

THE BUDGET PROCESS AND PROPERTY TAXES

The Budget is the annual appropriations necessary to achieve the results anticipated through the departmental business plans in support of the Strategic Plan. This section is especially useful for readers who aren't familiar with how a budget is developed, the rules that govern the process, and the kind of information that is contained in a budget. There is also information regarding how property taxes are determined and assessed.

WHAT IS A BUDGET?

An annual budget is a financial, operating, and capital plan for the coming fiscal year. It provides an outline of service levels provided to the citizen and public capital investments in the community, to be used by both our customers and us. Miami-Dade County's budget document is a tool that serves five purposes:

- **Prioritization:** County resources that address needs identified by the Mayor, the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), and the County's strategic plan are prioritized through this process.
- **Information:** The budget document is the primary way for the County to explain to the public what it intends to do with the taxes and fees it collects. Through the budget document, the public can see how and where tax dollars and other revenues raised by the County will be spent.
- **Planning:** The budget process is an annual plan for management of the County to coordinate and schedule programs and services to address the County's priorities.
- **Evaluation:** The budget is used to help determine how well services are provided and how successful the County is in meeting the community's needs.
- **Accountability:** The budget is a tool for legally authorizing public expenditures and to account for and control the use of public resources.

The annual budget is determined for a fiscal year, which is the twelve-month cycle that comprises the jurisdiction's reporting period. The State of Florida and certain federal programs have different fiscal years than the County. The County's fiscal year starts on October 1 and ends September 30 of the following year. This Adopted Budget is for the period October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015 and is shown as either "FY 2014-15" or "FY 14-15."

PROPERTY TAXES

Taxing Jurisdictions

The County budgets for four separate taxing jurisdictions: Countywide, the Unincorporated Municipal Service Area (UMSA), the Fire Rescue District, and the Library System. Each taxing jurisdiction is responsible for different types of services. The Countywide jurisdiction provides regional services such as public health and social services, transportation, regional parks and county roads, support for the court system, and the regional sheriff services and jails. The UMSA jurisdiction provides the municipal services for the residents of the county who don't live in municipalities. These services include local police patrol, local parks and roads, planning, and code enforcement. The Fire Rescue District provides fire rescue service for the entire county except for the cities of Hialeah, Miami, Miami Beach, Key Biscayne, and Coral

FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

Gables. The Library System jurisdiction includes all municipalities and UMSA except for Bal Harbour, Bay Harbor Islands, Hialeah, Miami Shores, North Miami, North Miami Beach, and Surfside.

The table below shows the value of the property tax roll for each of the County's four taxing jurisdictions.

CERTIFIED TAX ROLLS				
Taxing Unit	Value per Mill of Taxable Property in 2014	Net Change in Value Due to Reassessment	Current Year Net New Construction Taxable Value	Value per Mill of Taxable Property in 2015
Countywide	\$189,775,517	\$19,080,754	\$1,688,487	\$210,544,758
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Service District	110,133,966	9,658,266	1,603,088	121,395,320
Miami-Dade Public Library System	173,266,271	17,993,888	1,194,463	192,454,621
Unincorporated Municipal Service Area	53,488,276	4,345,068	592,897	58,426,240

Notes:

1. Tax roll figures are current Certified Preliminary roll values as of July 1, 2014.
2. The Current Year Net New Taxable Value column represents the value per mill of:
 new construction + additions + improvements increasing value by at least 100% + annexations from the tax rolls
 + total tangible personal property taxable value in excess of 115% of the previous year's total taxable value - deletions

Each municipality also levies taxes against its property tax roll. The municipalities develop and approve their own budgets, which are not part of the County's budget. The following table shows the population and roll value for each municipal taxing jurisdiction.

FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY POPULATION AND ASSESSMENT ROLLS				
Jurisdiction	2014 Population *	Percent of Total Population	2014 Assessment	
			Roll Value (in \$1,000)**	Percent of Tax Roll
Aventura	37,262	1.43	\$8,394,311	3.99
Bal Harbour	2,855	0.11	3,954,448	1.88
Bay Harbor Islands	5,785	0.22	698,927	0.33
Biscayne Park	3,140	0.12	144,488	0.07
Coral Gables	48,780	1.87	12,855,417	6.11
Cutler Bay	42,944	1.65	1,912,559	0.91
Doral	52,889	2.03	9,505,954	4.51
El Portal	2,328	0.09	98,983	0.05
Florida City	12,430	0.48	410,254	0.19
Golden Beach	917	0.04	760,202	0.36
Hialeah	230,544	8.85	7,307,032	3.47
Hialeah Gardens	22,571	0.87	948,254	0.45
Homestead	66,569	2.56	1,948,801	0.93
Indian Creek Village	89	0.00	448,192	0.21
Key Biscayne	12,525	0.48	6,697,657	3.18
Medley	859	0.03	1,762,783	0.84
Miami	425,922	16.35	35,284,842	16.76
Miami Beach	91,540	3.52	27,103,871	12.87
Miami Gardens	108,160	4.15	3,444,897	1.64
Miami Lakes	30,149	1.16	2,574,960	1.22
Miami Shores	10,781	0.41	829,793	0.39
Miami Springs	14,027	0.54	946,505	0.45
North Bay Village	7,851	0.30	747,944	0.36
North Miami	61,912	2.38	2,202,009	1.05
North Miami Beach	43,227	1.66	1,869,066	0.89
Opa-Locka	16,873	0.65	661,065	0.31
Palmetto Bay	23,767	0.91	2,462,237	1.17
Pinecrest	18,403	0.71	3,913,545	1.86
South Miami	13,623	0.52	1,480,600	0.70
Sunny Isles Beach	21,698	0.83	7,679,259	3.65
Surfside	5,722	0.22	1,336,876	0.63
Sweetwater	20,345	0.78	1,316,221	0.63
Virginia Gardens	2,400	0.09	235,812	0.11
West Miami	6,012	0.23	302,065	0.14
Subtotal - cities	1,464,899	56.24	\$152,239,832	72.31
Adjustment for Senior Citizen Exemption, Eastern Shores, and Opa-Locka Airport			(121,314)	(0.06)
Unincorporated Area	1,139,366	43.76	58,426,240	27.75
TOTAL - Miami-Dade County	2,604,265	100.00	\$210,544,758	100.00

* Official April 1, 2014 Florida Population Estimates by County and Municipality for Revenue Sharing; Posted October 2014

** Assessment roll values are based on the Estimate of Taxable Value published by the Office of the Property Appraiser on July 1, 2014

FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

Millage Rates

The millage rate is the tax rate that is applied to property values to generate the revenue needed to pay for services proposed in the budget. A mill is a rate of tax equal to \$1 for each \$1,000 of assessed taxable property value. If a piece of property has a taxable value of \$100,000 and the millage rate is 1, the property owner would pay \$100 in taxes.

The County has four separate operating millage rates for each of the taxing jurisdictions governed by the BCC. Three of the jurisdictions that provide regional services (countywide, fire rescue, and library) are subject to the state-imposed County (area-wide) 10 mill cap. The fourth is the UMSA millage, which is subject to its own state-imposed 10 mill cap.

In the Adopted Budget, the total millage rate is 7.3716 mills for the three taxing jurisdictions under the ten mill cap; therefore, we have 2.6284 mills in capacity, which could generate approximately more than \$526 million of additional revenue to fund regional services. We also have the potential of 8.0717 mills in capacity for the Unincorporated Municipal Service Area (UMSA) services, which could generate approximately \$448 million of additional revenue.

FY 2014-15 will be the 20th consecutive year that the area-wide total millage is below the state defined 10-mill cap. In addition, the County has millage rates for voter-approved debt service, which are not subject to the 10 mill cap. Debt service millage rates are not included in the calculation of total millages for operating purposes. The revenue raised from the debt service millage pays outstanding debt for voter-approved general or special obligation bonds, such as the Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond Program and the recently voter-approved General Obligation Bond Program for Jackson Health System. The County has debt service millages for voter approved countywide debt and for Fire Rescue District debt.

