

2. DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATION ON EARLY VOTING EXPANSION TO FOUR SITES AND RESERVED VOTER PARKING DURING 2025 RUN-OFF ELECTION (IF SUCH ELECTION IS NECESSARY).

Applicable Area:

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee Members

FROM: City Clerk Rafael E. Granado

DATE: April 9, 2025

TITLE: DISCUSSION AND REQUEST FOR RECOMMENDATION ON EARLY VOTING EXPANSION TO FOUR SITES AND RESERVED VOTER PARKING DURING 2025 RUN-OFF ELECTION (IF SUCH ELECTION IS NECESSARY).

RECOMMENDATION

The Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC) is requested to:

1. Recommend approval of the proposed expansion to four Early Voting sites during the 2025 Run-Off Election (if necessary) to enhance voter accessibility, particularly in South Beach, where Art Basel-related traffic congestion may impact voter turnout.
2. Support the confirmation of priority parking reservations at the G7 City Hall Parking Garage for voters during the Run-Off Election (if necessary), ensuring accessible and convenient parking options despite Art Basel activities.
3. Direct the City Clerk to transmit this item to the full City Commission for consideration and final approval.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On February 3, 2025, the Miami Beach City Commission held a preliminary discussion on relocating the City Hall Early Voting site due to concerns about Art Basel-related traffic congestion.

Given that Art Basel (December 3-7, 2025) coincides with the Run-Off Election Early Voting period (December 5-7, 2025), the Commission referred the matter to the Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC) for review.

At its March 12, 2025, meeting, the PSNQLC directed the City Clerk to take two key actions in the event a Run-Off Election is required: (1) confirm the availability of a fourth Early Voting site and (2) ensure that priority parking for voters is secured at the G7 City Hall Parking Garage.

Following these directives, the City Clerk engaged with the Office of the Supervisor of Elections and the City's Parking Department to obtain the necessary approvals.

ANALYSIS

1. Supervisor of Elections' Approval for Additional Early Voting Site

In response to the City's request, Christina White, Chief Executive Officer of the Miami-Dade County Elections Department, confirmed on March 13, 2025, that the Supervisor of Elections has

approved two additional Early Voting locations for the 2025 Run-Off Election (if necessary). (See attached email from Ms. White.)

Thus, for the 2025 election cycle, Early Voting will be structured as follows:

For the **General Election** (October 20 - November 2, 2025) - Two sites:

1. Miami Beach City Hall (South Beach)
2. North Shore Branch Library (North Beach)

For the **Run-Off Election** (if necessary) (December 5-7, 2025) - Four sites:

1. Miami Beach City Hall (South Beach)
2. North Shore Branch Library (North Beach)
3. Muss Park (Mid-Beach)
4. South Shore Community Center (South Beach)

This expansion provides greater geographic accessibility, particularly in South Beach, where Art Basel-related congestion could hinder voter access to City Hall. By having two Early Voting locations in South Beach - City Hall and the South Shore Community Center - residents would have more options, allowing many of them to walk to an Early Voting site rather than struggle with traffic congestion. This additional location is a meaningful step toward ensuring that all South Beach voters, regardless of their proximity to City Hall, have a convenient way to cast their ballots.

The addition of two additional Early Voting sites, located at the South Shore Community Center and Muss Park, during a potential Run-Off Election, ensures that residents have geographically accessible alternative voting sites throughout the City.

2. Parking Accommodations at G7 City Hall Garage

The PSNQLC expressed concerns that parking availability at City Hall during the Run-Off Election (if necessary) would be severely impacted by Art Basel, potentially deterring voters. To address this, the Office of the City Clerk engaged with the Parking Department, which confirmed on March 13, 2025, that short-term parking spaces in the G7 City Hall Garage will be reserved for voter use during the Run-Off Election (if necessary) (December 5-7, 2025). The valet service for Art Basel will be adjusted accordingly. (See attached email from Alberto Ventura, Assistant Parking Director.)

This measure ensures that voters have priority parking and are not discouraged from casting their ballots due to the lack of accessible parking near City Hall.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

A cost estimate for the additional two Early Voting sites during the Run-Off Election (if necessary) has been requested from the Office of the Supervisor of Elections and will be provided upon receipt.

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

The Business Impact Estimate (BIE) was published on .

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

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

To be provided.

