Student Election Guide 2020
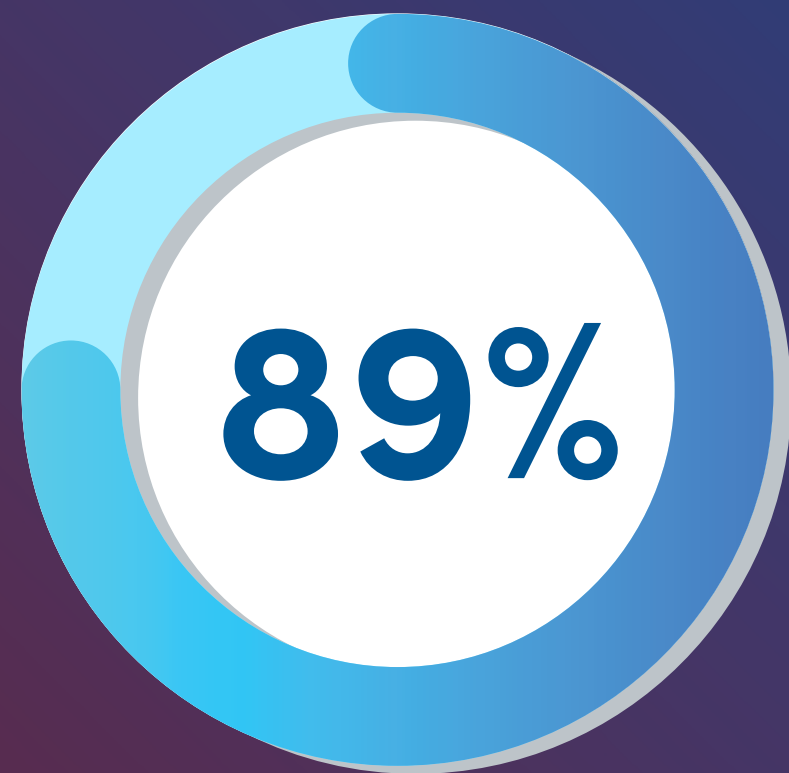
Miami Dade College

iCED INSTITUTE FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & DEMOCRACY

Table of Contents

STUDENT ELECTION GUIDE 2020

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Your Vote is Your Voice

Many say that college students don't vote
and don't care about the issues on the ballot.

At Miami Dade College, we know that is not true.

