


Memorandum



Date: July 12, 2018

To: Honorable Chairman Esteban L. Bovo, Jr.
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Carlos A. Gimenez 
Mayor

Subject: August 28, 2018 Primary Election Pre-Election Report

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

Attached is a memorandum from Christina White, Supervisor of Elections, that summarizes the topics specified in Sections 12-1 of the Code, as well as the Elections Department's preparations for the August 28, 2018 Primary Election. Important information such as anticipated voter turnout, three ways to vote, poll worker training, anticipated wait times, resource allocations, and Election Day results reporting are included.

If you have any questions, please contact Christina White, Supervisor of Elections, at 305-499-8509.

Attachments

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of the Board
Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
Geri Bonzon-Keenan, First Assistant County Attorney
Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
Christina White, Supervisor of Elections, Elections Department
Christopher Agrippa, Clerk of the Board

Memorandum



Date: July 5, 2018

To: Honorable Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor

From: 
Christina White
Supervisor of Elections

Subject: August 28, 2018 Primary Election Pre-Election Report

I am pleased to report that the Elections Department's (Department) preparations are well underway for the August 28, 2018 Primary Election. Miami-Dade voters will continue to have three ways to vote – through the convenience of voting by mail, 14 days of early voting, and their Election Day precinct. All facets of election planning are on target and we are well-positioned for another successful election. We continue to encourage voters to "Be Election Ready" themselves by disseminating important information through social and local media venues.

Below is the key information, that the Board of County Commissioners has become accustomed to receiving, pertaining to the upcoming election:

Closed Primary Election and Other Ballot Content

As you know, Florida law permits only voters who are registered members of a political party to vote for their respective party's candidates in a primary election. We continue to urge voters to confirm their party affiliation and make any changes prior to the July 30th "book closing" date if a party change is wanted.

This election contains partisan federal and state offices, and non-partisan judicial, school board, and county races. In addition, Aventura, Hialeah, Miami, Miami Beach, Miami Gardens, and South Miami will have municipal ballot content. There are 339 ballot variations throughout the county. All ballots are one page.

As such, all voters, regardless of party affiliation, are eligible to vote in the August 28, 2018 Primary Election. A document containing all ballot content can be found the Department's website, as we finalize the Official Sample Ballot, as described below.

Voter Registration

There are currently 1,388,446 eligible voters in Miami-Dade County, broken down by political parties listed below. This number will continue to change as additional registration applications are received by the July 30th deadline.

- Democrats 581,728
- Republicans 367,722
- No Party Affiliation 433,674
- Other 5,322

The Elections Headquarters in Doral will be open from 8:00 a.m. until 8:00 pm and the Stephen P. Clark Center satellite office will be open from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m. on July 30th for maximum voter convenience. Additionally, any voter registration application postmarked or received at an official Voter Registration Agency by the July 30th deadline will be accepted as valid for this election.

Anticipated Voter Turnout

Voter participation in a Primary Election varies. Based on the historical data provided below, voter turnout is anticipated to be approximately 20% of eligible voters. Voter distribution patterns continue to shift gradually with each election cycle. More than 60% of the county's participating voters are projected to cast their ballot prior to Election Day, via Vote-by-Mail Ballot or Early Voting.

Election Date	Election Type	Registered Voters	Ballots Cast	Total Voter Turnout	Vote by Mail	%	Early Voting	%	Election Day	%
8/26/2008	Primary Election	1,170,135	190,783	16.30%	55,502	29%	28,193	15%	107,088	56%
8/24/2010	Primary Election	1,203,633	215,527	17.91%	79,750	37%	32,882	15%	102,895	48%
8/14/2012	Primary Election	1,242,973	248,605	20.00%	92,360	37%	38,654	16%	117,591	47%
8/26/2014	Primary Election	1,284,840	185,145	14.43%	90,542	49%	29,194	16%	65,714	35%
8/30/2016	Primary Election	1,307,473	210,830	20.48%	101,575	48%	39,846	19%	69,359	33%

Vote by Mail

Voting by Mail continues to grow in popularity. As such, prior to the last presidential election cycle, the Department increased the technology utilized to process both outgoing and incoming Vote-by-Mail ballots to account for the growing demand and provide redundancy during peak times. Currently:

- There are 284,218 Vote by Mail requests on file. This number will increase as new requests are received.
- Ballots will be mailed on July 14th to overseas voters with a request on file.
- Ballots will be mailed on July 31st to domestic voters with a request on file.
- The last day to request a Ballot to be mailed is August 22nd by 5:00 p.m.
- The last day for the Department to mail Ballots is Friday, August 24th.
- Completed Vote-by-Mail Ballots must be received by Elections no later than 7:00 p.m. on Election Day to be accepted as valid.
- Return postage is paid by Miami-Dade County.
- Daily Vote by Mail statistics will be posted on the Elections website.