CONCLUSION

The City Clerk has completed the directives set forth at the March 12, 2025, PSNQLC meeting:

1. The Supervisor of Elections has approved expanding to four Early Voting locations during the Run-Off Election (if necessary):
 - Miami Beach City Hall (South Beach) – Existing site
 - North Shore Branch Library (North Beach) – Existing site
 - Muss Park (Mid-Beach) – New site
 - South Shore Community Center (South Beach) – New site
2. The Parking Department has confirmed that short-term parking spaces in the G7 City Hall Parking Garage will be reserved for voter use during the Run-Off Election (if necessary), ensuring accessibility amid Art Basel traffic congestion.

These steps will enhance voter access, mitigate Art Basel-related congestion issues, and ensure accessible voting for Miami Beach residents.

We respectfully request that this item be transmitted to the full Commission for their consideration.

Applicable Area

Citywide

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

Discuss/Recommendation: Expanding Early Voting to 4 Sites and Reserving Voter Parking for 2025 Run-Off Election. CC

Granado, Rafael

From: White, Christina (Elections) <Christina.White@votemiamidade.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 14, 2025 1:31 PM
To: Granado, Rafael
Cc: Sierra-Trujillo, Erika B. (Elections); Castellanos, Ramon (Elections); Riano, Linda (Elections); Rivero, Miriam A. (Elections); Prieto, Elizabeth (Elections); Innocent, Vanessa (Elections); Rodriguez, Roberto (Elections); Barbou, Regis; Mena Caceres, Keila; Garcia, Alina (Elections)
Subject: RE: Early Voting Locations for the 2025 Run-Off Election

[THIS MESSAGE COMES FROM AN EXTERNAL EMAIL - USE CAUTION WHEN REPLYING AND OPENING LINKS OR ATTACHMENTS]

Rafael,

We are in receipt of your email. After internal discussions, the city's request to add two additional sites for the Run-Off election is approved.

Can you please clarify that the city will maintain two sites for the General Election and expand to the four sites for the Run Off only. That is our understanding.

Thank you.

Best Regards,
Christina White, Chief Executive Officer
Office of the Supervisor of Elections
Miami-Dade County
305.499.8509



Alina Garcia
Supervisor of Elections

@votemiamidade

votemiamidade.gov

2700 NW 87th Ave Miami, FL 33172 | 305-499-VOTE(8683)

From: Granado, Rafael <RafaelGranado@miamibeachfl.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 3:46 PM
To: White, Christina (Elections) <Christina.White@votemiamidade.gov>
Cc: Sierra-Trujillo, Erika B. (Elections) <Erika.Sierra-Trujillo@votemiamidade.gov>; Castellanos, Ramon (Elections) <Ramon.Castellanos@votemiamidade.gov>; Riano, Linda (Elections) <Linda.Riano@votemiamidade.gov>; Rivero, Miriam A. (Elections) <Miriam.Rivero@votemiamidade.gov>; Prieto, Elizabeth (Elections) <Elizabeth.Prieto@votemiamidade.gov>; Innocent, Vanessa (Elections) <Vanessa.Innocent@votemiamidade.gov>; Rodriguez, Roberto (Elections) <Roberto.Rodriguez@votemiamidade.gov>; Granado, Rafael <RafaelGranado@miamibeachfl.gov>; Barbou, Regis <RegisBarbou@miamibeachfl.gov>; Mena Caceres, Keila <KeilaMenaCaceres@miamibeachfl.gov>
Subject: Early Voting Locations for the 2025 Run-Off Election

EMAIL RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL SOURCE

Good afternoon Chief Executive Officer White,

On behalf of the Miami Beach Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee (the Committee) that consists of Chair Commissioner Laura Dominguez, Vice-Chair Commissioner Alex Fernandez, and Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, we extend our sincere appreciation to Supervisor of Elections Alina Garcia and the Miami-Dade County Elections Department for collaborating with the City of Miami Beach in evaluating and approving a third Early Voting location for the 2025 Run-Off Election, should such an election be necessary. We understand that the Elections Department is currently considering Muss Park (4300 Chase Avenue) as the third location. Your willingness to work with the City to expand voting access is appreciated.

At the March 12, 2025 Committee meeting, the Commissioners expressed a strong preference for maintaining Miami Beach City Hall as an Early Voting site for both the General and Run-Off Elections. The Committee believes that City Hall is a longstanding and well-recognized Early Voting location for Miami Beach residents and keeping it in place for the 2025 elections will provide continuity and convenience for voters.

