

From: [Thomas Trask](#)
To: [VanBlargan, Clara](#)
Cc: [Mike Helfrich](#)
Subject: RE: Moving municipal March elections to November
Date: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 9:56:57 AM

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Clara,

Florida Statutes §§ 100.3605(2), 101.75(2)-(3), and 166.021(4), along with AGOs 2000-61, 2007-34, 2013-05 and 2019-11, make it clear that a city is *permitted* to, by ordinance, amend its Charter by changing its election dates and adjusting the terms of office necessitated by such change in election dates. However, *City of Miami v. Gonzalez*, 419 So.3d 377 (3rd DCA 2025) clarifies that these Statutes are *permissive* and must still give way to the expressly enumerated powers granted in a city's charter and the corresponding county's charter.

Section 50-1 of Pinellas County's Charter provides that, "[n]otwithstanding any local law or municipal charter to the contrary, any municipality in Pinellas County may, by ordinance, change the dates for election and the date for the commencement of the term of municipal officers in conformity with the provisions of this section." Section 50-1 goes further to provide that such ordinance *shall* provide for municipal primary elections to be held on the second Tuesday in February and municipal general elections to be held on the second Tuesday in March of the same year. Nothing in this section indicates that a municipality would be able to change its election dates to November by ordinance. It would therefore appear that if Madeira Beach were to change its elections from March to November by ordinance, it would be doing so contrary to the terms of Pinellas County's Charter, as the County's Charter permits such an ordinance only under certain conditions (ie: providing for general elections to be held on the second Tuesday in March of the same year as the primary elections). Therefore, the change must be done by referendum.



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From: VanBlargan, Clara <cvanblargan@madeirabeachfl.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 9:45 AM
To: Thomas Trask <tom@cityattorneys.legal>
Subject: RE: Moving municipal March elections to November

Thank you.

Please let me know the status of this. I'm hoping to get the information from you today.

Clara

From: Thomas Trask <tom@cityattorneys.legal>
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 8:56 AM
To: VanBlargan, Clara <cvanblargan@madeirabeachfl.gov>
Subject: RE: Moving municipal March elections to November

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Clara,
I asked Zoe R. of our office to do this research when I received your email on Monday. I am hoping to have her research sometime today. Tom

From: VanBlargan, Clara <cvanblargan@madeirabeachfl.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2026 7:50 PM
To: Thomas Trask <tom@cityattorneys.legal>
Subject: RE: Moving municipal March elections to November

Tom,

I'll add the information to the packet when I get it. I noted on the agenda for that item that the information would be available by the Meeting date.

Clara

From: Thomas Trask <tom@cityattorneys.legal>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 3:42 PM
To: VanBlargan, Clara <cvanblargan@madeirabeachfl.gov>
Subject: RE: Moving municipal March elections to November

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Clara,

There are three statutes and at least four AG opinions and some case law on this issue. I will be review this and will respond by the end of the week. Tom



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From: VanBlargan, Clara <cvanblargan@madeirabeachfl.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2026 1:42 PM
To: Thomas Trask <tom@cityattorneys.legal>
Subject: Moving municipal March elections to November

[https://link.edgepilot.com/x/87Foi2rwashBsMLicOni_6Y?
u=https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2024/0101.75](https://link.edgepilot.com/x/87Foi2rwashBsMLicOni_6Y?u=https://www.flsenate.gov/Laws/Statutes/2024/0101.75)

Tom,

Please let me know whether we need a voter referendum or just the passage of an ordinance to move the March municipal elections to November.

If you have any information for the Board of Commissioners for the May 27th workshop meeting, please provide it. I'll add it to the packet.

Thank you.

Clara

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