

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 REQUIRE CONTINUOUS RESIDENCY IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE CONCLUSION OF THE QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR THE OFFICES OF MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSIONER; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Section 3 of the Charter of City of Coral Gables (“City Charter”) provides that to be a candidate for Mayor or Commissioner an individual must have resided in the City of Coral Gables for at least one year prior to the election for which he or she seeks office; and

WHEREAS, the City Attorney’s longstanding interpretation of Section 3 of the City Charter is that the residency requirement of one year prior to the election is the year immediately prior to the election in which the candidate seeks office; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Committee reviewed Section 3 of the City Charter and recommended to the City Commission that the electors be presented with a question amending the City Charter to read that the residency requirement be one year immediately prior to the end of the qualifying period for the election for which he or she seeks office; and

WHEREAS, the City’s elections will now be held in November of even numbered years, and the qualifying period takes place in June of each election year; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent and desire of the City Commission to provide an opportunity to the electorate to vote on this proposed amendment to the City’s qualifications for office; 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:

**CITY CHARTER AMENDMENT TO REQUIRE RESIDENCY
IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING QUALIFYING PERIOD FOR
MAYOR OR CITY COMMISSIONER**

Shall Section 3 of the City Charter be amended to require continuous residency in the City of Coral Gables for a minimum of one year immediately preceding the end of the qualifying period for candidates running for City Commissioner or City Mayor?

_____ 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.

Shall Section 3 of the City Charter be amended to require continuous residency in the City of Coral Gables for a minimum of one year immediately preceding the end of the qualifying period for candidates running for City Commissioner or City Mayor?

_____ 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 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., 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 ~~striketrough~~. Insertions are indicated by underline.)

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 continuously resided in the City of Coral Gables for at least one year immediately prior to the end of the qualifying period for 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, 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.

Sec. 34h - Sale of certain city-owned real property