

Civics Academy

Empowering Communities
Through Civic Engagement



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA



MARLEINE BASTIEN
Miami-Dade County Commissioner For District 2



**Become an active
resident,** learn how
to participate in your
local government and
advocate for your
community.

Arcola Lakes Branch Library
April 7, April 21, May 5, May 19
6 pm – 8 pm
8240 NW 7 Ave.
Miami, FL 33150

Westchester Regional Library
April 8, April 22, May 6, May 20
6 pm – 8 pm
9445 Coral Way
Miami, FL 33165

Main Library
April 10, April 24, May 8, May 22
12 pm – 2 pm
101 West Flagler St.
Miami, FL 33130

North Dade Regional Library
April 8, April 22, May 6, May 13
6 pm – 8 pm
2455 NW 183 St.
Miami Gardens, FL 33056

Naranja Branch Library
April 8, April 26, May 10, May 24
3 pm – 5 pm
14850 SW 280 St.
Miami, FL 33032

Session 1

Foundations of Civic Participation

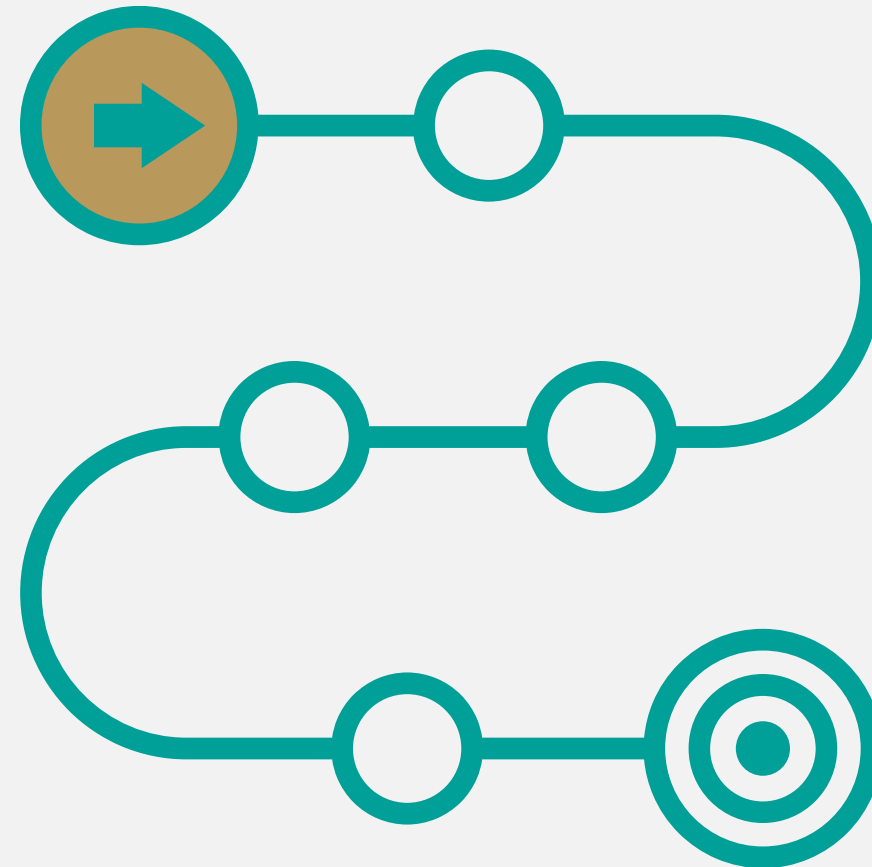
OVERVIEW

- Essential Vocabulary - Key Civic Terms
- Overview of U.S. Federal, State & Local Government
- Civic Rights, Responsibilities, and Opportunities
- Importance of Public Service and Advocacy



Agenda

Foundations of Civic Participation



- 1 **Opening Activity**
15 minutes
- 2 **Content Presentation**
30 minutes
- 3 **Hands-on Workshop**
30 minutes
- 4 **Interactive Discussion**
30 minutes
- 5 **Closing Reflection**
15 minutes

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OPENING ACTIVITY

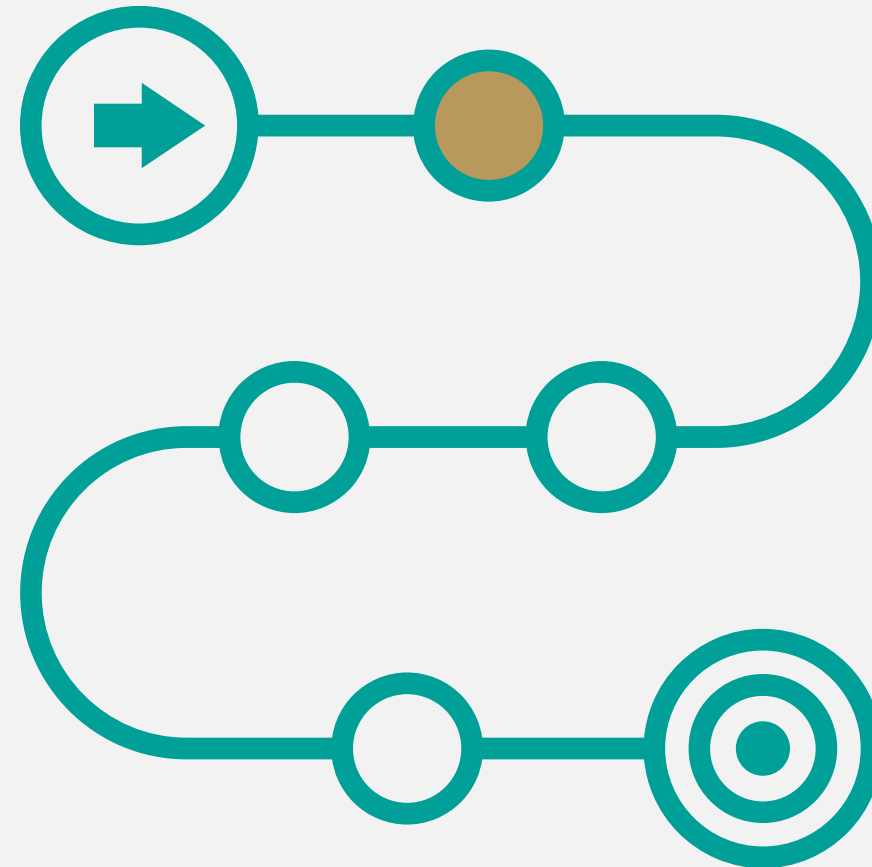
Icebreaker Discussion: “Why Civic Participation Matters”

- Why are you here?
- What are you hoping to get out of the Civic Academy?
- Why do you think civic participation matters?



Agenda

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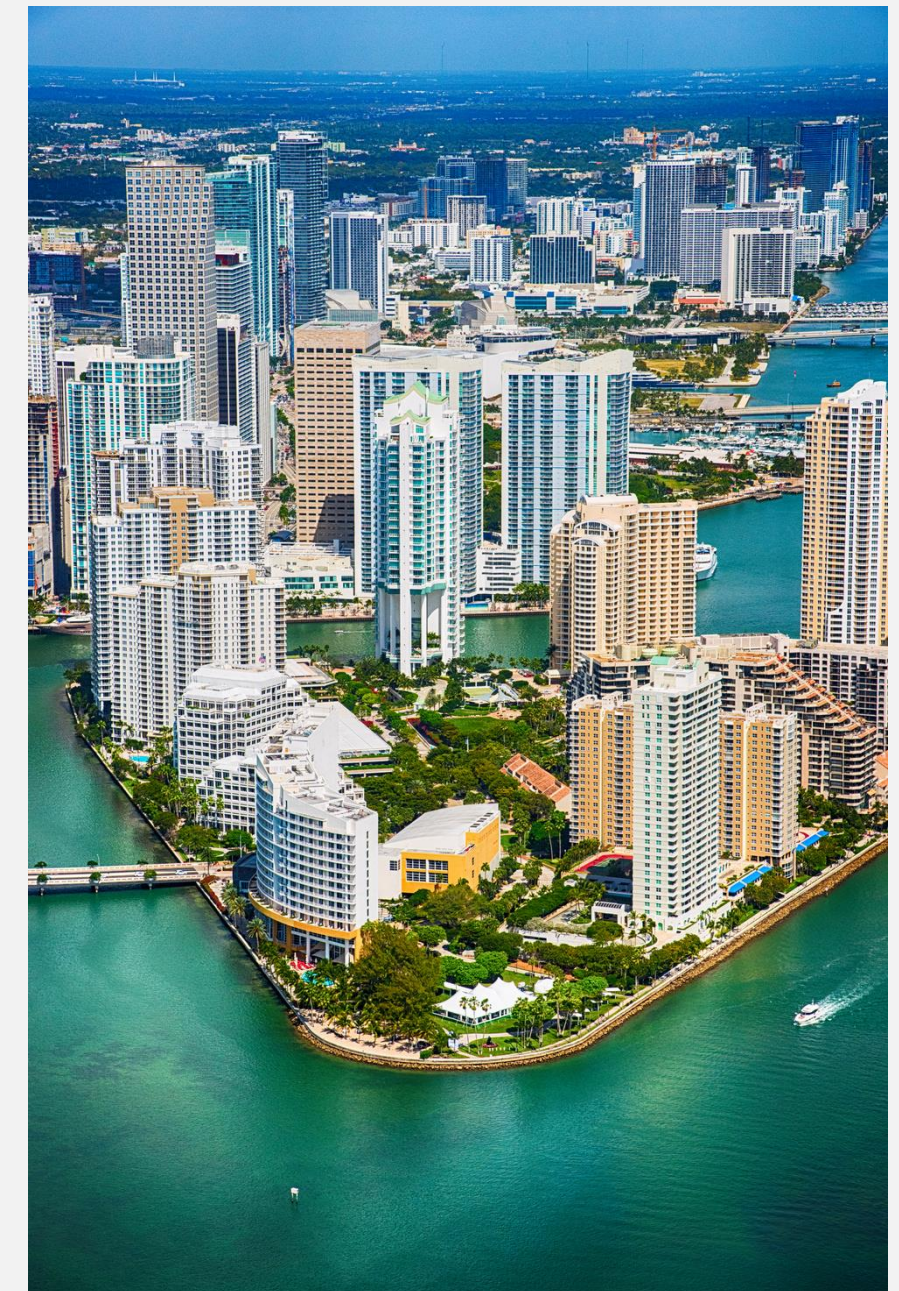
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OBJECTIVES

