

Memorandum



Date: March 31, 2025

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

From: Daniella Levine Cava *Daniella Levine Cava*
Mayor

Subject: Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget Address

Pursuant to Section 2.02(F) of the Miami-Dade County Home Rule Charter, attached please find my Budget Address for Fiscal Year 2025-26.

- c: Honorable Juan Fernandez-Barquin, Clerk of the Court and Comptroller
- Honorable Tomas Regalado, Property Appraiser
- Honorable Alina Garcia, Supervisor of Elections
- Honorable Rosie Cordero-Stutz, Sheriff
- Honorable Dariel Fernandez, Tax Collector
- Geri Bonzon-Keenan, County Attorney
- Gerald Sanchez, First Assistant County Attorney
- Jess McCarty, Executive Assistant County Attorney
- Office of the Mayor Senior Staff
- Yinka Majekodunmi, Commission Auditor
- Basia Pruna, Director, Clerk of the Board
- Office of Policy & Budgetary Affairs



DANIELLA LEVINE CAVA
MAYOR
MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Dear Residents,

Every year, our County team works hard to prepare a budget that reflects our community's needs and leads with accountability and smart fiscal stewardship to build a more prosperous, secure Miami-Dade. This is one of my most important responsibilities as your Mayor, to protect your hard-earned tax dollars and deliver reliable government services.

In the first term of my administration, we worked directly to ease the burden of increasing cost of living by making historic tax rate cuts two years in a row and maintaining that rate – the lowest combined tax rate since 1982. At the same time, we made key investments in improving quality of life, by investing in our small and local businesses, tackling the housing crisis, making Miami-Dade one of the safest areas to live in the nation, strengthening our resilience, and more.

As we look to the budget for the 2025-26 Fiscal Year, our County faces enormous strains on our resources, including the financial impacts resulting from establishing new constitutional offices and the increasing demand for County services thanks to our unprecedented growth over the past several years. Our community faces growing financial challenges and uncertainties due to pressures at the federal and state level, and our budget pressures are compounded by the major restructuring of local government that created unfunded mandates which now must be balanced.

These combined challenges will result in a contraction in funding that will lead to adjustments in services. We know that governments at all levels will need to make difficult decisions, and we must take an even more conservative approach to planning our budget as we look to this year and future years, to balance these pressures and minimize impacts to our residents as much as possible. We are already evaluating and taking steps to prepare for future consolidation that protects the core services residents need and deserve – protecting public safety, supporting neighborhood infrastructure like roads and parks, preserving our environment, and more – while safeguarding our County's long-term fiscal health.

It's more critical than ever that we look closely at all programming and ensure every single taxpayer dollar is spent to maximum impact, to deliver core services and make Miami-Dade more affordable, resilient, and secure. In January, I introduced my WISE305 agenda, a framework to continue seeking efficiencies, streamlining functions, leveraging technology, and reducing costs. This budget will continue providing essential services to our community in the most effective, efficient way possible and without increasing costs for residents. I am also working with our leadership team to maximize revenue generation opportunities across the County, while we cut costs.

As we do every year, my team and I have worked hard to bring more residents than ever directly into the budgeting process and ensure your voices are at the forefront. We have hosted unprecedented numbers of budget town hall meetings across Miami-Dade to hear directly from you, and this year will be no different. Stay tuned for more information on public events in the months ahead to help us craft a FY 2025-26 budget that takes on the challenges ahead while continuing to build a stronger Miami-Dade.

I look forward to working alongside our County Commissioners to deliver a budget that safeguards our fiscal future and continues to build a more resilient County.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava".

Mayor Daniella