GREATER MIAMI AND THE BEACHES HOTEL ASSOCIATION

One Industry. One Voice.

Government Affairs Committee

Quarterly Meeting

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19, 2026

Hyatt Regency Miami · 8:30 a.m.

Featured guest speaker: Senator Alexis Calatayud, Florida Senate District 38

gmbha.com

FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER

Senator Alexis Calatayud

Florida Senate, District 38

Regulated Industries Committee

Fiscal Policy Committee

Representing Miami-Dade County since 2022

GMBHA Government Affairs Breakfast · August 19, 2026 · Hyatt Regency Miami

WHO WE SPEAK FOR

The weight behind our advocacy

28.3M

Visitors in 2025

A record year, up from 28.2 million in 2024

64,971

Hotel rooms

Across Greater Miami & the Beaches

216,000+

Jobs supported

10% of all employment in Miami-Dade County

$32.2B

Annual economic impact

Up from $31.1 billion in 2024

What the Government Affairs team does

- **Advocates** to elected officials and policymakers at the city, county, state and federal levels.
- **Informs and supports** members with timely, plain-language guidance on what is changing and when.
- **Monitors** legislation, ordinances and regulations that touch hotels, F&B and tourism.
- **Collaborates** with the GMCVB, community institutions and coalition partners.
- **Activates** the industry for grassroots campaigns when a vote or a rule is in play.

Recent wins this cycle

- TDT and tourism marketing protected — no expansion of allowable uses advanced in the 2026 session.
- Visit Florida: both chambers matched the Governor's full $80M recommendation for FY 2026-27.
- First GMBHA leadership fly-in to Tallahassee, alongside the Dade Days delegation.
- Miami Beach adjusted its spring break planning following engagement with GMBHA and the business community.

Visitation, employment and economic impact per the GMCVB 2025 Industry Review (released June 2026). Room count per GMBHA.

YOUR GMBHA TEAM

The people behind this work

CC

Curtis J. Crider

President & CEO

Greater Miami & The Beaches Hotel Association

AI

Armando Ibarra

Director of Government Affairs

Greater Miami & The Beaches Hotel Association

PO

Paula Ortiz

Business Development & Events Manager

Greater Miami & The Beaches Hotel Association

AB

Amir Blattner

Chairman of the Board

General Manager, Hyatt Regency Miami

MR

Mildred Riscigno

Chair-Elect

General Manager, JW Marriott Miami

JK

Julissa Kepner

Government Affairs Committee Chair

General Manager, Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay

Association staff and the volunteer hotel leaders who set our advocacy direction — reach any of us through the GMBHA office at (305) 531-3553.

How this committee works, and what it is for

Purpose

The Government Affairs Committee sets the association's advocacy direction. It is the forum in which members identify the regulatory and legislative issues affecting their properties, agree on the positions GMBHA will take, and decide which matters warrant the association's time and political capital.

Chair: Julissa Kepner, General Manager, Miami Marriott Biscayne Bay

Staff: Armando Ibarra, Director of Government Affairs

Who may participate	Membership is open to every GMBHA member. There is no additional cost and no minimum commitment.
How often it meets	Quarterly, in person or virtually, with written advisories issued between meetings when a matter requires immediate action.
What it produces	Association positions, letters and testimony to elected officials, member compliance guidance, and the priorities we carry to Tallahassee.
What is asked of members	Report what is affecting your property, respond to member surveys, and lend your name when a vote is close.

WHY IT MATTERS

Policy is set with our industry in the room

Ordinances, statutes and budgets that govern how our properties operate are decided in forums open to industry participation. This committee is how our members take part in them.

To join

Speak with Armando Ibarra today, or complete the membership form at:
forms.wix.com/f/7251773621289353642

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Six things every property should know today

01

TPS for Haiti has ended.

The designation terminated July 27, 2026. TPS-linked EADs are no longer valid and employers must reverify Form I-9 records — without profiling.

02

New F&B charge rules are in force.

Florida SB 606 took effect July 1. It layers on top of an existing Miami-Dade tri-language ordinance and the federal FTC fee rule.

03

Our TPS impact survey gives the advocacy teeth.

