2026 MIDTERM ELECTIONS · MIAMI-DADE COUNTY · NOV 3

The Independent-Minded Voter's Guide

"Independent-minded" refers to how you vote, not whom you vote for.

Federal, state and county races on Miami-Dade ballots,
color-coded by affiliation and ideology,
based on each candidate's record and platform,
plus every countywide ballot measure explained

A starting point, not a final word. *Your Mind. Your Vote. Your Democracy.*

This guide was independently compiled by a private citizen to address the lack of centralized, nuanced voter information. Given the election timeline, not every entry could be thoroughly vetted. Use it to identify candidates worth exploring, then verify the details and draw your own conclusions.

NOT IN MIAMI-DADE? MAKE YOUR OWN

Voters elsewhere can use this guide as a template to color-code their own ballot.

INSIDE

Color-coded legend · Federal · Statewide · Florida Senate · Florida House · County & local · Ballot measures

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Based on public records as of Oct. 27, 2026. Not an endorsement of any candidate or party. Verify your own ballot at votemiamidade.gov. Researched and drafted with AI tools (Claude and ChatGPT). **Verify every claim independently.**
Questions, corrections or additional sources? Email voterguide@vikara.agency
Independently compiled by Janelle Gueits | IG @JanelleIsFree
Designed by Vikara

V1 · Oct. 29, 2026

Color-Coded Legend

How to read this guide: Placements reflect documented voting records, policy positions, public statements and affiliations where available. They are informed assessments, not endorsements or definitive judgments. **See page 20 for the full methodology, sources and limitations.**

↑ Far-right authoritarianism · reference only

1 · Trump-aligned
Strong, sustained alignment with Trump's positions or political movement, shown in votes, documented actions or MAGA / "America First" self-identification, even when disagreements exist on individual issues.

2 · Mainstream Republican
Broad Republican policy alignment without sustained evidence of Trump-specific alignment or MAGA self-identification.

3 · Bipartisan Republican
Predominantly Republican in policy positions, with repeated cross-party votes, bipartisan initiatives or meaningful independence on specific issues.

4 · Centrist
A consistent mix of positions from both major parties, shown in votes, statements or a substantive independent platform.

5 · Bipartisan Democrat
Predominantly Democratic in policy positions, with repeated cross-party votes, bipartisan initiatives or meaningful independence on specific issues.

6 · Mainstream Democrat
Broad alignment with Democratic positions without a consistently bipartisan or progressive-aligned record.

7 · Progressive-aligned
Consistently supports policies to the left of mainstream Democrats, shown in votes, platforms or democratic-socialist self-identification. Membership in a group such as DSA can support a placement but does not mean agreement with all of its positions.

↓ Far-left authoritarianism · reference only

Unrated
?

Not enough evidence to place. Judges are also not placed.

No party / other · off the spectrum
◇

No major party, or an ideology outside the scale (e.g. Libertarian). Not a rating; the card notes any lean.

INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT

Elected officials represent their constituents, not just their parties, which do not always act consistently with their stated principles. Evaluating policies on their merits — rather than automatically following party lines — can demonstrate independent, constituent-first judgment.

Note: Economic prosperity and social well-being are not inherently at odds.

Beyond the Democratic Spectrum

Far-right authoritarianism, including historical fascist regimes, and far-left authoritarianism, including one-party communist regimes, are included as historical reference points — not extensions of democratic conservatism or progressivism. Both have concentrated power, suppressed political opposition, and restricted civil liberties.

Being Trump-aligned or progressive-aligned does not inherently imply support for authoritarianism. **Political ideology and authoritarianism are distinct dimensions:** left and right describe the policies and priorities people want, while democracy versus authoritarianism describes how power is won and exercised.

History reminds us that threats to democracy can emerge anywhere on the political spectrum when power becomes concentrated, checks and balances weaken, and fundamental freedoms are gradually chipped away. Ultimately, what safeguards democracy is not agreement on policy, but a shared commitment to democratic institutions, accountability, and individual freedoms.

● Documented votes or verified affiliation · ▲ Statements, branding or ratings · No mark: party affiliation alone

Based on public records found as of Oct. 27, 2026. **INCUMBENT** marks the candidate who currently holds the seat. You only see a district race if you live in that district. Verify your own ballot at votemiamidade.gov.

Which district am I in?

One address, several levels of government. Your districts decide your races.

STEP 1 Look up your official sample ballot

Miami-Dade's Voter Information tool shows your current districts and your personalized sample ballot: exactly which races and measures you will vote on.

FIND YOUR PERSONALIZED SAMPLE BALLOT →

votemiamidade.gov
› Voters › Voter Information

Heads up: the page is called "Voter Information" and asks for a few personal details. That's normal: it's how the county finds your voter record, districts and sample ballot.

STEP 2 Write down your district numbers

U.S. House	State Senate	State House	County Commission	School Board

STEP 3 Find your races in this guide

FEDERAL Washington, D.C.	**U.S. Senate** · on every ballot	**p. 4**
	U.S. House · District 24 (p. 4) · 25, 26 (p. 5) · 27, 28 (p. 6)	**pp. 4–6**
FLORIDA Tallahassee	**Governor, Attorney General, CFO, Agriculture** · on every ballot	**pp. 7–8**
	State Senate · District 34, 36 (p. 9) · 38, 40 (p. 10)	**pp. 9–10**
	State House · District 106, 108, 113 (p. 11) · 115–117 (p. 12) · 118, 119 (p. 13)	**pp. 11–13**
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY County government	**County Commission** · District 5	**p. 14**
	School Board · District 1	**p. 14**
	Circuit judges · on every ballot	**p. 15**
	Judges up for retention · on every ballot	**p. 16**
	Ballot measures · statewide and countywide, on every ballot	**pp. 17–19**
CITY Municipal government	**Mayor and city commission or council** · not covered here; city races and questions appear only on that city's ballot (see p. 19)	

District not listed? That race isn't covered in this guide. Your sample ballot is the final word on what you vote on.

Curious about the boundaries? Official maps

U.S. House: Florida Legislature, 2026 congressional plan. Florida redrew its congressional districts in 2026, so your district may differ from 2024.

State Senate, State House, County Commission, School Board and cities: Miami-Dade Elections, Current Precincts, Districts and Municipalities.

Maps show where the lines are; your sample ballot shows what you are actually voting on.

Federal races (1 of 3)

U.S. Senate is on every ballot; you see only your own House district.

U.S. SENATE

Ashley Moody (R) · Plant City INCUMBENT

Trump-aligned ●

Background: Appointed senator 2025; votes with party 98%, Trump 90%+. Champions expanded ICE enforcement and funding; introduced bills for local police involvement and faster deportations. Ex-Florida AG, prosecutor, judge; won opioid settlements. Her office approved a disputed $10M Medicaid transfer later used in DeSantis politics. Married to an ex-DEA agent. Raised $14.5M.

Platform: Backs Trump's "America First" agenda and tariffs; border security, rule of law; tougher violent-crime penalties; lower taxes.

Angie Nixon (D) · Jacksonville

Progressive-aligned ●

Background: State rep since 2020; co-sponsored 2026 laws on PFAS, domestic violence and veterans' dental care; opposed 2026 redistricting. Raised by a single mom; union organizer; bookstore café owner; married to a small-business owner. Raised $11.3M.

Platform: Medicare for All, universal childcare, $25 minimum wage. Calls herself a humanist who believes in a diverse coalition; joined DSA but doesn't back all its policies; reform crime's root causes; replace ICE with immigration courts; comprehensive path to citizenship.

Neil J. Gillespie (NPA) · Ocala

Unrated

Background: Limited campaign activity: about $13K raised and $634 left (FEC, Oct. 14); a personal blog as its website. Former car-business owner; founded the legal-reform site NoSue.org. Past runs for Ocala mayor, president and governor.

Platform: His site cites a "trickle-up economy," Medicare for All and utility cooperatives; campaign centers on nonpartisanship.