However, given the significant traffic congestion in South Beach during Art Basel (December 3-7, 2025), the Committee respectfully requests that the Supervisor of Elections consider **the addition of a fourth Early Voting location in South Beach during the Run-Off Election, should such an election be required.** The Committee agrees with the Elections Department's assessment that South Shore Community Center would be an excellent additional Early Voting location. With City Hall remaining as an Early Voting site, the addition of South Shore Community Center would provide greater accessibility and ease of voting for South Beach residents, particularly given the bumper-to-bumper traffic congestion that Art Basel generates.

During Art Basel, vehicle and pedestrian traffic in South Beach reaches an overwhelming level, making access to City Hall particularly challenging. By having two Early Voting locations in South Beach - City Hall and South Shore Community Center - residents would have more options, allowing many of them to walk to an Early Voting site rather than struggle with traffic congestion and limited parking. This additional location would be a meaningful step toward ensuring that all South Beach voters, regardless of their proximity to City Hall, have a convenient way to cast their ballots.

We respectfully seek the Supervisor of Elections' approval to establish four Early Voting locations during the 2025 Run-Off Election, should such an election be necessary. These locations would include North Shore Library (7501 Collins Avenue [North Beach], an existing location); Muss Park (4300 Chase Avenue [Mid-Beach], a new location); Miami Beach City Hall (1700 Convention Center Drive, [South Beach], an existing location); and South Shore Community Center (833 6th Street [South Beach], a new location). This expansion would provide greater accessibility and ease of voting for all Miami Beach residents during a potential Run-Off Election.

We appreciate your partnership in expanding voter access and look forward to working with you and your team on implementing these improvements for the 2025 elections.

Please let us know how we can assist in advancing this proposal.

Thank you.

Regards,

MIAMIBEACH

Rafael E. Granado, Esq., City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139

Tel: 305.673.7411 rafaelgranado@miamibeachfl.gov

We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work, and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community.

Granado, Rafael

From: Ventura, Alberto
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 10:52 AM
To: Barbou, Regis; Gonzalez, Jose R.
Cc: Granado, Rafael; Mena Caceres, Keila; Caicedo, Jacqueline; Barrera, Jimena; Pierre Louis Bary, Samuel
Subject: Re: Voter Parking for possible Run-Off Election

Good morning Regis,
This will not be an issue, we will advise our valet company.

Best,

Alberto Ventura, Assistant Parking Director
Parking Department
1755 Meridian Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139
305-673-7000 ext. 22315
albertoventura@miamibeachfl.gov
www.miamibeachfl.gov

MIAMIBEACH



It's easy being Green! Please consider our environment before printing this email

From: Barbou, Regis <RegisBarbou@miamibeachfl.gov>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 10:15 AM
To: Gonzalez, Jose R. <JoseGonzalez@miamibeachfl.gov>
Cc: Ventura, Alberto <AlbertoVentura@miamibeachfl.gov>; Granado, Rafael <RafaelGranado@miamibeachfl.gov>; Mena Caceres, Keila <KeilaMenaCaceres@miamibeachfl.gov>
Subject: Voter Parking for possible Run-Off Election

Good morning, Jose,

Last year the Miami Beach voters approved to change when our municipal Run-Off Elections will be held, moving it from two weeks after the General Election to the second Tuesday in December.

At yesterday's Public Safety and Neighborhood Quality of Life Committee meeting, we received direction to ensure that the short-term parking spaces in the G7 Parking Garage, remain exclusively available for Early Voting for the Run-Off Election, which if necessary, will take place from December 5 through December 7, 2025.

The short-term parking spaces have previously been used for valet parking services by Art Basel, which will take place during the same week. However, it has been made clear by the Committee that ensuring

accessible parking for voters is a priority and reserving these parking spaces will facilitate a smoother voting process for Miami Beach residents.

Please let me know what we need to do to secure the reservation of the short-term parking spots in the G7 garage, and if you require any additional information.

Regards,
Regis

MIAMI BEACH

Regis Barbou, MPA, Assistant City Clerk

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139

Tel: 305.673.7411 Tel: 305.673.7000 Ext. 26578

<https://www.miamibeachfl.gov/city-hall/city-clerk/>

We are committed to providing excellent public service and safety to all who live, work and play in our vibrant, tropical, historic community.



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-notice/>

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)