22 member properties quantified the impact: 2,561–3,276 workers exposed countywide and $40–$51M in annual industry drag.

04

The primary is decided.

Voters approved the Marine Stadium referendum. Two commission incumbents won outright; District 5 goes to a November runoff.

05

The County budget is tightening.

A $14.26B proposal holds the tax rate flat but cuts early-morning and late-night bus service — the shifts our workforce depends on.

06

November carries the bigger fiscal question.

Amendment 3 would cut the non-homestead assessment cap to 5%, but is projected to reduce local revenue by roughly $12B a year by 2031.

SECTION ONE

The End of TPS for Haiti

How it happened, where it stands, and what your property should do now — the most operationally significant workforce change our industry has faced this year.

HOW WE GOT HERE

A termination, a court fight, and a Supreme Court ruling

NOV 28, 2025	**DHS moves to terminate**	The Department of Homeland Security publishes a notice terminating Haiti's TPS designation, finding country conditions no longer met the standard.
FEB 2026	**A federal court intervenes**	The U.S. District Court for D.C. stays the termination in Miot v. Trump. Status and work authorization continue while the case proceeds.
APR 2026	**The House acts**	H.R. 1689 passes 224-204 after a rare discharge petition, seeking to designate Haiti for TPS through April 2029. Ten Republicans vote yes, including three from Miami-Dade.
JUN 25, 2026	**The Supreme Court clears the way**	In Mullin v. Doe, the Court rules for the administration, allowing the terminations for Haiti and Syria to proceed.
JUL 2026	**Short extensions, then the cliff**	USCIS issues successive brief EAD extensions while lower courts implement the ruling — through July 10, then July 24, then July 27.
JUL 27, 2026	**Termination takes effect**	Haiti's TPS designation ends. On July 29 USCIS confirms that TPS-linked EADs are no longer valid and employers must reverify.

Sources: USCIS and E-Verify employer alerts; U.S. House roll call on H.R. 1689; GMBHA member advisory, June 29, 2026.

WHERE THINGS STAND

As of August 7, 2026

! The status quo has changed

- Haiti's TPS designation terminated effective July 27, 2026.
- EADs issued under TPS (categories A12 and C19) are no longer valid.
- USCIS has directed employers to reverify affected employees on Form I-9.
- An employer cannot continue to employ someone who does not provide proof of current work authorization.

i But do not assume anything

- TPS is one basis for work authorization, not the only one.
- Many employees hold separate, still-valid authorization — pending asylum, family petitions, adjustment of status, or another category.
- Expiration dates and any auto-extensions differ person to person. Verify the document in front of you, not a category.

Is a legislative fix still possible? Yes — but nothing is in force.

- **House** passed H.R. 1689 in April by 224-204, which would designate Haiti for TPS through April 20, 2029.
- **Miami-Dade delegation** Representatives Salazar, Diaz-Balart and Gimenez were among the ten Republicans voting yes.
- **Senate** a companion measure, S. 4814, was introduced in June and awaits action. It has not passed.
- **White House** has signaled a veto threat, so enactment would likely require margins neither chamber has yet shown.

GMBHA's position

We are coordinating with our congressional delegation on a statutory extension of work authorization or another legislative solution that protects both our workforce and the local economy.

Not legal advice. Verify each employee's documentation with qualified employment and immigration counsel.

TWO WAYS TO GET THIS WRONG

Both carry federal liability: the safe path runs between them

✓ Do

Underemploying is the risk here — federal fines and liability for employing workers without valid authorization, or for I-9 records that were never updated.

- Engage employment and immigration counsel before you act — not after.
- Audit I-9 records to identify every employee whose EAD is expiring, on any basis.
- Check the actual expiration date on each document rather than applying one cutoff to everyone.
- Accept any valid, unexpired document the employee chooses to present from the Form I-9 lists.
- Apply one written, consistent process and document each step.

✕ Do not

Overcorrecting is the risk here — discrimination exposure under the Immigration and Nationality Act and EEOC rules.