U.S. HOUSE · DISTRICT 24

Te Mayonna Brown (R)

Trump-aligned ▲

Background: Businesswoman, real estate developer and former educator; says she was a lifelong Democrat; placed 4th (5.7%) in an Illinois GOP House primary in March 2026. Raised $313K, nearly all a $306K loan from herself.

Platform: Calls herself a "pro-MAGA, pro-Constitution conservative." School funds that follow families; shift housing aid toward first-home buying; border enforcement plus an earned path to citizenship; limit H-1B visas.

Legal record: Indicted in Illinois in 2023 as "Te Dora Brown" (13 felony counts, alleged COVID-loan fraud). She denies being that person; her campaign manager confirmed it but says charges were dropped. Court records show trial set after Election Day.

Oliver G. Gilbert III (D) · Miami Gardens

Mainstream Democrat

Background: Miami-Dade county commissioner since 2020, chosen chair in 2022; ex-prosecutor; Miami Gardens mayor 2012–20; chaired county transportation planning board, pushed North Corridor transit. Born in Miami Gardens. Raised $1.46M.

Platform: Raise the $7.25 federal minimum wage; strengthen unions and collective bargaining to ease living costs; have Congress, not the president, control tariffs; says Trump's economic policies hurt working families.

● Trump-aligned ● Mainstream Republican ● Bipartisan Republican ● Centrist ● Bipartisan Democrat ● Mainstream Democrat
● Progressive-aligned ◇ No party / other ● Unrated

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Federal races (2 of 3)

You see only your own House district.

U.S. HOUSE · DISTRICT 25

Scott Singer (R) · Boca Raton — Trump-aligned ▲

Background: Business attorney; Boca Raton mayor 2018–March 2026 (nonpartisan), council 2014–18; says he cut tax rates seven straight times; chairs the America First Policy Institute's Mayors' Council. Harvard grad. Raised $3.26M.

Platform: Launched his campaign on an "America First" agenda: lower taxes and costs, border security, stronger defense, cutting waste; ban congressional stock trading; no immediate Social Security tax hikes.

Jared Moskowitz (D) · Coral Springs INCUMBENT — Mainstream Democrat

Background: U.S. rep since 2023; votes with party 92%; joined GOP on 2025 Laken Riley Act and Al Green censure; only Democrat in DOGE Caucus; helped pass Florida's 2018 post-Parkland school-safety law; ex-state emergency chief. Raised $5.71M.

Platform: Lowering family costs and fighting antisemitism; raise the Social Security tax cap rather than cut benefits; bill to make FEMA an independent Cabinet-level agency; backed 2025 strikes on Iran's nuclear sites; keep Russia sanctions.

Peter Jassenoff (LPF) — Libertarian ●

Background: Limited campaign activity: $10.5K raised, $60 left (FEC, June 30); no website found. Age 33; a Republican for years before registering Libertarian; stayed on the ballot after a GOP lawsuit over his qualifying fee.

Platform: No detailed platform found. Says he left the GOP because he "stopped agreeing with a lot of stuff the Republicans are doing."

U.S. HOUSE · DISTRICT 26

Mario Diaz-Balart (R) · Miami INCUMBENT — Mainstream Republican ●

Background: U.S. rep since 2003; votes with party 97%; chairs State Dept. funding panel; broke with GOP on 2017 sanctuary bill, 2019 Equality Act, 2021 farmworker bill, 2026 Haitian TPS. Son of a Cuban politician. Raised $2.61M.

Platform: Co-sponsors the Dignity Act: legal status with fines plus stricter border enforcement; backs TPS for Haitians and case-by-case relief for Venezuelans; says the 2025 tax law kept tax cuts and grew child credit; backs the Cuba embargo.

Nicole Locklin (D) — Mainstream Democrat

Background: Attorney; lead legal counsel at tech firm Databricks (2022–26), earlier at Nextdoor and a litigation firm; has not held elected office. Age 38; California native; law degree from Santa Clara University. Raised $600K.

Platform: Abolish ICE, expand legal immigration and hire more immigration judges; universal health coverage (Medicare for All or a public option); build more housing; protect Social Security, with high earners paying more; cut tariffs.

Deborah Ann Meidinger Hosey (NPA) · Weston — No party

No party · leans progressive

Background: Limited campaign activity: $10.8K raised, $2.4K left (FEC, Sept. 30). Assistant director of Broward County elderly and veterans services; teacher; trained as an NYC EMT; 30+ years in local schools and public service; from Queens, N.Y.

Platform: Lower rent, insurance and grocery costs; protecting Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid; expanding women's and maternal health care, including access to OB-GYNs and midwives.

Trump-aligned · Mainstream Republican · Bipartisan Republican · Centrist · Bipartisan Democrat · Mainstream Democrat · Progressive-aligned · ◇ No party / other · Unrated

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MIAMI-DADE · NOV 3, 2026 BALLOT

Federal races (3 of 3)

You see only your own House district.

U.S. HOUSE · DISTRICT 27

María Elvira Salazar (R) · Miami INCUMBENT

Mainstream Republican ●

Background: U.S. rep since 2021; votes with party 96%; sponsors the Dignity Act; one of 6 Republicans to advance a 2026 Haitian TPS bill; backed Jan. 6 commission and background checks (2021). Ex-TV journalist. Raised $2.52M.

Platform: Dignity Act: legal status, not citizenship, for longtime undocumented immigrants who pay $7,000 restitution, plus E-Verify and border security; says some Trump enforcement has “gone too far”; supports TPS for Haitians.

Eliott Rodriguez (D) · Miami

Mainstream Democrat

Background: Journalist for nearly five decades, 25+ years at CBS Miami until Dec. 2025; Emmy winner; has not held elected office. Born in New York to Cuban immigrants (seamstress mother, grocer father); moved to Miami at 12. Raised $1.57M.

Platform: Top priority is lowering the cost of living; restore ACA subsidies; opposes Trump’s tariffs; wants a path to citizenship, which he says Salazar’s Dignity Act lacks; would review and restructure ICE rather than abolish it.

U.S. HOUSE · DISTRICT 28

Carlos A. Gimenez (R) · Miami INCUMBENT

Mainstream Republican ●

Background: U.S. rep since 2021; votes with party 97%; one of 6 Republicans to advance a 2026 Haitian TPS bill; backed 2022 Respect for Marriage Act, Jan. 6 commission (2021). Ex-Miami fire chief and county mayor; born in Havana. Raised $722K.

Platform: Deport criminals and gang members, not long-settled workers; urges legal status (not citizenship) for longtime working immigrants; says the crackdown hurts Republicans; supports TPS for Haitians; backed Trump’s Venezuela operation.

Phil "Felipe" Ehr (D) · West Kendall

Mainstream Democrat

Background: Retired Navy commander, 26 years; flew Cold War reconnaissance missions and supported Desert Storm; first mission was the Mariel boatlift; later founded a nonprofit that fights disinformation. Fourth House run. Raised $508K.

Platform: Health plan: a government insurance option in areas private insurers have left, caps on out-of-pocket costs, wider drug-price talks; insurance fraud enforcement; protect Medicare, Social Security and the Everglades; responsible gun laws.

◇ Eddy Rojas (NPA) · Miami

No party

No party · leans conservative

Background: Limited campaign activity: no FEC fundraising reports filed. Came to Miami from Cuba; started by parking cars and built a service company; has not held elected office.

Platform: Fewer regulations and lower small-business taxes; school choice, vocational training and affordable college; backs law enforcement, border security and crime-prevention programs.

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● Progressive-aligned ◇ No party / other ○ Unrated

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Statewide races (1 of 2)

On every Miami-Dade ballot.

GOVERNOR & LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Byron Donalds / Bryan Avila (R) · Naples — Trump-aligned ●

Background: U.S. rep since 2021; votes with party 93%; voted against the 2023 debt-ceiling deal and 2022 PACT Act (veterans); objected to 2020 electors. Raised by a single mom in Brooklyn; ex-banker. Avila: state lawmaker since 2014. Raised $121M.

Platform: Backs Amendment 3's bigger homestead exemption as a first step to deeper property-tax cuts; promises 20–25% lower insurance via Cat Fund changes; data centers with ratepayer safeguards, no ban; school choice; immigration enforcement.

