

**PROPOSED**

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA, PROVIDING FOR A REFERENDUM ELECTION TO BE HELD ON NOVEMBER 8, 2022, THE DATE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION, TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO AMEND THE BROWARD COUNTY CHARTER TO PROVIDE FOR A COUNTYWIDE ELECTED MAYOR; AND PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

(Sponsored by Commissioner Tim Ryan)

WHEREAS, Section 2.06 of the Broward County Charter ("Charter") authorizes the Broward County Board of County Commissioners ("Board") to propose amendments and revisions to the Charter, subject to referendum of the general electorate;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Article VIII, Section 1 of the Florida Constitution, the voters of Broward County have the constitutional right to determine the form of Broward County's governmental structure, which includes the authority to increase or decrease the size of the Board, establish Charter offices, and grant such powers to County Commissioners and Charter officers as the voters deem appropriate;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to place an amendment to the Charter before the voters at the November 8, 2022, General Election;

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment would change the Office of Mayor from being Commission-elected on an annual basis to being a new countywide Charter position elected on a partisan basis for a four-year term;

WHEREAS, Broward County's voters should have the opportunity to exercise their right to decide whether the entire County should elect the Mayor of Broward County, with

1 such Mayor serving both as a representative of the Board of County Commissioners and  
2 a representative of the entirety of Broward County; and

3 WHEREAS, if the position of Broward County Mayor should ever become vacant  
4 for any reason, it is the will of the Board, and if this proposal is approved by the voters,  
5 the will of the residents of Broward County, that the position lapse until the next scheduled  
6 general election, and that pending such election the duties of Mayor be automatically  
7 transferred to and performed by the Vice-Mayor, NOW, THEREFORE,

8 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF  
9 BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA:

10 Section 1. Subject to an affirmative vote of the general electorate, Section 2.01  
11 of the Charter of Broward County, Florida, entitled "Composition, redistricting, terms,  
12 qualifications, and compensation of members," is hereby amended, effective  
13 November 5, 2024 (except that Section 2.01 shall govern with respect to the qualifying  
14 for and the holding of the primary and general elections for Mayor in 2024), to read as  
15 follows:

16 **Sec. 2.01. Composition, redistricting, terms, qualifications, and**  
17 **compensation of members.**

18 The County Commission comprises the Legislative Branch of County government  
19 empowered to enact ordinances and resolutions, and to take action that is consistent with  
20 this Charter and that is in the best interest of the health, safety, and welfare of the County's  
21 citizens. For purposes of this section only, the term "Commissioner(s)" does not include  
22 the Mayor.

23 A. The County Commission shall be composed of ~~nine (9)~~ ten (10) members  
24 ~~elected from single member districts;~~ nine (9) Commissioners elected from

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1 single-member districts; and one (1) Mayor elected at large. If the Office of Mayor ever  
2 lapses due to the existence of a vacancy, the County Commission shall be composed of  
3 nine (9) members from single-member districts.

4 . . .

5 (5) Beginning with the 2024 General Election, the Mayor shall be elected at  
6 large, and shall serve for a term of four (4) years. The Mayor must be a  
7 County elector and resident.

8 (6) Should there be a vacancy (as defined by Article X, Section 3 of the Florida  
9 Constitution) in the Office of Mayor, the position shall automatically lapse  
10 and the Office shall be deemed recreated so it may be filled for a new  
11 four-year term in the next general election cycle. If no candidate qualifies  
12 during a general election cycle, the position shall be filled in the general  
13 election cycle occurring two (2) years later.

14 B. Commissioners and the Mayor shall be elected on a partisan basis. The  
15 terms of office for both Commissioners and the Mayor shall begin on the Tuesday  
16 two (2) weeks following the day of the general election.

17 C. Except as provided in this Section, election of Commissioners and the  
18 Mayor shall be as provided in Article VIII, Section 1(e), of the Florida Constitution.

19 D. The Commissioners' salaries shall be determined and established in  
20 accordance with the general law of the State of Florida pertaining to compensation for  
21 Commissioners of non-charter counties. The Mayor's salary shall be \$220,000 for the  
22 2025 fiscal year (prorated for the first year), and for every fiscal year thereafter shall  
23 increase or decrease on October 1 in accordance with the Consumer Price Index for All  
24 Urban Consumers (CPI-U), All Items, Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL,

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1 calculated by the United States Department of Labor, or successor index, for the  
2 preceding calendar year as most recently reported by the United States Department of  
3 Labor. Commissioners and the Mayor shall only be reimbursed for expenses that are  
4 specifically approved by the County Commission, and when properly incurred on County  
5 business, in conformance with the laws of the State of Florida.