The total of all Adopted operating and voted debt millage rates for FY 2014-15 is 9.7613. The following table shows the millage rates for FY 2013-14 and FY 2014-15.

FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

MILLAGE TABLE					
Taxing Unit	FY 2013-14 Actual Millage	FY 2014-15 Rolled-Back Millage (1)	FY 2014-15 Adopted Millage Rates	Percent Change From FY 2014-15 Rolled Back Millage	Percent Change From FY 2013-14 Actual Millage
Countywide Operating	4.7035	4.2813	4.6669	9.01%	-0.78%
Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Service District	2.4496	2.2521	2.4207	7.49%	-1.18%
Miami-Dade Public Library System	0.1725	0.1563	0.2840	81.70%	64.64%
Total Millage Subject to 10 Mill Cap	7.3256	6.6897	7.3716	10.19%	0.63%
Unincorporated Municipal Service Area (UMSA)	1.9283	1.7844	1.9283	8.06%	0.00%
Sum of Operating Millages	9.2539	8.4741	9.2999	9.74%	0.50%
Aggregate Millage (2)		6.2753	6.8573	9.27%	
Voted Millages (3) – Debt Service					
Countywide	0.4220	N/A	0.4500	N/A	6.64%
Fire Rescue District Special Obligation Bond	0.0127	N/A	0.0114	N/A	-10.24%
Sum of Operating and Debt Millages	9.6886	N/A	9.7613	N/A	0.75%

(1) "Rolled-back millage" is the State defined rate which allows no increase in property tax revenue except for that from new construction. Starting in FY 2008-09 the proportionate roll value of dedicated increment districts and the associated prior year payments are subtracted prior to computing the "rolled-back millage." This rate ignores the impact of inflation on government and market valuation changes on taxable real and personal property.

(2) "Aggregate millage" is the State defined weighted sum of the non-voted millages. Each millage is weighted by the proportion of its respective certified tax roll to the certified countywide roll (the Fire District millage is weighted by 57.7 percent, the Library District millage by 91.5 percent, and the UMSA millage by 27.8 percent).

(3) Rolled-back millage and aggregate millage calculations do not apply to voted debt millages.

(4) Countywide debt includes 0.0280 mills for Jackson Health System bonds and 0.4220 mills for County general obligation bonds

Overall, the sum of the adopted operating millage rates are .046 mills higher than the FY 2013-14 combined millage rate, 9.27 percent above the state defined aggregate rolled-back rate, and each individual millage rate is below the state-defined maximum millage rate, as described in the next section.

Setting the Millage Rates

Each year, the Proposed Budget is developed with millage rates necessary to fund the property tax-supported portion of the budget. At its second meeting in July, the BCC considers the millage rates that will be used for the tax notices that will be mailed to all property owners in August. The tax notices are also referred to as TRIM notices; TRIM stands for Truth In Millage. The tax rates that are on the notices property owners receive in August represent the ceiling of the rates that can be approved by the BCC at the September budget hearings, unless additional notices are sent to all property tax payers. Because re-noticing all taxpayers is difficult and expensive, the tax rates included in the TRIM notices are considered the ceiling.

Several years ago, the State Legislature approved legislation intended to provide tax relief to the citizens of Florida. In addition to requirements to lower the tax rates themselves for one fiscal year, it instituted new definition and voting requirements that apply to governing boards when setting millage rates. Already

FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

established was the state defined *rolled-back millage rate* which is the millage rate that, when applied to the tax roll for the new year, excluding the value of new construction and any dedicated tax increment values, would allow the taxing authority to raise the same amount of property tax revenue for the new budget as it estimates to receive in the current year. Over the past few years, current year tax projections have been below even the budgeted levy due to Value Adjustment Board changes.

Section 200.065 of State Statutes outlines the *rolled-back millage rate*, known as the “no tax increase” rate because it allows the entity to generate the same property tax revenue from year to year, adjusted only by any new properties that may have been placed on the property tax roll. Because it does not take into account value adjustments for properties already on the property tax roll, the *rolled-back rate* does not take into account growth in the County. Another state-defined measure, the *aggregate rolled-back millage rate*, is the sum of the rolled-back millage rates for each of the taxing jurisdictions, in the case of Miami-Dade County we have four, weighted by the proportion of its respective roll to the countywide tax roll. The table below shows the calculation of the *rolled-back rates* for FY 2014-15.

