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CLERK OF THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)

Date: May 19, 2015

To: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
County Mayor

Subject: Resolution Rescinding Resolution R-288-14; Approving and Adopting 783 Voting Precincts; and Directing Filing of the Revised Precinct Maps for Miami-Dade County

Resolution No. R-457-15

During the May 13, 2015 Metropolitan Services Committee, the number of precincts was amended from 782 to 783.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approve the attached resolution rescinding Resolution R-288-14 and adopting 783 voting precincts in Miami-Dade County (County).

Adoption of the Resolution will accomplish Phase 2 of a countywide reprecincting plan and builds on the legislative, operational, and technological enhancements introduced during the 2014 Gubernatorial Elections that improved line management and reduced voter wait times with minimal voter impact. As the Department prepares for a higher turnout during the 2016 Presidential Elections, BCC approval is requested to further streamline the voting experience in a fiscally-conservative manner and with minimal voter displacement on Election Day.

Scope

The scope of this resolution is countywide in nature. Precinct boundary modifications and changes to voters' polling places were made in all 13 BCC districts as depicted in maps on file with the Miami-Dade Clerk of the Board's Office.

Fiscal Impact/Funding Source

The estimated fiscal impact of this resolution is projected to be approximately $2,200,000. Non-recurring costs equate to $1,700,000 and elections-related costs are $500,000. The Fiscal Year (FY) 2014-15 Adopted Budget includes $1,430,000 for reprecincting. The remainder of the funds will be included in the FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget.

Track Record/Monitor

The Supervisor of the Elections Department will manage this process.

Background

Every ten (10) years, after the publication of the results of the decennial census and the completion of local, state and federal redistricting that occurs as a result of the census data, Supervisors of Elections across the state review and propose any necessary updates to their county's voting precincts to conform the precinct boundaries to the shifts in population and changes in various district boundaries. Reprecincting is necessary to reduce the population of overcrowded precincts and avoid the necessity for precincts to handle multiple ballot styles increasing the chance for poll worker and voter error.

The County began its 2010 census reprecincting analysis in 2012 as a result of the delay in state redistricting, a necessary component of any reprecincting plan. Due to the delay in the redistricting process and the potential disruption which could occur in reprecincting a large percentage of voters so close to the 2012 Presidential Election, the County elected to delay reprecincting until 2013 to allow sufficient time to educate affected voters and lessen voter disruption on Election Day.

After the 2012 Presidential Election concluded, the Elections Advisory Group (EAG) was established to find sensible, long-term solutions to the challenges the County faced in that election. The EAG recommended comprehensive reprecincting as a primary means of addressing the polling place issues and voting challenges experienced in the 2012 election. The Department was directed to develop a reprecincting plan in 2013 that would focus on alleviating long lines, improving voter wait times, and yielding operational efficiencies over the next decade.

Accordingly, a preliminary plan was designed to align legislative districts and precinct boundaries as well as address future growth in the County. However, the Department was unable to engage in the reprecincting process due to two (2) unscheduled countywide elections in 2013, which required a refocusing of labor resources and did not provide sufficient time for the Department to adequately implement a comprehensive reprecincting plan.

As a result, after the 2013 municipal elections, Supervisor of Elections Penelope Townsley developed a two (2) phase reprecincting plan and presented the plan for discussion at the February 19, 2014 BCC meeting. Phase 1 of this plan offered an initial reprecincting to relieve the most populous voting locations, and eliminate split precincts with multiple ballot styles that could be implemented prior to the 2014 Gubernatorial Elections to create operational efficiencies with minimal voter impact. Phase 2 of the proposed plan would include a comprehensive reprecincting to better align precincts to new district lines, enhance operational efficiencies, and accommodate growth through the next redistricting process. It was anticipated that Phase 2 would impact of 55 percent of the voters countywide.

Key stakeholders, including Secretary of State Ken Detzner and the Chairpersons of the Republican and Democratic Parties, voiced both concerns and qualified support for the two (2) phase approach to reprecincting. The BCC directed Supervisor Townsley to move forward with this approach and to present the BCC with legislation containing a specific plan that is inclusive, properly resourced, and communicated. Subsequently, on March 13, 2014, the Economic Development and Port Committee unanimously approved the plan, and at the March 18, 2014 BCC Meeting, the BCC approved R-288-14 adopting Phase 1 of the two (2) phase comprehensive reprecincting plan.

