



Town of Miami Lakes Memorandum

To: Honorable Mayor & Councilmembers

From: Honorable Councilmember Josh Dieguez

Subject: Special Taxing Districts Elections

Date: October 8, 2019

Recommendation:

One of the reasons voters found Town control of what are known as Special Taxing Districts desirable is that there would be greater resident input. As part of that, advisory boards were established for the various STDs. These boards are made up of Town Council appointees. Recently, we received comments from various individuals that the advisory structure should be made more responsive to the residents of the STDs. In order to better keep the promise made to residents with respect to these districts, I agree. Therefore, I propose directing the Town Administration to implement one of the following election mechanisms:

Annual Retention Elections

This system mirrors the election mechanism used for appellate judges who are appointed and then undergo a retention election in which voters are asked whether they desire to retain them in office or not. This permits the Town Council to identify very involved, interested, and capable individuals to serve on these boards and advise the Town Council on their STD's preferences while also allowing STD residents to indicate to us whether the Board's preferences truly line up with their own. It also incentivizes these appointed members to solicit resident input when putting their budgets together. Members who do not achieve 50%+1 votes will be automatically removed from the Board and prohibited from being reappointed for one year.

Annual Right Track/Wrong Track Elections

In the same spirit, another alternative is an annual mail in referendum to ask the residents of the STDs whether they feel the District is headed in the right track or wrong track. This gives us the ability to solicit resident input on how they feel their advisory board is performing and make any adjustments accordingly.

The Council's ultimate authority over STD budgets in either case would be unaffected by this proposal. I intend for these elections to be "mail in" elections funded through the STD budgets.

Fiscal Impact: N/A
Guiding Principles: 4, 14
Objectives: 5