ROLLED-BACK MILLAGE AND AGGREGATE MILLAGE CALCULATION									
(Dollars in Thousands)									
Taxing Unit	2013-14 Est. Value of One Mill	2013-14 Adopted Millage	2013-14 Levy, net of TIF payment	2014-15 Roll without CRA and New Construction	2014-15 Rolled Back Millage	2014-15 Value of One Mill	2014-15 Adopted Millages	2014-15 Levy	Millage Percent Change
Countywide	\$197,133.836	4.7035	\$864,222	201,857,883	4.2813	\$210,544.758	4.6669	\$982,591	9.01%
Fire District	114,370.582	2.4496	269,784	119,792,232	2.2521	121,395.320	2.4207	293,862	7.49%
Library District	180,215.465	0.1725	29,888	191,260,159	0.1563	192,454.621	0.2840	54,657	81.70%
Millage Total		7.3256			6.6897		7.3716		10.19%
Unincorporated Area	55,401.085	1.9283	\$102,842	57,635,252	1.7844	58,426.240	1.9283	112,663	8.06%
Total Levy			\$1,266,736					\$1,443,773	
Aggregate Millage					6.2753		6.8573		9.27%

Notes:

1. In accordance with State law, property tax revenue is budgeted at 95 percent of the levy.
2. All tax roll values are current estimates as of tax rolls of July 1, 2014.
3. Tax Increment Financing (TIF) payments are contributions made by the County to Community Redevelopment Areas; these payments apply to the Countywide and Unincorporated portions of the levy.
4. A Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) is a geographic area created by Board action to revitalize areas designated as slum and blight through a finding of necessity that require the creation of a trust fund and redevelopment plan. Funds are used to implement the redevelopment plan of these areas.
5. At individual rolled-back millage rates, the tax supported budget would be reduced by \$127.906 million

The State has defined the highest millage rate that may be levied with a simple majority vote of the governing body known as the *maximum millage rate*. This rate is the *rolled-back rate*, adjusted for the growth in per capita personal income in Florida. Beginning in FY 2009-10, the *maximum millage rate* is based on the *rolled-back rate* (the rate that generates the same property tax revenue) assuming the *maximum millage rate* had been adopted for the prior year and then adjusted for growth in per capita Florida personal income, whether or not the *maximum millage rate* had been adopted in the prior year. In other words, if the millage rate that was adopted was higher than the calculated *maximum millage rate*, that rate is the cap. If a millage rate below the *maximum millage rate* is adopted, an adjustment is made to credit the revenue that was lost because a rate below the *maximum millage rate* was adopted. The formulas used to calculate the various millage rates are defined by the Florida Department of Revenue.

FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

The BCC may adopt a rate that is higher than the state defined *maximum millage rate*. State law provides that a millage rate of up to 110 percent of the calculated *maximum millage rate* may be adopted if approved by a two-thirds vote of the governing body of the county, municipality, or independent district. A millage rate higher than 110 percent may be adopted by three-fourths vote if the governing body has nine or more members (Miami-Dade County has 13 Commissioners) or if approved by a referendum of the voters. The penalty for violating these standards is the loss of state revenue from the local government half-cent sales tax for a period of twelve months.

The millage rates utilized for the Adopted Budget are below the *maximum millage rate* and above the *rolled-back rate*.

Additional Property Tax Legislation

The State Constitution allows an exemption of up to \$50,000 for homesteaded properties and \$25,000 tangible personal property (TPP) for business equipment. In addition, in November 2012, State of Florida voters approved a referendum that amended the State Constitution (Amendment 11), which provides a local option to allow an additional exemption for senior citizens, who meet income and ownership criteria, equal to the assessed value of the property with a just value less than \$250,000.