Early Voting

Early Voting will be available at 20 convenient sites located throughout the County. These are the same 20 sites that were used in the 2016 Primary Election.

Florida law permits the availability of Early Voting for up to 14 days. As this voting method continues to grow in popularity, the Department will offer the maximum days under the law. Early Voting locations will be open eight hours per day for 14 days, running from August 13th through August 26th. This signifies a total of 112 hours, with varying hours of operation to accommodate all voters:

- First week of Early Voting will provide early hours (7:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday - Friday)
- Second week of Early Voting will provide later hours (11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m., Monday - Friday)
- Weekend hours will be standard for both weekends (8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., Saturday - Sunday)

The Early Voting Schedule is available on the Department's website.

Wait times for all 20 Early Voting sites will be recorded throughout the duration of Early Voting and posted on the Department's website starting on August 13th. This will help voters make an informed decision as to when and where is most convenient for them.

Daily turnout statistics will also be posted on the Elections website starting August 13th.

Election Day Voting

Voters who prefer to wait until Election Day must go to their assigned voting location between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. We continue to encourage all voters to confirm where to vote before heading to the polls.

As is typical in countywide elections, some polling places used in the past will not be available for this election. Alternate sites have been identified that are equally convenient and accessible to the voters in these areas. The Department is still in the process of confirming locations. This list will be transmitted to the Board of County Commissioners as soon as it is finalized.

Voters affected by a change in their Election Day voting location will be notified in a number of ways:

- Voters assigned to a temporary voting location - one that will only be utilized for this election, will receive an official notice by mail.
- Voters assigned to a new permanent voting location - one that will continue to be utilized for all future elections, will receive a letter indicating the new voting location and a new Voter Information Card with the new voting location name and address.
- A list of permanent and temporary voting location changes will be advertised on August 8th in English, Spanish and Creole newspapers of mass circulation.
- Signage will be placed outside the previous voting location in areas that can be seen before voters depart their vehicles to further minimize any inconvenience.
- Voters can confirm their current Election Day voting location by calling 311 or accessing their voter information record on the Elections Department website, where a map and photo of their voting location and other pertinent information is available.

Wait Times

The Department has enhanced the Early Voting and Election Day experience by identifying the bottlenecks of the past. With a more methodical approach to resource allocation for both methods of voting, the increase of Early Voting availability, a more equitable distribution of voters throughout precincts, and an electronic voter check-in system, wait times have been significantly reduced. These major achievements will serve our voters well for the 2018 cycle.

Given the technical and operational enhancements implemented in recent years, and voters receiving only a one page ballot, lengthy wait times are not anticipated.

Poll Worker Training

Since poll workers are the face of the Department, we continually review the training curriculum to ensure that poll workers are properly prepared and ready to serve. Assisting voters and increasing their confidence is integral to our success. That being said, emphasis continues to be placed on hands-on training and customer service. The training curriculum runs from July 2nd through August 10th.

Resource and Staff Allocation

For Early Voting locations, the preliminary allocation is as follows:

- 80 EVIDs: 4 units at each location, 1 of which serve as backup
- 40 Ballot-on-Demand Printers: 2 units at each location
- 80 DS200 optical scanners: 4 units at each location; 1 of which serves as a backup
- 40 iVotronics (ADA) voting units: 1 assigned and 1 backup at each location
- 500 privacy booths: varies among locations
- 210 poll workers, which equates to 10-11 employees per site
- 10 administrative and technical troubleshooters traversing the County for quick response time

For Election Day locations, the preliminary allocation is as follows:

- 1,262 EVIDs: a minimum of 2, with a third unit at locations with 3,500 or more voters
- 1,500 DS200 optical scanners: 1 unit at precincts with 500 or fewer voters; 2 units at other precincts
- 598 iVotronics (ADA) voting units: 1 at each location
- 6,000 privacy booths: varies among locations
- Approximately 6,000 poll workers, which equates to an average of 10 poll workers per voting location, with additional staff at locations that have co-located precincts, split precincts, and/or more than the average numbers of voters assigned to it.
- 100 administrative and technical troubleshooters
- 40 supply trucks traversing the County in order to facilitate the most immediate response time

Election Day Results Reporting

The Election Night Results Page has a new look. It now provides universal web access for all users, and is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

A notable difference is that users can create "My Favorite Races" where they can select the contests they are interested in following as the results are tabulated and displayed. Additionally, there is now search capability that allows people accessing the page to quickly search for the race of their choice. Furthermore, users can easily share the results via email and social media directly from the new Election Night Results Page.

