code
9/2009

NOTICE OF GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION
(AVISO DE ELECCION PRIMARIA GENERAL)

To the registered voters of the County of STARR, Texas:
(A los votantes registrados del Condado de STARR, Texas)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., March 6, 2018, for voting in a general election to elect(presidential electors, if applicable), Members of Congress, Members of the Legislature, and state, district, county and precinct officers.

(Notifíquese por la presente, que las casillas electorales citadas abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 6 de Marzo de 20 18 para votar en la Elección General para elegir(electores presidenciales, si es aplicable), Miembros del Congreso, Miembros de la Legislatura, y oficiales del estado, distrito, condado y del precinto.)

On Election Day, voters must vote in their precinct where registered to vote.
(El Día de Elección, los votantes deberán votar en su precinto donde están inscritos para votar.)

Location of Election Day Polling Places Include Name of Building and Address <i>(Ubicación de las casillas electorales el Día de Elección)</i> <i>(Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)</i>	Precinct Number(s) <i>(Número de precinto)</i>
Starr County Courthouse, Commissioner's Court, 401 N. Britton Ave., RGC	1
(*) Old City Hall Building 101 S. Washington St. Rio Grande City, TX 78582	2
Escobares Community Center 4829 Old Hwy 83 Escobares, Roma 78584	3
Abel Gonzalez Community Center, 1501 FM 1017 San Isidro TX , RGC TX	4
Catholic Church Parish Hall, 1155 N FM 649, El Sauz TX	5
Roma Community Center, 502 Sixth St., Roma TX	6
Salineno Community Center, 68 Salineno Rd., Salineno	7
El Cenizo PK. Building, 70 Old Casita Rd., La Casita	8
La Victoria Community Center , 532 Gabriela St. RGC TX 78582	9
La Rosita Community Center , 4192 W. US Hwy 83, La Rosita TX	10

For early voting, a voter may vote at any of the locations listed below:
(Para Votación Adelantada, los votantes podrán votar en cualquiera de las ubicaciones nombradas abajo.)

Locations for Early Voting Polling Places Include Name of Building and Address <i>(Ubicación de las casillas electorales de votación adelantada)</i> <i>(Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)</i>	Days and Hours of Operation <i>Días y Horas Hábiles</i>
Roma Community Center, 502 Sixth St., Roma	Feb. 20 th – March 2nd , 2018 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
La Rosita, Community Center, 4192 W. US Hwy 83, La Rosita Tx. 78582	Feb. 20 th – March 2nd , 2018 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
El Cenizo PK. Building, 70 Old Casita Rd., La Casita	Feb. 20 th – March 2nd , 2018 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM
(*) EXTENDED HOURS AT THE MAIN EARLY VOTING LOCATION (Starr County Courthouse, Commissioner's Court, 401 N. Britton Ave., RGC)	Feb. 20 th – 23 rd , 2018 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM FEB.26th – March 2, 2018 7:00AM – 7:00PM

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
(Las solicitudes para boletas de votación adelantada por correo deberán enviarse a:)

JOHN L. RODRIGUEZ
(Name of Early Voting Clerk)
(Nombre del Secretario de la Votación Adelantada)

100 N. 3167 , SUITE 206
(Address) *(Dirección)*

RIO GRANDE CITY, TX. 78582
(City) *(Ciudad)* (Zip Code) *(Código Postal)*

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on: FEB. 23, 2018
(Las solicitudes para boletas de votación adelantada por correo deberán recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el: 23 DE FEB. DEL AÑO 2017)

Issued this the 22nd day of Jan. 2018 .
(Emitida este día 22 de Enero , 2018 .)


Signature of County Judge *(Firma del Juez del Condado)*

EXHIBIT C-2

THE LAW OFFICE OF HILDA GONZALEZ GARZA, P.L.L.C

205 E. 5TH ST.

RIO GRANDE CITY, TEXAS 78582

TEL: (956) 263-1870

FAX (956) 263-1871

hilda_garza.lawoffice@aol.com

Date: January 26, 2018

To: Omar Escobar, Jr.