89%
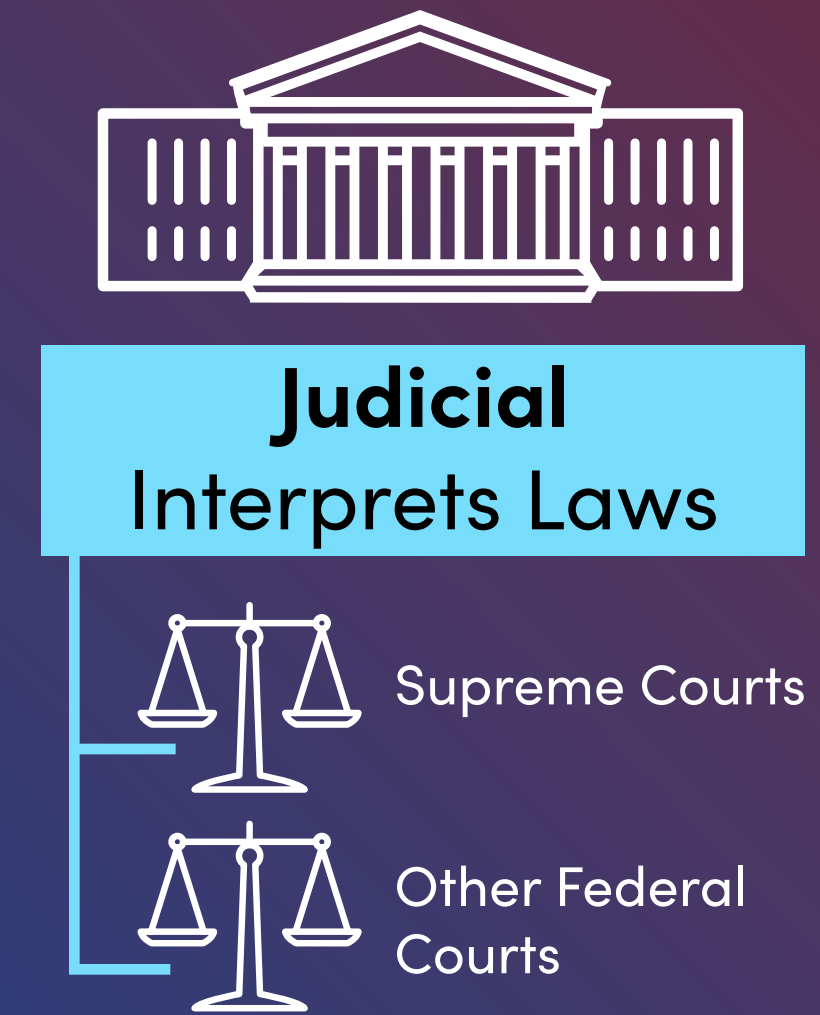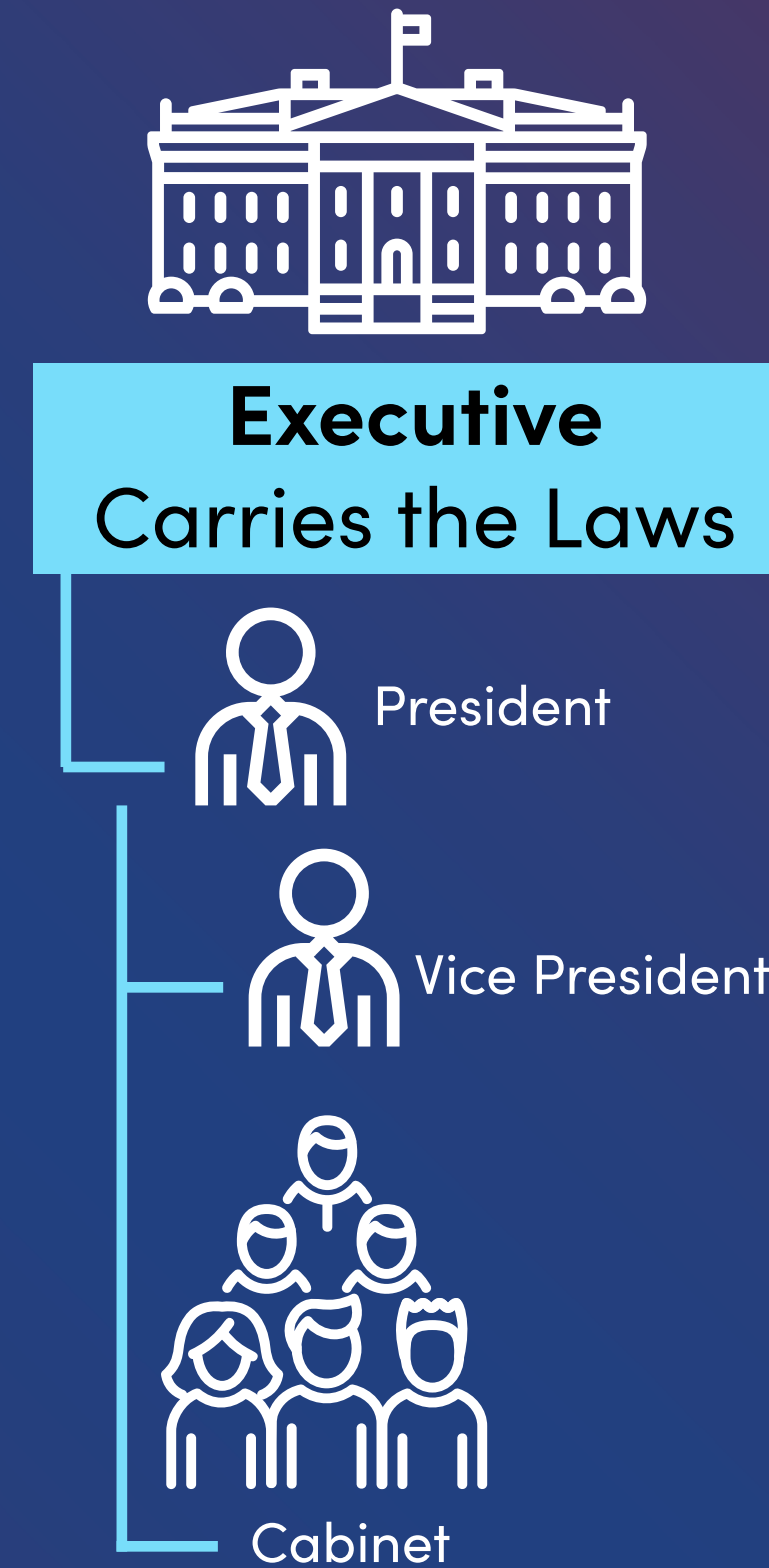