- Terminate anyone preemptively based on nationality or an assumed TPS status before their document actually expires.
- Demand a specific document, or extra documents, beyond what Form I-9 requires.
- Single out employees by race, accent or national origin when distributing information.
- Offer legal advice, or pay a private immigration attorney to represent an individual employee.
- Rely on rumor, social media, or last month's guidance.

General information only. Obligations vary by property and by employee — consult qualified counsel.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Five steps, in order

1. **Audit now, with counsel**
   Have your legal team and HR review current I-9 records together and identify every expiring authorization.

2. **Standardize the process**
   One written reverification protocol, applied uniformly. Train the managers who will have these conversations.

3. **Plan for the gap**
   Model the staffing exposure by department. Revisit recruitment, cross-training and staffing-agency partnerships before service is affected.

4. **Communicate with care**
   A general, company-wide notice beats targeted conversations. Make resources available to everyone rather than to those you assume are affected.

5. **Tell us what you are seeing**
   Share your property's impact with GMBHA so we can quantify it and advocate credibly with the delegation.

Resources you may share

Provide these as information, never as an endorsement, and include a written disclaimer that the company cannot advise on individual immigration status.

Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami
305-373-1073

Church World Service South Florida
305-774-6770

Family Action Network Movement (FANM)
305-756-8050

Americans for Immigrant Justice
305-573-1106

Haitian Lawyers Association
haitianlawyersassociation.org

GMBHA MEMBER IMPACT SURVEY

Results are in: What our members told us

The evidence base. 22 member properties responded, covering 8,120 rooms and 7,961 employees — roughly a quarter of all Miami-Dade hotel employment. Ten questions covered property profile, estimated exposure, functions at risk, forced operational adjustments and monthly financial drag.

2,561–3,276

Hotel workers exposed

Published floor to central estimate, countywide

$40–$51M

Estimated annual drag

Lost revenue plus added operating cost

8.5%

Employee-weighted exposure

Share of the surveyed workforce affected

100%

Would absorb it in margin

Only 18% would cut sellable capacity

Functions expecting the most severe disruption

Housekeeping & Laundry	73%
Culinary / Kitchen Prep	73%
F&B Service / Banquets	27%
Engineering & Maintenance	23%
Front of House	9%

Adjustments forced if authorization lapses

Temp staffing agencies	91%
Mandatory overtime	59%
Cap occupancy / cut rooms	14%
Cut F&B hours	14%
Cancel group business	5%

GMBHA TPS Member Impact Survey 2026. Aggregated and anonymized; no property is identified. Modelled estimates, not measurements.

SURVEY ANALYSIS

From 22 properties to a countywide estimate

Across the 22 responding properties

680	$887.5K	$10.7M
exposed workers	drag per month	drag per year

Exposure and drag were asked as bands, converted to low, midpoint and high values, applied to each property's own headcount, then summed.

Scaled to the Miami-Dade hotel industry

FLOOR	CENTRAL	UPPER
2,561	3,276	5,199
$40.1M	$51.3M	$79.5M

The employee-weighted rate applied to BLS accommodation employment. The floor uses the published figure as-is; the central estimate adds contract and leased staff, seasonal peak, and growth since the 2024 vintage.

How to read the exposure figure

Share of a property's workforce expected to be affected by the end of Haitian TPS work authorization, calculated two ways:

5.6% averaging the 22 properties, counting each property once

8.5% averaging across all 7,961 employees, counting each worker once

We use the employee-weighted figure throughout. Three properties are 13.6% of respondents but hold 33.5% of the surveyed workforce — counting properties understates exposure by a third.

★ **The key finding**

Capacity cuts begin above ~10% exposure

No property below 5% exposure would cut sellable capacity. Every property above 10% would. The same total loss spread over months keeps properties in the absorption zone.

This is the argument for a phased wind-down rather than a cliff — the shape of the timeline changes the outcome, not just the size of the loss.

INSIGHTS AND CONCLUSIONS

What the evidence supports, and what it does not

1 The damage is concentrated, not spread.

Three properties hold 78.5% of exposed workers and 56.3% of reported drag. A membership average hides the problem entirely.

2 The harm lands in margin, where nobody sees it.

Every respondent absorbs the loss through agency labor or overtime. It will not appear in occupancy or bed-tax receipts.

