

MEMORANDUM

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(14)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: July 21, 2026

FROM: Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Resolution calling a countywide special election in Miami-Dade County, Florida, to be held in conjunction with a General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the purpose of submitting to the electors of Miami-Dade County the question of whether to amend the Home Rule Charter to create an Independent Salary Commission to determine compensation for the Board of County Commissioners

Resolution No. R-680-26

The accompanying resolution was prepared and placed on the agenda at the request of Prime Sponsor Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins.



Geri Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

GBK/ks



MEMORANDUM

(Revised)

TO: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

DATE: July 21, 2026

FROM: 
Gen Bonzon-Keenan
County Attorney

SUBJECT: Agenda Item No. 11(A)(14)

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**
- _____ **Requires more than a majority vote (i.e., 2/3's present ____, 2/3 membership ____, 3/5's ____, unanimous ____, majority plus one ____, CDMP 7 votes (majority of membership) ____, CDMP 2/3 members present but not less than 7 votes (majority of membership) ____, CDMP 9 votes (2/3 membership) ____) to approve**
- _____ **Current information regarding funding source, index code and available balance, and available capacity (if debt is contemplated) required**

Approved *Danielle Levine* Mayor
Veto _____
Override _____

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(14)
7-21-26

RESOLUTION NO. R-680-26

RESOLUTION CALLING A COUNTYWIDE SPECIAL ELECTION IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO BE HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH A GENERAL ELECTION ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026, FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE ELECTORS OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY THE QUESTION OF WHETHER TO AMEND THE HOME RULE CHARTER TO CREATE AN INDEPENDENT SALARY COMMISSION TO DETERMINE COMPENSATION FOR THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, on March 19, 2024, this Board approved Resolution No. R-225-24, sponsored by Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins, creating a Charter Review Task Force to review the Home Rule Charter of Miami-Dade County in its entirety and to prepare and submit written recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners setting forth any proposed amendments or revisions to the Charter; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Task Force transmitted a final report recommending that this Board place proposed changes to the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter before the electorate of the County; and

WHEREAS, among the issues studied by the Charter Review Task Force was the salary and compensation provided to County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Charter Review Task force, by a vote of nine in favor and one against, recommends that the Board place a referendum before the electors of Miami-Dade County to approve an amendment to the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter to create an Independent Salary Commission to determine compensation for the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, this Board desires to place this issue before the voters on the November 3, 2026 General Election Ballot,

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

Section 1. A countywide special election is hereby called and shall be held in Miami-Dade County, Florida in conjunction with the General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, for the purpose of submitting to the qualified electors of Miami-Dade County the proposal for amendment to the Home Rule Charter in the form attached hereto and made a part hereof as Attachment A.

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 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:

CHARTER AMENDMENT
ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT SALARY COMMISSION

Shall the Charter be amended to replace the fixed annual salary for County Commissioners with an independent, five-member Salary Commission—appointed by the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, State Attorney, Public Defender, Executive Director of the Commission on Ethics, and Inspector General—that

annually reviews and sets Commissioner salaries based on specific criteria, with all decisions being final without modification by the Board of County Commissioners?

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 special 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 County Mayor's designee and the Clerk of the Board 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 Danielle Cohen Higgins. It was offered by Commissioner **Danielle Cohen Higgins** , who moved its adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner **Juan Carlos Bermudez** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

Anthony Rodriguez, Chairman	aye		
Kionne L. McGhee, Vice Chairman	nay		
Marleine Bastien	aye	Juan Carlos Bermudez	aye
Sen. René García	nay	Oliver G. Gilbert, III	aye
Roberto J. Gonzalez	aye	Keon Hardemon	absent
Danielle Cohen Higgins	aye	Vicki L. Lopez	aye
Natalie Milian Orbis	aye	Raquel A. Regalado	nay
Micky Steinberg	nay		

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 21st day of July, 2026. 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.

MBV

Michael B. Valdes

ATTACHMENT A¹

MIAMI-DADE HOME RULE CHARTER

Article 1

* * *

SECTION 1.06. - SALARY.

~~[[Each County Commissioner shall receive a salary of \$6,000 per year payable monthly and shall be entitled to be reimbursed for such reasonable and necessary expenses as may be approved by the Board.]]~~

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- A. The salary of County Commissioners shall be determined by an independent Salary Commission. The independent Salary Commission shall be comprised of five (5) members who shall serve without compensation.
- B. Each member of the independent Salary Commission must be a County resident, but may not be a current elected official, County employee, registered lobbyist, or immediate family member of a sitting County Commissioner. One member shall be appointed by the Chief Judge of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida; one member shall be appointed by the State Attorney; one member shall be appointed by the Public Defender; one member shall be appointed by the Executive Director of the Commission on Ethics; and one member shall be appointed by the Inspector General.
- C. Except as provided otherwise in this Charter, members of the independent Salary Commission shall serve for a term of four (4) years and may not serve more than two (2) consecutive terms. Notwithstanding the foregoing, for the initial Salary Commission following the general election of 2026, two (2) of the appointments shall be determined, by lot, to only serve for a two (2) year term in order to allow members to be appointed on staggered terms. Members serving an initial (2) year term may still nevertheless serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms. Any vacancies on the independent Salary Commission shall be filled in the same manner as provided for the relevant member's appointment.
- D. On an annual basis, the independent Salary Commission shall meet and conduct a comprehensive review of County Commissioner salaries and determine whether or not there is a need for revision prior to adoption of the County Budget for the ensuing fiscal year. In making this determination, the independent Salary Commission shall consider (a) the duties and responsibilities of County Commissioners, (b) the salary of commissioners in comparable jurisdictions, (c) the value of any benefits or other compensation received by commissioners, (d) increases in cost of living and inflation in Miami-Dade County, (e) the fiscal condition of the County, and (f) the need to attract and retain qualified candidates for office. Additionally, if the independent Salary Commission determines that commissioner salaries need to be revised, such revised salary cannot exceed the

¹ Words stricken through and/or [[double bracketed]] shall be deleted. Words underscored and/or >>double arrowed<< constitute the amendment proposed. Remaining provisions are now in effect and remain unchanged.

salary that would otherwise be determined by state law regarding the salary of county commissioners in non-charter counties.

- E. All meetings of the independent Salary Commission shall be open to the public and conducted in accordance with Florida's open-government and sunshine laws, and the independent Salary Commission must hold at least two (2) public hearings prior to finalizing its review. The independent Salary Commission shall provide its final conclusions, including any salary revisions, to the Board of County Commissioners in a written report prior to adoption of the County Budget for the ensuing fiscal year.
- F. All determinations, including any salary revisions, made by the independent Salary Commission in its written reports shall be final and the Board of County Commissioners shall include the salary, determined by the independent Salary Commission in the County Budget for the ensuing fiscal year without modification or amendment.<<