



To: Commissioner Melissa Castro

From: Cristina M. Suárez, City Attorney for the City of Coral Gables

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Cristina M. Suárez", is written over the printed name.

RE: Request for Formal Legal Opinion on Charter Amendment and AG Opinion Applicability

Date: June 26, 2025

As previously discussed, as to your first question, opinions issued by the Florida Attorney General are non-binding and advisory only. As to your second question, while our office does not have written protocols regarding opinions of the Florida Attorney General, as you know, our office ensures that legislation adopted by the City Commission is legally sufficient in accordance with applicable law. Finally, as to your third question, as provided in Ordinance No. 2025-08, the authority to change election dates via ordinance is pursuant to Florida Statutes ss. 100.3605, 101.75, and 166.021(4).

This opinion is issued in accordance with Section 2-252(e)(1) and (8) of the City Code authorizing the City Attorney's Office to issue opinions and interpretations on behalf of the City.

From: [Suarez, Cristina](#)
To: [Castro, Melissa](#)
Subject: RE: Request for Formal Legal Opinion on Charter Amendment and AG Opinion Applicability
Date: Thursday, June 26, 2025 6:01:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Good evening Commissioner:

As previously discussed, as to your first question, opinions issued by the Florida Attorney General are non-binding and advisory only. As to your second question, while our office does not have written protocols regarding opinions of the Florida Attorney General, as you know, our office ensures that legislation adopted by the City Commission is legally sufficient in accordance with applicable law. Finally, as to your third question, as provided in Ordinance No. 2025-08, the authority to change election dates via ordinance is pursuant to Florida Statutes ss. 100.3605, 101.75, and 166.021(4).

Thanks,
Cristina

Cristina M. Suárez, B.C.S.

City Attorney

Board Certified by the Florida Bar in
City, County, and Local Government Law
City of Coral Gables

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City Logo Citrus & Frond



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From: Castro, Melissa <mcastro@coralgables.com>

Sent: Saturday, June 14, 2025 12:28 PM

To: Suarez, Cristina <csuarez@coralgables.com>

Subject: Request for Formal Legal Opinion on Charter Amendment and AG Opinion Applicability

Dear City Attorney,

I am officially requesting the issuance of a formal written legal opinion by your Office addressing the following three questions:

Is Florida Attorney General James Uthmeier's recent written legal opinion stating that the City of Miami cannot move its elections without first getting voter approval applicable and binding to the City of Coral Gables in light of the City's decision to move its election (by ordinance) without first getting voter approval?

What written protocol does your Office apply to determine which legal opinions from the Florida Attorney General the City should or should not comply with?

What legal authority allows the City to revise the Charter via ordinance to shorten the term of an elected official?

I ask that your Office issue the above-referenced formal written legal opinion no later than June 26, 2025.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Melissa Castro

Office of the City Commission

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signatureImage