3 Two back-of-house functions carry the risk.

Housekeeping and culinary are each flagged by 73% of properties — hardest to fill quickly, most frequently outsourced.

4 The exposure sits where the destination brand sits.

Luxury properties hold 88% of exposed workers; the Miami Beach and barrier-island submarket holds 85%.

5 Smaller operators are the ones without support.

Three of four requests for legal clarity came from boutique or independent properties. Every property needing nothing had counsel.

6 What members want is procedural, not political.

Legal clarity and a phased wind-down, not escalation. They want to comply and do not know what compliance requires.

What this evidence does not say

- Not that a set number of workers “will lose their jobs” — we measured estimated exposure, not outcomes.
- Not that this “costs Miami-Dade $51 million” — it is a modelled industry operating drag, not a county fiscal figure.
- Not that occupancy will fall — our own data says most properties would absorb rather than cut.

Sources: GMBHA TPS Member Impact Survey 2026; U.S. BLS accommodation employment, Miami–Miami Beach–Kendall MD; U.S. Census ACS 2019–23. Full workbook and methodology available from Armando Ibarra.

SECTION TWO

Operations Charges & Fee Transparency

Florida SB 606 took effect July 1, 2026. It does not stand alone — a county ordinance and a federal rule govern the same receipt.

WHAT CHANGED ON JULY 1

Florida SB 606, codified at Section 509.214, Florida Statutes

What is an “operations charge”? Any mandatory charge added to a food, beverage or banquet transaction that is not the price of the item itself — automatic gratuities, service fees and delivery charges. If your property adds one, all four requirements below apply.

A

Menu & platform transparency

Disclose the amount and the purpose of the charge on printed menus, digital ordering apps, and written banquet contracts.

B

Font-size parity

The disclosure must be printed in a font equal to or larger than the font used for surrounding menu item descriptions. Fine print no longer satisfies the statute.

C

Check presentation

The initial bill presented to the guest must clearly state that an operations charge is included — before payment, not after.

D

Receipt line items

Your POS must break out Gratuity, Operations Charge and Sales Tax onto three entirely distinct lines on the final receipt.

⚠ **Where properties are getting caught:** the POS receipt. Combining gratuity and service charge on a single line, or folding an operations charge into a “Taxes & Fees” subtotal, does not meet the statute — even where the menu disclosure is perfect. Banquet contract templates are the second gap.

THREE LAYERS, ONE RECEIPT

State, county and federal rules apply simultaneously

FEDERAL

FTC Rule on Unfair or Deceptive Fees

- Effective May 12, 2025; applies to short-term lodging and live-event tickets.
- The total price, inclusive of every mandatory fee you can calculate up front, must be disclosed and displayed more prominently than any other price.
- Resort, destination and amenity fees must be in the advertised number — not revealed at checkout.
- Civil penalties can reach roughly $53,000 per violation.

STATE

Florida SB 606 — Section 509.214, F.S.

- Effective July 1, 2026; applies to operations charges in food, beverage and banquet operations.
- Amount and purpose disclosed on menus, digital platforms and banquet contracts.
- Font-size parity with surrounding menu descriptions.
- Gratuity, operations charge and sales tax broken out as separate receipt lines.

COUNTY

Miami-Dade Code Sec. 8A-110.1 (Ord. 99-163)

- Long-standing and still in force — easy to drop when menus are redesigned for SB 606.
- Any business applying an automatic tip must post notice conspicuously in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole.
- A specific anti-discrimination tipping notice must appear on the menu, price listing or a prominent register sign.
- That notice must include the County Consumer Services hotline: (305) 375-3677.

Bottom line: a menu reprint that satisfies Tallahassee can still put you out of compliance with the County. Review all three layers together, once, rather than sequentially.