Calculation of Property Taxes

There are four factors for calculating the amount of property tax levied on property:

1. The market value of the property (determined by the Property Appraiser's Office)
2. Adjustments for Amendment 10 (homesteaded properties) and Amendment 1 (non-homesteaded properties) of the Florida Constitution, which limits the growth in assessed value of residential properties with a homestead exemption to the lesser of the growth in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or three percent (for FY 2014-15 such growth was the 1.5 percent) and ten percent for non-homesteaded properties, respectively; and
3. The amount of value that is not subject to taxes (e.g., the \$50,000 homestead exemption, the additional homestead exemptions for senior citizens who meet income and ownership criteria as described above, the \$25,000 exemption for personal property); and
4. The millage rate, established according to state law restrictions.

According to state law, the County Property Appraiser determines the market value of each property in Miami-Dade County as of January 1 each year. Then Amendment 1 and Amendment 10 adjustments are applied to calculate the assessed value. Finally, appropriate exemptions are applied to reach the taxable value. The taxable value is then multiplied by the millage rates set by the BCC and by other taxing authorities in September to determine the amount of property taxes that must be paid for the property when the bill (also called the tax notice) is mailed in November by the Tax Collector.

While Miami-Dade is responsible under state law to collect all taxes imposed within geographic Miami-Dade County, the County government itself levies only certain taxes on the tax notice. Table 1.1 shows the millage rates and taxes that a residential property located in unincorporated Miami-Dade with an assessed value of \$200,000 with a \$50,000 homestead exemption (HEX) and a taxable value after the HEX of \$150,000 would pay in FY 2014-15. These rates include debt service as well as operating millage rates.

FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

TABLE 1.1 FY 2014-15 Operating and Debt Service Tax Rates and Calculated Taxes for
a Property with a Taxable Value
of \$150,000 in Unincorporated Miami-Dade County
(Taxes are rounded to the nearest dollar)

Authority	Millage Rate	Tax	Percent of Total
UMSA Operating	1.9283	\$289	10.3%
Countywide Operating	4.6669	\$700	25.0%
Fire Rescue Operating	2.4207	\$363	13.0%
Library System	0.2840	\$43	1.5%
Countywide Debt Service	0.4500	\$68	2.4%
Fire Rescue Debt Service	0.0114	\$2	0.1%
Total to County	9.7613	\$1,465	52.3%
School Board with Debt Service	7.9740	\$1,196	42.6%
Children's Trust	0.5000	\$75	2.7%
Everglades	0.0548	\$8	0.3%
Okeechobee Basin	0.1717	\$26	0.9%
Water Management	0.1577	\$24	0.9%
Inland Navigation	0.0345	\$5	0.2%
Total	18.654	\$2,799	100%

Using the example of Table 1.1, of the \$2,799 of tax collected, \$700 or 25 percent is used for countywide services, \$695 for UMSA, Fire Res cue, and Library services (city-type services), and \$70 for Countywide and Fire Rescue Debt Service. Overall, the County levies 52.3 percent of the property taxes, for a property in UMSA.

For residents of municipalities, all of the rates would apply, except the individual municipal millage rate would be used in place of the UMSA rate. Also, s ome municipalities are not in the Fire Rescue District or Library System and their residents pay for those services through the municipal millage rates. The County levies less than half of the property taxes for the majority of properties in municipalities.

BUDGET AND FINANCIAL POLICIES

Miami-Dade County follows the fina ncial policies required by the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Amendment and Charter, Florida Statutes Chapters 129 (County Annual Budget) and 200 (Determination of Millage), and the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for state and local governments as set forth by the G overnmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB). Both the Adopted Budget (found at <http://www.miamidade.gov/budget/>) and the Comp rehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) (found at <http://www.miamidade.gov/finance/financial-reports.asp>) provide our County's financial plans and statements following these policies.

GAAP and GASB

The General Fund, Fire Rescue District, Library District, and debt service funds are prepared on a modified accrual basis of accounting. Under the modified accrual basis of accounting, revenues are recognized when they are both measurable and available or collectible within the current period to pay for expenditures or liabilities of the curr ent period. Expenditures ar e recorded when a liability is incurred. Debt service payments, as well as expenditures related to claims and judgments, are recorded only when payment is

FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

due. Encumbrances (transactions that reserve funding for expected purchases) lapse at year-end and are re-appropriated as part of the subsequent year's budget in a reserve for encumbrances. The notes section of the CAFR (<http://www.miamidade.gov/finance/library/CAFR/2013/CAFR2013-complete.pdf>) describes the County's policies for assets, liabilities, and net assets or fund balances (CAFR, page seven).

