

**Miami-Dade County**  
**2026 Board of County Commissioners, District 5, Vacancy Election**  
**Candidate Qualifying Information**

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**QUALIFICATIONS:** [[Miami-Dade County Charter, Article 1, Section 1.04](#)]

1. Qualified elector of Miami-Dade County.
2. Resident of Miami-Dade County at least three (3) years prior to qualifying.
3. Resident of District at least six (6) months prior to qualifying.

**TYPE OF ELECTION:** Nonpartisan [[Miami-Dade County Charter, Article 3, Section 3.03](#)]

**ELECTION AREA:** District [[Miami-Dade County Charter, Article 1, Section 1.04](#)]

**DISTRICT UP FOR ELECTION:** [[Miami-Dade County Charter, Article 3, Section 3.01\(A\)](#)]

<b>District</b>	<b>Incumbent</b>
05	Vicki Lopez

**TERM:** The unexpired portion of the current term for County Commissioner – District 5, commencing upon certification of the election through Tuesday, November 21, 2028. [[Miami-Dade County Charter, Article 1, Section 1.07](#)]

**SALARY:** \$6,000.00 Annually [[Miami-Dade County Charter, Article 1, Section 1.06](#)]

**ELECTION DATES:** August 18, 2026 – Vacancy Election  
November 3, 2026 – Run-Off Election (should a run-off election be required)

**QUALIFYING DATES:** 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 26, 2026, through Noon, Tuesday, June 9, 2026 [[Miami-Dade County Charter, Article 3, Section 3.04\(A\)](#)]

A qualifying office may accept and hold qualifying papers submitted not earlier than 14 days prior (Tuesday, May 12, 2026) to the beginning of the qualifying period, to be processed and filed during the qualifying period. [[F.S. 99.061\(8\)](#)]

**QUALIFYING REQUIREMENTS:**

The following items must be submitted to the Miami-Dade Office of the Supervisor of Elections located at 2700 NW 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Miami, FL 33172.

**Qualifying Method – Qualifying Fee**

1. Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates ([Form DS-DE 9](#))\*
2. Statement of Candidate ([Form DS-DE 84](#))\*
3. Access to Handbook and the Election Laws of the State of Florida ([Form MD-ED 2](#))\*
4. Campaign Treasurer's Report – Miami-Dade County Electronic Filing Requirement ([Form MD-ED 10](#))\*
5. [Declaration and First Amendment Waiver](#) (optional)
6. Miami-Dade County Candidate Oath – Nonpartisan Office ([Form MD-ED 25](#)) and proof of residency.

**Miami-Dade County**  
**2026 Board of County Commissioners, District 5, Vacancy Election**  
**Candidate Qualifying Information**

7. Form 6 – Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests ([CE Form 6 - 2025](#)) (*To be filed electronically via Electronic Financial Disclosure Management System (EFDMS) – For more information, please visit [www.ethics.state.fl.us](#) or call 850-488-7864*). You will be required to submit a hard copy to the filing officer at the time of qualifying.
8. Qualifying fee: \$360.00. The fee shall be paid by means of a bank check drawn from the candidate's campaign account as prescribed in [F.S. 106.11\(1\)\(a\)](#), made payable to "Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections." (Filing fee of \$300.00 plus an election assessment equal to 1% of the annual salary as of October 1, 2025). [[Miami-Dade County Charter, Article 3, Section 3.04\(A\)](#) and [F.S. 99.092\(1\)](#)]. As a reminder, the campaign checks should include the name of the candidate and the words "Campaign Account" for example, "John Doe Campaign Account".
9. If you currently hold an elected or appointed position, please consult with your attorney to determine whether you are required to resign from the office you presently hold to run for this office [[F.S. 99.012](#)] and [Miami-Dade County Code of Ordinances, Part I, Section 1.05](#). If you are a Miami-Dade County employee, please refer to [Miami-Dade County Code of Ordinances, Part I, Section 1.05 \(C\)](#).

*\* Candidates must submit these forms to the Miami-Dade Office of the Supervisor of Elections at the time they announce their candidacy.*

**Qualifying Method – Petitions**

1. Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates ([Form DS-DE 9](#))\*
2. Statement of Candidate ([Form DS-DE 84](#))\*
3. Access to Handbook and the Election Laws of the State of Florida ([Form MD-ED 2](#))\*
4. Campaign Treasurer's Report – Miami-Dade County Electronic Filing Requirement ([Form MD-ED 10](#))\*
5. [Declaration and First Amendment Waiver](#) (optional)
6. Miami-Dade County Candidate Oath – Nonpartisan Office ([Form MD-ED 25](#)) and proof of residency.
7. Form 6 – Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests ([CE Form 6 - 2025](#)) (*To be filed electronically via the Electronic Financial Disclosure Management System (EFDMS) – For more information, please visit [www.ethics.state.fl.us](#) or call 850-488-7864*). You will be required to submit a hard copy to the filing officer at the time of qualifying.
8. Candidate Petition ([Form DS-DE 104](#))
9. If you currently hold an elected or appointed position, please consult with your attorney to determine whether you are required to resign from the office you presently hold to run for this office [[F.S. 99.012](#)] and [Miami-Dade County Code of Ordinances, Part I, Section 1.05](#). If you are a Miami-Dade County employee, please refer to [Miami-Dade County Code of Ordinances, Part I, Section 1.05 \(C\)](#).