David Jolly / Gwen Graham (D) — Bipartisan Democrat ●

Background: GOP congressman 2014–17; 48th most bipartisan member, 2015–16 (Lugar Center); filed bipartisan STOP Act on fundraising; left GOP 2018. Graham: U.S. rep 2015–17; Biden Education Dept. official; daughter of ex-Gov. Bob Graham. Raised $14.6M.

Platform: Expand Medicaid; a state catastrophe fund for hurricane coverage; fully fund the Sadowski housing trust; local control of property taxes, not elimination; raise teacher pay; data-center moratorium; restore abortion rights.

Scott Eckhard Jewett / Nicole Skelly (LPF) · Boca Raton — Libertarian ●

Background: Limited campaign activity: about $14K raised (WLRN, Oct. 22). Boca Raton entrepreneur, inventor and consultant; raised in California; San Diego State graduate degree (1987); first run for office. Skelly: co-owns a family carpentry business in Milton.

Platform: End homestead property taxes; bring private insurers back; expand nuclear power; end Flock cameras; school choice; end mandatory minimums and private prisons, reform cash bail; tougher hiring enforcement plus more work visas.

Charles Burkett / Ruben A. Coto (NPA) · Surfside — Unrated

Background: Real estate investor; four-term Surfside mayor (nonpartisan), in office during the 2021 Champlain Towers collapse. Lifelong Miami Beach-area resident; UM finance grad. Coto: ex-Surfside commissioner. Raised $250K, all his own.

Platform: Phase out homestead taxes over 10 years for long-time residents; end tolls, HOV lanes and the state gas tax; repeal the Live Local Act; data centers must supply own power and water, with local vote; no abortion restrictions.

Moliere Dimanche / Benjiman Rojas (NPA) · Orlando — No party

No party · leans progressive

Background: Limited campaign activity: about $8K raised (WLRN). Sentenced at 19 for stealing construction materials; served 8.5 years; won a prisoner-rights appeal in federal court while inside. FedEx driver, artist; lived in a rescue mission as a child.

Platform: Audit the DeSantis administration and recover misused funds; real-time state spending portal; state civil-rights department; abolish HOAs; give abandoned homes to new owners; end property taxes; ban data centers.

Frank J. Russo / Rachel Rodriguez (NPA) — Centrist ▲

Background: 30+ years in insurance and real estate; led the Queen's Gambit Castle development; one of 11 children; left the GOP in 2022; never held office. Rodriguez: Palm Beach attorney. Raised $860K+ (WLRN, Oct. 22).

Platform: Elected insurance commissioner and hurricane-only coverage; raise the homestead exemption to $500K (not school taxes); raise teacher pay about 50%, to a $75K average; workforce housing; paper ballots; donate his salary.

Dean Ocean Abrams / Joe Van Vactor (NPA) · Sarasota — Centrist ▲

Background: Limited campaign activity: about $15K raised (WLRN, Oct. 22). Enterprise tech and management consultant; left the GOP in 2022; never held office. Van Vactor: Air Force veteran and disaster project manager.

Platform: End homestead taxes up to 200% of county median value; publish insurer data, cap insurer profits, expand My Safe Florida Home; end Flock cameras; paper ballots; oppose data centers; school choice and vocational classes.

Jeffrey "Dr. Jeff" Datto / Juan Santana (NPA) · Hialeah — Unrated

Background: Limited campaign activity: about $5.5K raised, all his own (WLRN, Oct. 22); no website. Johns Hopkins graduate; spinal-cord-injury research associate at UM and the Miami VA, 2011–2020; has not voted in Florida since 2020 (WLRN).

Platform: No platform, campaign site or voter-guide answers found.

Trump-aligned · Mainstream Republican · Bipartisan Republican · Centrist · Bipartisan Democrat · Mainstream Democrat · Progressive-aligned · ◇ No party / other · Unrated

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Statewide races (2 of 2)

On every Miami-Dade ballot.

ATTORNEY GENERAL

James Uthmeier (R) · Destin INCUMBENT — Trump-aligned ▲

Background: Appointed AG 2025; office cites 1,200+ child-predator arrests, $79M JUUL deal. As DeSantis aide, accused of steering $10M in Medicaid settlement money via DeSantis's wife's charity to fight a 2024 amendment; he denies it. Raised $15.5M.

Platform: Top priority: pursuing child predators; defends Alligator Alcatraz, which he proposed; enforce immigration law alongside Trump; protect data from China; backs mid-decade redistricting; won't defend the under-21 long-gun ban; says Hope Florida was legal.

José Javier Rodríguez (D) · Miami — Mainstream Democrat

Background: State rep 2012–16, senator 2016–20; wrote 2020 law requiring sea-rise studies for state-funded coastal projects; lost 2020 by 32 votes. Peace Corps, Harvard Law; ex-U.S. asst. labor secretary. Raised $3.8M.

Platform: Challenge insurance and utility rate hikes; recover the $10M Hope Florida money; scrutinize Alligator Alcatraz no-bid contracts; fund witness protection; fight synthetic drugs and gun violence; defend home rule.

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Blaise Ingoglia (R) · Spring Hill INCUMBENT — Trump-aligned ▲

Background: Appointed CFO 2025; pushed 2026 law making local governments list 10% cuts; his DOGE audits call budget growth above inflation and population "wasteful" (counties dispute the method). Legislator 2014–25; ex-GOP chair; homebuilder. Raised $14M.

Platform: Cut property taxes, including ending homestead taxes; yearly audits of "waste, fraud and abuse" in city and county budgets; searchable online local budgets, salaries and contracts; housing and insurance affordability.

Annette Taddeo (D) · Miami — Mainstream Democrat

Background: State senator 2017–22; voted against the 2018 school-safety law over arming staff; 2014 Crist running mate. Born in Colombia, came to U.S. at 17; founded a translation firm; married to a psychologist. Raised $810K.

Platform: Audit state spending, including Alligator Alcatraz and no-bid contracts; post state contracts publicly; make insurers pay claims promptly; human review of insurer algorithms; doubts the GOP property-tax plan lowers costs.

COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

Wilton Simpson (R) · Trilby INCUMBENT — Mainstream Republican

Background: Ag commissioner since 2023; backed first-in-U.S. 2024 lab-grown meat ban and 2025 fluoride ban; says farmland preserved rose 243%. As Senate president, led 2021 Wildlife Corridor Act. Egg farmer, raised on family farm. Raised $48M+.

Platform: Protect farms and ranches from development through land-preservation easements; cut regulations on agriculture; keep the lab-grown meat ban; keep removing THC products marketed to children; fund wildfire prevention.

Joey Mendoza Atkins (D) · Tampa — Mainstream Democrat

Background: Trial attorney and ex-sports agent; legal aid to migrant farmworkers; 2024 Democratic nominee for U.S. House District 26; briefly ran for U.S. Senate in 2026. FAU, Toledo law and New School graduate. Raised about $72K.

Platform: Food safety, accurate fuel pumps and tough fraud enforcement; less red tape for farmers who follow the law; judge conservation easements by public benefit and add public access; keep family farms competitive.

Trump-aligned · Mainstream Republican · Bipartisan Republican · Centrist · Bipartisan Democrat · Mainstream Democrat · Progressive-aligned · ◇ No party / other · Unrated

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Florida Senate (1 of 2)

Only your own district appears on your ballot.

STATE SENATE · DISTRICT 34

Elizabeth Jeanty (R)

Unrated

Background: Has not held office, so no voting record to place. Realtor; owns Eliza Financial (2012); chairs the Haitian American Historical Society; hosts a WLQY radio show. Miami Dade College business graduate; ran for North Miami clerk in 2019.

Platform: Housing affordability, lower insurance costs and flood-ready infrastructure; higher-wage jobs and help for small businesses; resources for every student; says health care is “a right, not a privilege” and wants wider access.

Ashley Viola Gantt (D) · Miami

Mainstream Democrat

Background: State rep since 2022; passed a 2023 law requiring private nursing rooms for mothers in courthouses; sought $817K for a man wrongly jailed 16 years. Ex-Teach For America and Miami-Dade teacher; Broward public defender; runs a law firm.

