MIAMI-DADE GOVERNMENT

Miami-Dade County government serves a population of 2.7 million people with a work force of approximately 25,000 employees dedicated to providing the best services possible. The County has made it more convenient for residents to obtain County services at miamidade.gov, "24 hours a day, seven days a week." A wide array of services are available online to make payments, search maps, report a problem or submit ideas. Residents can request new traffic signs, schedule solid waste collections, track building plans, and even check the arrival and departure times of flights at Miami International Airport. Payments for property taxes or building re-inspection fees can be made using credit cards, and many County forms can be easily printed or downloaded.

For information or service requests, residents can dial the County’s 311 Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (closed on holidays). Specialists, with knowledge of 2,700 topics, are available to answer questions six days a week in English, Spanish and Creole. The 311 Answer Center handles approximately 2 million calls a year. The center provides 24-hour information services during emergency events such as hurricanes. In addition, residents can visit one of three 311 service centers for in-person assistance with transit passes, dog tag licenses, baby stroller parking permits, tax payment, and other services.

MUNICIPALITIES

Miami-Dade County is comprised of 34 municipalities: Aventura, Bal Harbour, Bay Harbor Islands, Biscayne Park, Coral Gables, Cutler Bay, Doral, El Portal, Florida City, Golden Beach, Hialeah, Hialeah Gardens, Homestead, Indian Creek, Key Biscayne, Medley, Miami, Miami Beach, Miami Gardens, Miami Lakes, Miami Springs, North Bay Village, North Miami, North Miami Beach, Opa-locka, Palmetto Bay, Pinecrest, South Miami, Sunny Isles Beach, Surfside, Sweetwater, Virginia Gardens and West Miami. The City of Miami is the largest municipality, followed by Hialeah, Miami Gardens, Miami Beach, North Miami and Coral Gables. Each municipality has its own government and provides city services such as police and zoning protection.

UNINCORPORATED MUNICIPAL SERVICE AREA (UMSA)

The unincorporated areas of Miami-Dade County do not fall within the jurisdiction of a municipality. With a population exceeding one million residents, the unincorporated area, if declared a city, would form the largest city in Florida and one of the largest in the nation.

LOCATION

Miami-Dade County encompasses more than 2,000 square miles. Located along the southeast tip of the Florida peninsula, one-third of Miami-Dade County is located in Everglades National Park. Miami-Dade County is bounded by Biscayne Bay and the Atlantic Ocean to the east, Everglades National Park to the west, the Florida Keys to the south, and Broward County to the north.

POPULATION 2015 CENSUS

Estimated Population 2,693,117
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

MIAMI-DADE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The Commissioners set policies and establish laws for the community. Commissioners are chosen in non-partisan, single-district elections. Miami-Dade County is structured into 13 districts. Residents choose only from among candidates running in the district in which they live. Commissioners serve four-year staggered terms, with elections scheduled every two years. Effective with the terms starting in 2012, Commissioners are limited to no more than two consecutive terms.

The Board of Commissioners selected Esteban Bovo, Jr. as Chairman, with his two-year term as Chair beginning Jan. 1, 2017.

GOVERNANCE

The Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners is the governing body of unincorporated Miami-Dade County, and has broad, regional powers to establish policies for services that transcend city boundaries. The government provides major metropolitan services countywide and city-type services for residents of the unincorporated areas.

MAYOR

Miami-Dade has a Mayor with the power to veto Commission action items. In January 2007, the Mayor was given additional powers providing for the oversight of the day-to-day operations of Miami-Dade. The Mayor can only serve two full terms of four years.

OTHER OFFICIALS

The Miami-Dade County Clerk is a constitutional officer of the State of Florida, elected to a four-year term. The Clerk serves as the County Recorder, custodian of all records filed with the Court, and as Clerk of the Board.

In 2008 voters made the position of Property Appraiser an elected one. The Property Appraiser is charged with determining the value of all property within the County for tax purposes, maintaining related records and granting exemptions.

The Miami-Dade County Attorney’s Office provides legal representation to all aspects of Miami-Dade County government, including the Mayor, Board of County Commissioners, Property Appraiser, County departments and numerous boards, authorities, councils and commissions.