

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14 (A) (1)

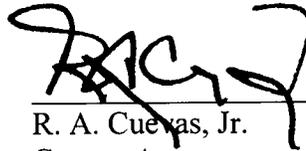
TO: Honorable Chairman Dennis C. Moss
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: October 19, 2010

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

SUBJECT: Resolution urging Florida
voters to approve
Amendments 5 and 6, the
Fair District Amendments

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Natacha Seijas.



R. A. Cuevas, Jr.
County Attorney

RAC/jls



MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

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

DATE: October 19, 2010

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(1)

Please note any items checked.

- "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
- Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Manager's report for public hearing
- No committee review
- Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____) to approve
- Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(1)
10-19-10

RESOLUTION NO. _____

RESOLUTION URGING FLORIDA VOTERS TO APPROVE
AMENDMENTS 5 AND 6, THE FAIR DISTRICT
AMENDMENTS

WHEREAS, after the U.S. Census is completed, the Florida Legislature draws congressional and state legislative districts every ten (10) years to ensure that districts are roughly equal in population; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Legislature has had a long history of gerrymandering congressional and legislative districts during redistricting; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a congressional district in Florida that is more than 120 miles long, includes nine counties and parts of the cities of Gainesville, Jacksonville and Orlando, and is at points no wider than the St. Johns River; and

WHEREAS, there also is currently a state Senate district in Florida that reaches across the state, beginning near the coastline of the Atlantic Ocean in Palm Beach County, traversing Lake Okeechobee with no land connection and ending within a few miles of the Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Amendments 5 and 6, known as the Fair District Amendments, were put on the November statewide ballot by voters across the state who signed 1.7 million petitions; and

WHEREAS, under Amendments 5 and 6, congressional and legislative districts would have to be compact, follow existing local boundaries, such as city or county lines and protect minority representation, whenever possible; and

WHEREAS, Amendments 5 and 6 would create rules for the Florida Legislature to follow when drawing legislative and congressional districts so that they cannot make backroom deals to draw districts that favor themselves; and

WHEREAS, Amendment 5 pertains to congressional districts, while Amendment 6 pertains to state legislative districts; and

WHEREAS, organizations that support Amendments 5 and 6 include the Florida Association of Counties, the Florida League of Cities, the Florida League of Mayors, the Florida Association of School Boards, the NAACP and the League of Women Voters; and

WHEREAS, both amendments expressly state that “districts shall not be drawn with the intent or result of denying or abridging the equal opportunity of racial or language minorities to participate in the political process or to diminish their ability to elect representatives of their choice”; and

WHEREAS, Amendments 5 and 6 would mean that the Florida Legislature would not be able to use redistricting to reduce minority representation in Washington or Tallahassee; and

WHEREAS, standards like those in Amendments 5 and 6 were first suggested by experienced Florida Senators shortly after the 1992 redistricting; and

WHEREAS, the redistricting standards in Amendments 5 and 6 are commonly applied in at least 12 states around the country,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board urges Florida voters to approve Amendments 5 and 6, the Fair District Amendments.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Natacha Seijas. 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	Audrey M. Edmonson
Carlos A. Gimenez	Sally A. Heyman
Barbara J. Jordan	Joe A. Martinez
Dorrin D. Rolle	Natacha Seijas
Katy Sorenson	Rebeca Sosa
Sen. Javier D. Souto	

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 19th day of October, 2010. 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

