

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION 2026-

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, CALLING A SPECIAL ELECTION ON THE PROPOSED BALLOT QUESTION AND CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 3, 2026; PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF A BALLOT QUESTION ASKING IF THE CHARTER SHOULD BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE FOR THE MAYOR TO BE ELECTED TO SERVE A FOUR (4) YEAR TERM COMMENCING WITH THE NOVEMBER 2028 ELECTION WITHOUT CHANGING THE ASSOCIATED MAYORAL TERM LIMIT; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Section 1 of the Charter of the City of Coral Gables (“City Charter”) provides that the Mayor is elected to a term of office for two years; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 the City’s electors approved an amendment to the City Charter providing for a four-year mayoral term beginning in 2007 and that amendment was approved by 52% of the electors; and

WHEREAS, in 2009 the City’s electors approved an amendment to the City Charter providing for a return to a two-year mayoral term beginning in 2011 and that amendment was approved by 50.63% of the electors; and

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables Charter Review Committee has discussed a potential amendment to the City Charter to allow, again, for a four-year mayoral term; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission has reviewed the materials considered by the Charter Review Committee and further discussed the topic; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent and desire of the City Commission to provide an opportunity to the electors to vote on whether the City Charter should be amended to provide for a four-year mayoral term; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution calls for a special election for a proposed ballot question to be placed on the November 3, 2026 ballot; and

WHEREAS, if adopted, this City Charter amendment would allow for the election of a four-year mayoral term beginning in the November 2028 election; and

WHEREAS, Section 2 of the City Charter provides that no person shall be elected to serve as Mayor for more than eight consecutive years and Section 2 would not be amended if this ballot question was adopted and approved by the City’s electors; and

WHEREAS, the current City Mayor, if re-elected in 2026, will have served eight consecutive years as Mayor, having reached the limit established in Section 2 of the City Charter, and thus would not be eligible to run for Mayor in 2028; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 6.03 of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, as well as the City Charter and Chapter 18 of the City Code, the City Commission is authorized to submit ballot questions to the electors of the City for approval or rejection of proposed amendments to the City Charter.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES:

SECTION 1. That the foregoing “**WHEREAS**” clauses are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true and correct and are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution upon adoption hereof.

SECTION 2. BALLOT QUESTION AND CHARTER AMENDMENT. That pursuant to section 6.03 of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, as well as the City Charter and Chapter 18 of the City Code, the City Commission seeks to place before the electors an amendment to the City’s Charter. The specific language for the amendment to the City Charter proposed by this Section is provided in Exhibit 1 to this Resolution.

SECTION 3. ELECTION CALLED. That on November 3, 2026, qualified electors in the City of Coral Gables will be presented with the ballot question provided in Section 4 of this Resolution.

SECTION 4. FORM OF THE BALLOT QUESTION. That the form of ballot for the question provided for in Section 2 of this Resolution shall substantially be as provided below:

FOUR-YEAR TERM OF OFFICE FOR CITY MAYOR

The City Charter currently provides for a two-year term for the City’s Mayor. Shall the City Charter be amended to increase the term of office for the Mayor to four years, consistent with the term of office for City Commissioners, beginning with the 2028 Coral Gables General Election with no change to the associated term limit?

_____ YES

_____ NO

SECTION 5. BALLOTING. That balloting shall be conducted between the hours of 7:00 am and 7:00 pm on the date of the election. Vote-by-mail ballots shall be available. Early voting shall be provided in conjunction with the general election. All qualified City electors who are timely registered in accordance with law shall be entitled to vote. The City Clerk is authorized to obtain any and all necessary election administration services from the Miami-Dade County (the “County”) Supervisor of Elections. The County registration books shall remain open at the Office of the County Supervisor of Elections until the date at which the registration books shall close in accordance with the provisions of the general election laws. The City Clerk and the County Supervisor of Elections are hereby authorized to take all appropriate action necessary to carry into effect and accomplish the provisions of this Resolution. This election shall be canvassed by the Miami-Dade County Canvassing Board.

SECTION 6. NOTICE OF ELECTION. That notice of said election shall be published in accordance with Section 100.342, Fla. Stat., in a newspaper of general circulation within the City at least thirty (30) days prior to said election, or by publication on the County’s website as provided in Section 50.0311, Fla. Stat. the City’s website, or the supervisor’s website, as applicable. The first publication shall be in the fifth week prior to the election, and the second publication shall be in the third week prior to the election, and notice shall be in substantially the following form:

"NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION"

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION NO. 2026-____ ADOPTED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, AN ELECTION HAS BEEN CALLED AND ORDERED TO BE HELD WITHIN THE CITY ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 03, 2026, BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 7:00 A.M. AND 7:00 P.M., AT WHICH TIME THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY.

