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Approved by City Clerk's Office (7<sup>th</sup> draft on 2/4/09, reviewing for polling/precinct locations only)  
Approved by Human Resources Director (7<sup>th</sup> draft on 2/4/09)

## **City of Coral Gables Special Municipal Referendum Election Guide For Proposed Charter Amendments**

### **VOTE ON APRIL 14!**

On Tuesday, April 14, 2009, from 7 a.m. until 7 p.m., the City of Coral Gables will hold a Special Municipal Referendum Election for the purpose of asking voters registered in Coral Gables to vote on five Amendments to the Charter of the City of Coral Gables. The Special Municipal Referendum Election will be held on the same day of the General Biennial Election. Qualified electors must vote at their assigned precincts only and no early voting provisions will be available. Registered voters may, however, cast their votes through absentee ballots by contacting the Miami-Dade County Elections Office prior to Election Day.

The first proposed Charter Amendment is to increase the threshold for formal public bids and awards from \$25,000 to \$100,000 on public works projects already allocated in the City budget.

The second proposed Charter Amendment is to eliminate the Trial Board. This Board reviews the decision of the City Manager in suspending, demoting or terminating non-union employees, including directors.

The third proposed Charter Amendment is to reduce the term of the Office of the Mayor from four years to two years commencing the second Tuesday in April 2011.

The fourth and fifth proposed Charter Amendments provide for term limits for a total of 8 years for the Mayor and term limits for a total of 12 years for City Commissioners, allowing the incumbent Mayor and Commissioners from Groups Four and Five to run an additional term in the General Biennial Election of 2011.

The purpose of this Special Municipal Referendum Election Guide For Proposed Charter Amendments is to provide objective, impartial explanations of these ballot questions in order that City voters may be more informed about the issues presented at the polls. No official City position is being advocated in this guide.

**This is not an official ballot** and is intended for informational purposes only. Please contact the Miami-Dade County Elections Office at 305-499-VOTE (8683), TTY Number at 305-499-8480, or Fax at 305-499-8547 for additional voting registration and ballot information.

## **Section 54-Capital Improvement Projects**

Charter Amendment Ballot Question No. 1:

*Shall the City of Coral Gables Charter Section 54 be amended by increasing the threshold for formal public bids and awards from twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) on public works projects and shall this Section be transferred to the City Code for further amendments by the City Commission?*

### **Explanation**

This Charter Amendment proposes to increase the threshold from \$25,000 to \$100,000 as the amount a public works project or improvement would require a formal public bid and award process, including public advertising, sealed bids and City Commission approval. Public works projects under \$100,000 that are already included in the City budget will not require a formal public bid but will need to follow informal bid procedures which require at least three quotes from qualified vendors. Under the informal bid process, City Administration reviews the bids for price, timeline and other consideration. This Amendment also transfers Section 54 from the City Charter to the City Code so that any future changes to this Section may be modified by a vote of the City Commission instead of by a vote of the qualified electors.

Electors desiring to vote to approve the amendment ballot question described above are instructed to vote “YES” within the ballot frame containing the statement relating to the question.

Electors desiring to disapprove the amendment ballot question described above are instructed to vote “NO” within the ballot frame containing the statement relating to the question.

### **Trial Board**

Charter Amendment Ballot Question No. 2:

*Shall the Charter of the City of Coral Gables be amended to eliminate the Trial Board?*

### **Explanation**

This Charter Amendment proposes to remove the requirement that a special Trial Board be established to investigate and review a decision by City Administration to impose disciplinary actions against an employee of the City of Coral Gables not represented by a collective bargaining agreement, and affirm or reverse that decision.

If the Charter Amendment is approved, non-union employees who are below the level of Department Directors will continue to retain rights to a grievance procedure as provided

for in the City's Personnel Rules and Regulations. Department Directors will function as at-will employees.

If the Charter Amendment is not approved, a non-union employee disciplined by City Administration, including Department Directors, may then request to convene the Trial Board to review this decision.

Electors desiring to vote in approval of the amendment ballot question described above are instructed to vote "YES" within the ballot frame containing the statement relating to the question. A "YES" vote means voting for the elimination of the Trial Board.

Electors desiring to disapprove the amendment ballot question described above are instructed to vote "NO" within the ballot frame containing the statement relating to the question. A "NO" vote means voting for keeping the Trial Board.