A COMPLIANCE WALK-THROUGH

What to hand your GM, F&B Director and counsel

Point of sale

- [ ] Gratuity, operations charge and sales tax on three separate lines
- [ ] Charge disclosed on the initial check, before payment
- [ ] Confirm the configuration with your POS vendor in writing

Menus & digital

- [ ] Amount and purpose stated on every printed food menu
- [ ] Same disclosure in apps, QR menus and third-party ordering
- [ ] Font at least as large as surrounding item descriptions
- [ ] Tri-language automatic-tip notice and County notice still posted

Contracts

- [ ] Banquet, catering and group templates updated
- [ ] Room service and delivery charges reviewed
- [ ] Existing signed contracts checked for renewal exposure

Rate & booking path

- [ ] Advertised total price includes all mandatory fees
- [ ] Total price shown more prominently than the base rate
- [ ] Brand.com, OTA and metasearch displays reviewed together

POS architecture and contract language vary by property — confirm your rollout with your own counsel and software vendors, and tell us if you hit regulatory friction.

SECTION THREE

The 2026 Election Landscape

What the August 18 primary settled, and a November ballot that could reshape how local government in Miami-Dade is funded.

The races and measures that follow are presented for information only. GMBHA does not endorse candidates and works with whoever the voters elect.

AUGUST 18 RESULTS

What the primary decided

APPROVED

Marine Stadium referendum

The restoration GMBHA endorsed moves forward

2 of 3

Commission seats settled

Districts 2 and 8 decided outright; District 5 to a runoff

Gilbert

CD-24 nominee

Oliver Gilbert III won the open-seat primary

Donalds
Jolly

Governor nominees

Byron Donalds (R) and David Jolly (D)

✓ The result that matters most to us

City of Miami voters approved Referendum 2, authorizing the 40-year management agreement with Global Spectrum to activate and manage the Historic Miami Marine Stadium and Flex Park.

GMBHA formally endorsed this restoration in writing to city and county officials. The destination gains a distinctive waterfront events venue, and our advocacy is now attached to a concrete outcome.

What follows from here

- **County Commission.** Marleine Bastien and Danielle Cohen Higgins were re-elected outright. Vicki Lopez led District 5 with 42.3% and faces Rob Piper in a November 3 runoff.
- **Congressional District 24.** Miami-Dade Commission Chairman Oliver Gilbert III won the Democratic nomination for the open seat and is the strong November favorite.
- **U.S. Senate.** Ashley Moody (R) and Angie Nixon (D) advance in the special election for the balance of Marco Rubio's term.
- **November 3.** Three constitutional amendments, the District 5 runoff, and municipal elections in more than twenty cities.

Unofficial results, August 18, 2026. Vote shares should be confirmed against certified totals from the Miami-Dade Supervisor of Elections.

COUNTY COMMISSION

All three incumbents prevailed; one race continues

DISTRICT 2

Marleine Bastien

RE-ELECTED OUTRIGHT

Cleared a majority against Ernst Jean Louis and Miguel “Skip” Quintero.

North-central Miami-Dade, including Little Haiti and North Miami. This is the district most directly affected by the TPS termination and where our survey findings land hardest.

DISTRICT 5

Vicki L. Lopez

RUNOFF · NOVEMBER 3

Led with 42.3%, short of a majority. Faces Rob Piper, who took 29.5%. Joe Sanchez finished third at 28.2%, just 211 votes behind Piper.

Downtown, Brickell, Little Havana and parts of Miami Beach. This seat covers more of our members’ room inventory than any other, and the contest now runs through the County budget hearings.

DISTRICT 8

Danielle Cohen Higgins

RE-ELECTED OUTRIGHT

Cleared a majority against John Edward DuBois and Martha “Vega” Hero.

South Miami-Dade, including Palmetto Bay, Cutler Bay, Homestead and the Redland — the gateway communities serving the Keys corridor.

What this means for the fall: Districts 2 and 8 are settled, and both commissioners return with relationships intact ahead of the September 3 and September 17 budget hearings. District 5 remains contested through November 3, which means the commissioner representing our largest concentration of hotel rooms will be campaigning during the budget process and through the Amendment 3 vote. Note the arithmetic: the two challengers together drew 57.7%, so the runoff is a genuine contest. GMBHA does not endorse candidates; we will work with whoever is seated.

