

PUBLIC NOTICE
ZAPATA COUNTY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
NOTICE OF CONSIDERATION TO ENGAGE COUNSEL PURSUANT TO A CONTINGENT FEE
AGREEMENT

1. Notice is hereby given that a meeting of the Zapata County Independent School District ("Zapata County ISD") will be held on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at ZCISD Dora O. Martinez Boardroom 1302 Glenn, Zapata, TEXAS 78076 for the purpose of considering and taking action on all matters on the agenda for the meeting, including approval of an agreement with the law firms of JCA Law, PLLC and Guerra LLP as special counsel to perform all legal services necessary to pursue causes of action against social media companies relating to student social media usage that has caused disruption to the school environment, safety concerns, and other related issues that may develop during the course and scope of legal representation. The District's desired outcome of the anticipated litigation is the recovery of damages, and any other relief allowed under the law.
2. The District seeks to engage the law firms of JCA Law, PLLC and Guerra LLP ("Firms"). Details regarding the Firms' competence, qualifications, and experience are attached as Exhibit A.
3. The District has no prior relationship with the Guerra LLP law firm. JCA Law, PLLC currently serves as the District's general counsel and has done so since June 2013. Both law firms are fully qualified to perform the legal services being considered by the Zapata County ISD Board of Trustees based on their demonstrated competence, qualifications, and experience. Details regarding the Firms' experience and qualifications are detailed in Exhibit A.
4. The specialized legal services for which the District is considering engaging the Firms cannot be adequately performed by the attorneys and supporting personnel of the District due to the high cost of implementing the appropriate litigation infrastructure and technology and employing sufficient in-house counsel and staff with the level of experience and competence to perform complex litigation services. The investigation, research, and litigation of the anticipated claims against the social media companies will require the expenditure of large sums of money and require the use of specialized technology and the work of numerous attorneys, paralegals, experts, and others.
5. The Zapata County ISD Board of Trustees has determined that the contemplated litigation is specialized and the District's resources for legal services are limited. The District does not have the financial resources to retain lawyers on an hourly rate without regard to the outcome due to the anticipated amount of legal work required for this specialized litigation, which will include the review of large amounts of electronically stored information and documents and the use of experts. The only practical way the District can pursue its social media litigation claims is with a contingent fee arrangement, which results in no cost to Zapata County ISD unless Zapata County ISD is able to recover through a lawsuit.
6. Entering into the proposed agreement is in the best interest of the Zapata County ISD taxpayers because the school district's social media litigation claims will be professionally and competently pursued without the additional costs to the school district of hiring legal counsel on an hourly fee basis which would be very costly. Zapata County ISD has limited resources to advance for litigation expenses, and the hiring of the Firms would require the Firms to advance those expenses and only be reimbursed by Zapata County ISD out of any recovery if Zapata County ISD is successful. Retaining counsel who will advance the costs to litigate the District's claims will allow the District to use its resources to support its educational operations and programs. The only practical way for the District to pursue its student social media usage claims is with a contingent fee arrangement.

This notice was posted in compliance with the Texas Open Meetings Act on the 23rd day of May 2025, at ZCISD Website.



Dr. Roberta R. Treviño
Superintendent of Schools