Platform: Fairer school funding, higher teacher pay, smaller classes; more housing vouchers, public-housing repairs, required affordable units, a tax on house flipping; sea-level-rise action and polluter penalties; green transit.

STATE SENATE · DISTRICT 36

Ileana Garcia (R) · Miami INCUMBENT

Mainstream Republican

Background: State senator since 2020; sponsored laws on hospital visits (2022), a weather-modification ban (2025), school seizure training (2026); voted against party on 2026 union bill. Miami-born, Cuban descent; had epilepsy as a child; ex-TV host.

Platform: Cleaner water in Biscayne Bay; state money for local infrastructure, health care access and senior services. Co-founded Latinas for Trump but in 2025 called arrests of immigrants who attend their hearings “unacceptable and inhumane.”

George Lavin (D) · West Miami

Mainstream Democrat

Background: Director of e-discovery at Lawgical Insight; legal-discovery project manager at other firms since 2022; law degree from Cardozo (1997), FIU graduate (1992). Son and grandson of immigrants; lives in West Miami; has not held office.

Platform: Lower property-insurance and utility bills; make data centers pay for their own power and water; fund flood-protection grants and put “climate change” back in state law; housing with local say; no shifting tax-cut costs to sales tax.

Trump-aligned · Mainstream Republican · Bipartisan Republican · Centrist · Bipartisan Democrat · Mainstream Democrat · Progressive-aligned · ◇ No party / other · Unrated

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Florida Senate (2 of 2)

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STATE SENATE · DISTRICT 38

Alexis Calatayud (R) · Miami INCUMBENT

Bipartisan Republican ●

Background: State senator since 2022; sponsored 2023 Live Local housing law and its 2024 and 2025 updates; only GOP senator against the 2023 six-week abortion ban and 2026 net-zero ban; voted no on 2026 union bill. Miami-born. Had $1.7M (mid-Aug.).

Platform: Calls affordability the top issue; defends Live Local and Hometown Heroes down-payment aid; lower property-insurance rates; wider KidCare children's coverage and low-cost early learning; opposed ending in-state tuition for Dreamers.

Richard Lamondin Jr. (D) · Miami

Mainstream Democrat

Background: CEO of Ecofi, which he co-founded with his brother to cut buildings' water and energy costs; left the District 27 congressional primary in April; first time on a ballot. Miami-born. Raised $300K+ in his first 60 days.

Platform: Public health-care option with capped out-of-pocket costs; full-day pre-K and more childcare; hold insurers accountable; rewrite Live Local for more local control and deeper affordability; age limits and licensing for gun purchases.

Jeffrey "Doc" Solomon (NPA)

Unrated

Background: Chiropractor for 40+ years; past president of the Florida Chiropractic Association; U.S. Olympic team staff chiropractor (2006); ex-vice chair, Miami-Dade Sports Commission; ran for state House in 2018; former Democrat.

Platform: Raise per-student school funding to the national average and boost teacher pay; property-insurance reform, home hardening and starter-home help; Massachusetts-style affordable coverage; abortion access; expand flood programs.

STATE SENATE · DISTRICT 40

Ana Maria Rodriguez (R) INCUMBENT

Mainstream Republican

Background: State senator since 2020 after a House term and 8 years on Doral's council; sponsored 2023 school-zone speed-camera law and 2025 commercial anti-squatting law; voted against her party on 2026 union bill. Daughter of Cuban immigrants.

Platform: Cut taxes and lower homeowners-insurance premiums; record public-school funding; more workforce housing, including property-tax breaks for landlords who rent units at affordable rates.

Jose Antonio Stoute (D)

Mainstream Democrat

Background: Infectious-disease physician; Army officer 1988–2008, retired as colonel; Penn State medical professor 2008–24; VA hospital associate chief of staff 2024–26. University of Miami medical graduate; has not held elected office.

Platform: Lower costs for families, seniors and small businesses; public insurance option beside private plans; abortion access through 21 weeks; childhood vaccination; keep politics out of classrooms and medicine; opposes ICE work in Florida.

Ramiro Orta (NPA)

Unrated

Background: Limited campaign activity: no website, platform or fundraising totals found; social media only. TD Bank small-business specialist since 2021; ex-insurance consultant; Miami Dade College associate degree (2005); has not held office.

Platform: No platform published.

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MIAMI-DADE · NOV 3, 2026 BALLOT

Florida House (1 of 3)

Only your own district appears on your ballot.

STATE HOUSE · DISTRICT 106

Fabián Basabe (R) · Miami Beach INCUMBENT — Mainstream Republican

Background: State rep since 2022; passed 2023 labor-pool drinking-water law; backed permitless carry; skipped 2023 six-week abortion vote, filed a 12-week bill. NYC-born to an Ecuadorian father; parents ran a Miami hotel. Raised ~$100K.

Platform: Calls himself fiscally conservative and socially liberal. Priorities: small business, homeowner and taxpayer relief, flood-resilient infrastructure, coastal protection, seniors; backs state home-hardening grants and school choice.

Legal record: In July 2026 a jury found he sexually harassed and touched without consent a former legislative aide and intern, and defamed the aide; $450K awarded. Not criminally charged.

Lucía Báez-Geller (D) · Miami Beach — Mainstream Democrat

Background: Taught English at Miami Beach High 2005–20; School Board 2020–24 (nonpartisan); 2024 Democratic nominee vs. Salazar. Father fled Cuba; raised by a single mom; first in family to attend college. Raised $334K+.

Platform: Lower property-insurance premiums and living costs; protect neighborhood public schools and teachers; lower drug prices and widen health access; protect women's health-care decisions; invest in sea-level-rise resilience.

STATE HOUSE · DISTRICT 108

Wancito Francius (R) · North Miami — Unrated

Background: Limited campaign activity: about $4.5K raised (state filings). Lifelong district resident; never held office; iVoterGuide: Moderate. No occupation, education or family details published.

Platform: Jobs and small business, fully funding public schools, "fair, lawful and humane" immigration, rebuilding police-community trust, corrections reform; proposes an $8M autism bill for school screening and behavior therapists.

Daphne Campbell (D) — Mainstream Democrat

Background: House 2010–16, Senate 2016–18; co-sponsored 2016 law letting nurse practitioners prescribe controlled drugs; only House Democrat to back a 2011 abortion waiting period. Nurse since 1981; born in Haiti. Raised $192K.

Platform: Build affordable homes and help first-time buyers; protect Sadowski housing trust funds; bipartisan property-insurance fixes and flood-drainage money; parental choice without weakening public schools; defend Haitian TPS holders.

STATE HOUSE · DISTRICT 113

Bruno A. Barreiro (R) · The Roads — Mainstream Republican

Background: State rep 1992–98; county commissioner 1998–2018; led the Marlins Park deal, criticized for its cost to the county; says he created free senior transit pass. Born to Cuban immigrants; wife is ex-commissioner Zoraida. Raised $147K, mostly self-loans.

Platform: Expand senior tax exemptions; fight overdevelopment (calls Live Local Act a "knee-jerk reaction"); backs the property-tax amendment; bring state dollars back to Miami-Dade; support police; local transportation.

Gloria Romero Roses (D) · Brickell Key — Mainstream Democrat

Background: Ran assisted-living homes after caring for her mother with Alzheimer's; now invests in small businesses; 2012 congressional candidate. Born in Bogotá, raised in South Florida; FIU MBA. Raised $305K, incl. a $170K self-loan.

Platform: Speed affordable housing: easier permits, low-cost developer loans, homes on vacant lots, $75K income cap for workforce housing; rework Live Local Act; harden homes to cut insurance; opposes property-tax amendment; childcare.

Trump-aligned · Mainstream Republican · Bipartisan Republican · Centrist · Bipartisan Democrat · Mainstream Democrat · Progressive-aligned · ◇ No party / other · Unrated

● documented votes or verified affiliation · ▲ statements, branding or ratings · no mark: party record alone. Background: record in office where there is one (party-line rate from PolicySoup and CQ Roll Call 2025, documented breaks, actions) plus personal history. Public records as of Oct. 27, 2026. INCUMBENT: currently holds this seat. Not an endorsement.