Election night results will be transmitted directly from voting locations to Elections Headquarters. The goal is to have final unofficial results on Election Night by midnight, as with previous countywide elections. This methodology has improved the timing of results by eliminating the drive time from the voting location to collection center miles away. However, all appropriate closing procedures must be undertaken before results are transmitted to Elections Headquarters.

Invariably, there will be a number of voting locations that will experience connection issues while attempting to transmit. In these instances, the contingency plan is to default to traditional means whereby they are driven to and transmitted from our Collection Centers.

Our website remains the most effective outlet to obtain up-to-the-minute Election Night results. We expect to release results as follows:

- Vote-by-Mail ballots received prior to Election Day - 7:15 p.m.
- Early Voting results - 7:30 p.m.
- Subsequently, there will be periodic updated results approximately every 30 minutes through completion
- The number of releases will vary based on polls closing (any voter in line by 7:00 p.m. is entitled to vote) and reconciliation procedures

Sample Ballot — Prepare Ahead of Time

Voter preparedness is a determining factor in the amount of time an elector spends at a privacy booth, and the overall voting experience. Therefore, voters are encouraged to view their customized sample ballot on the Elections Department's website before casting their ballot. This is by far the best way to prepare in advance. The Department will be heavily promoting the benefits of downloading this personalized version of the sample ballot to expedite the voting experience at the polls for Miami-Dade County voters. This capability is expected to be available on July 14th.

In addition, the Official Sample Ballot will be distributed in English, Spanish, and Creole as an insert in The Miami Herald and El Nuevo Herald on Sunday, August 12th, right before the start of Early Voting. Moreover, it will be advertised in various Community Periodical Programs, in all three languages. It will contain all federal, state, and county ballot content, the Early Voting schedule, and information on the

three ways to vote. Copies will also be available in public libraries, county and commission offices, and city halls beginning the week of July 30th. An electronic copy will be transmitted to the Board of County Commissioners and posted online as soon as it becomes available.

Public Testing of Voting Equipment

The "Logic and Accuracy Test" (L&A) of the optical scan voting equipment and ADA iVotronics will be held on August 8th. The Department conducts a thorough examination of equipment through rigorous testing that simulates Election Day conditions, from opening the equipment to transmitting and tabulating results. This is just one of the three levels of equipment testing performed prior to deployment. This is a public test, and per Florida law, candidates, political parties, and municipalities with ballot content will receive notification of this test, as well as the media for public outreach.

Outreach and Media Relations

The Department is engaged in a multi-faceted outreach campaign to ensure voters are properly educated prior to this election, focusing on key messages through radio, print, and TV news outlets as well as a strong social media presence. Community outreach efforts are conducted on a daily basis.

Keys messages include:

- Registering to vote – or making changes to party affiliation - by July 30th
- Knowing your party affiliation
- Promoting online resources
- Downloading personalized sample ballot to prepare in advance
- The convenience of Vote by Mail and Early Voting
- Things to remember on Election Day

Supervised Voting

The Department continues to promote Supervised Voting at assisted living facilities and nursing homes throughout Miami-Dade County. The goal is to provide our elderly voters the opportunity to Vote by Mail in their secure home environment with the assistance of election officials. This is a program that is offered in all countywide elections.

Budgetary and Legislative Needs

The Department does not anticipate needing additional funding or legislative requests at this time.

Conclusion

Staff has been working towards ensuring preparedness for this election. All ballot variations have been prepared and tested, poll workers are being trained daily, and ballot printing and equipment testing are on schedule. We are well on our way to being "Election Ready." Miami-Dade voters can be assured this important election will be conducted with accuracy and integrity.

I would like to give a special thanks to the Information Technology Department, Miami-Dade Public Library, Internal Services Department, Communications Department, County Attorney's Office, and all other County departments for their continued support and dedication. It is due, in part, to their partnership that we are successful.

As stated above, when the sample ballot and polling place change list are finalized, they will be transmitted to the Board.

Should you have additional questions, feel free to contact me directly at 305-499-8509.

c: Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of the Board
Abigail Price-Williams, County Attorney
Geri Bonzon-Keenan, First Assistant County Attorney
Alina T. Hudak, Deputy Mayor, Office of the Mayor
Christopher Agrippa, Clerk of the Board