6 E. Vacancies for Commissioners shall be defined and filled as provided by the  
7 laws of the State of Florida. Other than as a result of redistricting, any Commissioners  
8 who cease to reside in the District they represent shall be deemed to have vacated their  
9 office.

10 F. During the Mayor's term in Office, the Mayor shall not earn or receive any  
11 earned income from any outside employment or as an independent contractor, and shall  
12 not serve as a compensated officer or director of any business entity. Nothing in this  
13 section in any way restricts the Mayor, to the extent not otherwise prohibited by law, from  
14 managing the Mayor's personal investments, including real estate and securities, whether  
15 individually held, jointly held, or as a fiduciary for an entity in which the Mayor has an  
16 ownership interest so long as the Mayor does not receive compensation or other  
17 remuneration for such management, or from participating in the activities of nonprofit  
18 charitable, religious, professional, or social organizations, including by serving on any  
19 such organization's board of directors, provided the Mayor does not receive  
20 compensation or other remuneration from the organization.

21 Section 2. Subject to an affirmative vote of the general electorate, Section 2.02  
22 of the Charter of Broward County, Florida, entitled "Term limitation for County  
23 Commissioner office," is hereby amended, effective November 8, 2024, to read as  
24 follows:

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1           **Sec. 2.02. Term limitation for County Commissioner office.**

2           ~~Effective with the terms of the Commissioners that commenced in November 2000,~~  
3 ~~a~~An individual shall not be eligible for election as a Commissioner for more than three  
4 consecutive four-year terms. Service as a Commissioner prior to the terms that  
5 commenced in November 2000 shall not be considered in applying the term limitations of  
6 this section. An individual shall not be eligible for election as Mayor for more than two  
7 consecutive four-year terms. Service of a two-year term, or any other partial term  
8 subsequent to November 2000, shall not be considered in applying the term limitation  
9 provisions of this section. For purposes of this section, the offices of Mayor and County  
10 Commissioner shall be considered separate offices, and service as the Mayor or County  
11 Commissioner shall not be considered when applying the term limitation provisions in this  
12 section to the other office.

13           Section 3. Subject to an affirmative vote of the general electorate, Section 2.03  
14 of the Charter of Broward County, Florida, entitled "Commission election of Mayor and  
15 Vice-Mayor," is hereby amended, effective November 8, 2024, to read as follows:

16           **Sec. 2.03. Commission election of Mayor and Vice-Mayor.**

17           A.     ~~The County Commission shall elect one (1) Commissioner to the position~~  
18 ~~of Mayor by a majority vote. The election of the Mayor shall occur on an annual basis,~~  
19 ~~during the County Commission's annual organizational meeting, which shall take place~~  
20 ~~no earlier than the third Tuesday of each November and no later than the third Tuesday~~  
21 ~~of each December. The County Commission may remove the individual from the position~~  
22 ~~of Mayor by a majority vote. The Mayor may serve consecutive terms.~~

23           B.     ~~Following the election of the Mayor, t~~The County Commission shall elect a  
24 Commissioner to the position of Vice-Mayor by a majority vote during the County

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1 Commission's annual organizational meeting, which shall take place no earlier than the  
2 third Tuesday of each November and no later than the third Tuesday of each December.

3 In the Mayor's absence, the Vice-Mayor shall have all the rights, privileges, and duties of  
4 the Mayor, except that the Vice-Mayor shall not be subject to Section 2.01.F. of the  
5 Charter and shall receive the same salary as other County Commissioners. The County  
6 Commission may remove the individual from the position of Vice-Mayor by a majority  
7 vote. The Vice-Mayor may serve consecutive terms.

8 ~~C. B. In the event the position of Mayor shall become vacant for any reason, the~~  
9 ~~Vice Mayor shall automatically become Mayor and serve as Mayor for the balance of the~~  
10 ~~Mayor's term. The Commission shall elect a new Vice-Mayor who shall serve for the~~  
11 ~~balance of the Mayor's term. If the Office of Mayor lapses pursuant to Section 2.01.A. of~~  
12 ~~the Charter, all duties and powers of the Office arising under the Charter, Florida Statutes,~~  
13 ~~Broward County Code of Ordinances, and the Broward County Administrative Code shall~~  
14 ~~automatically be transferred on a temporary basis to the Vice-Mayor until such time as a~~  
15 ~~Mayor is elected pursuant to Section 2.01 of the Charter. During the period in which the~~  
16 ~~Vice-Mayor has the duties and powers of the Office of Mayor, the Vice-Mayor's service~~  
17 ~~shall be treated as continuous service as a Commissioner for purposes of term limitation~~  
18 ~~provisions, Section 2.01.F of the Charter shall not apply, and the Vice-Mayor shall~~  
19 ~~continue to receive the same salary as any other County Commissioner. If, for any~~  
20 ~~reason, the duties of Mayor are being performed by anyone not elected in a countywide~~  
21 ~~election to the position of Mayor, the Board of County Commissioners may transfer the~~  
22 ~~Mayor's powers and duties to another member of the County Commission, and during~~  
23 ~~such period such Commissioner's service shall be treated as continuous service as a~~  
24 ~~Commissioner for purposes of term limitation provisions, Section 2.01.F of the Charter~~

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1 shall not apply, and the Commissioner shall continue to receive the same salary as the  
2 other County Commissioners.