Tel: (956) 716-4800

Fax No. (956) 487-8697

**Subject: ELECTIONEERING AT STARR COUNTY COURTHOUSE DURING EARLY
VOTING PERIOD AND ON ELECTION DAY**

No. of pages: 2 **(Including coversheet)**

Cc:

Starr County Judge Eloy Vera

fax: (956) 352-6573

Commissioner Pct. #1 Jamie Alvarez

fax: (956) 849-4328

Commissioner Pct. #2 Raul Pena, III

email: rpena7772000@yahoo.com

Commissioner Pct. #3 Eloy Garza

fax: (956) 488-9242

Commissioner Pct. #4 Ruben D. Saenz

fax: (956) 487-3694

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If you do not receive all pages, please call the sender at the above number.

THE LAW OFFICE OF HILDA GONZÁLEZ GARZA, P.L.L.C.
205 E. 5TH ST.
RIO GRANDE CITY, TEXAS 78582
TEL: (956) 263-1870
FAX: (956) 263-1871

January 26, 2018

The Hon. Omar Escobar, Jr.
Starr County District Attorney
401 N. Britton Ave.
Rio Grande City, TX 78582

VIA FAX: (956) 487-8697

RE: ELECTIONEERING AT STARR COUNTY COURTHOUSE DURING EARLY VOTING PERIOD AND ON ELECTION DAY

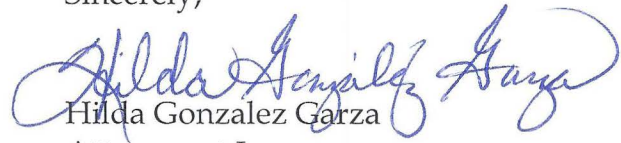
Dear Mr. District Attorney:

I write to ask whether my planned election activities at the Starr County Courthouse will be allowed under the County's newly-adopted electioneering rules.

On February 20, 2018 (the first day of early voting) and March 6, 2018 (Primary Election Day) I intend to stand in the parking lot of the Starr County Courthouse and distribute "The Constitution of the United States" pocket booklets in both English and Spanish, Democratic Party sample ballots, and bumper stickers. I also plan to post a Democratic Party sign in the parking lot of the Starr County Courthouse. I will stand beyond the 100 foot electioneering marker but on Starr County property. I intend to promote and recruit individuals for the Democratic Party and to encourage Democrats to vote on the 12 propositions listed by the Democratic Party. I would like to know if this type of electioneering will be allowed under the new rules.

Please respond at your earliest convenience as I would like to be able to understand the limits of permissible activity. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Hilda Gonzalez Garza
Attorney at Law

Cc: Starr County Judge Eloy Vera
Commissioner Pct. #1 Jaime Alvarez
Commissioner Pct. #2 Raul Pena, III
Commissioner Pct. #3 Eloy Garza
Commissioner Pct. #4 Ruben D. Saenz

Via Fax: (956) 487-8709
Via Fax: (956) 849-4328
Via Fax: (956) 849-3532
Via Fax: (956) 488-9242
Via Fax: (956) 487-3694

HP Officejet Pro 8600 N911g Series

Fax Log for

Law Office Hilda G. Garza

9562631871

Jan 26 2018 3:15PM

Last Transaction

Date	Time	Type	Station ID	Duration	Pages	Result
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Digital Fax

Jan 26	3:14PM	Fax Sent	4878697	1:00 N/A	2	OK
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HP Officejet Pro 8600 N911g Series

Fax Log for

Law Office Hilda G. Garza

9562631871

Jan 26 2018 3:35PM

Last Transaction

Date	Time	Type	Station ID	Duration	Pages	Result
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Digital Fax

Jan 26	3:33PM	Fax Sent	3526573	1:03 N/A	2	OK
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HP Officejet Pro 8600 N911g Series

Fax Log for
Law Office Hilda G. Garza
9562631871
Jan 26 2018 3:18PM

Last Transaction

Date	Time	Type	Station ID	Duration	Pages	Result
				Digital Fax		
Jan 26	3:17PM	Fax Sent	8494328	1:03 N/A	2	OK

From: Hilda Gonzalez Garza <hilda_garza.lawoffice@aol.com>

To: [rpena7772000](mailto:rpena7772000@yahoo.com) <rpena7772000@yahoo.com>

Subject: LETTER TO OMAR ESCOBAR, JR.

