



**KEN PAXTON**  
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS

February 5, 2018

Hon. Omar Escobar  
229th Judicial District Attorney  
401 N. Britton Avenue, Suite 417  
Rio Grande City, Texas 78582

Dear Mr. Escobar:

Thank you for your communication with our office and for your efforts to address the mail-in ballot application fraud, unlawful influencing of voters, unlawful mail ballot collection by paid vote harvesters (or "politiqueras"), and illegal voting by both non-residents ("precinct hoppers") and non-citizens. We fully support your efforts to educate your district on existing and newly amended voting laws, and to take appropriate enforcement and prosecution actions to address serious offenses that undermine the integrity of the democratic process.

We stand ready to assist you in whatever way we are able in your efforts to eliminate fraudulent voting and vote harvesting activity. We have found that our involvement in investigation and prosecution efforts in counties across the state have had significant deterrent effect on organized paid vote harvesting efforts in those counties, and we are confident that your efforts will do the same. We have recently increased our focus on educational efforts, both in working with local prosecutors and in dealing directly with Election Code offenders, to gain compliance with the law and curb widespread fraud involving mail ballots, in particular. Ultimately, I believe a key solution rests in local elected prosecutors like yourself committing to address fraud in their communities and utilizing improved vote harvesting laws effective December 1, 2017. My office commends your commitment and diligence. Please consider us a partner in resources and intelligence as you address the significant issues you face in your judicial district.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brantley Starr", written over a horizontal line.

Brantley Starr  
Deputy First Assistant Attorney General

Cc: Adrienne McFarland, Deputy Attorney General for Criminal Justice  
David Maxwell, Director of Law Enforcement  
Jonathan White, Assistant Attorney General, Criminal Prosecutions Division