- **Understand Government Structures** – Identify the roles and functions of local, state, and federal government and how they interact.
- **Recognize Civic Rights and Responsibilities** – Learn key civic rights, responsibilities, and opportunities for participation in public service and community advocacy.
- **Build a Foundation for Civic Engagement** – Develop essential vocabulary and knowledge to effectively engage with local government and advocate for community needs



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CONTENT PRESENTATION

ESSENTIAL VOCABULARY 101

- **Civic Engagement** – Being involved in your community to help make decisions and improve society. (*Compromiso cívico / Angajman Sivik*)
- **Democracy** – A system of government where people vote for their leaders and have a say in decisions. (*Democracia / Demokrasi*)
- **Government** – The group of people who make laws and decisions for a city, state, or country. (*Gobierno / Gouvènmán*)
- **Policy** – A plan or rule made by the government to solve problems. (*Política / Politik*)



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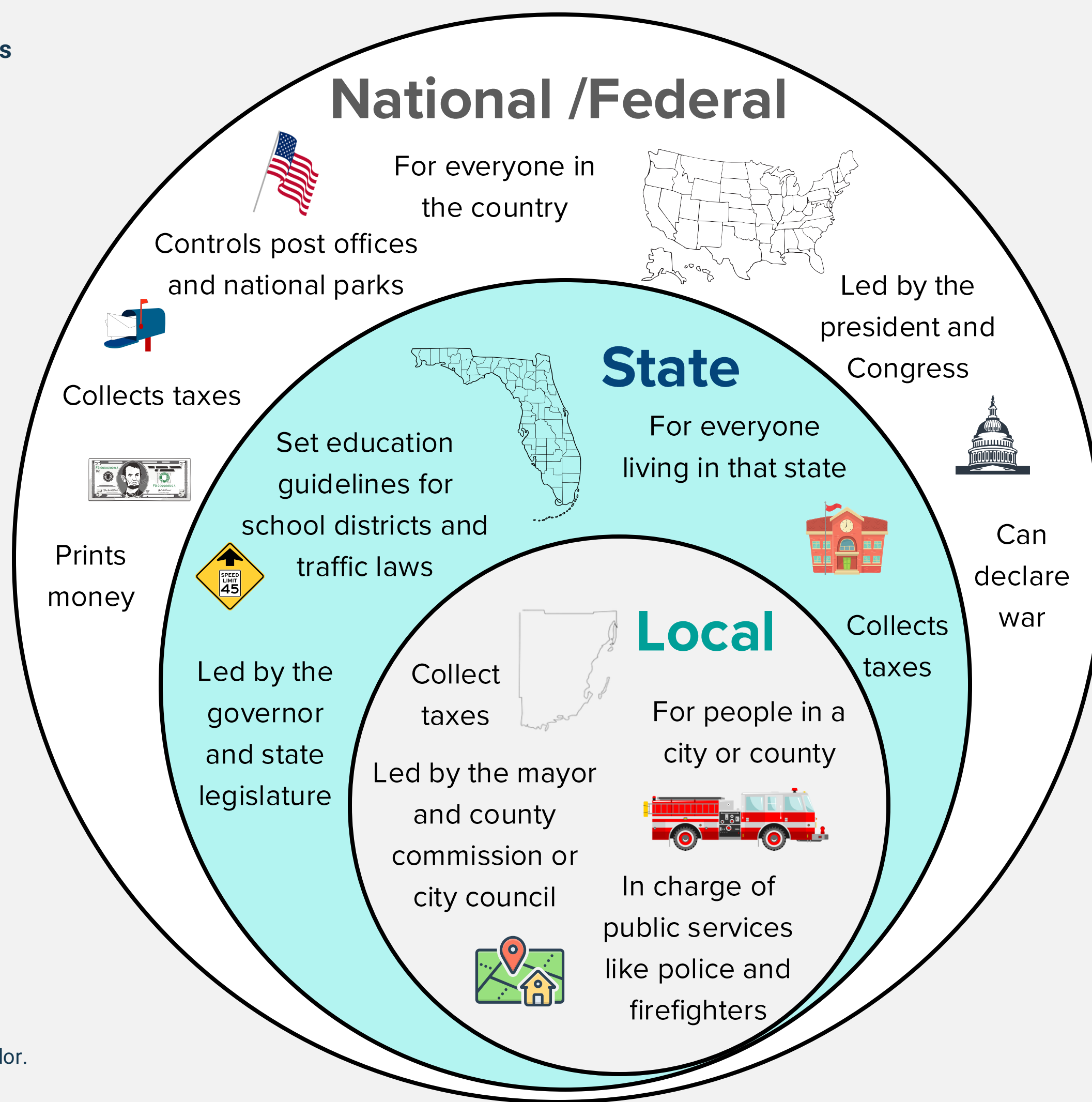
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CONTENT PRESENTATION

