



MEMORANDUM

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Agenda Item No. 2(A)

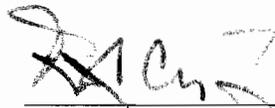
TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: March 10, 2009

FROM: R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution urging the Florida
Legislature to pass legislation
requiring a uniform voter education
and registration program as part of the
required high school courses of study

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/cp



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss DATE: March 3, 2009
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

FROM: 
R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No.

Please note any items checked.

- "4-Day Rule" ("3-Day Rule" for committees) applicable if raised
- 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- Budget required
- Statement of fiscal impact required
- Bid waiver requiring County Mayor's written recommendation
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- Housekeeping item (no policy decision required)
- No committee review

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No.
3-3-09

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO
PASS LEGISLATION REQUIRING A UNIFORM VOTER
EDUCATION AND REGISTRATION PROGRAM AS PART OF
THE REQUIRED HIGH SCHOOL COURSES OF STUDY

WHEREAS, over 11.2 million people were registered to vote in Florida for the 2008 general election; and

WHEREAS, while a person must be 18 years of age to vote in Florida, current Florida law allows persons to pre-register to vote after their 16th birthday, provided they have a valid Florida driver's license; and

WHEREAS, turnout among young voters age 18-24 typically has been lower than the turnout among other age groups, nonetheless recent trends have shown increases in turnout among this group; and

WHEREAS, the Center for Information and Research on Civil Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) reports that turnout by young voters age 18-24 in the November 2004 general election rose by over 11 percentage points to 47 percent, up from 36 percent in the 2000 November election; and

WHEREAS, this 2004 turnout was the highest among young voters since 1992, and while data is not yet available for the 2008 November general election, turnout among voters is anticipated to be even higher; and

WHEREAS, existing Florida administrative rules require Supervisors of Elections to conduct a high school voter registration and education program at least once a year in each public high school in the county, pursuant to Rule 1S-2.033, Florida Administrative Code; and

WHEREAS, current Florida statutes set forth the required courses of study for high school graduation, including requirements for social studies, American government, Florida government, and civics education, but do not require voter education; and

WHEREAS, given the importance of participating in the democratic process, voter education should be expressly included in the required courses of study in high school,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board:

Section 1. Urges the Florida Legislature to pass legislation requiring a uniform voter registration program as part of the required high school courses of study.

Section 2. Directs the Clerk of the Board to transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the Governor, the Senate President, the House Speaker, the Chair and Members of the Miami-Dade County State Legislative Delegation and the Florida Secretary of State.

Section 3. Directs the County's state lobbyists to advocate for the passage of the legislation set forth in Section 1 above, and directs the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to include this item in the 2009 State Legislative Package.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Audrey M. Edmonson. It was offered by Commissioner _____, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner _____ and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Dennis C. Moss, Chairman | |
| Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Vice-Chairman | |
| Bruno A. Barreiro | Bruno A. Barreiro |
| Carlos A. Gimenez | Carlos A. Gimenez |
| Barbara J. Jordan | Barbara J. Jordan |
| Dorrin D. Rolle | Dorrin D. Rolle |
| Katy Sorenson | Katy Sorenson |
| Sen. Javier D. Souto | Sen. Javier D. Souto |

The Chairman thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of March, 2009. This resolution shall become effective ten (10) days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.



Jess M. McCarty