The budgets for the Proprietary and Internal Service Funds are prepared on the economic resource measurement focus and the full accrual basis of accounting. These funds include Aviation, Port of Miami, Water and Sewer, Public Health Trust, Transit, Public Works and Waste Management, Vizcaya Museum and Gardens, Mixed Income Properties, Section 8 Allocation Properties and the Self-Insurance Fund. Under the full accrual basis, revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. The differences between the modified-accrual and accrual basis of accounting include budgeting the full amount of capital expenditures rather than depreciating expense over time, and budgeting the principal payments of outstanding debt, as well as the recognition of the issuance of debt since it does increase the government's current financial resources. The fund balance is defined as the excess of assets over the liabilities in any given fund.

Home Rule Amendment and Charter

<http://www.miamidade.gov/charterreview/charter.asp>

The Charter is the constitution for Miami-Dade County and governs all activity, including financial and budgetary policies.

Article 5, Section 5.03 (A) of the Charter states that the Finance Department shall be headed by a Finance Director appointed by the Mayor and the Clerk of the Circuit and County Courts. The Finance Director has charge of the financial affairs of the County. While not delineated in the Charter, currently the Budget Director, who serves as the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, is the designated Budget Officer. At the end of each fiscal year an audit is performed by an independent certified public accountant designated by the BCC of the accounts and finances of the County for the fiscal year just completed.

State and County policy dictates that contracts for public improvements and purchases of supplies, materials, and services (other than professional) be issued based on a competitive solicitation process. This process includes formal sealed bids when the transaction involves more than the minimum amount established by the BCC by ordinance. The resulting contract must be approved by the BCC. The BCC may, with a written recommendation of the Mayor, and a two-thirds vote of the members present, waive competitive bidding if it is in the best interest of the county. If a conflict of interest exists with the Mayor, the recommendations for award are promulgated by the Chairperson of the BCC.

Any County official or employee of the County who has a special financial interest, direct or indirect, in any action by the BCC is obligated to disclose the interest and cannot vote upon or otherwise participate in the transaction. Willful violation of this Section constitutes malfeasance in office, will lead to forfeiture of office or position, and renders the transaction voidable by the BCC.

The Citizens' Bill of Rights of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Amendment and Charter states that in addition to any budget required by state statute, the Mayor prepares a budget showing the cost of each program for each budget year. Prior to the County Commission's first public hearing on the Proposed Budget required by state law, the Mayor makes public a budget summary setting forth the proposed cost of each individual program and reflecting all major proposed increases and decreases in funds and personnel

FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

for each program, the purposes for those adjustments, the estimated millage cost of each program and the amount of any contingency and carryover funds for each program.

Article 2, Section 2.02 (G) states that the Mayor prepares and delivers a budgetary address annually to the people of the county in March to set forth the Mayor's funding priorities for the County. Between June 1 and July 15, the Mayor releases a Proposed Budget containing a complete financial plan, including capital and operating budgets, for the next fiscal year. The budget is presented to the Commission before the BCC adopts tentative millage rates for the next fiscal year. The BCC must hold a public hearing prior to the setting of the tentative millage rates pursuant to a recent Code amendment and two public budget hearings scheduled within the constraints outlined in state law.

The annual budget establishes the appropriations, or the approved expenditure levels, for the fiscal year and expenditures above the adopted levels cannot be incurred. There are some kinds of funds – working capital, revolving, pension, or trust funds – that may be accessed without approved expenditure authority. The BCC, by ordinance, may transfer any unencumbered appropriation balance, or any portion thereof, from one department, fund, or agency to another, subject to the provisions of ordinance. Any portion of the earnings or balance in any fund, other than sinking funds for obligations not yet retired, may be transferred to the general funds of the County by the BCC. The adopted budget may be amended at any time during the year, by BCC action. Re-appropriations within a fund without increasing the total fund may be approved by motion or resolution. Increasing the total appropriations for a fund requires an ordinance, with two readings and a public hearing.