Date: Fri, Jan 26, 2018 4:03 pm

Attachments: LetterToOmarEscobar.pdf (1831K)

Mr. Pena,

Please see attachment which consist of a letter sent to Omar Escobar, Jr. titled

"ELECTIONEERING AT STARR COUNTY COURTHOUSE DURING EARLY VOTING PERIOD AND ON ELECTION DAY."

Marisa Guerra
Legal Assistant to

Hilda Gonzalez Garza

Attorney at Law

205 East Fifth Street
Rio Grande City, Texas 78582
956-263-1870 Office
956-263-1871 Fax
hilda_garza.lawoffice@aol.com

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Law Office Hilda G. Garza

9562631871

Jan 26 2018 3:22PM

Last Transaction

Date	Time	Type	Station ID	Duration	Pages	Result
				Digital Fax		
Jan 26	3:21PM	Fax Sent	4889242	1:00 N/A	2	OK

HP Officejet Pro 8600 N911g Series

Fax Log for
Law Office Hilda G. Garza
9562631871
Jan 26 2018 3:24PM

Last Transaction

Date	Time	Type	Station ID	Duration	Pages	Result
				Digital Fax		
Jan 26	3:23PM	Fax Sent	4873694	1:01 N/A	2	OK

EXHIBIT C-3

From: Christina Adkins <CAdkins@sos.texas.gov>

To: hggarza08 <hggarza08@aol.com>

Subject: FW: Starr County Resolution Prohibiting Electioneering

Date: Thu, Feb 15, 2018 11:26 am

Attachments: Signed Resolution 2 with pictures.pdf (6061K), 3 Agenda.pdf (3315K), 2 Sec61003.pdf (865K)

Dear Ms. Garza,

Section 61.003 of the Texas Election Code specifically states that any entity that owns or controls a public building that is used as a polling place cannot prohibit electioneering on the premises. The resolution from Starr County appears to prohibit electioneering entirely, not just provide regulations as to the time, place, and manner of electioneering. It appears as though this would be in conflict with 61.003 (a-1) of the code (copied below).

Let us know if you have any additional questions.

Christina Worrell Adkins

Legal Director -- Elections Division

Office of the Texas Secretary of State

1019 Brazos Street | Rudder Building, 2nd Floor | Austin, Texas 78701

1.800.252.VOTE (8683)

elections@sos.texas.gov | www.sos.texas.gov/elections



To better serve you, the Texas Secretary of State is conducting a "[Customer Satisfaction Survey](#)". Your responses are confidential and will be used only for the purposes of evaluating our services. Please consider taking the survey, and thank you for your time.

The information contained in this email is intended to provide advice and assistance in election matters per §31.004 of the Texas Election Code. It is not intended to serve as a legal opinion for any matter. Please review the law yourself, and consult with an attorney when your legal rights are involved.

Sec. 61.003. ELECTIONEERING AND LOITERING NEAR POLLING PLACE. (a)

A person commits an offense if, during the voting period and within 100 feet of an outside door through which a voter may enter the building in which a polling place is located, the person:

(1) loiters; or

(2) electioneers for or against any candidate, measure, or political party.

(a-1) The entity that owns or controls a public building being used as a polling place may not, at any time during the voting period, prohibit electioneering on the building's premises outside of the area described in

Subsection (a), but may enact reasonable regulations concerning the time, place, and manner of electioneering.

(b) In this section:

(1) "Electioneering" includes the posting, use, or distribution of political signs or literature. The term does not include the distribution of a notice of a party convention authorized under Section [172.1114](#).

(2) "Voting period" means the period beginning when the polls open for voting and ending when the polls close or the last voter has voted, whichever is later.

(c) An offense under this section is a Class C misdemeanor.

From: Hilda G. Garza [<mailto:hggarza08@aol.com>]
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 12:31 PM
To: Elections Internet <Elections@sos.texas.gov>
Subject: Starr County Resolution Prohibiting Electioneering

Legal Director Christina Adkins:

The Starr County Commissioner's Court passed a resolution banning electioneering on county property on three of the four voting sites for early voting, The Starr County Court House, El Cenizo and La Rosita. Please review and advise on the enforceability of this resolution. They did indicate at today's commissioner court meeting that the sheriff could arrest individuals. This "Resolution" violates Texas Election Code Section 61.003.