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Who Can Sign Petitions? [[F.S. 99.095](#) and [Miami-Dade County Charter, Article 3, Section 3.04\(B\)](#)]

Any registered elector in the geographical area of candidacy may sign a petition.

Signatures may not be obtained until the candidate has filed the Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates pursuant to [F.S. 106.021\(1\)\(a\)](#) and valid only for the qualifying period immediately following such filings.

Petition signatures of at least 1% of the total registered electors in the geographical area represented by the office sought for the immediately preceding general election are required as follows:

**Miami-Dade County  
2026 Board of County Commissioners, District 5, Vacancy Election  
Candidate Qualifying Information**

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**2026 Petition Signature Requirements for  
Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners, District 5 Vacancy Election  
Registered Voters as of Book Closing for November 5, 2024 General Election**

District	Total Registered Voters in District	1% of Total Registered Voters
05	100,470	1,005

Deadline for Submitting Petitions: [[F.S. 99.095](#) and [Miami-Dade County Charter, Article 3, Section 3.04\(B\)](#)]

Candidates must submit petitions for verification to the Miami-Dade Office of the Supervisor of Elections no later than noon of the 28<sup>th</sup> day preceding the first day of the qualifying period (Tuesday, April 28, 2026). All petitions submitted must contain the voter's original signature.

Petition Verification: [[F.S. 99.097](#) and [Miami-Dade County Charter, Article 3, Section 3.04\(B\)](#)]

There is a charge of 10 cents per name for verification of signatures, which must be paid to the "Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections" upon submission of petitions. The candidate may file an "[Affidavit of Undue Burden](#)" with the Miami-Dade Office of the Supervisor of Elections to waive the cost of verification. [[F.S. 99.097\(4\)](#)]

If any person is paid to solicit signatures on a petition, an undue burden oath may not subsequently be filed in lieu of paying the fee to have signatures verified for that petition. If an undue burden oath has been filed and payment is subsequently made to any person to solicit signatures on a petition, the undue burden oath is no longer valid and a fee for all signatures previously submitted to the supervisor of elections and any that are submitted thereafter shall be paid by the candidate who submitted the undue burden oath. [[F.S. 99.097\(6\)](#)]

The Supervisor of Elections must certify the number of valid signatures no later than the 7<sup>th</sup> day before the first day of the qualifying period (Tuesday, May 19, 2026) and submit such certification to the Division of Elections.

If the candidate is unable to collect the required number of signatures, he/she may still qualify by paying the qualifying fee.

**Qualifying Method – Write-In Candidate**

1. Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates ([Form DS-DE 9](#))\*
2. Statement of Candidate ([Form DS-DE 84](#))\*
3. Access to Handbook and the Election Laws of the State of Florida ([Form MD-ED 2](#))\*
4. Campaign Treasurer's Report – Miami-Dade County Electronic Filing Requirement ([Form MD-ED 10](#))\*
5. [Declaration and First Amendment Waiver](#) (optional)
6. Miami-Dade County Candidate Oath – Nonpartisan Office ([Form MD-ED 25](#)) and proof of residency.
7. Form 6 – Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests ([CE Form 6 - 2025](#)) (*To be filed electronically via the Electronic Financial Disclosure Management System (EFDMS) – For more information, please visit [www.ethics.state.fl.us](#) or call 850-488-7864*). You will be required to submit a hard copy to the filing officer at the time of qualifying.

**Miami-Dade County**  
**2026 Board of County Commissioners, District 5, Vacancy Election**  
**Candidate Qualifying Information**

---

8. Qualifying fee of \$300.00 is to be paid by means of a bank check drawn from the candidate's campaign account as prescribed in [F.S. 106.11\(1\)\(a\)](#), made payable to "Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections" (Filing fee of \$300.00, no election assessment fee). [[Miami-Dade County Charter, Article 3, Section 3.04\(A\)](#)]. A blank space will be provided on the general election ballot for names of write-in candidates. *As a reminder, the campaign checks should include the name of the candidate and the words "Campaign Account" for example, "John Doe Campaign Account".*
9. If you currently hold an elected or appointed position, please consult with your attorney to determine whether you are required to resign from the office you presently hold to run for this office [\[F.S. 99.012\]](#) and [Miami-Dade County Code of Ordinances, Part I, Section 1.05](#). If you are a Miami-Dade County employee, please refer to [Miami-Dade County Code of Ordinances, Part I, Section 1.05 \(C\)](#).

