

Media Release

Latest Countywide Poll Shows Voters in Favor of a Strong Mayor in Miami-Dade

Miami (June 12, 2006)—Florida International University’s Metropolitan Center, an urban think tank, released a poll today showing that a majority (62%) of Miami-Dade County registered voters support creating a Strong Mayor form of government. A Strong Mayor government would place more administrative responsibility on the County Mayor, Carlos Alvarez.

The Countywide poll included 805 registered voters, by partisan identification, gender, and ethnicity. The poll was conducted by the FIU Metropolitan Center from June 5-8, 2006.

“If the ‘Strong Mayor’ is placed on the ballot in November, it will be very difficult for it not to pass,” said Dr. Dario Moreno, Director of the Metropolitan Center. “Sixty percent is solid, especially since it is supported by the major ethnic groups,” he added.

The poll also included questions regarding voters’ satisfaction with the County Commission and their support for raising Commissioner’s salaries. Overall, 49.7% of voters rated the performance of the Miami-Dade County Commission as “excellent” or “satisfactory.” Though, a majority (51.4%) opposed a proposal that would rate the salaries of the County Commission, with 37.8% favoring the increase.

Additional findings of the poll include:

- 73.2% of voters surveyed rated the performance of Miami-Dade County Mayor, Carlos Alvarez, as “excellent” or satisfactory;
- 51.3% of voters surveyed said they would support turning the position of County Tax Assessor into an elected position;
- In terms of whether Miami-Dade County is headed in the right direction or wrong direction, the ethnic breakdown is as follows: 56.7% of Hispanics, 54% of African-Americans, 42.7% of Anglos feel Miami-Dade County is headed in the right direction; and
- 63.4% of African-Americans and 51.9% of Hispanics rated the performance of the Miami-Dade County Commission as “excellent” or “satisfactory”

For more information regarding this poll, please contact Vanessa Brito, Communications Director at the FIU Metropolitan Center, (305) 349-1255 or (786) 260-1022. Additional data is available for review.

The **Metropolitan Center at Florida International University** is engaged in the study of the demographics, economics and politics of South Florida. The overall goal of the Center, as an “applied research” institute, is to provide decision-makers with the best possible information to forge solutions to the problems confronting South Florida’s urban areas. The Center provides

research, training, and technical assistance to governmental and nonprofit institutions in South Florida. The Center provides usable knowledge to inform decision-makers on economic development, land use, housing and public opinion. It also provides organizational management planning and development to strengthen local area organizations' ability to serve their client basis. To learn more about the FIU Metropolitan Center, visit the Center's website at <http://metropolitan.fiu.edu>.

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