### **Mayor's Term**

Charter Amendment Ballot Question No. 3:

*Shall the Charter of the City of Coral Gables be amended to provide for the Mayor to be elected to serve a two (2) year term commencing the second Tuesday in April, 2001?*

### **Explanation**

This Charter Amendment proposes to reduce the Mayor's term from the existing four-year term to a two-year term, commencing on April 2011. Prior to 2005, the Mayor's term was two years. On April 2005, the electorate voted to extend the Mayor's term to four years which is the same length as that of Commissioners who serve staggered four-year terms.

Electors desiring to vote in approval of the amendment ballot question described above are instructed to vote "YES" within the ballot frame containing the statement relating to the question.

Electors desiring to disapprove the amendment ballot question described above are instructed to vote "NO" within the ballot frame containing the statement relating to the question.

### **Term Limits**

Charter Amendment Ballot Question No. 4:

*Shall the Charter of the City of Coral Gables be amended to provide for term limits of eight (8) consecutive years for the Mayor and twelve (12) consecutive years for a City Commissioner, with the incumbent Mayor in Group One (I) and the incumbent*

*Commissioners in Group Four (IV) and Group Five (V) allowed to run for an additional term in the General Biennial Election of 2011?*

Charter Amendment Ballot Question No. 5:

**If you vote “No” on Ballot Question No. 4, do not vote on the following question:**

*Shall the Charter of the City of Coral Gables be amended to provide that the time served in fulfilling the unexpired term resulting from a vacancy on the City Commission shall not be counted in applying these term limits?*

### **Explanation**

These Charter Amendments propose to place term limits of a total of eight years of service for the Mayor and 12 years for City Commissioners, allowing incumbents to run for an additional term in the General Biennial Election of 2011.

If these Charter Amendments are approved, incumbents who have exceeded term limits are not be eligible to run for reelection after their expired term.

If these Charter Amendments are not approved, incumbents are eligible to run for reelection without term limitations.

Electors desiring to vote in approval of the amendment ballot questions described above are instructed to vote “YES” within the ballot frame containing the statement relating to the question.

Electors desiring to disapprove the amendment ballot questions described above are instructed to vote “NO” within the ballot frame containing the statement relating to the question.

(SPANISH TRANSLATION)

**List of Polling Locations \***

Open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

<b>Precinct</b>	<b>Voting Site</b>	<b>Address</b>
562	St. Michael's Church	2987 West Flagler Street
601	Venetian Pool	2701 DeSoto Boulevard
602	First United Methodist Church of Coral Gables	536 Coral Way
604	American Legion Post #98	303 Alhambra Circle
605	Coral Gables Youth Center	405 University Drive
607	Coral Gables Congregational Church	3010 DeSoto Boulevard
608	The Country Club of Coral Gables	997 N. Greenway Drive
610	Coral Gables Youth Center	405 University Drive
611	Coral Gables Senior High School	450 Bird Road
612	St. Augustine Catholic Church	1400 Miller Road
613	Ponce De Leon Middle School	5801 Augusto Street
614	Coral Gables Fire Station #2	525 S. Dixie Highway
615	Cocoplum Woman's Club	1375 Sunset Drive
617	Fire Rescue Station #3	11911 Old Cutler Road
618	Old Cutler Presbyterian Church	14401 Old Cutler Road
626	Christ The King Lutheran Church	11295 S.W. 57 Avenue
633	Coral Gables Woman's Club	1001 E. Ponce de Leon Boulevard
634	Elizabeth Virrick Park	3255 Plaza Street
635	Miami Dade Water & Sewer Authority	3575 S. LeJeune Road
636	Coral Gables Branch Library	3443 Segovia Street
637	Coral Gables Congregational Church	3010 DeSoto Boulevard
638	Coral Gables Senior High School	450 Bird Road
639	St. Augustine Catholic Church	1400 Miller Road
640	Bank United Center at UM	1245 Walsh Avenue
645	Old Cutler Presbyterian Church	14401 Old Cutler Road
850	Christ Congregational Church	14920 S.W. 67 Avenue

*\*Polling locations are subject to change no more than 30 days or fewer than seven days prior to Election Day.*

Vote on April 14, 2009!

For further election information, you may contact the City Clerk's Office at 305-460-5207 or visit the City's Web site at [www.coralgables.com](http://www.coralgables.com).

(Disclaimers)