THE NOVEMBER 3 BALLOT

Every contest our members will see

STATEWIDE

Governor	Byron Donalds (R) v. David Jolly (D)
U.S. Senate (special)	Ashley Moody (R) v. Angie Nixon (D)
Chief Financial Officer	Blaise Ingoglia (R) v. Annette Taddeo (D)
Agriculture Commissioner	Wilton Simpson (R) v. Democratic nominee
Attorney General	On the ballot; no contested primary here

CONGRESSIONAL

District 24 (open)	Oliver Gilbert III (D) v. T.E. Brown (R)
District 25	Jared Moskowitz (D), incumbent v. Republican nominee
District 27	Maria Elvira Salazar (R), incumbent v. Democratic nominee
Legislature	Open seats in Senate 34 and House 108, 113; contested House 106

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Each requires 60% approval to take effect.

Amendment 3	Property taxes and the homestead exemption. The largest fiscal question on the ballot — detailed on the next slide.
Amendment 2	An exemption for agricultural tangible personal property.
Amendment 1	The cap on the state budget stabilization fund.

LOCAL

County Commission District 5	Vicki Lopez (42.3%) v. Rob Piper (29.5%)
Municipal elections	More than twenty Miami-Dade cities — next slide
City of Miami	A second special election, including the marina lease
Voter registration deadline	Monday, October 5

Nominees per unofficial August 18 results. Where a nominee is not yet named, the contest remained uncalled at press time.

CITY OF MIAMI REFERENDA

Both questions approved by voters on August 18

REFERENDUM 2 · BALLOT ITEM 172

Historic Miami Marine Stadium & Flex Park

APPROVED BY VOTERS

Voters approved a management agreement with Global Spectrum L.P., a subsidiary of Oak View Group, with local partner Breakwater Hospitality Group, to activate and manage events at the stadium at 3501 Rickenbacker Causeway. The City Commission placed the question on the ballot unanimously.

40 years	Term of the agreement
93%	City share of gross event sales, after a $33,333 monthly management fee
85%	City share of sponsorship revenue
$10M	Paid by Global Spectrum toward restoration

How the restoration will be paid for

Phase one builds a “flex park” in the stadium’s parking area to generate and stabilize event revenue. Once that revenue is established, the City would issue a revenue bond — projected at $65–$85 million — to fund the full restoration of the 1963 landmark, closed since Hurricane Andrew in 1992.

REFERENDUM 1 · CHARTER

Moving city elections to even years

APPROVED BY VOTERS

City of Miami general and runoff elections will move to even-numbered years, aligning with statewide elections, with one adjusted term as the transition.

Why this matters to us: GMBHA formally endorsed the Marine Stadium restoration in writing to key elected officials. A restored waterfront venue is a genuine demand generator — a distinctive events asset that lengthens stays, supports shoulder-season programming and strengthens the destination’s competitive position. **A separate City of Miami special election follows on November 3, including a proposed long-term lease for the adjacent marinas.**

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

Where your properties vote this fall

Already on the August 18 ballot: City of Miami (referendum special election), Miami Gardens (general election, with a November 3 runoff if needed) and Sweetwater (special election).

Scheduled for November 3, 2026

Beach & northeast corridor

Aventura · Bal Harbour Village · Key Biscayne · Miami Beach (special) · North Bay Village* · North Miami · North Miami Beach · Sunny Isles Beach · Surfside (special)

Central & west

Coral Gables (biennial + special) · Doral · Hialeah (special primary; special general December 8) · Medley · Miami (second special election) · Miami Lakes (special) · Miami Springs (special) · Virginia Gardens

North & south

Biscayne Park · Cutler Bay · El Portal · Miami Gardens (runoff) · Opa-locka · Palmetto Bay · Pinecrest · South Miami

Runoffs: November 17 (Bal Harbour, El Portal, Pinecrest) · November 24 (Biscayne Park, Miami Lakes) · December 1 (Coral Gables, Cutler Bay, Medley, North Miami, North Miami Beach, Palmetto Bay, South Miami, Sunny Isles Beach) · December 8 (Doral, Hialeah, Opa-locka). **Cancelled as of August 7.*

AMENDMENT 3: A TWO-SIDED PROPOSITION

The single largest fiscal question on the November ballot

What it is: HJR 1-F, passed in the June 1–3 special session by 75-26 in the House and 30-9 in the Senate. It would restructure the homestead exemption, lower the assessment cap on non-homestead property, and require a schedule toward eliminating non-school property taxes on homesteads. It needs 60% to pass.

