



Dear Residents,

As your County Mayor, one of my most important responsibilities is presenting a balanced, fiscally responsible budget that reflects our community's priorities. Over the past six years, I have worked with the County Commission to support essential services, protect taxpayers, and invest in the programs and infrastructure that make Miami-Dade a place where residents, visitors, and businesses can live, work, and thrive.

Since my first year in office, we have worked alongside residents to shape the future of Miami-Dade County by hosting over 60 community meetings throughout the County. Those conversations have helped shape a proposed budget that maximizes the value of your tax dollars

by delivering the essential services residents depend on, including public safety, clean water, wastewater, solid waste services, libraries, parks, animal services, transportation, and environmental resilience. And we have done all this by delivering two tax rate cuts since I became Mayor, bringing the tax rate to the lowest level since 1982. We continue to focus on the priorities that residents have told us matter most:

- Healthy and Safe Communities
- An Economy that Works for All
- Fiscal Responsibility and Efficiency
- Investment in Infrastructure
- Risk Reduction and Resilience

This FY 2026-27 budget is organized around these five priorities and presents a balanced, responsible, resident-focused financial plan. It keeps the tax rate flat, protects health and public safety services, and takes steps to control costs as revenues decline, inflation increases, and the County prepares for the potential impact of property tax reform.

Balancing the County's \$14.261 billion operating and capital budget requires continued fiscal discipline, especially as growth in property values has returned to more moderate levels and the cost of living continues to rise. To responsibly balance this year's budget in an environment where general fund revenue growth has slowed, I have prioritized investments in public safety, transportation, and parks, while continuing to direct County departments under my purview to limit spending growth and operate more efficiently. Through careful budgeting and the implementation of efficiency initiatives under my WISE305 program, we have reduced costs while maintaining the essential services and programs that residents depend on.



County departments have delivered more than \$42 million in efficiency measures throughout FY 2025-26, helping further streamline our government and improve service delivery. The FY 2026-27 budget also proposes \$79 million in additional expenditure reductions from County departments to help balance the budget and reset base expenditures to prepare for a more fiscally constrained future. By eliminating more than 400 vacant positions, some partially funded, improving overtime management, and proposing needed reductions, this budget protects essential positions and services while also demonstrating fiscal discipline in reducing the County's headcount. Our budget also supports the needs of the Supervisor of Elections, Property Appraiser, Clerk and Comptroller, and Miami-Dade Sheriff to ensure their success in delivering their statutorily required duties throughout our community.

As we approach the November 2026 election and consider the potential impacts of the statewide property tax reform ballot initiative, my administration is planning ahead by tightening spending, pursuing sustainable cost reductions, and managing general fund dollars to meet growing demands for essential services including in transportation, public safety and public works. This budget does not ask County residents for new revenues to relieve budget pressure; instead, it focuses on delivering high-quality services even more efficiently as revenue growth declines year over year.

Continued community engagement is vital as we seek innovative solutions, new partnerships, and sustainable revenue sources that will enable the County to fulfill the priorities shared by residents and outlined in this financial plan. I invite all residents to join us at the upcoming public meetings in August to learn more about my proposed budget, ask questions, share feedback, and help ensure our decisions reflect the priorities we have set forth.

I look forward to working with the Board of County Commissioners, the Constitutional Officers, our dedicated County staff, and our residents to deliver a fiscally responsible, balanced budget that helps our community thrive now and in the future.

Yours in service,

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava