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August 29, 2022

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Eloy Vera Ethical Concerns Grow Following Failed Lawsuit

AUSTIN, TX – The latest in a series of questionable moves, Starr County Judge Eloy Vera recently hired an Assistant District Attorney, Hilda Garza, to represent him in a failed bid to remove his opponent from the November ballot. A visiting judge today dismissed their lawsuit as having no merit.

“The apparent conflict of interest with the Assistant District Attorney representing the County Judge as the plaintiff in an election-related case involving their own County is stunning,” said Wayne Hamilton of local governance group #ProjectRedTX. “Who is looking out for the County’s interests? Who is looking out for the people? How many more will get caught up in Eloy Vera’s web of ethical mismanagement?”

Vera’s unsuccessful lawsuit to remove Maria Yvette Hernandez from the November ballot claimed that she did not live in Rio Grande City. Hernandez and her family are well known as an active part of the Rio Grande City community, having fed and entertained hundreds of their neighbors and area residents at their home over the years.

The lawsuit filed by Vera and Garza additionally named County Elections Administrator Armandina Martinez, who rightly refused to remove Vera’s opponent from the ballot.

“After nearly 25 years in office, Eloy Vera seems to think the people of Starr County don’t even deserve a choice anymore,” Hamilton added. “Today the courts protected the right of Starr County citizens to decide for themselves who should lead their County into the future.”

Vera and his newly-appointed campaign treasurer, Starr County Treasurer Romeo Gonzalez, each remain under investigation by the Texas Ethics Commission for multiple violations of state campaign finance laws, including failure to file legally-required campaign finance reports that disclose to the public campaign contributions and expenditures.

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