Phase 1 of reprecincting was implemented ahead of the 2014 Gubernatorial Elections and accomplished the following:

- minimized voter impact (5 percent of countywide voters were assigned to new Election Day voting locations);
- reduced large precincts that experienced challenges during the 2012 Presidential Elections, resulting in the addition of 25 new polling places (541 to 566); and
- eliminated most split precincts with multiple ballot styles (decreasing operational precincts from 1,048 to 812).

In addition to Phase 1 of reprecincting, the Department also successfully implemented technological and resource enhancements prior to the 2014 Gubernatorial Elections to address issues identified from the 2012 Presidential Election that improved the overall voting experience, reduced wait times at the polls and provided for more secure and efficient voter identification. Electronic Voting Identification System (EVIDs), commonly referred to as electronic poll books, were introduced and allowed for a faster and more efficient check-in process. The Department also increased its voting equipment allocation such that a minimum of two (2) voting machines were allocated for every precinct with an excess of 500 voters in order to expedite the voting process. Moreover, the Department benefited from statewide legislative reform that allowed for greater Early Voting flexibility in terms of availability and allowable sites as well as providing recourse for voters to cure their unsigned absentee ballot. These technological, operational, and legislative enhancements introduced during the 2014 Gubernatorial Elections translated into a vastly improved and efficient voting experience for our voters that worked well in this election cycle.
Subsequent to the 2014 Gubernatorial Elections, the Department reviewed the short-term and long-term sustainability of efficiencies achieved with Phase 1 of reprecincting. Research showed that the vast majority of voting precincts had been positively impacted by the streamlining and operational improvements that could be sustained in 2016. As such, only a smaller segment of the voting precincts needed to be addressed prior to the 2016 Presidential Elections. Specifically, the post-reprecincting analyses indicated that:

- approximately 70 percent of voting precincts met the desired minimum number of 2,500 registered voters;
- voting precincts located in larger facilities could efficiently accommodate a greater number of voters utilizing additional resources; and
- voting precincts in inadequate locations could be improved through facility relocations.

These findings were used to reassess the proposed reprecincting plan for Phase 2 to capitalize on the efficiencies already in place and yield similar benefits in a less impactful way.

As originally designed and reported to the Board, Phase 2 of reprecincting would require impacting approximately 55 percent of voters countywide and cost $4 million over the next two (2) election cycles in order to align legislative districts and precinct boundaries; address significant growth in the number of registered voters in the County; and remedy overcrowded precincts, voter delays and operational inefficiencies.

As a result of the technological and operational improvements rolled out for the 2014 Gubernatorial Elections, the Department is now recommending a revised reprecincting plan for Phase 2, as proposed in the attached resolution. This plan will address the problems associated with large precincts and polling places with minimal voter movement and at a reduced cost from the original Phase 2 plan. The revised Phase 2 plan decreases the number of voting precincts from 812 to 783 countywide (net reduction of 29 voting precincts), and increases the number of facilities utilized from 566 to 587 (net increase of 21 facilities). In terms of voter movement, the new plan would only require approximately 12 percent of voters countywide to be assigned to a new voting location on Election Day for all countywide and municipal elections, starting with the fall of 2015. Of these, only half are expected to vote on Election Day, based on historical voting patterns in Miami-Dade County.

Although reprecincting may change the location that the affected voters may have become accustomed to over the years, this plan will improve the efficiency of administering elections and enhance the overall Election Day experience for voters. It will also offer voters access to more compact precincts with an improved voter distribution across the County. Further, the revised Phase 2 plan offers a fiscally-conservative approach, requiring only a $2.2 million commitment over the next two (2) election cycles.

Moreover, as was done with the Comprehensive Reprecincting Plan, the Department has engaged in discussions with key stakeholders including, the Chairpersons of the Republican and Democratic Parties who have both expressed their support and approval of the proposed reprecincting plan.

The revised Phase 2 plan will still require precinct modifications in all 13 BCC districts. A map for the revised precincts in each of the 13 BCC Districts was submitted to the Miami-Dade Clerk of the Board's Office and will remain on file for review. Each Commissioner was also provided a copy of a map for their district.