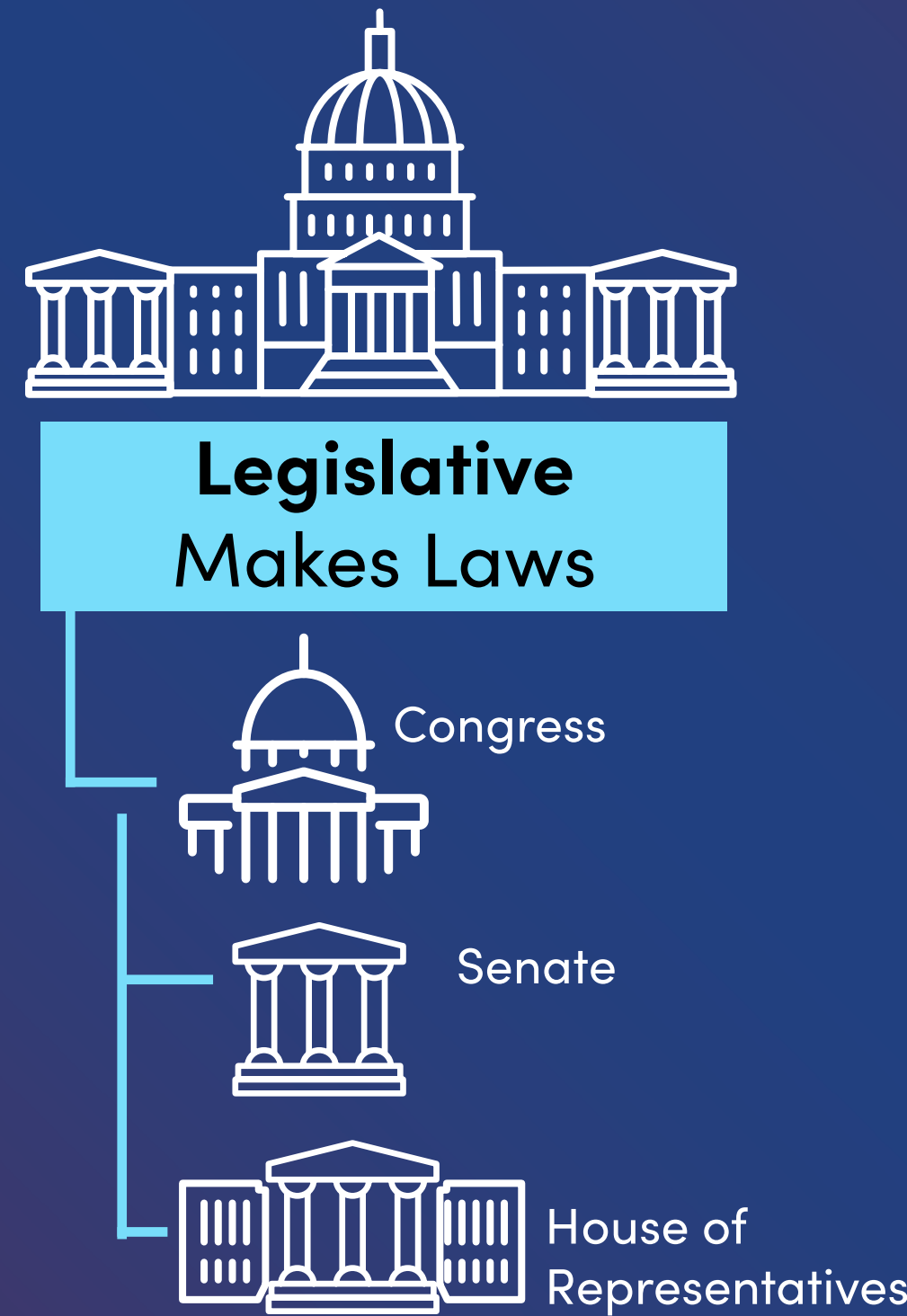
Eligible MDC students registered to vote in 2016

