

Item # 82

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL Regular Meeting June 1, 2021

SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF

**COMMISSIONER
TIM RYAN**



May 26, 2021

Mayor Steve Geller
Broward County Commissioners
115 S. Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Re: June 1, 2021 Agenda Item #82 - Elected Countywide Mayor Resolution

Dear Mayor Geller and County Commissioners:

The League of Women Voters of Broward County has supported the election of a countywide mayor since 1984. Our extensive study at that time and our continuous monitoring of county government has only strengthened that position.

While we support the current single member County Commission Districts and a Professional Administrator, we believe the third important component for good county government is the position of Mayor elected by **all** Broward County voters and, therefore, accountable to all.

We respect the current County Commissioners and Professional Administrator, but, for the long term, Broward deserves a governmental structure that provides stability, continuity, and maximum responsiveness to the public which can best be achieved if **all** the voters have the option of electing the Mayor.

The concept of “don’t fix what isn’t broken” should not apply to governments. Rapid growth, a diverse population, and economic interests make the traditional commission/administrator structure less capable of dealing with complex issues in a timely manner. One person—the executive (Mayor)—accountable and responsive to **all** the voters is needed. One person to speak officially for the county, separating legislative and administrative functions, providing strong political leadership, and building consensus for short and long term planning is required for Broward County.

It's been over 20 years since voters had an opportunity to weigh in on the issue of a countywide elected mayor and that proposal was very different from the one under consideration now. We ask that the County Commission put aside their own personal views on the issue and give the voters the opportunity to decide whether or not they want a countywide mayor.

This is a question that should be decided by the voters not the Commission. It is the right thing to do.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monica L. Elliott".

Monica L. Elliott, Ph.D/J.D.
President