Upon passage, the Department will engage in a multi-faceted outreach initiative to ensure affected voters are properly notified prior to the March 15, 2016 Presidential Preference Primary. Additionally, new Voter Information Cards and notifications regarding reprecincting, will be distributed to all voters commencing in August 2015. The follow-up notification process will take place in January 2016, as a map and picture of the polling place will be sent to each voting household. Moreover, voters will also be able to access their new precinct information through the Miami-Dade Elections Department website (http://www.miamidade.gov/elections) or by calling the County's 3-1-1 Answer Center beginning in August 2015.

Lastly, the Department will engage in a strategic voter awareness campaign that will begin upon approval of this resolution to complement the standard outreach efforts exercised prior to a presidential election cycle. This campaign will include a paid media plan; engage voters through radio, print and TV news outlets, and social media; partner with elected officials and municipalities that represent the affected voters; attend community events; and partner with community organizations to reach out to affected voters. These efforts will enable voters to become aware of and familiarize themselves with any change to their Election Day voting location ahead of the 2016 Presidential Elections.

Alina T. Hudak
Deputy Mayor

MEMORANDUM
(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Jean Monestime
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: May 19, 2015

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

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(2)

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 Mayor'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)(2)
5-19-15

RESOLUTION NO. R-457-15

RESOLUTION RESCINDING RESOLUTION NO. R-288-14 AND APPROVING THE ADOPTION OF 783 VOTING PRECINCTS

WHEREAS, on March 18, 2014, this Board adopted Resolution No. R-288-14, rescinding Resolutions Nos. R-587-08, R-967-03, and R-760-02 and adopted 812 voting precincts to conform the voting precincts to the legislative districts created after the 2010 census; and

WHEREAS, the Board approved Resolution No. R-288-14 as part of a targeted reprecincting plan to achieve operational efficiencies with minimal voter movement prior to the 2014 election cycle (Phase 1), with the implementation of a comprehensive reprecincting plan in 2015 to equitably distribute voters countywide and allow for sustained growth over the next decade (Phase 2); and

WHEREAS, this proposed plan takes advantage of legislative and operational enhancements accomplished during the 2014 election cycle; addresses large precincts and polling places with minimal voter impact; mitigates voter confusion; and creates additional efficiencies in the allocation of resources prior to the 2016 Presidential Election Cycle; and

WHEREAS, maps delineating the recommended precinct boundaries are on file with the Miami-Dade Clerk's Office and available in GIS shapefiles upon request at the Supervisor of Elections' Office; and

WHEREAS, proposed precinct boundaries were drawn in accordance with Section 101.001(3), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, legal descriptions of the redrawn precincts will also be on file with the Secretary of State's Office in accordance with Section 101.001(4), Florida Statutes; and

WHEREAS, this Board additionally desires to accomplish the purposes outlined in the accompanying memorandum, a copy of which is incorporated herein by reference,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that this Board adopts the recommendation of the Mayor and the Supervisor of Elections and hereby rescinds Resolution No. R-288-14 and approves the adoption of >>783<<[1] [[~~782~~]] voting precincts as set forth in the revised precinct maps on file with the Miami-Dade Clerk of Courts Office. This Board further directs the Mayor or Mayor's designee to conduct a voter outreach campaign regarding the newly adopted precincts as set forth in the attached memorandum. The rescission of the current precincts and the adoption of the new precincts shall become effective on August 7, 2015. The current precincts shall be used for all elections between the effective date of this Resolution through and including August 6, 2015.

The foregoing resolution was offered by Commissioner **Rebeca Sosa**, who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Barbara J. Jordan** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Jean Monestime, Chairman			**aye**
Esteban L. Bovo, Jr., Vice Chairman			**aye**
Bruno A. Barreiro	**aye**	Daniella Levine Cava	**aye**
Jose "Pepe" Diaz	**aye**	Audrey M. Edmonson	**aye**
Sally A. Heyman	**aye**	Barbara J. Jordan	**aye**
Dennis C. Moss	**aye**	Rebeca Sosa	**aye**
Sen. Javier D. Souto	**aye**	Xavier L. Suarez	**aye**
Juan C. Zapata	**aye**		

[1] Committee amendments are indicated as follows: words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] shall be deleted, words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< constitute the amendment proposed.

The Chairperson thereupon declared the resolution duly passed and adopted this 19th day of May, 2015. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this Resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.

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

HARVEY RUVIN, CLERK

By: *Christopher Agrippa*
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

Oren Rosenthal