72%

Registered MDC students voted in 2016

**Did you vote in the last Presidential election in 2016?
Why or why not?**

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When We All Vote, We Are All Represented

The United States Constitution set up a system that relies on checks and balances, both at the federal and state level.

Our three branches of federal government each have different levels of representation that hold each other accountable to represent the interests of all the American people.

Legislative
Makes Laws

- Congress
- Senate
- House of Representatives

Executive
Carries the Laws

- President
- Vice President
- Cabinet

Judicial
Interprets Laws

- Supreme Courts
- Other Federal Courts

CIVIC ACTION SCORECARD CONNECTION

24   **5 POINTS**
Submit a reflection on the Constitution, Bill of Rights, or Declaration of Independence

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Our System of Democracy Relies on All of Our Voices and All of Our Votes

The U.S. Constitution reserved some power for state governments, that is why each state has its own version of the Constitution and Executive, Judicial, and Legislative branches. In Florida:

Legislative
Makes Laws

The Florida House has 120 representatives, all elected to two-year terms. The Florida Senate has 40 senators, all elected to four-year terms.

Executive
Carries the Laws

The office of Governor DeSantis is elected through public elections every four years (the next Gubernatorial election is in 2022).

Judicial
Interprets Laws

The Florida Supreme Court and all the courts below it. Supreme Court judges are appointed by a judicial committee, while trial court judges (judges at the local level) are elected through nonpartisan, public elections every six years.

Click here for a chart of the entire Florida Electorate.

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Why Do MDC Students Vote?

"I never envisioned having the right to vote. This country has given me that privilege, and I'm going to make sure I vote for the millions around the world who don't get to exercise that fundamental right."

"Voting is how we make history. Being a participant in creating history gives each of us a sense of pride in democracy and the power to shape our future. Use your vote to make history."

Why do you think it is important for students to vote?

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CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
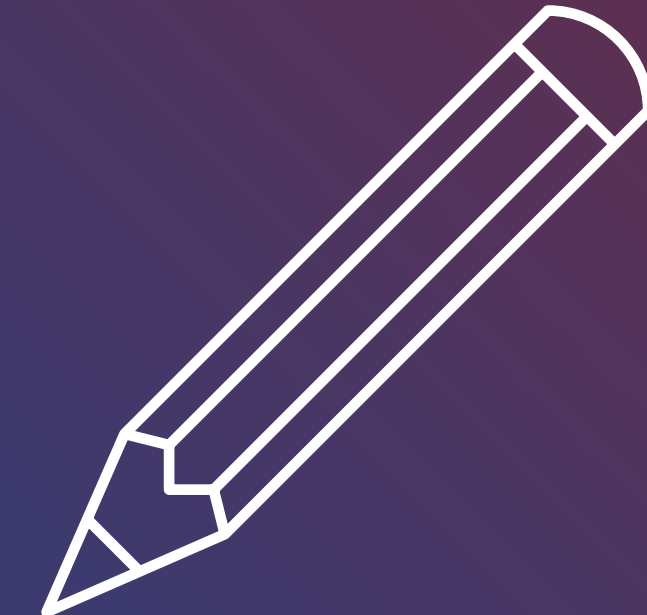& DEMOCRACY

Three Steps to Become an Empowered Voter

01
Learn about voting in the 2020 election

02
Register to vote by July 20th www.mdc.edu/vote

03
Make a plan to vote using this guide

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August 18, 2020
Local Election and Primary Election

Local Election

On August 18th, we will vote in the Miami–Dade Local Election. All of the local offices up for election are non-partisan (county mayor, county commissioners, school board, and judges), which means everyone can vote for any candidate, regardless of party affiliation.

If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, the top two finishers will be on the November 3rd ballot.

Primary Election

August 18th is also the Primary Election, which is when we vote for representatives within our party affiliations (mainly Democrats and Republicans).

If opposed within their own parties, United States senators, representatives in Congress, state representatives, and state senators will be on the ballot (as well as state attorney, public defender, and clerk reporter). Florida is a closed primary state, which means that voters may only vote within their party (you have to be part of the team to pick the captain).

The winning candidates of the primary election, who face opposition from another party, will then move on to the General Election on November 3rd.

What is a Universal Primary?

Universal Primary is a contest in the Primary Election in which all candidates have the same party affiliation, but will not face opposition during the General Election. During a Universal Primary, all qualified electors may vote regardless of their party affiliation.

