

Memorandum



Date: June 7, 2013

To: Honorable Chairwoman Rebeca Sosa
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor 

Subject: Use of Elections Funding

On the agenda for the June 4, 2013 meeting of the Board of County Commissioners (BCC), items 11A7 and 11A17 allocated the unexpended balance of funds remaining from the contribution from South Florida Stadium, LLC to pay the expenses of holding the special election for the proposed use of additional tourist room taxes for the modernization of Sun Life Stadium. These items were deferred to the June 18, 2013 BCC meeting.

Because these items were not considered, I was unable to put my position on the record at the meeting. The funding that remains – currently estimated to be \$2.3 million – should be used to purchase the technology and equipment recommended by the Elections Advisory Group to improve our elections process. The total cost of implementing the Advisory Group recommendations is \$7.2 million, \$5 million of which is non-recurring. The Capital Asset Bond issuance (Legistar #131043) we are planning includes \$4.2 million for bond-eligible Elections expenses. Rather than issue debt for these purchases, I believe it is in the County's best interest to use the remaining funding to acquire the recommended necessary equipment.

As you know from my memorandum last month, we are facing a budget gap for FY 2013-14 of more than \$50 million that we must close and the June 1 property tax rolls did not perform as projected. This gap does not assume new funding for these unmet needs for the Elections Department. While the intended uses outlined in the two agenda items are important to our community, this one-time funding should be utilized to support a one-time investment to improve the elections process for our voters.

c: Robert A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney
Senior Staff
Penelope Townsley, Elections Supervisor
Jennifer Moon, Director, OMB
Charles Anderson, Commission Auditor