Florida House (2 of 3)

Only your own district appears on your ballot.

STATE HOUSE · DISTRICT 115

Omar Blanco (R) · Miami INCUMBENT

Mainstream Republican

Background: State rep since 2024; one of 8 Republicans voting against a 2026 public-union recertification bill; co-sponsored 2026 firefighter cancer death-benefit law. Fire captain; ex-firefighter union president; wife a teacher. Raised $200K+.

Platform: Lower property-insurance rates; quality schools; keep taxes low with targeted small-business tax relief; protect seniors; public safety, incl. tougher penalties for handheld phone use while driving (his 2026 bill died).

Marcos Reyes (D) · Miami

Mainstream Democrat

Background: Limited campaign activity: no website or fundraising totals found. Small-business owner with his wife; Cuban American, first in family born in U.S.; local Democratic club president; lost to Porras in 2024 (Dist. 119).

Platform: Lower housing, insurance and grocery costs for working families; strengthen public education; protect personal freedoms; end the GOP supermajority. No detailed plan found.

STATE HOUSE · DISTRICT 116

Ashley Perez-Biliskov (R) · Miami

Trump-aligned ▲

Background: Medical speech-language pathologist; has not held office. Sister of House Speaker Daniel Perez, who holds the seat; first-generation Cuban American; FSU and USF grad. Raised $155K+ in 2025.

Platform: Promises “America First solutions to the real-world challenges Florida families face” and a “conservative vision for Florida.” Priorities: traffic, cost of living, public safety, education and health care; “conservative job-growth solutions.” No detailed plan found.

Nicolas Ramos (D)

Unrated

Background: Limited campaign activity: no website, platform, bio or 2026 fundraising found. 2024 nominee for this seat; lost to Daniel Perez 69%–31% and raised $1,900.

Platform: No detailed platform found.

STATE HOUSE · DISTRICT 117

Miguel Granda (R)

Mainstream Republican

Background: Aide to Rep. David Borrero since 2020, credits work on his law on teaching communism’s dangers; has not held office. Age 34; Miami-Dade Young Republicans president; FIU and St. Thomas law grad.

Platform: Calls himself a Christian conservative; priorities are financial relief for residents, public safety and education. No detailed plan found.

Kevin Chambliss (D) · Homestead INCUMBENT

Mainstream Democrat

Background: State rep since 2020; won $3M for Homestead water and bridges in 2026 budget. Born in Mississippi; ex-youth pastor and congressional aide.

Platform: Wants cities to keep their own climate policies; backs letting churches offer land for housing; opposes the property-tax ballot amendment; filed 2026 bills on insurer finances, labor pools.

Trump-aligned · Mainstream Republican · Bipartisan Republican · Centrist · Bipartisan Democrat · Mainstream Democrat · Progressive-aligned · ◇ No party / other · Unrated

● documented votes or verified affiliation · ▲ statements, branding or ratings · no mark: party record alone. Background: record in office where there is one (party-line rate from PolicySoup and CQ Roll Call 2025, documented breaks, actions) plus personal history. Public records as of Oct. 27, 2026. INCUMBENT: currently holds this seat. Not an endorsement.

Florida House (3 of 3)

Only your own district appears on your ballot.

STATE HOUSE · DISTRICT 118

Mike Redondo (R) · Miami INCUMBENT — Mainstream Republican

Background: State rep since 2023; sponsored 2025 law adding attacks at schools, religious events and public meetings as death-penalty factors; picked as future speaker. Son of a teacher and engineer; wife is a Ukrainian refugee.

Platform: Lower property-insurance and housing costs; cut property taxes for families; follow DeSantis' conservative model: economic growth, parental involvement, fiscal health, preserving liberty.

Armando "A.C." Castillo (D) · West Kendall — Mainstream Democrat

Background: Night-shift transit worker; chairs TWU Local 568's political committee; ex-West Kendall community council member; has not held office. Son of Cuban immigrants who opened a bakery; wife is a public-school teacher.

Platform: State aid for home hardening to cut insurance; affordable rentals; higher teacher pay and school funding; opposes voucher expansion; growth tied to traffic fixes and transit; opposes West Kendall overdevelopment.

STATE HOUSE · DISTRICT 119

Juan Carlos Porras (R) · Miami INCUMBENT — Trump-aligned ▲

Background: State rep since 2022; sponsored 2025 "Gulf of America" law for state maps and school materials; co-sponsored 2024 HOA reform law. Born in Miami to Cuban immigrants; FIU grad; ex-aide to Rubio and Rick Scott. Raised ~$95K.

Platform: Trump endorsed him in 2024 as "an America First Patriot." Says his priority is reining in HOA and condo boards with more oversight. No detailed 2026 platform found.

Rey Lazaro Sordo (D) — Mainstream Democrat

Background: Small-business owner and Miami Dade College student; ex-restaurant manager and bartender; has not held office. Born and raised in South Miami-Dade in a Cuban immigrant family.

Platform: Tax relief on essentials; limits on rental fees; tougher review of insurance rate hikes, claim deadlines; HOA fee and lien transparency; West Kendall bus and park-and-ride money; water-quality enforcement.

Trump-aligned · Mainstream Republican · Bipartisan Republican · Centrist · Bipartisan Democrat · Mainstream Democrat · Progressive-aligned · ◇ No party / other · Unrated

● documented votes or verified affiliation · ▲ statements, branding or ratings · no mark: party record alone. Background: record in office where there is one (party-line rate from PolicySoup and CQ Roll Call 2025, documented breaks, actions) plus personal history. Public records as of Oct. 27, 2026. INCUMBENT: currently holds this seat. Not an endorsement.

County & local races (1 of 2)

Nonpartisan seats: no party appears on the ballot. Party shown is the candidate's registration where reported. Commission and School Board races appear only if you live in that district.

COUNTY COMMISSION · DISTRICT 5

Vicki Lopez (R) · Miami INCUMBENT

Mainstream Republican

Background: Appointed to this seat Nov. 2025; state rep 2022–25: sponsored 2025 law letting condo boards use credit lines for reserves, 2024 condo-hardening grants; voted against 2023 six-week abortion ban. Raised about $1.5M.

Platform: Seeks Live Local Act changes exempting Miami Beach and protecting historic districts; condo-owner relief, including county interest-free repair loans; affordable housing; Biscayne Bay water quality and sargassum; opposes data centers.

Legal record: 1997 federal honest-services mail fraud conviction (as Vicki Lopez-Lukis); sentence commuted in 2000; conviction vacated by a federal court in 2011.

Rob Piper (D)

Mainstream Democrat

Background: Marine officer 1993–2016, three Iraq tours; former Florida House aide; led 2020 effort to recall Commissioner Joe Carollo; lost 2025 Miami commission race. Grew up in Virginia; PhD in international relations, FIU. Raised about $3K.

Platform: Repeal or overhaul the Live Local Act; hold the urban development boundary to protect the Everglades; a 1% tax on luxury development; nonprofit-or government-run affordable housing; a revenue task force; opposes data centers.

SCHOOL BOARD · DISTRICT 1

Katrina Wilson Miami Gardens

Unrated

Background: Miami Gardens council member 2018–26, resigned to run; 15 years principal/CEO of Liberty City Charter School; district curriculum specialist; started at M-DCPS as a clerk at 18. Carol City High grad. Raised $48K+ (Aug.).

Platform: Community meetings before school closures; smaller classes and housing help, like tax or rent breaks, to keep teachers; counter enrollment loss to vouchers, charters; academics, attendance, clean schools. Says families want “options.”

Linda Cothiere

Unrated

Background: First-grade teacher, Phyllis R. Miller Elementary; 30+ years in M-DCPS, starting as a paraprofessional; developed adult-ed programs. Born in Cap-Haïtien, Haiti; married to state Rep. Wallace Aristide. Raised about $21K.

