

# Memorandum



Date: September 19, 2014

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

From: Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor 

Subject: August 26, 2014 Primary Election Post-Election Report

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On February 5, 2013, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) passed Ordinance 13-13, which created Section 12-1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County and calls for pre and post-election update reports for any Primary or General Election to the Board.

Accordingly, attached is a memorandum from Penelope Townsley, Supervisor of Elections, that summarizes the topics specified in Section 12-1 of the Code for the August 26, 2014 Miami-Dade County Primary Election. Important information such as actual voter turnout, estimated wait times, irregularities, and budgetary/legislative needs are included.

If you have any questions, please contact Supervisor of Elections Penelope Townsley at 305-499-8509 or me at 305-375-1880.

## Attachment

c: R. A. Cuevas, Jr., County Attorney  
Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor and Interim Director of Public Works and Waste Management  
Penelope Townsley, Supervisor of Elections

# Memorandum



Date: September 16, 2014

To: Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez  
Mayor

From: Penelope Townsley  
Supervisor of Elections 

Subject: August 26, 2014 Primary Election Post-Election Report

As you may know, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) passed Ordinance 13-13 on February 5, 2013 that created Section 12-1 of the Code of Miami-Dade County and calls for pre and post-election update reports for any Primary or General Election to the Board. Therefore, this report is being provided to apprise the Board of the Election Department's (Department) post-election evaluation of the August 26, 2014 Primary Election.

### **Voter Turnout**

As previously shown in the pre-election report, Primary Elections tend to have a lower voter turnout in both gubernatorial and presidential election cycles. For the August 26, 2014, Miami-Dade County experienced a lower than anticipated turn-out with 14% of registered voters taking advantage of the three (3) convenient ways to vote: Absentee Ballot, Early Voting and Election Day Voting. The official results show that approximately 2/3 of Miami-Dade voters opted to cast their ballot prior to the election, while the remaining 1/3 opted to vote on Election Day.

### **Absentee Voting**

Absentee Voting continues to be a safe and convenient way to vote. About half of our voters voted via Absentee Ballot (AB). While the number of absentee voters is comparable to the 2012 Primary Election, the Absentee Voting percentage is significantly higher than Primary Elections over the last decade. Due to the light turnout in both Early Voting and Election Day voting, Absentee Ballots accounted for the majority of the ballots cast in this election. Voters have the option to request an absentee ballot for one or multiple elections, and this helped sustain the number of absentee voters since the last election cycle. The recently upgraded absentee ballot processing equipment greatly streamlined the AB process.

### **Early Voting**

Miami-Dade County took advantage of the greater flexibility provided to Florida Counties by the Legislature and offered the maximum possible fourteen (14) days for Early Voting. Additionally, the Elections Department provided different week-day schedules for the first and second weeks of Early Voting and standard weekend hours inclusive of the Sunday before the election in order to better serve all electors. Despite the increase in days and hours, Early Voting turnout was marginally less than the 2010 and 2012 Primary Elections.

### **Election Day Voting**

Electronic Voting Identification System (EVIDs), more commonly referred to as electronic poll books, were successfully introduced at all Election Day voting locations in this election. Voters that voted at their assigned precinct on Election Day experienced a quicker, systematic check-in-process.

Election Date	Election Type	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Voter Turnout %		Absentee %	Election Day %	Early Voting %	Total Votes %
08/31/2004	Primary Election	984,079	296,818	30.16%	⇒	35,201 12%	225,788 76%	35,829 12%	296,818 100%
09/05/2006	Primary Election	1,074,759	171,629	15.97%	⇒	37,033 22%	108,738 63%	25,858 15%	171,629 100%
08/26/2008	Primary Election	1,170,135	190,783	16.30%	⇒	55,502 29%	107,088 56%	28,193 15%	190,783 100%
08/24/2010	Primary Election	1,203,633	215,527	17.91%	⇒	79,750 37%	102,895 48%	32,882 15%	215,527 100%
08/14/2012	Primary Election	1,242,973	248,605	20.00%	⇒	92,360 37%	117,591 47%	38,654 16%	248,605 100%
08/26/2014	Primary Election	1,284,840	185,450	14.43%	⇒	90,542 49%	65,714 35%	29,194 16%	185,450 100%

### **Estimated Voter Wait Times**

Miami-Dade County voters received a one-page ballot, with the exception of Doral voters who received a two-page ballot due to municipal questions. A short ballot, coupled with low voter participation and increased Early Voting availability contributed to a swift voting process.

All in all, voters participating in the August 26, 2014 Primary Election did not experience wait times. In terms of Early Voting, the wait times posted online were typically less than one minute.

For Election Day, Miami-Dade County experienced the lowest Election Day turnout for a Primary Election over the past decade. While wait times are not tracked throughout the day for the close to 600 voting locations on Election Day, the Department saw minimal wait times. By state law, voters in line at 7:00 pm are allowed to exercise their right vote. By 7:15 pm, 99% of the precincts had processed their last voter. The remaining three precincts processed the last voter around 7:30 pm; five voters required a little more attention to address registration issues before voting.

### **Irregularities**

The Department can report that operations at voting locations utilized in this election ran smoothly. Throughout the voting process, the Department remained in close contact with staff at the voting locations as well as the support personnel on the field.

There was one reported incident on the last day of Early Voting. The Ballot on-Demand (BOD) ballot printers at the North Dade Regional Library site were temporarily inoperable due to routine maintenance issues. The first BOD unit required an ink drum replacement and staff was able to utilize the second BOD unit to service Early Voters. While tending to the first unit, the toner in the second BOD unit had to be replaced. To keep the site operational, staff quickly resolved the issue by interchanging parts to ensure that there was one BOD unit fully functional at all times. The complete process resulted in voters having to wait approximately five minutes to receive their individual ballot, and both units were made fully operational in a timely manner.

While the need to replace printer consumables is predicted, this particular incident was unusual as both printers required maintenance during the same time period, resulting in a minimal delay. The Department has increased the consumables deployed for BOD units.

### **Budgetary/Legislative Recommendations**

There are no additional budgetary/legislative requests anticipated at this time.

### **Looking Ahead**

The August 26, 2014 Primary Election was a success not only for the Elections Department but also for Miami-Dade County as a whole. Through the recommendations of the Mayor's Elections Advisory Group and the support of the Board of County Commissioners, the Department was able to implement technological and administrative enhancements that resulted in an election designed with voter convenience in mind.

As the Department is already preparing for the November 4, 2014 General Election, we understand that a General Election has a higher voter turnout and a longer ballot. The Department is unwavering in its commitment to deliver a pleasant and convenient voting experience to all Miami-Dade County electors.

C: Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor and Interim Director of Public Works and Waste Management  
Mayor's Elections Advisory Group