+ Potential upside for property owners

- The assessment growth cap on non-homestead property — which includes hotels and commercial real estate — would fall from 10% to 5% per year.
- In a rising-value market, that materially slows the growth of a property's taxable value over time.
- Homestead exemptions would rise to up to $150,000 against non-school millage in 2027 and up to $250,000 in 2028, easing the household cost burden our workforce faces.

– Potential risk to the destination

- State economists estimate the change would reduce local government revenue by roughly $12 billion a year by 2031.
- That pressure lands on county and municipal budgets — the same budgets that fund public safety, transportation, beach renourishment and resiliency.
- When general revenue tightens, tourism-linked revenue streams attract attention. Protecting the Tourist Development Tax from diversion becomes a harder fight, not an easier one.

Where it stands

Passage is not assured. The Governor said in late June that he will not formally campaign for the measure, because the version the Legislature passed differs from his proposal, and a lawsuit challenging the ballot wording has been working through the courts. Property tax relief polls well; the opposition case focuses on what the revenue currently pays for. This slide presents both sides and is not a recommendation on how to vote. GMBHA will brief members again as the picture develops.

SECTION FOUR

The Miami-Dade County Budget

Mayor Levine Cava's $14.26 billion proposal for FY 2026-27 — what is in it, what is driving the debate, and the line items that reach our properties.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY BUDGET

The Mayor's FY 2026-27 proposal, in numbers

$14.26B

Total proposed budget

Operating and capital combined

$9.02B

Operating budget

Up 5.2% from $8.58B adopted last year

$5.24B

Capital budget

Part of a $46.7B multi-year capital plan

4th year

Of a flat tax rate

Lowest county millage since 1982

What changed from last year

- **Bigger, but not richer.** Property values rose 5.4%, yet homestead assessments were capped at 2.7%. Property tax now funds 37% of operations.
- **Belt-tightening.** Departments were held to 3% expenditure growth. WISE305 produced $42M in efficiencies and $79M in cost reductions, and cut 400+ vacant positions.
- **Headcount flat.** 31,942 positions, about 50 fewer than this year.
- **Spared this time.** No sweeping cuts to arts, cultural or community-based organization grants, unlike last year.

Where each operating dollar goes

34¢	Healthy and safe communities
25¢	Investment in infrastructure
19¢	An economy that works for all
15¢	Constitutional offices
7¢	Efficiency, resilience and policy

What happens next: Mayoral town halls ran through August. The Board of County Commissioners holds budget hearings on September 3 and September 17, and the budget is adopted at the second hearing. Amendments are made on the dais — which is why the September meetings, not the July rollout, are where the budget is actually decided.

Source: Miami-Dade County FY 2026-27 Proposed Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan; Office of the Mayor, July 15, 2026.

BUDGET ANALYSIS

What is actually driving the debate

1 Transit service cuts

- Twelve of the county's 74 bus routes would be eliminated — routes 16, 25, 42, 57, 70, 132, 203, 204, 272, 279, 288 and 338.
- Those routes carry roughly 4,400 weekday rides, about 2% of the system's 262,000.
- Service before 6 a.m. and after 10 p.m. would also be cut on dozens of other routes, affecting many more riders.
- No fare or gas tax increase is proposed; Special Transportation Services and MetroConnect are protected.

2 A one-time fix for a recurring gap

- The plan drains the Transportation Infrastructure Improvement District reserve — about $89M — to close the transit gap.
- That reserve was created in 2018 to build toward SMART Plan rail expansion. Last year's budget already took roughly $55M.
- A change in state law also costs the County about $25M a year in sales tax tied to commercial leases.
- Commissioner Oliver Gilbert's warning at committee: “There is a crash coming.”

3 The November cliff behind everything

The administration estimates Amendment 3 would cost the County $385.8 million in General Fund revenue in year one — more than 10% of the General Fund — rising to nearly $697 million in year two. The Mayor has said deeper cuts to parks, fire rescue, libraries and transportation would become unavoidable, and that the County will publish specifics so voters can decide with full information.