Platform: Preschool access; teacher pay and retention; more school security at entry points; community input before closures; charter and private schools sharing district buildings pay costs; tutoring and after-school programs.

Judges are not placed on the spectrum. Judicial candidates should be weighed on qualifications, experience, ethics and impartiality, not partisan ideology. Retention questions and city races are also not rated.

Trump-aligned · Mainstream Republican · Bipartisan Republican · Centrist · Bipartisan Democrat · Mainstream Democrat · Progressive-aligned · ◇ No party / other · Unrated

● documented votes or verified affiliation · ▲ statements, branding or ratings · no mark: party record alone. Background: record in office where there is one (party-line rate from PolicySoup and CQ Roll Call 2025, documented breaks, actions) plus personal history. Public records as of Oct. 27, 2026. INCUMBENT: currently holds this seat. Not an endorsement.

County & local races (2 of 2)

Nonpartisan seats: no party appears on the ballot. Party shown is the candidate's registration where reported.

CIRCUIT JUDGE · GROUP 5 · COUNTYWIDE

Arthur LeMar "Marty" McNeil — Unrated

Background: Assistant public defender ~19 years, now in capital (death-penalty) unit; supervised up to 20 lawyers; private practice 2008–16; 56–65+ jury trials. Bar poll: 78% qualified. Backed by Herald, League of Prosecutors. Led primary, 42.48%.

Platform: Judicial race: not placed on the spectrum.

Monica Segura — Unrated

Background: In-house counsel, Universal Property & Casualty; 20+ years in civil law; Miami Lakes special magistrate ~4 years; law school adjunct; UM Law 2005. Bar poll: 69% qualified. Backed by South Florida PBA. Took 35.92% in primary.

Platform: Judicial race: not placed on the spectrum.

CIRCUIT JUDGE · GROUP 69 · COUNTYWIDE

Rita Maria Baez Miami — Unrated

Background: Private civil lawyer, mainly plaintiffs' personal injury, plus bankruptcy and family law; Florida Bar 1996; St. Thomas Law. Bar poll: 64% qualified. Backed by police groups. Led primary, 37.13%.

Platform: Judicial race: not placed on the spectrum.

Bonita Jones-Peabody — Unrated

Background: Managing partner, Summit Law Group; longtime assistant public defender; Florida Bar 1990 (UM Law); 200+ criminal jury trials, 75 civil cases. Bar poll: 62% qualified. Backed by Herald, unions, firefighters. Took 34.97% in primary.

Platform: Judicial race: not placed on the spectrum.

Judges are not placed on the spectrum. Judicial candidates should be weighed on qualifications, experience, ethics and impartiality, not partisan ideology. Retention questions and city races are also not rated.

Trump-aligned · Mainstream Republican · Bipartisan Republican · Centrist · Bipartisan Democrat · Mainstream Democrat · Progressive-aligned · ◇ No party / other · Unrated

● documented votes or verified affiliation · ▲ statements, branding or ratings · no mark: party record alone. Background: record in office where there is one (party-line rate from PolicySoup and CQ Roll Call 2025, documented breaks, actions) plus personal history. Public records as of Oct. 27, 2026. INCUMBENT: currently holds this seat. Not an endorsement.

Judges up for retention

On every Miami-Dade ballot. Each question asks whether to keep a sitting judge.

How it works: YES keeps the judge for a new six-year term. If a majority votes **NO**, the seat opens and the governor appoints a replacement from a nominating commission's list. No Florida appellate judge has lost a retention vote, according to news reports.

Lawyers' poll: % of Miami-Dade Bar members answering yes or no who said "retain" (June–July 2026; 631 responses, not a scientific sample). The Florida Bar no longer runs a statewide poll.

Carlos G. Muñiz · Florida Supreme Court

Lawyers' poll: 71% retain

Appointed: Gov. DeSantis, 2019; retained in 2020 with 66%. Chief justice until June 2026.

Background: No prior judgeship. General counsel, U.S. Education Dept.; deputy attorney general under AG Pam Bondi; counsel to House Speaker Marco Rubio; Yale Law.

Notable rulings: Joined 6–1 majority (2024) holding Florida's privacy clause does not protect abortion; in 4–3 majority (2024) letting the abortion-rights amendment on the ballot; wrote 5–1 opinion (2025) upholding the 2022 congressional map; joined 4–1 ruling (2020) that a death sentence does not need a unanimous jury.

Affiliations: Federalist Society member (reported, Florida Phoenix, 2019).

Kansas R. Gooden · 3rd District Court of Appeal

Lawyers' poll: 72% retain

Appointed: Gov. DeSantis, 2024. First retention vote.

Background: 16 years leading the appellate group at Boyd & Jenerette (400+ civil appeals); board-certified in appellate practice; ex-president, Florida Defense Lawyers Association; St. Thomas law.

Notable rulings: None found.

Affiliations: Federalist Society member (per her Federalist Society bio).

Monica Gordo · 3rd District Court of Appeal

Lawyers' poll: 77% retain

Appointed: Gov. DeSantis, 2019; retained in 2020 with 74%.

Background: Prosecutor for 11+ years; elected circuit judge, 2011–19; University of Miami law.

Notable rulings: Wrote 2025 opinion upholding a ruling that struck down Miami's ordinance postponing its 2025 city election without a voter-approved charter change.

Affiliations: Federalist Society (reported by one local outlet; not confirmed by the group); Cuban American Bar Association board; National Association of Women Judges.

Fleur J. Lobree · 3rd District Court of Appeal

Lawyers' poll: 82% retain

Appointed: Gov. DeSantis, 2019; retained in 2020 with 73%.

Background: Prosecutor and assistant attorney general; Miami-Dade county and circuit judge from 2011; ex-chair, Florida Bar criminal procedure rules committee; University of Miami law.

Notable rulings · Affiliations: None found.

Thomas Logue · 3rd District Court of Appeal

Lawyers' poll: 85% retain

Appointed: Gov. Rick Scott, 2012; retained in 2014 and 2020 (73% both times). Chief judge 2023–25.

Background: 30 years as a Miami-Dade assistant county attorney; adjunct law professor; Duke law.

Notable rulings: Joined 2–1 majority (2024) holding part of the 2023 pretrial-release law unconstitutional.

Affiliations: None found.

Bronwyn C. Miller · 3rd District Court of Appeal

Lawyers' poll: 65% retain

Appointed: Gov. Rick Scott, 2018; retained in 2020 with 75%. Earlier county judge (Gov. Bush) and circuit judge (Gov. Crist).

Background: Miami-Dade prosecutor, 1997–2005; University of Miami law.

Notable rulings · Affiliations: None found.

Legal record: Pending ethics charges (Judicial Qualifications Commission, Oct. 2025) over text messages with State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle about resentencing a man she once prosecuted; the panel said the texts "appear to be coercive." She reported the matter herself and denies breaking any rule. No finding has been made; the case is before the Florida Supreme Court.

Judges are not placed on the color spectrum. "None found" means none in news coverage or public records we checked, not that none exist. Affiliations are listed only when documented; we checked groups on both sides (e.g., Federalist Society, American Constitution Society). Public records as of Oct. 30, 2026. Not an endorsement.

Ballot measures (1 of 3)

Statewide amendments, on every ballot. Each needs **60%** of the vote to pass.

AMENDMENT 1 A bigger state rainy-day fund

Ballot title: "Budget Stabilization Fund" · **Placed by:** Legislature, 2025

What it does: Florida keeps an emergency savings fund for hurricanes and recessions, capped at 10% of state general revenue. This raises the cap to 25%, requires lawmakers to deposit up to $750 million a year until it is full (with exceptions), and allows spending on "critical state needs" by a two-thirds vote.

A YES VOTE raises the cap to 25%, requires yearly deposits of up to $750 million (which can be skipped or suspended in certain years) and adds the two-thirds spending process.

A NO VOTE keeps today's rules: a 10% cap and no required yearly deposit.

Where the money goes: Moves money; no new tax. Up to $750M a year shifts from the state's general budget, the same pot that pays for schools, Medicaid, prisons and tax cuts, into savings (about $5.1B today). Saved money is harder to spend: less is free for tax cuts or new programs now and more is on hand in a disaster or recession. No direct effect on Miami-Dade tax bills.

