

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(10)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: July 16, 2024

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution placing a non-binding straw ballot question on the general election ballot in Miami-Dade County, Florida to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024 for the purpose of submitting to the electors of Miami-Dade County whether they believe that Miami-Dade County should take action to expand free public Wi-Fi access countywide, including advocating for any necessary changes to state or federal law

Resolution No. R-710-24

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Oliver G. Gilbert, III
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: July 16, 2024

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 14(A)(10)

Please note any items checked.

- ☐ "3-Day Rule" for committees applicable if raised
- ☐ 6 weeks required between first reading and public hearing
- ☐ 4 weeks notification to municipal officials required prior to public hearing
- ☐ Decreases revenues or increases expenditures without balancing budget
- ☐ Budget required
- ☐ Statement of fiscal impact required
- ☐ Statement of social equity required
- ☐ Ordinance creating a new board requires detailed County Mayor's report for public hearing
- ☒ No committee review
- ☐ Applicable legislation requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, CDMP 7 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, CDMP 2/3 vote requirement per 2-116.1(3)(h) or (4)(c) ____, or CDMP 9 vote requirement per 2-116.1(4)(c)(2) ____ to approve
- ☐ Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required

Approved _____ Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 14(A)(10)
7-16-24

RESOLUTION NO. R-710-24

RESOLUTION PLACING A NON-BINDING STRAW BALLOT QUESTION ON THE GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2024 FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY WHETHER THEY BELIEVE THAT MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SHOULD TAKE ACTION TO EXPAND FREE PUBLIC WI-FI ACCESS COUNTYWIDE, INCLUDING ADVOCATING FOR ANY NECESSARY CHANGES TO STATE OR FEDERAL LAW

WHEREAS, access to the internet has a positive influence on economic growth, economic and social mobility, accessibility, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Bureau of the Census' American Community Survey, the number of workers in Miami-Dade County who work at home has been increasing and reached over 130,000 in 2022, and remote work often requires reliable internet access; and

WHEREAS, access to the internet offers economic and educational opportunities and services, such as low cost educational services; and

WHEREAS, there is a disparity between the accessibility of the internet in different communities, and slow or unreliable access to the internet does not convey the same full benefits as high speed, reliable internet; and

WHEREAS, several municipalities in Florida have provided their residents and visitors with free, publicly accessible Wi-Fi in certain areas around their municipality, such as by setting up free Wi-Fi hotspots, including Broward County, the City of Sunrise, the City of Sunny Isles Beach, and the City of Lake Wales; and

WHEREAS, for example, Broward County has free public Wi-Fi that is accessible at many County buildings, its main library, several parks, and two popular dining and shopping areas; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sunny Isles Beach has free Wi-Fi at several parks, its government center, and along most of its beach; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sunrise has several Wi-Fi hotspots with free Wi-Fi, such as at local parks and public buildings, and has plans to increase the number of hotspots within the City; and

WHEREAS, municipalities across the United States and in other countries also have free Wi-Fi accessible to residents and visitors, such as the City and County of San Francisco, California; the City of Boston, Massachusetts; the City of Vancouver, Canada; and Barcelona, Spain; and

WHEREAS, the Federal government had a program that provided eligible households a discount on their high-speed internet bills, but it was paused due to lack of funding; and

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County has already taken some steps to expand free access to Wi-Fi with its Drive-up Wi-Fi program at multiple public libraries and Wi-Fi hotspot kits that can be checked out at Miami-Dade libraries; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that reliable access to the internet is essential for Miami-Dade County and its residents to compete in the modern economy and wishes to further expand free access to Wi-Fi within the County,

WHEREAS, this Board wishes to determine whether the residents of Miami-Dade County believe that Miami-Dade County should expand free public Wi-Fi access to extend countywide,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, that:

Section 1. A non-binding straw ballot question shall be placed on the Tuesday, November 5, 2024 General Election ballot for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of Miami-Dade County the non-binding straw ballot question as set forth below.

Section 2. Notice of such election shall be published in accordance with Section 100.342, Florida Statutes.

Section 3. The result of such election shall be non-binding but nevertheless determined by a majority of the qualified electors of Miami-Dade County voting upon the proposal. The polls at such election shall be open from 7:00 a.m. until 7:00 p.m. on the day of such election. All qualified electors of Miami-Dade County, Florida shall be entitled to vote at said election. The County registration books shall remain open at the Office of the Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections until 29 days prior to the date of such election, at which time the registration books will close in accordance with the provisions of general election laws. The question shall appear on the ballot in substantially the following form:

NON-BINDING STRAW BALLOT ON
COUNTYWIDE PUBLIC WI-FI ACCESS

SHOULD MIAMI-DADE COUNTY TAKE ACTION TO
EXPAND FREE PUBLIC WI-FI ACCESS COUNTYWIDE,
INCLUDING ADVOCATING FOR ANY NECESSARY
CHANGES TO STATE OR FEDERAL LAW

YES ☐

NO ☐

Section 4. The form of the ballot shall be in accordance with the requirements of general election laws.

Section 5. Early voting shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of general election laws.

Section 6. Vote-by-mail ballots may be used by qualified electors of Miami-Dade County for voting on this question. The form of such vote-by-mail ballot shall be in accordance with the requirements prescribed by general election laws.

Section 7. A sample ballot showing the manner in which the question or proposal aforesaid will appear at this election shall be published and provided in accordance with the applicable provisions of general election laws.

Section 8. This election on the proposal aforesaid shall be held and conducted in accordance with applicable provisions of the general laws relating to elections and the provisions of the Home Rule Charter. The County Mayor or his or her designee, the Finance Director, and the Clerk of the County Commission are hereby authorized and directed to take all appropriate actions necessary to carry into effect and accomplish the provisions of this resolution. Election officials in connection with this election shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of general election laws.

Section 9. This election shall be canvassed by the County Canvassing Board, in accordance with the provisions of section 3.07 of the Home Rule Charter.

The Prime Sponsor of the foregoing resolution is Commissioner Kionne L. McGhee. It was offered by Commissioner **Juan Carlos Bermudez** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Kionne L. McGhee** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Oliver G. Gilbert, III, Chairman	aye		
Anthony Rodríguez, Vice Chairman	aye		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Kevin Marino Cabrera	absent	Sen. René García	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	aye
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Eileen Higgins	aye
Kionne L. McGhee	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	aye
Micky Steinberg	aye		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 16th day of July, 2024. This resolution shall become effective upon the earlier of (1) 10 days after the date of its adoption unless vetoed by the County Mayor, and if vetoed, shall become effective only upon an override by this Board, or (2) approval by the County Mayor of this resolution and the filing of this approval with the Clerk of the Board.



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BY ITS BOARD OF
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JUAN FERNANDEZ-BARQUIN, CLERK

By: Basia Pruna
Deputy Clerk

Approved by County Attorney as
to form and legal sufficiency.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of the letters "MBV" in a stylized, cursive-like font.

Michael B. Valdes