

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 21, 2026; PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS FOR APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL OF A BALLOT QUESTION ASKING IF THE CHARTER SHOULD BE AMENDED TO CHANGE THE CITY'S GENERAL ELECTION FROM APRIL OF ODD NUMBERED YEARS TO COINCIDE WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION HELD IN NOVEMBER OF EVEN NUMBERED YEARS AND ADJUSTING THE ASSOCIATED QUALIFICATION AND RUN-OFF DATES AND CHANGING ALL SUBSEQUENT ELECTIONS ; PROVIDING FOR A MAIL BALLOT ELECTION; PROVIDING FOR NOTICE; PROVIDING FOR INCLUSION IN THE CITY CHARTER; PROVIDING FOR RELATED MATTERS PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, holding municipal elections in conjunction with national and state elections in even-numbered years would result in several benefits to the City including increased voter turnout, increased early voting, and lower City costs for each election; City; and

WHEREAS, according to an analysis by the City Clerk and City Attorney's offices during the 2025 Election Cycle the City spent approximately \$125,000 on the general election and \$125,000 on the Run-Off Election with turnout of approximately 29.62% for the General Election and 23.14% for the Run-Off Election, and

WHEREAS, in contrast, during the November 2024 general election approximately 83.46% of registered voters in the City of Coral Gables voted in the election; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission desires to send to the voters a question amending the Charter to consider moving the City's general election from April of odd-numbered years to November of even-numbered years;

WHEREAS, this Resolution calls for a special election 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; and

WHEREAS, the City Commission wishes to provide for a mail ballot election, as prescribed by Section 101.6101-6107, Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, subject to approval by the Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections the City Commission wishes to hold a mail ballot election on April 21, 2026; and

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 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. 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 CHANGE CITY’S ELECTION AND ASSOCIATED DATES TO COINCIDE WITH NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Shall the City Charter be amended to:

Change the month and day when the City of Coral Gables holds its general elections from April of each odd year to the date of the national election in November of each even year commencing in 2026, resulting in a four- month reduction of current elected officials’ terms, and adjusting associated qualifying and run-off dates, with the intention of increasing voter turnout and decreasing election costs?

_____ YES

_____ NO

SECTION 5. BALLOTING. That mail ballots, as prescribed by Section 101.6101-101.6107, Florida Statutes, shall be used in this special election. All qualified 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 21, 2026, BY MAIL BALLOT, AT WHICH TIME THE FOLLOWING CHARTER AMENDMENT PROPOSAL SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY.

AMENDING THE CHARTER TO CHANGE CITY'S ELECTION AND ASSOCIATED DATES TO COINCIDE WITH NATIONAL ELECTIONS

Shall the City Charter be amended to:

Change the month and day when the City of Coral Gables holds its general elections from April of each odd year to the date of the national election in November of each even year commencing in 2026, resulting in a four- month reduction of current elected officials' terms, and adjusting associated qualifying and run-off dates, with the intention of increasing voter turnout and decreasing election costs?

_____ 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. SEVERABILITY The provisions of this Resolution are declared to be severable and if any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Resolution shall for any reason be held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, and phrases of this Resolution but they shall remain in effect, it being the legislative intent that this Resolution shall stand not withstanding the invalidity of any part.

SECTION 9. 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 10. 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