

## **MEMORANDUM**

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)

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**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 increase length of district residency to run for County Commissioner

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Resolution No. R-681-26

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

  
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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)(15)

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-Carr Mayor  
Veto \_\_\_\_\_  
Override \_\_\_\_\_

Agenda Item No. 11(A)(15)  
7-21-26

RESOLUTION NO. R-681-26

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 INCREASE LENGTH OF DISTRICT RESIDENCY TO RUN FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER

**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 length of time that a candidate for County Commission should be a resident of the district in order to be eligible to run for such office; and

**WHEREAS**, the Charter Review Task Force, by a vote of ten in favor and none 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 require candidates for County Commission to have been a registered elector of the district for at least 365 days prior to the start of the qualifying period; 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**  
**INCREASE LENGTH OF DISTRICT RESIDENCY**  
**TO RUN FOR COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

Shall the Charter be amended to change the residency requirement for Commission members, increasing the minimum time a candidate must reside within their district from six months to one year before the start of the qualifying period?

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 **Vicki L. Lopez** and upon being put to a vote, the vote was as follows:

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

The Chairperson thereupon declared this resolution duly passed and adopted this 21<sup>st</sup> 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 A<sup>1</sup>

### MIAMI-DADE HOME RULE CHARTER

#### Article 1

\* \* \*

#### **SECTION 1.04. - COMPOSITION OF THE COMMISSION.**

The Commission shall consist of thirteen members, each of whom shall be a qualified elector residing within his or her district for at least ~~[[six months]]~~ >>365 days<< and within the County for at least three years before >>the start of the<< qualifying >>period<< and who shall be elected by the qualified electors of his or her district.

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<sup>1</sup> 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.