Supporters say: More savings lets Florida handle disasters and downturns without raising taxes or cutting services. (Legislative leaders, Republican Party of Florida, Florida TaxWatch, Democratic candidate David Jolly)

Opponents say: Reserves are already large; locking in deposits ties lawmakers' hands when the money could fund tax relief or current needs. (Gov. DeSantis, Republican candidate Byron Donalds, Miami-Dade Democratic Party)

AMENDMENT 2 No property tax on farm equipment

Ballot title: "Exemption of Tangible Personal Property on Agricultural Land from Taxation" · **Placed by:** Legislature, 2025

What it does: Ends the yearly local property tax on farm equipment and other movable property (tractors, tools, computers) only if it is usually kept on agricultural land, used for farming or agritourism, and owned by that land's owner or leaseholder, starting with the 2027 tax year.

A YES VOTE exempts property that meets all of those conditions from property taxes starting in 2027.

A NO VOTE keeps it taxable, with the existing $25,000 tangible personal property exemption.

Where the money goes: Cuts money. Local governments statewide lose about $31M a year in farm-equipment taxes with no replacement. Farms with under $25,000 in equipment already pay nothing, so the new break goes mainly to farms with more. In Miami-Dade the effect is small.

Supporters say: Farming is struggling; farmers already pay sales tax on equipment and should be able to reinvest and compete. (Bill sponsors, Agriculture Commissioner Wilton Simpson, Florida Farm Bureau, Florida Chamber, Florida TaxWatch)

Opponents say: It cuts local revenue with no replacement, may hit rural counties hardest and helps large agribusinesses most. (Rep. Anna Eskamani, the only legislator to vote no; some local Democratic and League of Women Voters groups)

AMENDMENT 3 Bigger homestead exemption; new property tax limits

Ballot title: "Increased Homestead Exemption; Lower Cap on Increases in Non-Homestead Property Assessments" · **Placed by:** Legislature, 2026

What it does: For homeowners who live in their home, raises the exemption from county, city and special-district taxes from about $50,000 to $150,000 in 2027 and $250,000 in 2028, then adjusts for inflation. School taxes do not change. Caps yearly taxable-value increases on other property (rentals, second homes, businesses) at 5% instead of 10%. People who are not Florida residents on Dec. 31, 2026, wait until their fifth year of exemption for the bigger amount.

A YES VOTE raises the homestead exemption in steps to $250,000, lowers the cap on other property to 5% and adds the new spending rules.

A NO VOTE keeps the current exemption (about $50,000), the 10% cap and current local spending rules.

Where the money goes: Cuts and redirects money. Counties, cities and special districts, which pay for police, fire, parks and libraries, lose about $4.9B statewide in year one and $11.8B a year when phased in; Miami-Dade County expects $386M less from Oct. 2027 and about $697M a year from 2028. School budgets are not affected. What remains must be spent on listed purposes such as public safety and infrastructure, so other services compete for less. If a city raises its tax rate to fill the gap, renters, businesses and second-home owners pay a bigger share, since they get no larger exemption. Average homeowner savings: about $1,035 (2027), $2,085 (2028) (Florida TaxWatch).

Supporters say: Property taxes have risen fast and homeowners need real relief; local governments can protect safety by cutting non-core spending. (Florida Realtors, the main funder; Gov. DeSantis; legislative leaders; Republican Party of Florida; Byron Donalds)

Opponents say: It removes billions from local budgets with no replacement, risking police, fire, parks and libraries, and may shift costs to renters and businesses. (Florida Assoc. of Counties, League of Cities, Sheriffs Assoc., firefighters, Florida TaxWatch, Mayor Levine Cava, David Jolly)

A court ordered the ballot title and summary rewritten in August; some older guides still show the original wording. The school tax question on page 19 is separate.

Ballot measures are not placed on the color spectrum. Summaries are simplified; the exact wording is on your sample ballot at votemiamidade.gov. Supporters' and opponents' arguments are summarized to help voters weigh competing views. Public records as of Oct. 29, 2026. Not an endorsement.

Ballot measures (2 of 3)

County charter questions, on every Miami-Dade ballot. Each needs a simple majority to pass.

COUNTY REFERENDUM 1 An independent panel to set commissioners' pay

Ballot title: "Charter Amendment Establish an Independent Salary Commission" · **Placed by:** County Commission, 2026 (Charter Review Task Force)

What it does: County commissioners' pay is fixed in the charter at $6,000 a year, unchanged since 1957. This creates a five-member Salary Commission, named by independent officials such as the chief judge and state attorney, to set their pay each year; commissioners could not change it. Pay could not exceed a state-law limit.

A YES VOTE means an independent panel sets commissioners' pay each year, up to the state limit.

A NO VOTE means pay stays at $6,000 a year, as written in the charter.

Where the money goes: Adds a cost. Commissioners' combined pay could rise from $78,000 to as much as about $1.66M a year (about $127,779 each, the reported state limit), before benefits, paid from the county budget. A new recurring cost that voters would not set directly; voters rejected a raise in 2012.

Supporters say: $6,000 does not fit a demanding job; an independent panel avoids commissioners setting their own pay and lets non-wealthy people run. (Charter Review Task Force members, local columnists)

Opponents say: It does not make the job full time or limit outside jobs, and voters would not approve the final salary. (Local explainers; no organized opposition found)

COUNTY REFERENDUM 2 Longer district residency to run for commissioner

Ballot title: "Charter Amendment Increase Length of District Residency to Run for County Commissioner" · **Placed by:** County Commission, 2026 (Charter Review Task Force)

What it does: Candidates for County Commission must now live in their district for six months before qualifying. This raises it to one year. The three-year county residency rule does not change.

A YES VOTE means candidates must live in their district at least one year before qualifying.

A NO VOTE means the six-month requirement stays.

Cost / impact: No cost identified.

Supporters say: Candidates should know and have ties to the district they want to represent. (Charter Review Task Force, which voted 10–0)

Opponents say: It could shrink the pool of candidates, including people who moved recently. (Local explainers; no organized opposition found)

COUNTY REFERENDUM 3 Timing of special elections; city qualifying dates

Ballot title: "Charter Amendment Allow Vacancy Election to Sync Up with Other Election; Establish Municipal Qualifying Standards" · **Placed by:** County Commission, 2026 (Charter Review Task Force)

What it does: When the county mayor or a commissioner resigns to run for another office, the special election could be held with an already-planned election. It also sets a common qualifying window for city candidates.

A YES VOTE means resign-to-run vacancy elections can be held with other elections, and cities follow minimum qualifying standards.

A NO VOTE means current vacancy and city qualifying rules stay.

Cost / impact: No official estimate; combining elections could save money.

Supporters say: Combining elections can cut costs and raise turnout. (Charter Review Task Force, which voted 7–1)

Opponents say: A district could go longer without an elected representative. (Local explainers; no organized opposition found)

COUNTY REFERENDUM 4 Charter update for the newly elected county offices

Ballot title: "Charter Amendment Revisions Due to Reestablishment of Elected County Constitutional Offices" · **Placed by:** County Commission, 2026 (Charter Review Task Force)

What it does: A 2018 state amendment made the sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser and elections supervisor elected offices in Miami-Dade, starting in January 2025. This updates the charter to match, makes the mayor the county budget officer and requires county employees to take leave when running for these offices.

A YES VOTE means the charter is updated for the elected offices, budget duties are reassigned and county employees must take leave to run.

A NO VOTE means the charter wording stays. The four offices remain elected either way, under state law.

Cost / impact: No official estimate.

Supporters say: It is housekeeping that brings the charter in line with the state constitution and reduces job-campaign conflicts. (Charter Review Task Force, which voted 10–0)

Opponents say: The ballot does not say how long the leave lasts or whether it is paid. (Local explainers; no organized opposition found)

Ballot measures are not placed on the color spectrum. Summaries are simplified; the exact wording is on your sample ballot at votemiamidade.gov. Supporters' and opponents' arguments are summarized to help voters weigh competing views. Public records as of Oct. 29, 2026. Not an endorsement.