State Law

<http://www.leg.state.fl.us/statutes/>

Chapter 129.025, Florida Statutes allows for the designation of a county budget officer that may carry out the duties set forth in this chapter. Chapter 129.01(2) (a), Florida Statutes establishes that the budget will be prepared, summarized, and approved by the BCC of each county, (b) and that it will be balanced. That is, the estimated revenues, including balances brought forward, equals the total of the appropriations and reserves. The budget must conform to the uniform classification of accounts prescribed by the appropriate state agency. Revenues must be budgeted at 95 percent of all receipts reasonably to be anticipated from all sources, including taxes to be levied. Chapter 129.01(2) (c) (1), Florida Statutes provides that a reserve for contingencies may be provided in a sum not to exceed ten percent of the total budget.

Chapter 129.06(1), Florida Statutes requires that adopted budgets regulate the expenditures of the county and each special district included within the county budget and the itemized estimates of expenditures are fixed appropriations and cannot be amended, altered, or exceeded except by action of the governing body. Chapter 129.06(2), Florida Statutes allows that the BCC at any time within a fiscal year may amend a budget for that year and may, within the first 60 days of a fiscal year, amend the budget for the prior fiscal year. The amendments can be made by motion or resolution when expenditure appropriations in any fund are decreased and other appropriations in the same correspondingly increased provided that the total of the appropriation in the fund may not be changed. Otherwise, the amendment will require an ordinance of the BCC for its authorization. Chapter 129.07, Florida Statutes states that it is unlawful for the BCC to expend or contract for the expenditure in any fiscal year more than the amount appropriated in each fund's budget.

Chapter 200.011, Florida Statutes states that the BCC determines the amount to be raised for all county purposes, except for county school purposes, and the millage rates to be levied for each fund respectively.

FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

The BCC also determines the rates for use by the county, including special taxing district, board, agency, or other taxing unit within the county for which the BCC is required by law to levy taxes.

Chapter 200.065, Florida Statutes establishes a rolled-back millage rate, a maximum millage rate, and advertising and voting requirements for taxing jurisdictions, requiring an extraordinary vote of the local governing body to exceed the maximum millage rate for taxing purposes (as described previously).

Chapter 200.071, Florida Statutes mandates that no ad valorem tax millage shall be levied against real property and tangible personal property by counties in excess of 10 mills, except for voted levies. Any county which, through a municipal service taxing unit, provides services or facilities of the kind or type commonly provided by municipalities, may levy, in addition to the millage rates otherwise provided in this section, an ad valorem tax millage not in excess of 10 mills against real property and tangible personal property within each such municipal service taxing unit to pay for such services or facilities provided with the funds obtained through such levy within such municipal service taxing unit.

Miami-Dade County Legislation and Code

Miami-Dade County Resolution R-31-09 established the current investment policy for Miami-Dade County which states in summary that the County's investment strategy is an adherence to buy and hold thereby eliminating the potential for risky trading.

(<http://www.miamidade.gov/govaction/legistarfiles/MinMatters/Y2008/083625min.pdf>)

Article CXVIII.5 of the Miami-Dade County Code is entitled "Governing for Results" and codifies our results-oriented governing management concepts. Section 2-1795 lays out policies for the allocation of resources and requires the Mayor or his/her designee to include them in his annual Budget Address which takes place during the month of March of each year. It also requires the submission of a five-year financial forecast (<http://www.miamidade.gov/search/home.asp#gsc.tab=0&gsc.q=governing%20for%20results&gsc.sort>).

Section 2-1795 of the Code outlines the resource allocation and reserve procedures for the preparation and adoption of the County's annual budget requiring budget format to provide clear basis for which to hold management accountable for operating within the Adopted Budget. In addition, the Section places restrictions on the re-appropriation of line items within funds.

