

RESOLUTION No. 2008-134-821

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, URGING THE MIAMI-DADE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO URGE THE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD TO IMPLEMENT A NON-PARTISAN, UNIFORM STANDARD IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD'S VOTER REGISTRATION PROGRAM IN HIGH SCHOOLS AND ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS; PROVIDING FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS; PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Miami-Dade County Schools conducted a voluntary Voter's Registration drive in the fall of 2007, in an effort to afford students the opportunity to participate in Florida's first January Presidential Primary. and

WHEREFORE, the School Board's voter's registration program is implemented on a system based on administrative discretion, where School Board administrator may or may not choose to participate in the program or require participation, and

WHEREFORE, the Miami-Dade County Equal Opportunity Board believes that the current system of administrative discretion to participate in the voter's registration program can foster an atmosphere that leads to disparate impact to minority communities throughout Miami-Dade County, and

WHEREFORE, the requirement of a uniform standard in the implementation of the Miami-Dade County Public School System's voter's registration program in high schools will attempt to benefit all students who wish to exercise their voting rights,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS, FLORIDA, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. ADOPTION OF REPRESENTATIONS: The foregoing Whereas paragraphs are hereby ratified and confirmed as being true, and the same are hereby made a specific part of this Resolution.

Section 2. APPEAL: The City Council of the City of Miami Gardens hereby appeals to the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners to urge the Miami-Dade County School Board to implement a non-partisan, equitable voter's registration program by providing to High School students and those at alternative schools who are of voting age, the equal opportunity to register to vote by adoption of a Board Rule of the School Board of Miami-Dade County which mandates a voter's registration drive be conducted in all schools at least once a year.

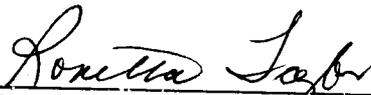
Section 3. INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CITY CLERK: The City Clerk is hereby instructed to serve certified copies of this Resolution on the Miami-Dade County Board of Commissioners as well as the Miami-Dade County School Board.

Section 4. EFFECTIVE DATE: This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its final passage.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MIAMI GARDENS AT ITS REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JUNE 25, 2008.

ATTEST.

  
SHIRLEY GIBSON, MAYOR

  
RONETTA TAYLOR, OMC, CITY CLERK

PREPARED BY: SONJA KNIGHTON DICKENS, ESQ.  
City Attorney

Resolution No. 2008-134-821

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR SHIRLEY GIBSON

MOVED BY: Councilman Gilbert  
SECOND BY: Councilman Bratton

**VOTE:** 7-0

Mayor Shirley Gibson	<u>X</u> (Yes)	___ (No)
Vice Mayor Barbara Watson	<u>X</u> (Yes)	___ (No)
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton	<u>X</u> (Yes)	___ (No)
Councilman Aaron Campbell	<u>X</u> (Yes)	___ (No)
Councilman Oliver Gilbert, III	<u>X</u> (Yes)	___ (No)
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett	<u>X</u> (Yes)	___ (No)
Councilman André Williams	<u>X</u> (Yes)	___ (No)

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# City of Miami Gardens

1515 NW 167<sup>th</sup> Street  
Bldg. 5, Suite 200  
Miami Gardens, Florida 33169



Mayor Shirley Gibson  
Vice Mayor Barbara Watson  
Councilman Melvin L. Bratton  
Councilman Aaron Campbell Jr.  
Councilman Oliver Gilbert III  
Councilwoman Sharon Pritchett  
Councilman Andre Williams

## Agenda Cover Page

Date: June 25, 2008

Fiscal Impact: No X Yes

(If yes, explain in Staff Summary)

Funding Source:

Contract/P.O. Requirement: Yes  No X

Sponsor Name/Department:

**Mayor Shirley Gibson**

Public hearing

Ordinance

1st Reading

Advertising requirement: Yes  No

RFP/RFQ # \_\_\_\_\_

Quasi-Judicial

Resolution X

2nd Reading

Yes  No

Yes  No

## **Title**

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## **Staff Summary**

There is no set standard policy in Miami-Dade School Board in regard to a voter registration program, geared toward high school and Alternative school students. In an effort to afford all eligible high school students who wish to participate in the election process, the implementation of a universal program would be beneficial.

The current process where judgment is based on the discretion of administration is neither fair nor equitable; therefore a request for change is being urged upon the Miami-Dade County School Board to adopt a Board Rule, mandating a voter's registration drive be conducted annually, in all schools.