3 ~~D. C.~~ In the event If the position of Vice-Mayor shall become vacant for any  
4 reason, or the Vice-Mayor is performing the duties of Mayor pursuant to Section 2.03.B.  
5 of the Charter, the County Commission shall select a new Vice-Mayor who shall serve  
6 County Commissioner to perform the duties of Vice-Mayor for the balance of the  
7 Vice-Mayor's term or the period during which the Vice-Mayor is performing the duties of  
8 Mayor, whichever is shorter.

9 D. Except for the temporary performance of the Mayor's duties pursuant to this  
10 section, if anyone is ever appointed to the Office of Mayor to fill a vacancy, or upon final  
11 judicial determination, including all appeals, that under Florida law any vacancy in the  
12 Office of Mayor must be filled by appointment, the amendment to the Broward County  
13 Charter establishing such Office of Mayor, approved November 8, 2022, shall be  
14 automatically, permanently, and irrevocably void in its entirety, and the structure of  
15 Broward County Board of County Commissioners shall return to the structure that existed  
16 as of November 7, 2022.

17 Section 4. Subject to an affirmative vote of the general electorate, Section 2.04  
18 of the Charter of Broward County, Florida, entitled "Mayor–Duties and responsibilities," is  
19 hereby amended, effective November 8, 2024, to read as follows:  
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22  
23  
24

1           **Sec. 2.04. Mayor–Duties and responsibilities.**

2           The ~~position~~ Office of Mayor is created as a Charter Office in order to provide for  
3 an elected County representative who shall serve as the County's official representative  
4 and ceremonial dignitary, and who shall provide leadership on issues facing the County.

5           A.     The Mayor shall be recognized as the head of the County by the Governor  
6 for purposes of military law, and for service of process. Unless the County Commission  
7 designates another member of the County Commission, ~~the~~ Mayor shall act as the  
8 County official designated to represent the County in negotiations with respect to  
9 agreements with other governmental entities, execute ordinances, resolutions,  
10 proclamations, and other legislative documents, and perform such other duties as  
11 specified in this Charter and as may be required by the County Commission, or as  
12 required by law.

13           . . .

14           Section 5.   A referendum election is called for the General Election on  
15 November 8, 2022, and at such other times as permitted for voting under Chapter 101,  
16 Florida Statutes, to determine whether the Broward County Charter should be amended  
17 to create a Mayor elected countywide.

18           Section 6.   In accordance with Section 100.342, Florida Statutes, at least thirty  
19 (30) days' notice of the referendum election shall be published by the Broward County  
20 Administrator in a newspaper of general circulation in Broward County. The publication  
21 shall be made at least twice, including once in the fifth week and once in the third week  
22 prior to the week in which the referendum is to be held. The notice is hereby attached as  
23 Exhibit A and made a part hereof.

24  
  
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1 Section 7. Said referendum election shall be held between the hours of  
2 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on November 8, 2022, and at such other days and times as  
3 provided under applicable law, including for early voting as provided by Section 101.657,  
4 Florida Statutes, at the polling places established in Broward County. All registered and  
5 qualified electors in Broward County shall be eligible to vote in the referendum election.  
6 Vote-by-mail ballots and early voting access for the referendum shall be made available  
7 as provided by law.

8 Section 8. The election boards consisting of the clerks and inspectors  
9 appointed to serve for the November 8, 2022, General Election are hereby appointed to  
10 serve in the referendum election in the manner provided by law.

11 Section 9. The Broward County Canvassing Board shall canvass the returns in  
12 said election and shall certify the results of the referendum election as provided by law.

13 Section 10. The County Administrator shall furnish a certified copy of this  
14 adopted Resolution to the Supervisor of Elections for Broward County promptly upon  
15 adoption by the Board.

