CITY OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-34

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF CORAL GABLES, FLORIDA, CALLING FOR A SPECIAL ELECTION ON A PROPOSED BALLOT QUESTION AND CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT TO BE HELD ON APRIL 21, 2026; PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF A BALLOT QUESTION ASKING WHETHER THE CITY CHARTER SHOULD BE AMENDED TO ELIMINATE THE RUN-OFF ELECTION IN CITY COMMISSION AND MAYORAL RACES; PROVIDING FOR A MAIL BALLOT; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, in 2016 voters approved a Charter amendment adding a run-off election to the City Charter; and

WHEREAS, currently, the City Charter requires a run-off between the two candidates with the highest vote totals where no candidate receives a majority (fifty percent plus one) in the general election; and

WHEREAS, since the introduction of the run-off there has been a run-off in at least one race in each of the last five general municipal elections held in the City; and

WHEREAS, in 2025 the run-off election cost the City approximately $125,000, inclusive of advertising; and

WHEREAS, if the run-off election is eliminated a mayor or commissioner may be elected with a plurality vote (the most votes) even if this does not constitute a majority; and

WHEREAS, if the voters approve the elimination of the run-off, the run-off would be eliminated regardless of when general municipal elections are held; and

WHEREAS, the City's Charter Review Committee recommended that the City Commission submit a question eliminating the run-off election to the voters; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission wishes to send a question to the voters in order to amend the Charter to eliminate the run-off election for general municipal elections; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission wishes to provide for a mail ballot election, as prescribed by Section 101.6101-6017, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution calls for a proposed mail ballot election to be held April 21, 2026; 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. <u>BALLOT QUESTION AND CHARTER AMENDMENT.</u> 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. <u>ELECTION CALLED.</u> That on April 21, 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. <u>FORM OF THE BALLOT QUESTION</u>. That the form of ballot for the question provided for in Section 2 of this Resolution shall substantially be as provided below:

AN AMENDMENT ELIMINATING THE RUNOFF ELECTION IN CITY COMMISSION AND MAYORAL RACES

Presently the City Charter requires a runoff between the two candidates with the highest vote totals where no candidate received a majority (50 percent plus 1) in the general municipal election. Should the runoff provision be eliminated so that a mayor or commissioner may be elected with a plurality vote (the most votes) even if this does not constitute a majority, understanding that the runoff would be eliminated regardless of when general elections are held?

_____ YES

_____ NO

SECTION 5. <u>BALLOTING.</u> That mail ballots, as prescribed in Section 101.6101- 101.6107, Florida Statutes, shall be used in this special 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. **<u>NOTICE OF ELECTION.</u>** 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:

<div align="center">"NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION"</div>

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION NO. 2026-34 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 21, BY MAIL BALLOT., AT WHICH TIME THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY

<div align="center">

AN AMENDMENT ELIMINATING THE RUNOFF ELECTION IN CITY COMMISSION AND MAYORAL RACES

</div>

Presently the City Charter requires a runoff between the two candidates with the highest vote totals where no candidate received a majority (50 percent plus 1) in the general municipal election. Should the runoff provision be eliminated so that a mayor or commissioner may be elected with a plurality vote (the most votes) even if this does not constitute a majority, understanding that the runoff would be eliminated regardless of when general elections are held?

_____ YES

_____ NO

SECTION 7. <u>EFFECTIVENESS</u>.
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 wording 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. <u>INCLUSION IN THE CHARTER.</u> 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. <u>EFFECTIVE DATE.</u> This Resolution shall become effective upon passage and adoption herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS TWENTY-SEVENTH DAY OF JANUARY, A.D., 2026.
(Moved: Anderson / Seconded: Lara)
(Yeas: Anderson, Fernandez, Lara, Lago)
(Unanimous: 4-0 Vote)
(Absent: Castro)
(Agenda Item: F-6)

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 ~~strikethrough.~~ Insertions are indicated by <u>underline</u>.)

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 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 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.~~