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2020 Miami-Dade Elections Calendar

On August 18th, we will vote in the local election for Miami-Dade County mayor, county commissioner districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13 and more. August 18th is also the primary election for the Florida State Senate, Florida State House of Representatives, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

July 20
VR Deadline
Deadline to register to vote for the August 18th Election

August 8
VBM Deadline
Deadline to request your vote-by-mail ballot

August 3-16
Early Voting
Vote early at MDC Kendall and North campus or at a location near your home

August 18
Election Day
You can only vote at your polling place on Election Day

VIEW ELECTIONS CALENDAR

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Decoding the Ballot

Understanding The Ballot

These three steps will help you get started:

1. Get to know your elected officials by filling out this worksheet.
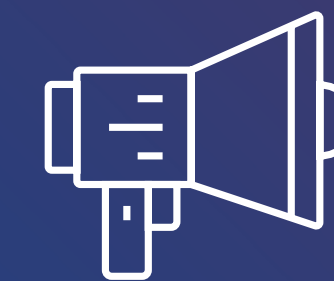
> **KNOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS**

2. Look up your official sample ballot.

> **REQUEST SAMPLE BALLOT**

3. Research the candidates that are running for office.

Researching Candidates

- Watch candidate debates and forums

- Read candidate websites

- Read local coverage of the election (for example the Miami Herald)

- Look up who has endorsed your candidate

- Look up which organizations have endorsed your candidate

- If they are currently elected (an incumbent) read their voting record

- Read about their policy platform and determine if your values align

- Speak to people whose opinion you trust about who they are voting for

- Find voter guides from local and national organizations

CIVIC ACTION SCORECARD CONNECTION

04 5 POINTS
Know your elected officials. Provide a list of all your elected officials and their office (school board, city, county, state and federal).

03 5 POINTS
Find your sample ballot. Download your personalized sample ballot from the Board of Elections website.

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Registering to Vote in Florida

Who Can Register to Vote?

You must be:

- At least 18 years of age (you can pre-register on or after your 16th birthday).

- A citizen of the United States.

- Reside in Florida. There is no length of time that a voter must live here before registering to vote.

Who Cannot Register to Vote?

- Anyone who does not meet the above requirements.

- Anyone who has been adjudicated mentally incapacitated with respect to voting and has not had his/her right to vote restored.

- Anyone convicted of a felony and has not had his/her voting rights restored. For more information, click here.

Registration Deadline

- Eligible citizens can register vote to anytime but should know that the registration deadline for every election is 29 days prior to Election Day

Contact your iCED office if you have any questions about registering to vote!

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Registering to Vote in Florida

First Time Registering to Vote?

If it is your first time registering to vote, or if you are a new citizen, you will need to provide the Elections Department a copy of a current and valid photo identification that includes your name and current residential address prior. Do not submit original documents, only copies.

If you live in Miami–Dade County, fill out a copy of the Miami–Dade application and mail the original signed form to:
Supervisor of Elections
P.O. Box 521550, Miami, Florida 33152.

DOWNLOAD APPLICATION

Register to Vote

Register to vote online or update your registration. You should always make sure to update your registration when you move or if your name changes. You can also update if you would like to change your party affiliation.

REGISTER OR UPDATE

For more information on registering to vote in Miami–Dade County, visit the Elections Department webite.

REGISTRATION INFO.

Check Your Registration

Check to see if you are already registered and to see the address and party you registered with.

REGISTRATION STATUS
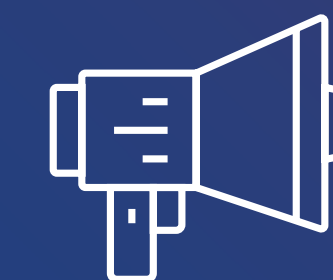
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01 **5 POINTS**
Register to Vote. Take a screenshot of your confirmation page as documentation.

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Make a Plan to Vote

Be the Voice

Research shows that making a plan to vote increases the likelihood that you will vote.

MDC believes in a culture of voting, so look out for events and education opportunities around voting. If you need support, contact your campus iCED office.

Getting your voice heard means answering 3 easy questions. How, when and where?

Three Ways to Vote

You have the unique ability to effect change in your community through the power of your vote.

1. Vote from your house and mail your ballot in.

2. Vote early at any of the designated early voting sites in Miami-Dade County before Election Day.

3. Vote at your designated polling place on Election Day!

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Vote-by-Mail in Miami-Dade County

Voting by Mail is Easy and Safe

Vote-by-mail ballots get sent to voters early, giving you plenty of time to research candidates. During this time of COVID-19, be sure to consider requesting your vote-by-mail ballot as a safe alternative to voting in person.