16 Section 11. The title and summary of the referendum question to appear on the  
17 November 8, 2022, General Election, as embodied in this enabling Resolution, shall be  
18 as follows:

19 **BROWARD COUNTY MAYOR ELECTED AT LARGE**

20 "Shall the Broward County Charter be amended to provide a Charter Office of  
21 Broward County Mayor, to be elected at large starting with the 2024 General Election,  
22 with (1) the Mayor exercising such powers as granted by the Charter, (2) annual  
23 compensation of \$220,000, adjusted annually for inflation, (3) no person eligible to serve  
24

1 as Mayor for more than two consecutive four-year terms, and (4) a prohibition on outside  
2 employment while serving as Mayor?"

3 YES \_\_\_\_\_

4 NO \_\_\_\_\_

5 FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

6 It is estimated that this amendment would result in a financial impact of additional  
7 costs in the amount of approximately \$707,000 per year.

8 Section 12. Severability.

9 If any portion of this Resolution is determined by any court to be invalid, the invalid  
10 portion will be stricken, and such striking will not affect the validity of the remainder of this  
11 Resolution, unless a Court finds that the Office of Mayor may or must be filled by  
12 appointment by the Governor of the State of Florida resulting from a vacancy or lapse in  
13 the Office, in which event it is the intent of the Board that this amendment shall be deemed  
14 invalid in its entirety. If any court determines that this Resolution, in whole or in part,  
15 cannot be legally applied to any individual, group, entity, property, or circumstance, such  
16 determination will not affect the applicability of this Resolution to any other individual,  
17 group, entity, property, or circumstance. If the County determines any part of the ballot  
18 statement, including the fiscal impact statement, is contrary to state law, the County  
19 Attorney is authorized to request that the Supervisor of Elections remove the applicable  
20 language from the proposed ballot proposal and the Supervisor of Elections is authorized  
21 to remove such language.

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1 Section 13. Effective Date.

2 This Resolution shall be in force and take effect immediately upon its adoption by  
3 an affirmative vote of no fewer than six (6) members of the Broward County Board of  
4 County Commissioners.

5  
6 ADOPTED this                    day of                    , 2021. **PROPOSED**

7  
8 Approved as to form and legal sufficiency:  
9 Andrew J. Meyers, County Attorney

10 By /s/ Joseph K. Jarone                    06/03/2021  
11                    Joseph K. Jarone                    (date)  
12                    Assistant County Attorney

13 By /s/ René D. Harrod                    06/03/2021  
14                    René D. Harrod                    (date)  
15                    Deputy County Attorney

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Elected Mayor Amendment  
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Exhibit A

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022, THE DATE OF THE GENERAL ELECTION, TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO AMEND THE BROWARD COUNTY CHARTER TO PROVIDE FOR A COUNTYWIDE ELECTED MAYOR.

A countywide referendum election will be held on Tuesday, November 8, 2022, and at such other times as provided for by Chapter 101, Florida Statutes, for the purpose of determining whether to amend the Broward County Charter to provide for a countywide elected mayor.

As set forth in enabling Resolution No. 2021-\_\_\_\_, adopted on \_\_\_\_, by the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida, the title and summary to appear on the referendum ballot shall be as follows:

**BROWARD COUNTY MAYOR ELECTED AT LARGE**

"Shall the Broward County Charter be amended to provide a Charter Office of Broward County Mayor, to be elected at large starting with the 2024 General Election, with (1) the Mayor exercising such powers as granted by the Charter, (2) annual compensation of \$220,000, adjusted annually for inflation, (3) no person eligible to serve as Mayor for more than two consecutive four-year terms, and (4) a prohibition on outside employment while serving as Mayor?"

YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT:**

It is estimated that this amendment would result in a financial impact of additional costs in the amount of approximately \$707,000 per year.

A complete copy of the proposed amendment is available at [insert URL].

The referendum shall be held on November 8, 2022, between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and at such other days and times as provided under applicable law, including for early voting as provided by Section 101.657, Florida Statutes, at the polling places established in Broward County. All registered and qualified electors of Broward County shall be eligible to vote in said referendum election. Vote-by-mail ballots for the referendum election shall be prepared and made available as provided by law.

The Broward County Canvassing Board shall canvass the returns and certify the results of the referendum election to the Board of County Commissioners of Broward County, Florida, the Broward County Administrator, and the Florida Department of State, to be recorded and filed in appropriate public records.

Instructions:

A. Publish two (2) times:

Once on: October 4, 2022  
Once on: October 18, 2022

B. Furnish two (2) proofs of publication and invoice to:

Mary Ann Darby, Deputy Clerk  
Records, Taxes and Treasury Division  
Broward County Governmental Center  
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 336-U  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301

C. Furnish one (1) proof of publication and invoice to:

Broward County Attorney's Office  
Broward County Governmental Center  
115 S. Andrews Avenue, Room 423  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301