Ballot measures (3 of 3)

More county questions, on every Miami-Dade ballot. Each needs a simple majority to pass.

COUNTY REFERENDUM 5 Technical and wording changes to the charter

Ballot title: "Charter Amendment Miscellaneous Matters and Technical Changes" · **Placed by:** County Commission, 2026 (Charter Review Task Force)

What it does: Updates old place names and fixes grammar and style. It also lets the county publish public notices in any way state law allows, not only in a daily newspaper, and allows other forms of public participation, such as electronic participation in meetings, where state law permits.

A YES VOTE means names and wording are updated, and notices and participation may use any method state law allows.

A NO VOTE means current wording and the daily-newspaper notice requirement stay.

Cost / impact: No official estimate.

Supporters say: Routine modernizing of outdated names and language. (Charter Review Task Force, which voted 10–0)

Opponents say: The ballot does not spell out which new notice methods would be used, which affects how residents learn about meetings. (Local explainers; no organized opposition found)

COUNTY REFERENDUM 6 More advertising allowed in county parks

Ballot title: "Charter Amendment Expanding Allowable Advertising at Parks" · **Placed by:** County Commission, 2026 (Chairman Anthony Rodriguez)

What it does: The charter allows ads in protected county parks (and some city parks) only when tied to sponsoring a park event or facility. This would allow other paid ads, as long as they do not unreasonably interfere with public use or damage the park. All revenue must go to the park system. Limits on size and placement would be set later by the Commission.

A YES VOTE means paid ads not tied to sponsorships could be allowed in these parks, with revenue going only to parks.

A NO VOTE means park ads stay limited to sponsorships of park events or facilities.

Where the money goes: Adds money, locked to parks. Any new ad revenue (no estimate exists) could be spent only on the park system, not on other county needs. Rules on ad type, size and placement would come later.

Supporters say: It could raise money for park upkeep and projects without new taxes. (Resolution sponsor; County parks department)

Opponents say: It leaves the rules on ad type, size and placement for later and could commercialize parks. (Local explainers and a Miami Today column; no organized opposition found)

SCHOOL BOARD REFERENDUM Renew the existing school tax for teacher pay and safety

Ballot title: "Referendum Renewal of Existing Ad Valorem Levy for Teachers, Instructional Personnel, Student Safety and Security" · **Placed by:** School Board, 2026

What it does: Since 2018, voters have approved an extra school property tax, now 1 mill ($1 per $1,000 of taxable value), mostly for teacher pay (about 88%) and school safety (about 12%), with a citizen oversight committee. It ends in June 2027. This would continue it from July 2027 through June 2031. It is not a new tax.

A YES VOTE means the existing 1-mill school tax continues through June 2031.

A NO VOTE means the tax ends after June 2027 and the district loses that revenue.

Where the money goes: Keeps money. About $585M a year stays with Miami-Dade public schools, including charters (district estimate): about 88% for teacher pay, 12% for school security. If it fails, that money ends after June 2027 and the district would have to cut those costs or cover them from its regular budget. Property owners keep paying about $200 a year per $200,000 of taxable value; renters may feel it through rent.

Supporters say: It keeps teacher pay competitive and keeps school security staff in place. (School district, teachers union, School Board members and officials from both parties)

Opponents say: The district should find savings in its budget rather than continue a local tax. (Some voters and local explainers; no organized opposition found)

Statewide Amendment 3 does not change school taxes; this is a separate question.

City questions: Twelve cities also have their own ballot questions (48 in all), including Aventura, Coral Gables, Doral, Key Biscayne, City of Miami, Miami Beach, Miami Lakes, Miami Springs, North Miami Beach, Opa-locka, Palmetto Bay and South Miami. They appear only on those cities' ballots and are not covered here; see your sample ballot.

Ballot measures are not placed on the color spectrum. Summaries are simplified; the exact wording is on your sample ballot at votemiamidade.gov. Supporters' and opponents' arguments are summarized to help voters weigh competing views. Public records as of Oct. 29, 2026. Not an endorsement.

Sources & method

What each placement is based on, and where the evidence ends.

WHY THESE LABELS?

Why "Trump-aligned"? It distinguishes the movement associated with President Donald Trump from traditional American conservatism. The two overlap heavily, but priorities and approaches have shifted on tariffs, spending and debt, immigration enforcement, presidential power, and foreign alliances. Supporters don't all agree with him on everything, but alignment with Trump has become a major factor in Republican endorsements and political influence, so this guide tracks it separately.

Why "Progressive-aligned"? It describes candidates who consistently support policies to the left of mainstream Democrats, such as Medicare for All, tuition-free college, stronger regulation of corporations and banks, and higher taxes on top earners. The category encompasses a range of perspectives: social democrats generally support a regulated market economy; democratic socialists hold differing views on the role of markets and public or worker ownership; and others reject both labels, focusing instead on specific policies.

HOW CANDIDATES ARE PLACED, IN ORDER

1. Voting records: where available, party-line voting rates and presidential-support scores help establish general political alignment. Consistent party support suggests mainstream alignment, while repeated departures from party positions may indicate greater independence. Percentages are reference points, not automatic classification thresholds.
2. Additional evidence: documented cross-party votes, bipartisan legislative work, public statements, policy platforms and independent ratings help establish political orientation and identify meaningful departures from party positions (● documented votes or verified affiliation; ▲ statements, platforms or ratings).
3. Trump-aligned: strong, sustained alignment with Trump's positions or political movement, shown through documented voting patterns, political actions, or MAGA / "America First" self-identification. Disagreement on individual issues does not automatically exclude a candidate.
4. Progressive-aligned: consistent support for policies to the left of mainstream Democrats, shown through voting records, policy platforms, or democratic-socialist self-identification. Membership in organizations such as DSA may provide supporting evidence but does not establish agreement with all of its positions.
5. Limited evidence: where sufficient evidence is unavailable, candidates may be placed provisionally by party affiliation (no mark) or designated Unrated when a reliable classification cannot be established.
6. Judges are not placed on the spectrum.
7. Legal record: matters tied to integrity in public office or toward staff (any age, labeled civil or criminal) and pending serious criminal charges. Older private matters, uncharged accusations, pending civil suits and political attacks are left out. It does not affect color.

PRINCIPAL SOURCES

Races and candidates
Miami-Dade Elections Department sample ballot (votemiamidade.gov); Florida Division of Elections candidate list (dos.elections.myflorida.com)

Congressional party-line rates
PolicySoup (policysoup.com): share of roll-call votes cast with the member's party majority, current Congress

House party averages and Trump support
CQ Roll Call 2025 vote studies, party unity and presidential support (rollcall.com). Methods differ slightly from PolicySoup.

Platforms and statements
Candidate campaign sites; voter guides from The Ballot Brief, Sparker's Soapbox and WKMG ClickOrlando; local news coverage

Ideology ratings
GovTrack (govtrack.us) ideology score, based on bill co-sponsorship

Ballot measures and judicial retention
Official sample ballot; Miami-Dade County Res. R-680-26 to R-685-26; School Board Res. 26-023; Florida TaxWatch; Miami-Dade Bar 2026 judicial poll; JQC filings; Ballotpedia; WLRN; Miami Today

Limits

· This guide was researched and drafted with AI tools (Claude and ChatGPT). AI can get facts wrong: every claim should be independently verified against its source before you rely on or share it.

· No party-line voting rate is published for Florida legislators, so state races rely on specific documented votes and statements.

· Presidential-support scores, party-line voting rates and state legislative records measure different aspects of political behavior and are not directly interchangeable. A placement is a summary, not a verdict.

· Candidates who have never held partisan office have no voting record; their placement rests on affiliation and platform.

· Questions, corrections or additional sources? We welcome constructive feedback and documented information that can help improve this guide. Email: voterguide@vikara.agency

Information compiled as of Oct. 27, 2026. Not an endorsement of any candidate or party. Verify your own ballot at votemiamidade.gov.
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