- Your signature is used to validate your vote-by-mail ballot, so it is important to have your current signature on file.

- Read about updating your signature, then print out and mail the application. Do this as soon as possible so your application is received before your ballot is mailed to you.

- You can also check the status of your ballot online.

- Once your vote-by-mail ballot is completed, you can mail it to the Elections Department (postage is paid) or Drop it off at any Early Voting location or Election Department office.

You can request your vote-by-mail ballot by calling: 305-499-8444

Elections Department's vote-by-mail online request form:

EXPLORE VOTE-BY-MAIL

MAIL BALLOT REQUEST

Print and mail a copy of the form to the Elections Department:

ENGLISH AND SPANISH

ENGLISH AND CREOLE

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Early Voting in Miami-Dade County

August 3-16 • Vote Early at MDC

Early voting begins 14 days prior to every countywide election. Any registered
voter may vote at any of the designated early voting sites in Miami-Dade County providing maximum convenience. In this time of COVID-19,
be sure to consider voting by mail instead of in person.

EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE

EXPLORE EARLY VOTING

Voting Locations at MDC

North Campus
Building 2000, Mitchell Wolfson
Center, Library
11380 NW 27th Ave., Miami, FL 33167
North Campus Early Voting Map

Kendall Campus
Building K, The Fascell Conference Center
11011 SW 104 St., Miami, FL 33176
Kendall Campus Early Voting Map

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Voting on Election Day

Vote In-Person

If you vote on Election Day, you must go to your assigned location, which is determined by your home address. Precincts are open from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. on Election Day. In this time of COVID-19, be sure to consider voting by mail instead of in person.

If you feel your vote is being suppressed at the polls, you have certain rights. Read here to learn more about your rights as a voter.

Get free voter ID help by calling VoteRiders at 844-338-8743.

**Check out the Voter Toolkit to know what information you need to bring with you to vote.**

VOTER TOOLKIT

Get your customized sample ballot, learn where to vote and see your voter information.

SAMPLE BALLOT

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Everyone Can Participate

I'm Not a Citizen, What Can I Do?

- Encourage family, friends, and everyone you meet to vote

- Help others register to vote

- Volunteer on a candidate's campaign

- Educate others about issues you care about

- Share your story, your voice still matters!
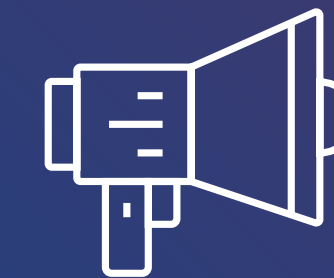
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02
5 POINTS
Help Someone Register to Vote. Reflection, confirmation or photo with person you helped register.

09
20 POINTS
Serve as a Miami–Dade County Elections Poll Worker. Submit record of training and attendance. Click here to apply.

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Make a Plan to Vote
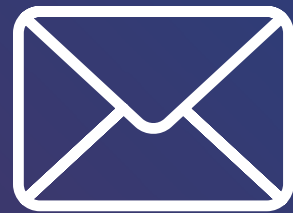
How Will You Vote?

Will you vote by mail?

Will you vote early?

Will you vote on Election Day?

Where Will You Vote?

If voting by mail, will you send it through the mail or drop it off at an early voting site?

If voting early, do you know which location you'll go to?

If voting on election day, do you know where your polling place is?

When Will You Vote?

Pick a specific date and time that fits your schedule to drop off your ballot, vote early, or to vote on Election Day!

Fill out this plan to vote from our partners at Engage Miami for election updates.

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2020 Local Nonpartisan Miami-Dade County Elections

Miami-Dade County Elections

On August 18th, we will vote in the local election for Miami-Dade county mayor, county commissioner districts 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 13, and more. If no candidate receives at least 50% of the vote, the top two finishers will be on the November 3rd ballot.

Non-Partisan Local Elections

These local elections are non-partisan, which means anyone can vote regardless of political party affiliation. How does a local candidate end up on the ballot?

Candidates can either pay a fee (about $3,000) or collect petition signatures from at least 1% of the electorate in their district.

Stay Informed

Read a recent article from the Miami Herald detailing the local election!

