

**ADDITIONAL MATERIAL
REGULAR MEETING**

JUNE 7, 2022

**SUBMITTED AT THE REQUEST OF
COMMISSIONER TIM RYAN**



June 3, 2022

Mayor Michael Udine and Broward County Commissioners
115 S. Andrews Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Re: June 6, 2021 Agenda Items #69 & 70 - Elected Countywide Mayor Charter Amendments

Dear Mayor Udine and County Commissioners:

In 1984, after extensive research, the League of Women Voters of Broward County envisioned that Broward County Government would include:

- 1) county commission composed of single-member districts;
- 2) mayor elected countywide who would not serve on the commission;
- 3) professional administrator appointed by the mayor and answerable only to the mayor.

As envisioned, the mayor and professional administrator would serve as the executive branch of government for the county to balance the commission as the legislative branch.

While the first part of our vision, single-member districts, has come to fruition, the latter half has not. We recognize that *exact* fulfillment of our vision is not going to occur, as the position of professional administrator has become engrained in county government as an appointment made by the county commission.

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 firmly believe that such a governmental structure would provide stability, continuity, and maximum responsiveness to the public.

We have carefully evaluated the three proposals before the commission at this time. Please see attached comparison.

While we appreciate Commissioner Geller's proposal to extend the current term of Mayor to two years, the Mayor would still *not* be elected countywide. Therefore, we cannot support this proposal.

We also appreciate Commissioner Moskowitz's proposal as it does offer a countywide elected mayor option, but the duties and responsibilities are too limited. While the Mayor would be allowed to speak before the commission, the Mayor would not be allowed to place items on the agenda or vote. The Mayor would not be allowed to execute ordinances, resolutions, proclamations and other legislative documents.

Our preferred proposal is the one submitted by Commissioner Ryan. This proposal makes the Mayor an equal partner on the commission, but provides for long-term stability in the mayoral position. One person would speak officially for the county, providing strong political leadership, and building consensus for short and long term planning, but who has the right to sit on the commission dais as a voting member and the right to perform *all* mayoral duties as outlined in the Charter.

Another reason the League would prefer Commissioner Ryan's proposal is the fact it makes clear that being Mayor of Broward County is a full-time position. The limitation on outside employment while in office is also a desirable feature.

At this time, the county commission has 3 charter amendment proposals referencing the position of mayor. We sincerely hope that the Commission places **only one** charter amendment question on the November 8 ballot.

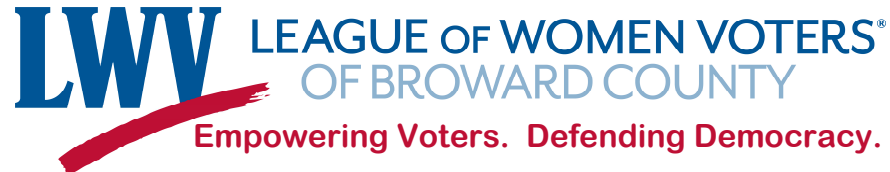
It has been over 20 years since voters had an opportunity to weigh in on the issue of a countywide elected mayor and that proposal was very different from the ones under consideration now. We ask that the County Commission put aside their own personal views on the issue and give the voters the opportunity 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,



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



	Current Charter	Moskowitz	Ryan
Mayor elected by Commission from elected Commissioners	Yes - one year; can be re-elected	No - elected countywide; 4-yr term; limit 2 terms	No - elected countywide; 4-yr term; limit 2 terms
Mayor salary	same as all Commissioners	same as sheriff	\$220,000; no outside employment
Mayor serves as County's official rep and ceremonial dignitary	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mayor provides leadership on issues facing the county	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mayor promotes Broward County as business, tourist and residential	Not specified	Yes	Not specified
Mayor recognized as head of county for purposes of:			
1) Military Law	Yes	Yes	Yes
2) Service of Process	Yes	No	Yes
Mayor shall act as County official designated to represent county:			
1) in negotiations with respect to agreements with other government entities	Yes	Yes	Yes
2) execute ordinances, resolutions, proclamations, other legislative docs	Yes	No	Yes
3) perform other duties as specified in Charter, by Co Commission or required by law	Yes	No	Yes
Mayor entitled to budget and employ staff	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mayor presents annual State of County message	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mayor serves as chair of County Commission	Yes	No	Yes
Mayor has right to take part in discussions and public hearings and vote	Yes	Yes - can speak; No - has no vote	Yes
Mayor approves all items prior to placing on agenda (unless placed there by other Commissioner or County Auditor)	Yes	No; can't place items on agenda	Yes
If meeting of Commission not possible, Mayor can declare state of emergency, in consultation with County Administrator	Yes	Yes, w/o commission approval; but commission could over rule	Yes
If County Commission establishes committee to review County Administrator's nominations for department heads, Mayor presided over committee and makes appointment to committee.	Yes	No	Yes
County Commission (including Mayor) work through County Administrator	Yes	Yes	Yes