*\* Candidates must submit these forms to the Miami-Dade Office of the Supervisor of Elections at the time they announce their candidacy.*

**Miami-Dade County**  
**2026 Board of County Commissioners, District 5, Vacancy Election**  
**Candidate Qualifying Information**

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**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**Launch of Electronic Filing – Full & Public Disclosure of Financial Interests (Form 6)**

Changes to the financial disclosure laws provide that beginning January 1, 2023, the Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests (Form 6) is available only by utilizing the Florida Commission on Ethics' electronic filing system.

Anyone wishing to file a Form 6 for qualifying purposes MUST register in the system to access the disclosure form. A valid email is required to register. Within the system, candidates will find helpful videos.

Candidates are required to submit a hard copy of the Form 6 to the filing officer at the time of qualifying.

Candidates are urged to allow ample time to register, create a profile, username/password, and complete the disclosure. Waiting until the last day of qualifying may not provide sufficient time to access the system, accurately complete the disclosure, print, and file it with the qualifying officer.

If you have questions about e-filing in 2026, you may read the Florida Commission on Ethics' [Tips for e-filing](#). For more information, please visit the [Florida Commission on Ethics](#) or call 850-488-7864.

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**2026 Board of County Commissioners, District 5, Vacancy Election**  
**Candidate Qualifying Information**

The following is a compilation of forms used by County Commissioner candidates who qualify with the Miami-Dade Office of the Supervisor of Elections and their campaign treasurer(s). For your convenience, a hyperlink has been provided for each form.

<b>Opening of Account</b>	
<a href="#">DS-DE 9</a>	Appointment of Campaign Treasurer and Designation of Campaign Depository for Candidates
<a href="#">DS-DE 84</a>	Statement of Candidate
<a href="#">MD-ED 2</a>	Access to Handbook and the Election Laws of the State of Florida
<a href="#">MD-ED 10</a>	Campaign Treasurer's Report – Miami-Dade County Electronic Filing Requirement
<a href="#">Declaration &amp; First Amendment Waiver</a>	Declaration and First Amendment Waiver (optional)
<b>Qualifying</b>	
<a href="#">DS-DE 104</a>	Candidate Petition
<a href="#">DS-DE 19A</a>	Affidavit of Undue Burden – if unable to pay for the verification of signatures
<a href="#">MD-ED 25</a>	Miami-Dade County Candidate Oath – Nonpartisan Office
<a href="#">CE Form 6 (2025)</a>	Form 6 – Full and Public Disclosure of Financial Interests – 2025; along with any other forms, if applicable ( <i>To be filed electronically via the <a href="#">Electronic Financial Disclosure Management System (EFDMS)</a> – Hard copy required for qualifying</i> ).
<a href="#">MD-ED 12</a>	Irrevocable Statement for Candidates Voluntarily Abiding by Campaign Financing Limits – If not applying for Public Financing, it is voluntary
<b>Campaign Reporting</b> (included in online Campaign Reporting Software)	
<a href="#">DS-DE 12</a>	Campaign Treasurer's Report Summary
<a href="#">DS-DE 13</a>	Campaign Treasurer's Report – Itemized Contributions
<a href="#">DS-DE 14</a>	Campaign Treasurer's Report – Itemized Expenditures
<a href="#">DS-DE 14A</a>	Campaign Treasurer's Report – Itemized Distributions
<a href="#">DS-DE 94</a>	Campaign Treasurer's Report – Fund Transfers
<a href="#">DS-DE 87</a>	Waiver of Report
<a href="#">DS-DE 86</a>	Request for Return of Contribution
<a href="#">DS-DE 2</a>	Contributions Returned
<b>Termination Reports</b>	
<a href="#">DS-DE 73</a>	Campaign Loans Report
<a href="#">DS-DE 73A</a>	Campaign Loans Report Itemized
<b>Elected Officials – Opening an Office Account</b>	
<a href="#">DS-DE 48</a>	Office Account Report
<a href="#">DS-DE 48A</a>	Office Account Disbursement or Deposit Information

In addition, the following resources are available online:

- [Calendar of Reporting Dates](#)
- [The Florida Election Code](#)
- [Miami-Dade County Code of Ordinances](#)
- [Miami-Dade County Home Rule Amendment and Charter](#)
- [Ethical Campaign Practices Ordinance, Miami-Dade County Code at Sec. 2-11.1.1](#)
- [Candidate and Campaign Treasurer Handbook](#)
- [Candidate Petition Handbook](#)
- [Elected Officials Information](#)
- [Precincts in County Commission Districts](#)
- [Commission District Map](#)