

CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION 2025-

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 APRIL 13, 2027; PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF A BALLOT QUESTION ASKING IF THE CHARTER SHOULD BE AMENDED TO ALIGN THE CITY'S GENERAL ELECTION AND ASSOCIATED DATES WITH STATE AND NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND AMENDING ALL SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the City of Coral Gables has held general elections in April of odd-numbered years, separate from partisan races and focused solely on local issues since 1928; and

WHEREAS, there has been discussion regarding moving the date of the City's general election to coincide with state and national elections held in November of even numbered years; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to send to the voters a question amending the Charter to move the City's general elections to November of even-numbered years;

WHEREAS, this Resolution calls for a special election for a proposed ballot question to be placed on the April 13, 2027 ballot; 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 Commission seeks to place before the voters 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 April 13, 2027, 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:

**AMENDING THE CHARTER TO ALIGN THE CITY'S GENERAL
ELECTION AND CERTAIN DATES WITH NATIONAL ELECTIONS**

Since municipal elections in Coral Gables have historically been held in April of odd-numbered years, separate from partisan races and focused solely on local issues, shall the City Charter now be amended to hold its general elections in November of each even-numbered year, aligning them with state and national elections, commencing in November 2028, resulting in a four month reduction of current elected official's terms and adjusting associated qualification and run-off dates?

_____ 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 30 days prior to said election, or by publication on the County's website as provided in Section 50.0311, Fla. Stat. the municipality'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. 2025-____ 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, APRIL 13, 2027, 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.

AMENDING THE CHARTER TO ALIGN THE CITY'S GENERAL ELECTION AND CERTAIN DATES WITH NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Since municipal elections in Coral Gables have historically been held in April of odd-numbered years, separate from partisan races and focused solely on local issues, shall the City Charter now be amended to hold its general elections in November of each even-numbered year, aligning them with state and national elections, commencing in November 2028, resulting in a four month reduction of current elected official's terms and adjusting associated qualification and run-off dates?

_____ 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 Charter amendment provided for in this question conforms to and is properly included in the publication of the revised 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 voters.

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 Charter amendment approved by the voters 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., 2025.

(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 ~~striketrough~~. 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 second first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2028 ~~April, 1985~~, and at general election every four years thereafter. Commissioners in Groups Four and Five shall be those Commissioners whose terms presently expire in 1987, and Commissioners who elect to run in Groups Four and Five shall be elected the second first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2030 ~~April, 1987~~ and general election each four years thereafter. The Mayor shall be elected at each general election beginning the second first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 2028 ~~April 2011~~, and shall hold office for a term of two years and at a general election every two 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.

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.

Sec. 1.1. Run-Off Election.

The candidate receiving a majority of the votes in each group shall be considered elected. In any election for Groups One through Five, if a majority of the vote is not received by any one candidate of a group, a run-off between the two candidates receiving the most votes in the respective group shall be held ~~two~~ four weeks after the general election, on a Tuesday. The candidate receiving the most votes in the run-off shall be considered elected. The Mayor and Commissioners shall take office at noon on the ~~third~~ fifth Friday after the general election. No run-off election shall be

required when a candidate receives a majority of the vote or if a candidate is unopposed in the run-off election. Run-off and all other dates related thereto may be adjusted by Ordinance. This provision shall take precedence over any conflicting provision in this Charter.

Sec. 3. Election to Office; Commission as Judge of Qualifications, Requirements, Ballots, Canvassing, and Qualifying Periods.

The members of the Commission shall be residents of the City and shall have the qualifications of electors therein. The Commission shall be the judge of the election and qualifications of its own members in accordance with the parameters outlined in this Charter.

(a) *Age and Residency Requirements.* To be a candidate for Mayor or Commissioner, an individual must: be a U.S. Citizen and have resided in the City of Coral Gables for at least one year prior to the election for which he or she seeks office.

(b) *Ballots, Canvassing.* It is the duty of the City Commission to have ballots prepared in advance of an election and to complete all prerequisites required of the Commission under this Charter or any other governing provision of Florida law. After an election, the Commission shall canvass the election returns and declare its results as soon as may be practicable.

[(c) Reserved.]

(d) *Candidates, Fee; Rebate of Excess Fees.* Any person who meets the qualifications for a candidate, as outlined in this Charter, may offer himself or herself as a candidate for City Commissioner by submitting a written declaration to the City Clerk and paying a \$200.00 filing fee, which shall be used to off-set the costs of the election. The name of any person so qualified shall be placed on the official ballot. Within 30 days after the election, the City Clerk shall advise the Commission as to the costs of the election and the amount of candidate filing fees collected. If the amount of candidate filing fees collected is greater than the election's cost, the City Commission shall order that such excess be returned to the candidates in a pro rata manner.

(e) *Qualifying Period.* To be qualified to run for Mayor or Commissioner, candidates must file their written declaration of intent with the City Clerk, and pay the required candidate filing fee, and submit all required qualifying documents. Candidates for Mayor or Commissioner shall qualify with the City Clerk during a qualifying period which shall coincide with the qualifying period for election to a county office as specifies in F.S. 99.061(2). Only that qualifying period specified in F.S. 99.061(2), which is any time after noon on the 71st day prior to the state's primary election, but not later than noon on the 67th day prior to the state's primary election shall be applicable. between noon of the 50th day and noon of the 46th day prior to the election. This period shall constitute a four-day qualifying period

