

TASK FORCE MEMBER FORREST ANDREWS PROPOSAL ON COUNTY RUNOFF  
ELECTIONS FOR MAYOR AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Recommendation: The Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter states that “if no candidate [for County Commissioner] receives a majority of the votes cast there will be a runoff election at the time of the general election following the state primary election between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes.” However, the Charter is silent as to whether a runoff election is required where a candidate for Mayor or County Commissioner becomes unopposed due to withdrawal, disqualification, or death following a general election but prior to the runoff election.

This proposal would provide that in such circumstances, no election needs to be held which would eliminate uncertainty as to whether votes cast for a withdrawn/disqualified/deceased candidate will be counted, and spare taxpayers the seemingly unnecessary expense of a runoff election where there is only an unopposed candidate.

SECTION 3.01. - ELECTION AND COMMENCEMENT OF TERMS OF MAYOR AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS.

- B. A candidate must receive a majority of the votes cast to be elected. Effective with the election for County Commission in 2004, if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast there will be a runoff election at the time of the general election following the state primary election between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes. Should a tie result, the outcome shall be determined by lot.

The names of unopposed candidates for Mayor and County Commissioners shall not appear on the runoff election ballot and a runoff election shall not take place. Each unopposed candidate shall be deemed to have voted for himself or herself. No votes cast in favor of any candidate who withdraws or becomes disqualified or deceased prior to any election shall be counted. In the event that no candidate has qualified for Mayor or County Commissioner, a vacancy shall be deemed to have occurred, and shall be filled as provided by this Charter for the filling of a vacancy.