Section 2-1795 of the Code also establishes procedures to be followed by the Commission Auditor in the preparation and adoption of the County's Annual Budget. The Commission Auditor is to perform in-depth review of the proposed budget of the Board of County Commissioners and all departments and divisions that report directly to the Board, including the County Attorney's Office, the Office of the Inspector General, the Commission on Ethics and Public Trust, the Office of Commission Auditor, and the Intergovernmental Affairs Division under the Board of County Commissioners' fund. The analysis should include a review of any changes to the budget proposed by the Mayor made as a result of the budget prepared and recommended by the Mayor, and the Mayor's written response thereto, presented to the Commission in accordance with the second sentence of Section 5.03(B) of the Home Rule Charter. In addition, the Commission Auditor shall review and analyze any mid-year and year-end budget amendments proposed by the Mayor or his/her designee giving; and issue any final recommended written changes to the Mayor's Proposed Budget and present to the County Commission prior to its consideration of such proposed budget amendments.

FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

In January 2014, the Code was amended to require separate votes of the Board for each millage rate, including debt service. A separate vote is required to set the tentative millage rates in July, as well as at each public budget hearing in September.

<http://www.miamidade.gov/govaction/legistarfiles/MinMatters/Y2013/132252min.pdf>

THE BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

Pursuant to Article 5 of the Miami-Dade County Charter, the Mayor is required to prepare a Proposed Budget between June 1 and July 15. The Mayor or his/her designee is then required to present the budget to the BCC before the BCC adopts the Adopted millage rates, which usually occurs at the last BCC meeting in July.

Although submission of the Proposed Budget occurred on July 7 this year, budget development actually is a year-round process. As the fiscal year begins, departmental staff updates their business plans. In December and January, staff completes initial projections and estimates of revenues for the current and ensuing fiscal years. In February, County departments submit their budget submission requests to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Those requests are linked to the priorities in the departmental business plans. Departmental Budget Presentations are held with the departments and OMB to discuss service priorities and to begin the process to match them with available resources. These meetings are publicly noticed, to encourage residents and elected officials and their staffs to participate. The work requires numerous meetings among County staff to discuss and evaluate proposed service levels and funding. In March, the Mayor delivers a budget address putting forth his funding priorities. Throughout the budget development process, administrative staff interacts with Commission staff and the staff of the Commission Auditor to share revenue and expenditure information. Pursuant to the County Charter and Code, the Proposed Budget must be submitted to the BCC by July 15.

It is important to note that there are certain budget-related deadlines established by state statute. By July 1, the Property Appraiser certifies the Preliminary Final Property Tax Rolls. In July, the BCC considers the recommended millage rates to be used to calculate the estimated taxes published in the "Notice of Proposed Property Taxes" (also referred to as "Truth in Millage" or "TRIM" notices) sent to each property owner in August. That determination is a significant point in the budget development schedule since the millage rates included on the TRIM notices represent a ceiling for property taxes for the ensuing fiscal year. If the BCC chooses to increase the millage rate beyond that which was advertised, all taxpayers must be re-noticed.

In accordance with Section 1800A of the Code, public meetings are required to be held throughout the County in August to discuss proposed new or increased rates for fees and taxes. As required by state law, two public budget hearings are held in September prior to the adoption of the budget. At the conclusion of the second public hearing, the BCC makes final budget decisions, establishes tax rates, and adopts the budget ordinances for the ensuing fiscal year which begins on October 1. During the course of the fiscal year these budgets may be amended through supplemental budget appropriations approved by the BCC, which usually take place during mid-year and at year-end.

FY 2014-15 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan

FY 2014-15 Budget Development Process

December – January



Budget forecasting for coming year

July 15



Maximum tax rates adopted by County Commission

January – April



Departmental budget preparation and meetings

August



Notices of Proposed Property Taxes mailed in August; Commission workshops held

March



Mayor's budget address

September 4 and 18, December 4*



Two public budget hearings

July 1



Tax Roll Released

October 1



New budget becomes effective

July 8



Proposed Budget presented

* A final budget hearing was held on December 4 to correct an error in the TRIM notice and allow for millage certification, as required by the Florida Department of Revenue