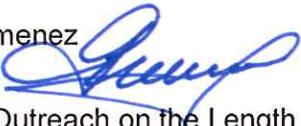


Memorandum



Date: October 19, 2012

To: Honorable Chairman Joe A. Martinez and Members
Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: Community Outreach on the Length of the November 6, 2012 General Election Ballot

Attached please find a memorandum from Supervisor of Elections Penelope Townsley regarding enhanced community outreach on the length of the November 6, 2012 General Election ballot.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Townsley at 305-499-8509.

Attachment

c: Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor/County Manager
Penelope Townsley, Supervisor of Elections

Memorandum



Date: October 18, 2012

To: Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

From: Penelope Townsley
Supervisor of Elections

Subject: Community Outreach on the Length of the November 6, 2012 General Election Ballot

As you know, the length of the 2012 General Election ballot is unprecedented in Miami-Dade County. Most voters will receive a five page ballot (10 front and back) and voters in the cities of Cutler Bay, Palmetto Bay and North Bay Village will receive a six page ballot (12 front and back). With historically high voter turnout coupled with a long ballot, we anticipate long lines. Operationally, I can assure you the Department is deploying the maximum number of voting units and privacy booths possible to accommodate the demand; and we stand ready to properly service our voters.

With Early Voting commencing in just over a week, and Election Day less than three weeks away, the Elections Department wants Miami-Dade voters to know that being prepared has never been more important. Preparation is important, not only to ensure voters understand what they are voting on, but also to ensure the voting experience is a faster, more convenient one for all voters. This important message has been weaved into all of the Elections Department's community outreach events, speaking engagements, media interviews, and will soon be promoted via social media outlets.

To further expand the reach of this important message to Miami-Dade voters, I am requesting the assistance of the Board of County Commissioners (the Board) to include the following messages as part of their outreach events or community meetings:

- Advanced preparation is the best way for voters to expedite their voting experience as well as the voting experience of others. Voters are encouraged to do research and make their decisions prior to visiting a voting location.
- The Elections Department homepage has invaluable resources readily available to voters. A Voter Tool Kit provides voters with important reminders, as well as access to a customized, voter-specific sample ballot. By entering basic information about themselves, voters can review exactly what they are eligible to vote on and prepare in advance.
- The Elections Department website contains links to background information such as legislative history, sponsorship, and full text for all of the constitutional amendments and county questions. This should assist voters in making informed decisions on those questions.
- The comprehensive sample ballot will be delivered to *The Miami Herald* and *El Nuevo Herald* subscribers on Sunday, October 21 and to non-subscribers in the *Herald Values* between October 17-19. Copies will also be available in public libraries, county and commission offices, and city halls.

Your assistance in getting this important message to the Board will help make the voting experience more pleasant for all voters, and ultimately facilitate a more expeditious voting experience overall. Whether they choose to vote via absentee ballot, during early voting, or on Election Day, I hope all our registered voters will participate in the upcoming election; and do so with pride, preparation and patience.

Voters are encouraged to go to www.miamidade.gov/elections to view the information stated above, or call 305.499.VOTE to be Election Ready!

c: Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor/County Manager