Three Levels of Government in the United States of America

- **Local (Miami-Dade County, Constitutional Offices, municipalities)**
 - County Mayor and Board of County Commissioners, School Board
 - Examples of responsibilities: *Public safety, transportation, zoning, libraries, city roads.*
- **State (Florida Government)**
 - Governor, legislature, state agencies.
 - Examples of responsibilities: *higher education, healthcare, state highways.*
- **Federal Government (United States)**
 - President, Congress, Supreme Court, federal agencies.
 - Examples of responsibilities: *National security, immigration, economy, interstate highway.*





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CONTENT PRESENTATION

Understanding Local Government: Miami-Dade County

- The most populous county in Florida - 2.687 million
 - *(U.S. Census Bureau, 2023)*
- 34 incorporated municipalities, cities, towns and villages, as well as to unincorporated communities and neighborhoods
- Strong Mayor Form of Government - Mayor serves as an elected Chief Executive along with an elected Board of County Commissioners (BCC) representing 13 districts



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CONTENT PRESENTATION

Recognizing Civic Rights and Responsibilities

- **Civic Rights**

- a. Voting, free speech, assembly, petitioning government.
- b. Protections under the U.S. & Florida Constitution (e.g., Sunshine Laws)



- **Civic Responsibilities**

- a. Staying informed about issues affecting the community.
- b. Participating in elections at all levels.
- c. Engaging in respectful civil discourse.
- d. Volunteering & public service opportunities (e.g., advisory boards).



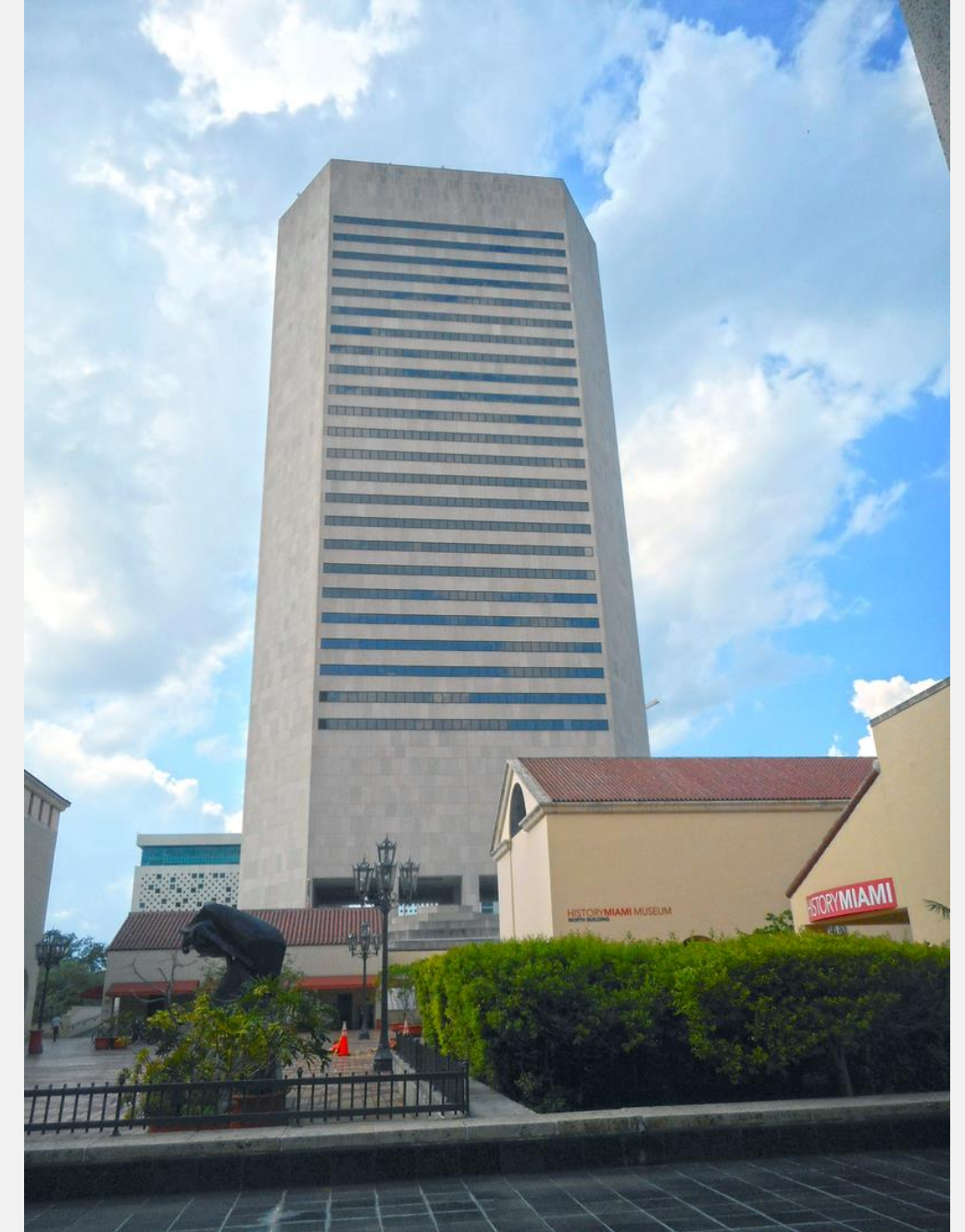
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CONTENT PRESENTATION