FOUR-YEAR TERM OF OFFICE FOR CITY MAYOR

The City Charter currently provides for a two-year term for the City’s Mayor. Shall the City Charter be amended to increase the term of office for the Mayor to four years, consistent with the term of office for City Commissioners, beginning with the 2028 Coral Gables General Election with no change to the associated term limit?

_____ YES

_____ NO

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVENESS.

- A. That the question provided for in Section 2 and 4 above shall become effective only if the majority of qualified electors voting on the specific question vote for its adoption, and it shall be considered adopted and effective upon certification of election results.
- B. That the City Attorney is authorized to revise the City Charter to the extent necessary to assure that the adoption of the City Charter amendment provided for in this question conforms to and is properly included in the publication of the revised City Charter, and to provide for transitional provision if needed.
- C. That the City Attorney is authorized to revise the exact working of this Resolution, the ballot question contained herein, and the exhibit hereto to the extent necessary to ensure its placement on the ballot in accordance with law.
- D. That following the election, the City Clerk, City Attorney, and City Manager are directed to revise and encode and take any necessary actions to implement the amendment, if approved by the electors.

SECTION 8. INCLUSION IN THE CHARTER. That subject to the requirements herein, it is the intent of the City Commission, and it is hereby provided, that any City Charter amendment approved by the electors shall become and be made a part of the City Charter.

SECTION 9. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall become effective upon passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, A.D., 2026.
(Moved: ____ / Seconded: ____)
(Yeas:)
(Unanimous:)
(Non-Agenda Item)

APPROVED:

VINCE LAGO
MAYOR

ATTEST:

BILLY Y. URQUIA
CITY CLERK

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY:

CRISTINA M. SUÁREZ
CITY ATTORNEY

EXHIBIT 1

(Deletions are indicated by ~~strike through~~. Insertions are indicated by underline.)

Sec. 1. Creation, composition, election, terms, vacancies, qualifications.

The City shall be governed by a commission consisting of five members elected from the City, at large, in groups or seats numbered One through Five. One of the said Commissioners shall be the Mayor and shall be elected by the people from the group numbered One, and all persons desiring to qualify as a candidate for Mayor shall file in Group One. The Mayor shall have the powers set in the Charter of the City of Coral Gables, Dade County, Florida (today Miami-Dade County). All persons desiring to qualify for Commissioner shall file in Groups Two through Five. Commissioners in Groups Two and Three shall be elected at the general election to be held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2026, and at general election every four years thereafter. Commissioners in Groups Four and Five shall be elected the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2028 and at a general election each four years thereafter. The Mayor shall be elected at each general election beginning the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2026~~8~~ for a term of ~~two~~four years, and at a general election every ~~two~~four years thereafter. The Mayor and Commissioners shall take office at noon on the third day after their election. The Mayor and all other members of the Commission shall be subject to recall, as provided by the Charter. To the extent not in conflict with state law, the date of the general election shall not be changed by ordinance.

The candidate receiving the greatest number of votes in each group shall be considered elected after the canvas of the vote and the declaration of the elections' result as hereinafter provided.

Any Commissioner whose term of office does not expire at noon on the third day after the election, desiring to run for the office of Mayor shall present an irrevocable resignation of his or her office of Commissioner to the City Commission not less than 60 days prior to the date of election, and said resignation shall become effective at noon on the third day after the election. Upon receipt of resignation, the Commission shall make public announcement by resolution accepting the resignation and instructing the Clerk to accept qualified candidates to run for election for the unexpired term of the resigning Commissioner for the purpose of running for Mayor.

Within 30 days after a vacancy occurs on the Commission, the remaining Commissioners shall elect a Commissioner to fill the vacancy until the next general biennial election. At that time, if the term of office vacated extends beyond such election, a Commissioner shall be elected to fill the balance of the unoccupied term, except as provided for recall. Members of the Commission shall not hold any other elected office except that of Notary Public, or member of the Florida State Militia. A member of the Commission ceasing to possess any of the qualifications specified in the Charter, or if convicted of a felony while in office, shall immediately and automatically forfeit his or her office.

