



WANTED

Name: **Sylvia Garza-Perez**

County: Cameron

Position: County Clerk

Years in Office: 6 years

List of Association Committees Served:

CDCAT Community Outreach 2019-2020

List of other "Association" Notable Services:

PRIA Member 2020
Urban Recorders Alliance Member 2016-2020
GCAT Member 2015-2020
Region 8 Conference Host 2018
CDCAT Summer Conference Host 2017
Chair-Cameron County Bail Bond Board 2017-2018
OCA TX Advisory Council 2018-2019
Cameron County Elections Commission 2015-current

List of Personal Information and Civic Service:

Past Chairman of Democratic Party 2012-2014
Hands and Hearts Emcee 2017-2020
United Way Volunteer 1991-2020
Former Board United Way 1991-1995
Leadership Brownsville Graduate 1994
Leadership Brownsville Board 1994-1997
Zonta International Member 2020
Distinguished Alumnus Leadership Brownsville 2015
Member-Iglesia Bautista W. Brownsville
South Texas Chapter-American Red Cross (former board member)
Boys & Girls Club of Brownsville (former board member)
Elks Lodge of Brownsville (former board member)
Brownsville Jaycees (former board member)

First of all, thank you to my Region 8 family for nominating me as County Clerk of the year. I am honored to be nominated, alongside, so many great individuals. You welcomed me into this family 6 years ago, and for that I am grateful. Having worked in the healthcare field for over 20+ years in hospital administration, never in my wildest dreams, as a young girl in South Texas, could I have imagined being part of such a great team of men and women, who work every day, every week, every year to serve their constituents.

I have been involved in so many volunteer opportunities within my county and I have done them all with my three children at my side. They have been my biggest accomplishment in my lifetime, my son Michael, who served his country in the Iraq War and now is heading up and working with ISS Action, a security service company in Harlingen. He and his wife, Mandy, have blessed me with three grandsons. My son, Edward, who has worked endlessly in both my campaigns, by making calls, shaking hands, and encouraging me in all that I do. He has blessed me with my three granddaughters. The star of this family is my beautiful daughter, Julianna, a fierce, strong, intelligent and absolutely a woman with a spirit for the children of this world.

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For those of you, who follow me on social media, you are aware that my granddaughters are known as the JOE's (Jackie, Olivia and Ema) and grandsons are the DMC's, (Dylan, Mateas, Connor) they are the diamonds on my crown.

During my tenure, as County Clerk, our office was awarded Collector of the year in 2016 by GCAT. In 2015, our office received the first 5 Star Recognition awarded by the Texas Department of Vital Statistics, a first for Cameron County. We have since then received the award for the following years, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. I am also, the first female elected to the position of County Clerk in Cameron and so very honored to have been voted in for my second term.

We started an outreach program, my second year in office, which allows us to share our restoration project of historic documents, with the community, citizens and the youth of our county. We have presented to organizations such as Historic Brownsville Rotary, San Benito Chamber of Commerce, Juliet Garcia Middle School, Ed Downs Elementary in San Benito, Santa Rosa Migrant Program, Santa Rosa Parents Involvement Program, and many other organizations. In doing the outreach, we have also found the opportunity to speak about our services, our collaborations with community partners. An example of our collaborations is our Care Partner program, with four local elementary schools, in which we mentor, and support throughout the school year. One program is our PJ's and Teddy Bears, where we adopt a child for Christmas. We obtain the first name of the child, size of clothing, and the person that picks the child's name is responsible to buy them pajamas and a teddy bear/stuffed animal for Christmas. One of my employees' dresses up as Santa Claus and the rest as elves. We deliver the gifts, along with a goody bag filled with snacks. It has become such an anticipated tradition that everyone looks forward to it, including the teachers, students, my employees and our community partners. We often times, run out of children and have donors waiting to help.

Every year, my team and I, continue to educate the public on our services, and have become instrumental in giving back during times of need. Most recently, my team and I, have been helping with United Against Hunger, disbursing bags of food to many of those afflicted during the COVID-19 crisis, as well as partnering with Meals on Wheels and delivering food to the seniors in our county. One year ago, the County Judge and the Commissioners' Court appointed me to lead the Complete Count Committee for the 2020 Census. It has been a big learning experience, and I am thankful that this has broadened my knowledge on how federal funds impact our communities.

I am often asked, "How and why do you do what you do?" I had two great women in my life, my maternal grandmother and my mother. Their unconditional love, and the spirit that led them to raise large families with a limited education and language barriers, but never faltering those who knocked on their door for food, for prayer, a kind word or just kindness. They raised me to do what needs to get done and when your work is done on this earth, you will have left a footprint. I am blessed as the County Clerk for Cameron County to serve my constituents and my community. Thank you so very much for this great honor.