

Legislation Chair Report  
MPSH PTSA Board Meeting  
October 1, 2020

I. Florida Legislature

Governor Ron DeSantis has indicated his interest in calling a one-day Special Session of the Florida Legislature in November after the General Election, but with undetermined date, to consider new legislation, the "Combating Violence, Disorder and Looting and Law Enforcement Protection Act," regarding actions taken during public protest that result in property damage or personal injury. The proposed legislation is highly controversial. (Summary attached)

II. Elections

The last day to register to vote is October 5, and the last day to request a vote by mail ballot is October 24. Vote by mail ballots will be counted as they are received, and must be postmarked by November 3, 2020. Early voting will be held from October 19-November 1, and sites include the Pinecrest, Palmetto Bay, Coral Gables, and Coral Reef Branch Libraries. Early voting sites will have drop-off boxes for completed vote by mail ballots; voters should bring a picture ID. **It is recommended that NO vote by mail ballots be submitted via the US postal service after October 13.** Voters who have received vote by mail ballots but who wish to vote in person may turn their ballots in at Early Voting sites or (on the day of the General Election) their home precinct before receiving a new in-person ballot.

Beyond the Presidential race, the ballot will include state legislative races, the Miami-Dade County Mayoral race, the School Board District 3, 5, and 9 races, local municipal races, opportunities to renew (or not) certain judges, state constitutional amendments, county charter referenda, and, depending on the locale, municipal charter amendments.

III. Census

The deadline to complete the Census form has been extended. A judge moved the deadline past September 30 to October 31, but a subsequent administrative rule has moved it back to October 5.

IV. Schools Reopening Advocacy

Nancy Lawther spoke at the September 29 Emergency Meeting of the Miami-Dade County School Board regarding Education Commissioner Corcoran's letter to the Superintendent and Board Chair indicating that if MDCPS did not reopen brick and mortar schools by October 5, date indicated in the District's approved July 29 reopening plan, it would have to show cause on a classroom-by-classroom basis, or forfeit millions of dollars in funding. She spoke on the basis of National PTA's position statement on school reopening, and stressed the importance of stakeholder input and local control.

V. Resolutions

Miami-Dade County Council of PTAs/PTSAs can adopt resolutions submitted by local units on topics within the scope of PTA. Adopted resolutions become position statements upon which PTA members can advocate at the local, state, and national levels. The process is ongoing, but MDCC PTA/PTSA is likely to consider at least two resolutions at its November Board meeting.