Thank you,

Hilda Gonzalez Garza
Attorney at Law
205 E. 5th St.
Rio Grande City, Texas 78582
Tel: (956) 263-1870
Fax: (956) 844-5250

EXHIBIT C-4

http://www.themonitor.com/news/local/article_194d977c-12cf-11e8-9fc9-dbf64ffc2c4b.html

Starr County ban on electioneering may violate election code

BERENICE GARCIA | STAFF WRITER

Follow @Berenice__G

Feb 15, 2018



RIO GRANDE CITY, TX - 22 MAY 12 Political signs hang near the polling place at La Rosita during early voting May 22, 2012 in Rio Grande City. photo by joel martinez/jmartinez@themonitor.com

JOEL MARTINEZ

RIO GRANDE CITY — The county's ban on electioneering on its property may not be in accordance with state law, according to the Texas Secretary of State's office.

Electioneering, or campaigning, by state law, is not allowed within 100 feet of the outside door to a polling site. At the county courthouse, the law would limit electioneering to one side of the parking lot.

But the county ordinance, adopted in early January, completely bans the practice on their property.

"The election code is very clear that they may not ban or prohibit at any time electioneering on the building's premises outside of that 100-foot mark," said Sam Taylor, communications director for the Secretary of State's office, referring to Chapter 61 of the Texas Election Code.

"If (the county property) is within 100 feet and they're banning it within 100 feet of that door, then obviously that's perfectly legal," he said, "but anything outside of that 100-foot mark, banning electioneering outside of that 100-foot is not in accordance with the election code."

The election code states that the owner of a public building being used as a polling site "may not, at any time during the voting period, prohibit electioneering on the building's premises" outside of the aforementioned 100 feet.

The law, however, does allow for "reasonable regulations concerning the time, place, and manner of electioneering."

In enacting the ban, the county ordinance cites an advisory issued by the secretary of state's office, Advisory No. 2017-14, which states that "only a court can determine what is reasonable in term of time, place and manner."

"However," the advisory states, "an example of a reasonable regulation may include prohibiting electioneering on sidewalks or driveways to keep them clear for pedestrian traffic."

District Attorney Omar Escobar said that advisory alone contradicts Taylor's view.

"If you can't prohibit electioneering outside of the 100 feet, then why do they have in the (advisory) that a reasonable regulation is to prohibit electioneering on sidewalks or driveways?" Escobar said by phone Thursday. "In the end, only a court can determine whether or not those are reasonable."

Escobar also pointed out that there are zones outside of the 100 feet, but on county property, where people can electioneer as long they have a permit.

"I really don't see that anybody's rights are being violated," he said. "(The candidates) have had months to be able to electioneer all over the county, visiting people house by house in some cases."

The district attorney said he saw the issue as either being for the candidates or for the voters.

"I'm going to side with the voters on this and not with the candidates or politicians," he said. "I think they should be free to vote how they want without being pressured or harassed."

bereniceg@themonitor.com

Berenice Garcia

EXHIBIT C-5

**229th Judicial District Attorney**

February 16 at 11:46am · 🌐

From the 229th District Attorney's Office:

On February 12, 2018, the Starr County Commissioners' Court passed a comprehensive county building and property use policy. The policy sets out rules and regulations by which members of the general public may request access and use of government facilities. A person may request access or a permit to use areas and buildings belonging to Starr County. The requested use **MUST** first be approved by the Starr County Commissioners' Court. For example, a person requesting the use of any Starr County Community Center must request a permit, and the permit must first be approved by the Starr County Commissioner's Court. The Court retains the authority to accept or deny any requested use of county property. The County Judge's Office may also grant access or a permit in an emergency situation where time does not allow submission to the Starr County Commissioners' Court.

Furthermore, the policy specifically states and identifies all parking zones. Candidates and the public should know that parking areas and parking zones are specifically limited to parking vehicles for members of the public who have business in government buildings. Loitering and electioneering is prohibited in those areas. Parking zones will not be available for tents, bbq pits, chairs or similar items. Electioneering continues to be prohibited in all designated county parking zones. Once again, persons may request a permit to use non-parking areas for any allowed purpose. As of yet, neither the Starr County Commissioners' Court nor the Starr County Judge's Office have granted and they are not required to grant a permit to anyone requesting use of public property. Voters and members of the public should rest assured that there will be no tents, bbq pits or persons crowding county parking zones at polling locations.