Building a Foundation for Civic Engagement **Ways to Get Involved Locally**

- Attend public meetings.
- Contact elected officials
- Join or support local organizations advocating for change.
- Participate in local leadership programs.



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North Dade Regional Library

2455 NW 183 Street, Miami Gardens,
FL 33056



- **CITY:** This area is part of unincorporated Miami-Dade County and does not have a city commissioner.
- **COUNTY:** *Oliver Gilbert*, Miami-Dade County Commissioner for District 1; *Daniella Levine Cava*, Miami-Dade County Mayor
- **STATE:** *Wallace Aristide*, State House - District 107; *Shevrin “Shev” Jones*, State Senate - District 38; *Ron Desantis*, Governor
- **FEDERAL:** *Frederica S. Wilson*, United States Representative - District 24; *Rick Scott and Ashley Moody*, United States Senators; *Donald J. Trump*, President





Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor





Anthony Rodriguez
Chairman
District 10



Kionne L. McGhee
Vice Chairman
District 9

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS



Oliver G. Gilbert, III
District 1



Marleine Bastien
District 2



Keon Hardemon
District 3



Micky Steinberg
District 4



Eileen Higgins
District 5



Kevin Marino Cabrera
District 6



Raquel A. Regalado
District 7



Danielle Cohen Higgins
District 8



Roberto J. Gonzalez
District 11

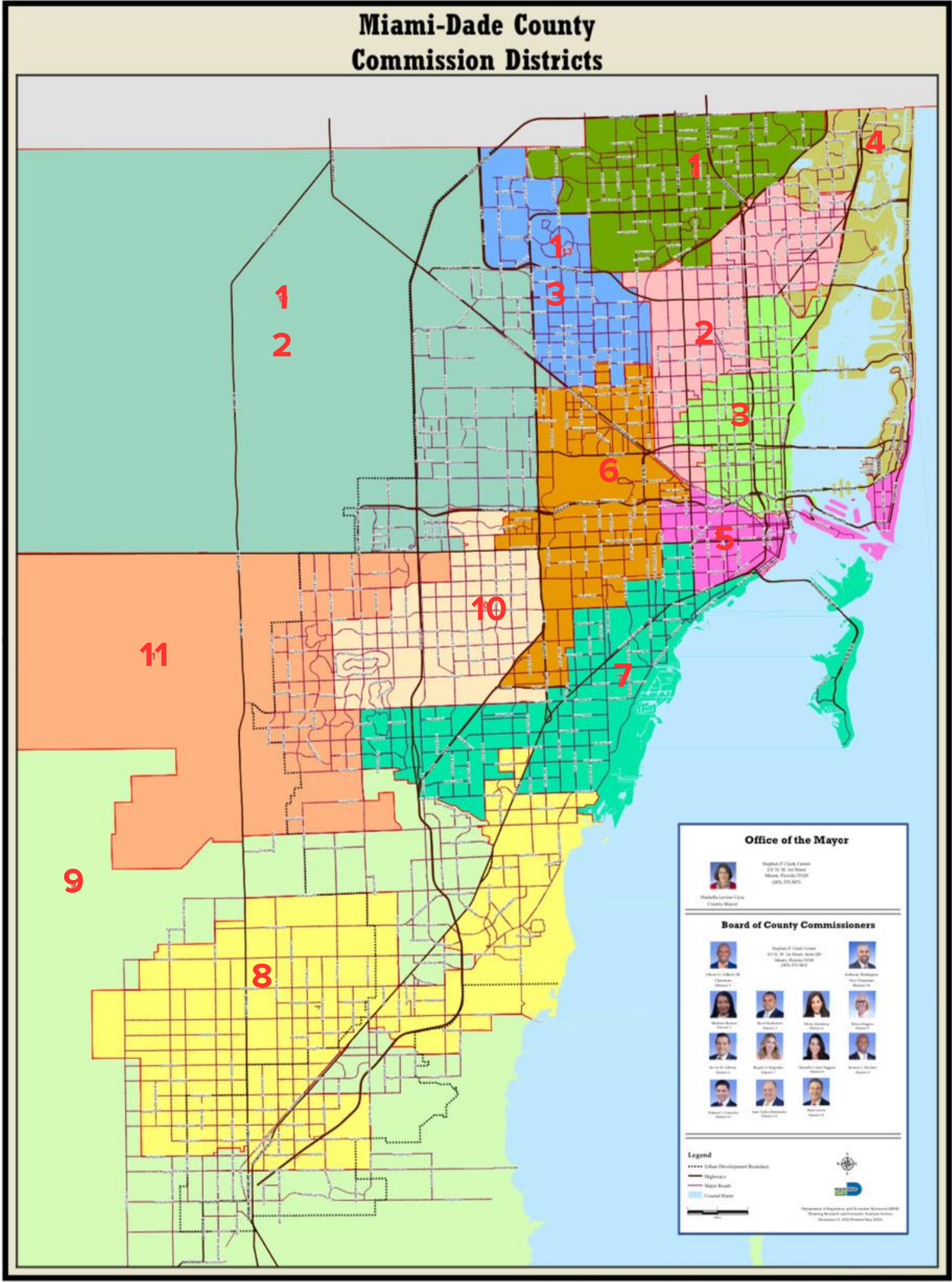


Juan Carlos Bermudez
District 12



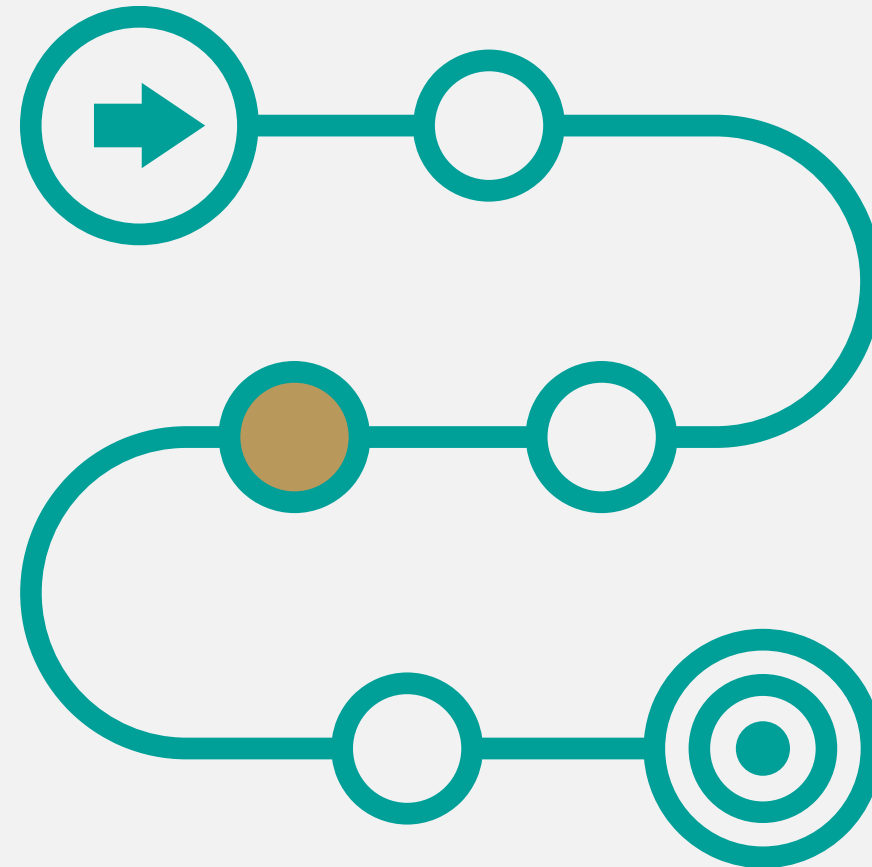
Sen. René García
District 13

01-29-2025



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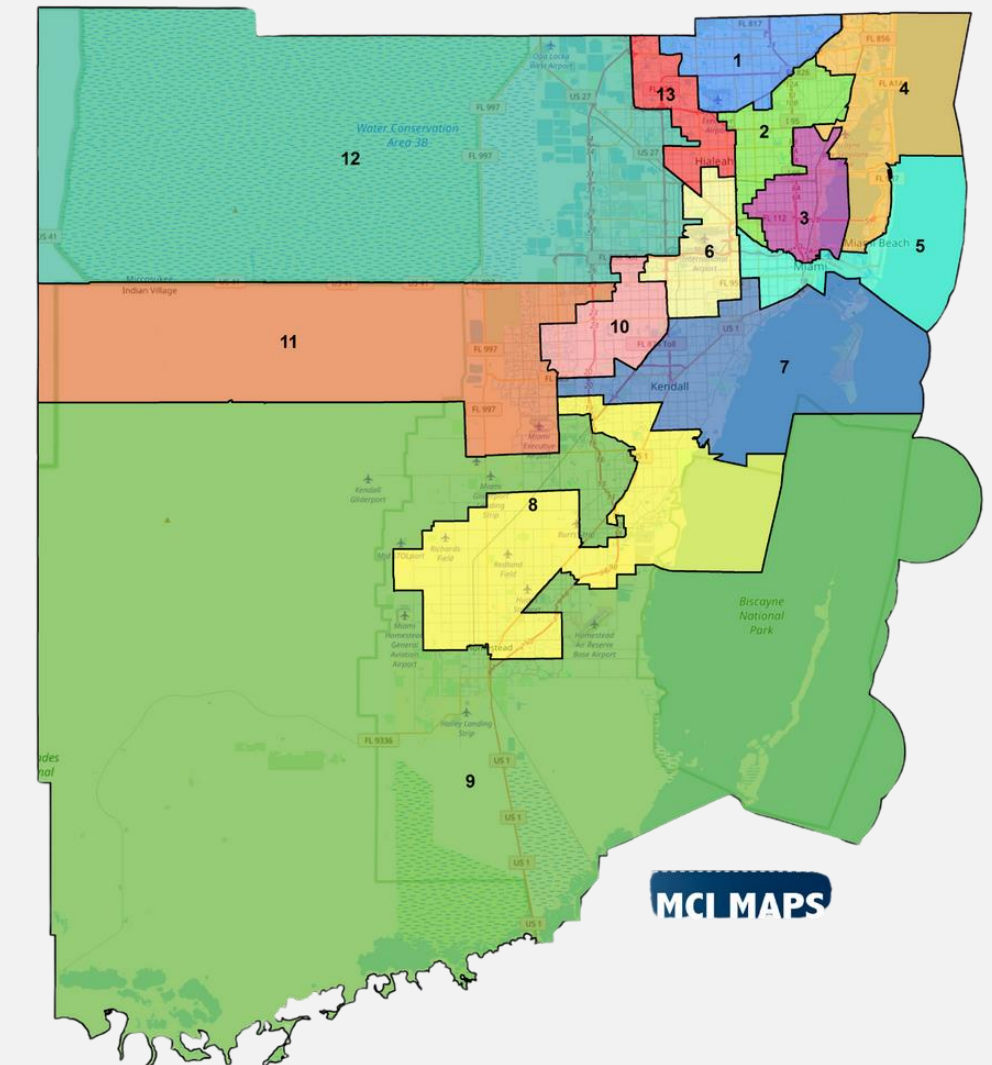
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HANDS-ON WORKSHOP

Who is my Commissioner?

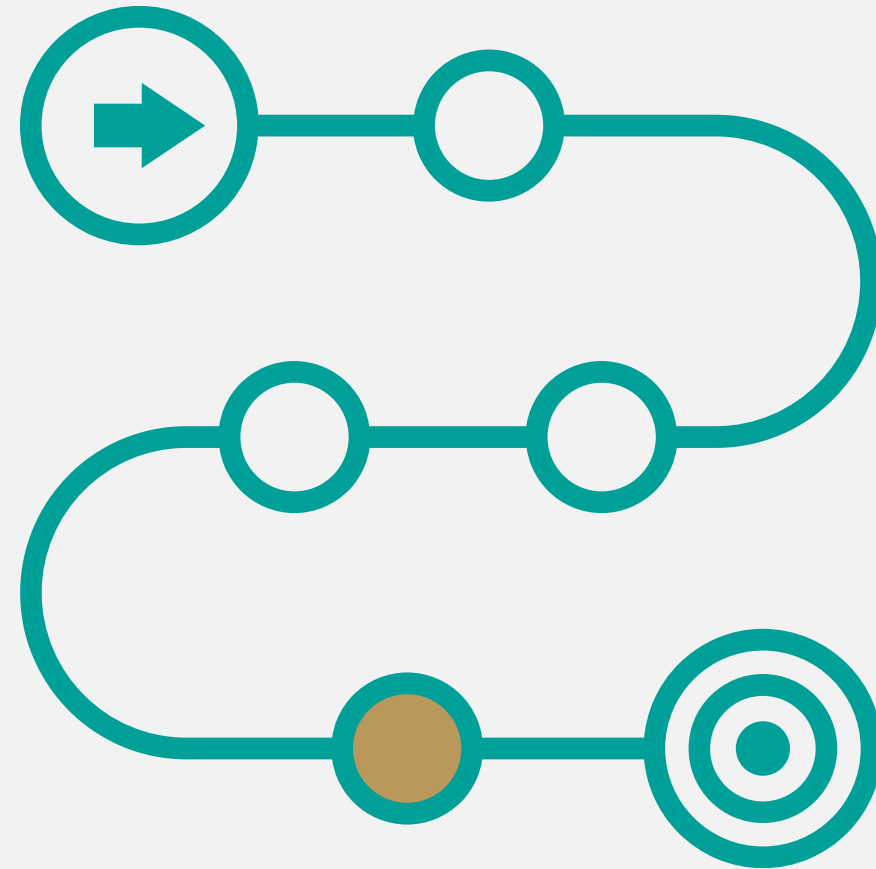
Participants locate their commissioner using a district map and discuss how to engage them.

Scan and enter
an address



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INTERACTIVE Q&A

Discussion Questions

1. What are some of the services that are provided by local government?
2. How can Miami-Dade residents become more informed about local government and further engaged?





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CLOSING REFLECTION

- What's one key takeaway from today's session?

Call to Action:

- What's one step you can take today to be more civically engaged?



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CONTACTS



- **Miami-Dade County**
 - <https://www.miamidade.gov/>



- **Miami-Dade Public Library System**
 - <https://www.mdpls.org/>



- **Community & Education Well-Being Research Center at the University of Miami**
 - <https://sites.education.miami.edu/cewrc/>



- **Maurice A. Ferre Institute for Civic Leadership at Florida International University**
 - <https://www.ferre.fiu.edu>



- **CABA Pro Bono**
 - <https://cabaprobono.com/>



- **Catalyst Miami**
 - <https://www.catalystmiami.org/>



- **Engage Miami**
 - <https://engage.miami/>



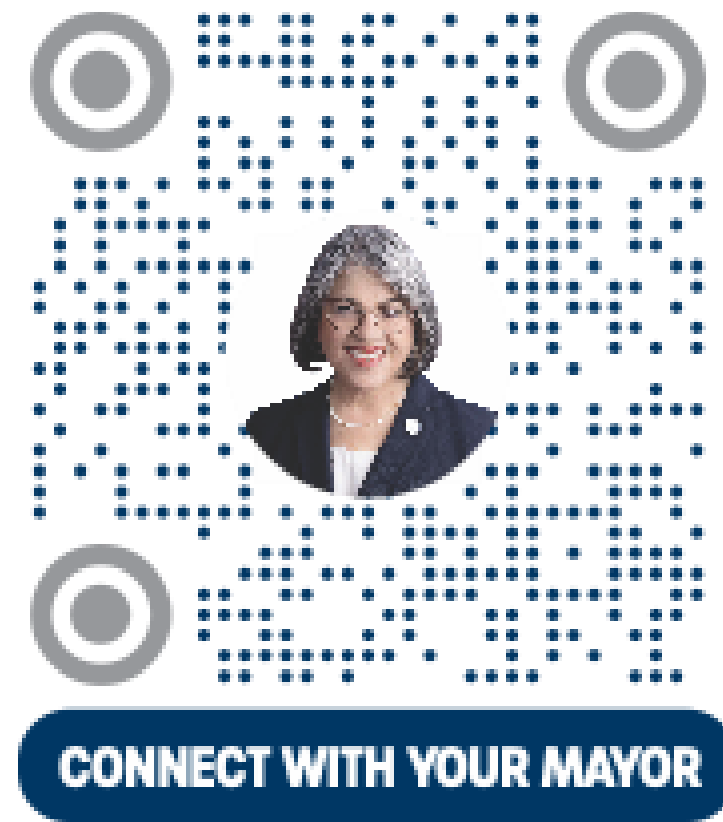
- **Family Action Network Movement (FANM)**
 - <https://www.fanm.org/>



- **Sant La Haitian Neighborhood Center**
 - <https://www.santla.org/>

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Mayor Daniella Levine Cava



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Board of County Commissioners

https://linktr.ee/MiamiDadeBCC_



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Thank you!