CLICK HERE

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2020 Local Nonpartisan Election for County Mayor

Alexander "Alex" Penelas

Daniella Levine Cava

Esteban L. Bovo, JR

Xavier L. Suarez

Monique Nicole Barley

Ludmilla Domond

Carlos Antonio De Armas

Ordered from most financial contributions on the left, to the least amount of contributions on the right, as of 6/11/2020.

VIEW RECENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Candidate information subject to change as candidates may drop out of the electoral race.

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2020 Local Nonpartisan Election for County Commissioner

County Commission District	Candidate	Candidate	Candidate	Candidate	Candidate	Candidate
District 03	Brian Dennis	Keon Hardemon	Monester Lee-Kinsler	Eddie Lewis	Tisa M. McGhee	Gepsie M. Metellus
District 07	Cindy L. Lerner	Raquel A. Regalado	Michael Alan Rosenberg	Rafael "Ralph" Suarez	X	X
District 09	Mark Coatsy	Johnny G. Farias	Marlon A. Hill	Elvis Maldonado	Kionne McGhee	X

*Incumbent Candidates

Candidate information subject to change as candidates may drop out of the electoral race.

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2020 Local Nonpartisan Election for County Commissioner

County Commission District	Candidate	Candidate	Candidate
District 01	Sybrina Denise Fulton	Oliver Gilbert	X
District 05	Renier Diaz de la Portilla	*Eileen Higgins	Miguel C. Soliman
District 11	Robert Asencio	Cristhian Mancera	*Joe A. Martinez
District 13	Rene Garcia	Adrian Jesus Jimenez	X

*Incumbent Candidates

Candidate information subject to change as candidates may drop out of the electoral race.

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2020 Local Nonpartisan Election for MDCPS School Board

MDCPS School Board Districts	Candidate	Candidate	Candidate	Candidate	Candidate
District 03	Lucia Baez-Geller	Marcela Gomez-Bogomolni	Joshua Levy	Russ Rywell	Isaac Salver
District 05	Christi Fraga	Michel Diaz Suarez	Mara Zapata	Jaime A. Petralanda	
District 07	Marie-Flore Lindor-Latortue	*Lubby Navarro	Lorraine Ordenes Real	X	X
District 09	Esther "Shelly" Fano	Justin A. Koren	Nancy Lawther	Luisa Santos	Dennis C. Moss

*Incumbent Candidates

Candidate information subject to change as candidates may drop out of the electoral race.

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2020 Local Nonpartisan Election for Judicial Offices

Judicial Office	Candidate	Candidate	Candidate	Candidate	Candidate
Supreme Court	Muñiz, Carlos G.				
Third Court	Gordo, Monica	Hendon, Eric	Lobree, Fleur	Logue, Thomas	Miller, Bronwin
11th Judicial	Candidate	Candidate	County	Candidate	Candidate
Group 55	Adebayo,	Perkins, Joe	Group 09	Joseph J. Mansfield	Miguel "Mike"
Group 57	Cabarga, Carmen	Vereen,	Group 24	Christine Bandín	Shaun Spector
Group 65	Martinez–Scanziani	Rebull, Thomas J.	*Incumbent Candidates		
Group 67	Hansen, Marcia	Ruiz, Mavel			
Group 75	Aponte, Rosy	Tunis, Dava J.			

Candidate information subject to change as candidates may drop out of the electoral race.

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2020 Primary Election

August 18th is also the Primary Election for the Florida State Senate and House of Representatives. Florida is a closed primary state, which means you must be registered as a Democrat or Republican to vote in the primary. The chosen candidates will then be on the ballot for the November 3rd General Election.

Some races may be a Universal Primary, which is a contest in the Primary Election in which all candidates have the same party affiliation, but will not face opposition during the General Election. During a Universal Primary, all qualified electors may vote regardless of their party affiliation.

Candidate information subject to change as candidates may drop out of the electoral race.

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2020 Primary Election

Miami–Dade State Attorney	Fernandez Rundle, Katherine (Incumbent Democrat)	Pearson, Melba V. (Democrat)	
Miami–Dade Public Defender	Martinez, Carlos J. (Incumbent Democrat)	X	← UNIVERSAL PRIMARY
Clerk of the Circuit Reporter Circuit 11	Harvey Ruvin (Democrat)	Rubin Young (Independent)	

Candidate information subject to change as candidates may drop out of the electoral race.

