

MIAMI BEACH

COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission

FROM: City Clerk Rafael E. Granado

DATE: February 3, 2025

TITLE: REFERRAL TO THE MARCH 12, 2025, PUBLIC SAFETY AND NEIGHBORHOOD QUALITY OF LIFE COMMITTEE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE RELOCATION OF THE CITY HALL EARLY VOTING SITE AND EXTENSION OF THE EARLY VOTING PERIOD FOR RUN-OFF ELECTIONS.

RECOMMENDATION

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

ANALYSIS

At the request of the Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections, Miami Beach voters approved a Charter amendment on November 5, 2024, to Section 2.01. This amendment moved the City's Run-Off Election from two weeks after the General Election to the second Tuesday in December immediately following the General Election.

Pursuant to Section 38-6 of the Miami Beach Code, Early Voting for a Run-Off Election, if necessary, is scheduled for the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday immediately preceding the Run-Off Election. For 2025, these dates will be December 5 through December 7, overlapping with Art Basel (December 3 - 7, 2025). Early Voting occurs at Miami Beach City Hall and the North Shore Branch Library.

City Hall's proximity to the Miami Beach Convention Center, the primary venue for Art Basel, raises concerns about accessibility and voter turnout due to significant traffic congestion during this period. This overlap could negatively impact voters' ability to access the City Hall Early Voting site.

To address these concerns, we propose relocating the City Hall Early Voting site for the General Election and any potential Run-Off Election. Relocating the site for both elections would provide consistency for voters throughout the election cycle and mitigate the logistical challenges posed by Art Basel.

Under Florida Statute 101.657, the Supervisor of Elections may designate various types of facilities as early voting sites, including city halls, permanent public library facilities, fairgrounds, civic centers, courthouses, county commission buildings, stadiums, convention centers, government-owned senior centers, or government-owned community centers. These sites must be geographically accessible and provide sufficient parking to accommodate voters. The City Clerk, in coordination with Department of Elections personnel, identified the following four alternative sites in the South Beach area for consideration:

- Scott Rakow Youth Center – 2700 Sheridan Avenue
- Miami Beach Regional Library – 227 27th Street
- Miami Beach Police Athletic League – 999 11th Street
- South Shore Community Center – 833 6th Street

The Elections Department is reviewing these sites to determine their feasibility.

We request the Commission's input regarding these proposed locations and welcome any additional suggestions for alternate sites that may better meet voters' needs while mitigating the challenges associated with the current City Hall location during Art Basel.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Not applicable at the moment.

Does this Ordinance require a Business Impact Estimate? (FOR ORDINANCES ONLY)

If applicable, the Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on:

See BIE at: <https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/meeting-notices/>

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

CONCLUSION

Applicable Area

South Beach

Is this a “Residents Right to Know” item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?

No

Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?

No

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

City Clerk

Sponsor(s)

Co-sponsor(s)

Condensed Title

Ref: PSNQLC (3/12/2025) - Discuss the Relocation of the City Hall Early Voting Site and Extension of the Early Voting Period for Run-Off Elections. (CC)

Previous Action (For City Clerk Use Only)