



Essential Vocabulary

General Civic Terms

Civic Engagement – Being involved in your community to help make decisions and improve society. (*Compromiso cívico / Angajman Sivik*)

Community – A group of people who live in the same area and work together. (*Comunidad / Kominote*)

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 / Gouvènman*)

Citizen – A person who belongs to a country and has rights and responsibilities. (*Ciudadano/a / Sitwayen*)

Constitution – The set of rules that guides how a country or state is run. (*Constitución / Konstitisyon*)

Law – A rule made by the government that people must follow. (*Ley / Lwa*)

Policy – A plan or rule made by the government to solve problems. (*Política / Politik*)

Public Service – Jobs that help the community, like police officers, teachers, and firefighters. (*Servicio público / Sèvis piblik*)



Essential Vocabulary

Types of Government & Leaders

Local Government – The government that runs a city or county, like Miami-Dade County. (*Gobierno local / Gouvènman lokal*)

Mayor – The leader of a city. (*Alcalde / Majistra*)

City Council – A group of people who help make decisions for a city. (*Concejo municipal / Konsèy vil la*)

County Commission – The group that makes rules for Miami-Dade County. (*Comisión del condado / Komisyon Konte a*)

Governor – The leader of a state. (*Gobernador / Gouvènè*)

President – The leader of a country. (*Presidente / Prezidan*)

Congress – The part of the U.S. government that makes laws. (*Congreso / Kongrè*)

Supreme Court – The highest court in the U.S. that decides on important laws. (*Corte Suprema / Kou Siprèm*)



Essential Vocabulary

Elections & Voting

Election – The process where people vote for leaders or policies.
(Elección / Eleksyon)

Vote – A way for people to choose leaders or make decisions. (Voto / Vòt)

Ballot – The paper or machine used to vote. (Boleta electoral / Bilten vòt)

Candidate – A person who wants to be elected to a government job.
(Candidato/a / Kandida)

Political Party – A group of people with similar ideas about how the government should work. (Partido político / Pati politik)

Voter Registration – Signing up to be able to vote. (Registro de votantes / Enskripsyon votè)

Polling Place – A place where people go to vote. (Centro de votación / Sant vòt la)



Essential Vocabulary

Community & Advocacy

Civic Duty – Something a person should do to help their community, like voting or following laws. (*Deber cívico / Devwa sivik*)

Civic Rights – Freedoms that people have, like freedom of speech and voting. (*Derechos cívicos / Dwa sivik*)

Advocacy – Speaking up for a cause or a change in the community. (*Defensa / Defans*)

Activism – Actions taken to bring change, like protests or campaigns. (*Activismo / Aktivis*)

Public Meeting – A gathering where people talk about issues in the community. (*Reunión pública / Reyinyon piblik*)

Petition – A written request asking leaders to make a change. (*Petición / Petisyon*)

Grassroots – A movement that starts with regular people instead of politicians. (*Base popular / Rasin mouvman*)

Community Board – A group of local residents who give advice on neighborhood issues. (*Junta comunitaria / Komite Kominotè*)



Essential Vocabulary

Home Rule Charter – The set of rules that lets Miami-Dade make its own laws without state approval. (*Carta de Autonomía / Lwa Otonomi Konte a*)

Unincorporated Area – A place in Miami-Dade County that is not part of a city and is run by the county government. (*Área no incorporada / Zòn ki pa enkòpore*)

Commission District – Different parts of the county, each with its own elected commissioner. (*Distrito de la comisión / Distri Komisyon an*)

Public Safety – Services that keep people safe, like police and firefighters. (*Seguridad pública / Sekirite piblik*)

Infrastructure – Roads, bridges, and buildings that help a community run. (*Infraestructura / Enfrastrikti*)

Public Transportation – Buses and trains that help people travel in the community. (*Transporte público / Transpò piblik*)

Social Services – Programs that help people with food, housing, and healthcare. (*Servicios sociales / Sèvis sosyal*)

Budget – A plan for how the government spends money. (*Presupuesto / Bidjè*)

Taxes – Money people pay to the government to help fund public services. (*Impuestos / Taks*)