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2020 Primary Election
U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Representative	Democrat	Republican	Additional Candidates November 3rd Ballot
District 23	1. Jen Perelman 2. Debbie Wasserman Schultz (Incumbent)	1. Michael Kroske 2. Carla Spalding	Write-in Candidates: Jeff Olson and Demetrius Fugate
District 24	1. Ricardo De La Fuente 2. Sakinah Lehtolaz 3. Frederica S. Wilson (Incumbent)	1. Lavern Spicer	Independent Candidate: Christine Alexandra Olivo Write-in Candidates: Howard Knepper and Hector Rivera
District 26	1. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (Incumbent)	1. Omar Blanco 2. Carlos Gimenez	
District 27	1. Donna Shalala (Incumbent)	1. Juan Fiol 2. Raymond Molina 3. Maria Elvira Salazar	Write-in Candidate: Frank E. Polo Sr

Select an incumbent's name to visit official congressional sites.

Candidate information subject to change as candidates may drop out of the electoral race.

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2020 Primary Election Florida State Senate

Florida Senate	Democrat	Republican	Additional Candidates November 3rd Ballot
District 35	1. Daphne Campbell 2. Wilbur Harbin 3. Erhabor Ighodaro 4. Shevrin "Shev" Jones 5. Cynthia Ann Stafford 6. Barbara Watson	X	Write-in Candidate: Darien Hill
District 37	1. Jose Javier Rodriguez (Incumbent)	1. Ileana Garcia	Independent Candidate: Alex Rodriguez
District 39	1. Daniel "Dan" Horton-Diaz 2. Javier E. Fernandez	1. Ana Maria Rodriguez	Independent Candidate: Celso D. Alfonso

Select a candidate's name to visit official candidate profiles.

Candidate information subject to change as candidates may drop out of the electoral race.

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2020 Primary Election Florida House of Representatives

Florida House of Represenatives	Democrat	Republican	
District 102	1. Dennis Hinds 2. Felicia Simone Robinson 3. Matthew Tisdol 4. David Williams Jr	X	← UNIVERSAL PRIMARY
District 103	Cindy Polo (Incumbent)	1. Tom Fabricio 2. Nelson Rodriguez	
District 105	1. Javier Estevez 2. Maureen Porras	1. Pedro Barrios 2. David Borrero 3. Bibiana Potestad	
District 107	1. Christopher Benjamin 2. Ulysses "Buck" Harvard	X	← UNIVERSAL PRIMARY

TRACK FLORIDA CANDIDATES

Candidate information subject to change as candidates may drop out of the electoral race.

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2020 Primary Election Florida House of Representatives

Florida State Represenatives	Democrat	Republican	
District 108	1. Georges Bossous Jr 2. Roy Hardemon 3. Dotie Joseph (Incumbent)	X	← UNIVERSAL PRIMARY
District 110	Collazo, Annette	Rizo, Alex	← NOVEMBER 3 GENERAL ELECTION
District 111	Avila, Bryan (Incumbent)	Hancock, Ross Elde	← NOVEMBER 3 GENERAL ELECTION
District 112	Duran, Nicholas Xavier (Incumbent)	1. Bruno A. Barreiro 2. Rosa Maria "Rosy" Palomino	
District 114	1. Jean-Pierre Bado 2. Sue "Susi" Loyzelle	Cabrera, Demi Busatta	
District 115	Cesti-Browne, Franccesca	Aloupis, Vance (Incumbent)	← NOVEMBER 3 GENERAL ELECTION

Candidate information subject to change as candidates may drop out of the electoral race.

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2020 Primary Election
Florida House of Representatives

Florida State Represenatives	Democrat	Republican	
District 116	Bob Lynch	1. Gabriel Garcia 2. Daniel A. Perez (Incumbent)	← NOVEMBER 3 GENERAL ELECTION
District 117	1. Kevin Chambliss 2. Harold Ford 3. Jessica Laguerre Hylton	X	← UNIVERSAL PRIMARY
District 118	Junquera, Ricky	Rodriguez, Anthony (Incumbent)	← NOVEMBER 3 GENERAL ELECTION
District 119	Mohammad, Imtiaz Ahmad	Fernandez–Barquin, Juan (Incumbent)	← NOVEMBER 3 GENERAL ELECTION
District 120	Barras, Clint	1. James Vernon Mooney Jr 2. Rhonda Rebman Lopez 3. Alexandria Suarez	

Candidate information subject to change as candidates may drop out of the electoral race.

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www.mdc.edu/vote