4 How the final numbers get set

- The proposal is a starting point. Commissioners amend it on the dais at the September hearings.
- Last year, proposed fare increases and grant reductions were revised before adoption after public input — the process does move numbers.
- Service changes draw the most district-level comment, which is where documented member impact is most useful.

Sources: Miami-Dade County budget documents; Miami Herald, CBS Miami and Miami Times reporting, July–August 2026.

BUDGET IMPACT

Why this budget matters to hotels

★

The line item most likely to reach your property: early-morning and late-night bus service

Hospitality is a 24-hour industry, and it is one of the most transit-dependent workforces in Miami-Dade. Housekeeping and stewarding teams start before dawn. Overnight front desk, security, engineering and F&B closing staff finish long after 10 p.m. The proposal cuts service in exactly those windows — before 6 a.m. and after 10 p.m. — on dozens of routes, on top of eliminating twelve routes outright. For properties already managing a workforce disruption from the end of TPS, this is a second, compounding pressure on attendance, punctuality and retention in the hardest roles to fill.

Tourism taxes become a bigger target

Hotel guests already fund a layered set of levies — the Tourist Development Tax, the Convention Development Tax, the Professional Sports Franchise Facilities Tax, hotel food and beverage taxes, and municipal resort taxes in Miami Beach, Bal Harbour and Surfside. If Amendment 3 removes more than 10% of the General Fund, every dedicated revenue stream that is not property tax gets examined. Protecting the TDT from diversion becomes our central fight.

Gateway capital keeps moving

Miami International Airport and PortMiami sit in the capital plan's largest non-infrastructure category, roughly $1.56B of the $5.24B capital budget. Because they are funded by user fees and bonds rather than property taxes, this investment is comparatively insulated from the November outcome — genuinely good news for arrivals capacity and cruise demand.

Resilience spending is real money

About $962M of the capital budget, 18%, is allocated to risk reduction and resilience. For coastal and waterfront properties, drainage, flood mitigation and shoreline work affect insurability and operating risk as directly as any tourism line item.

GMBHA's ask: tell us which of your properties depend on the affected routes and shift windows, and we will take specific evidence to the September 3 and September 17 hearings.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

We Put the Industry's Name Behind Projects That Grow Demand

CASE STUDY

Miami Marine Stadium restoration

- **What we did.** GMBHA sent letters to key elected officials formally endorsing the restoration of the Historic Miami Marine Stadium.
- **Why we did it.** A restored waterfront venue is a demand generator, not a civic ornament. It creates programmable event nights, supports shoulder-season occupancy, and adds a genuinely distinctive asset to a destination that competes on distinctiveness.
- **Where it stands.** The management agreement is before City of Miami voters on August 18. If approved, phase one revenue supports a bond for full restoration.

Letters & testimony
Formal positions filed with city, county and state decision-makers.

Direct engagement
Meetings with legislative leadership, the DBPR, and the Miami-Dade delegation.

Coalition work
Joint advocacy with the GMCVB and partners across the tourism economy.

Member activation
Grassroots campaigns when a vote is close and industry voices move it.

If a project, permit or ordinance affects your property, tell us early. Our leverage is greatest before a vote is scheduled.

Our advocacy runway begins this fall

The calendar: Senate organization session November 17–19 · first interim committee week November 30–December 3 · five further committee weeks January and February · the 60-day Regular Session convenes March 2, 2027.

1 New leadership in every chamber

- **Legislature.** Rep. Sam Garrison becomes Speaker and Sen. Jim Boyd becomes Senate President for the 2026–2028 term.
- **Governor.** Florida elects a new Governor on November 3. A new administration means new agency leadership at DBPR and Visit Florida.
- **Miami-Dade delegation.** Several open legislative seats will be filled by first-term members representing our districts.

2 Planning the Tallahassee fly-in

- Our first leadership fly-in, alongside Dade Days, established GMBHA as a presence in the Capitol. We will build on it.
- Timing targets a committee week or early session, when members are in Tallahassee and bills are still being shaped.
- Delegation slots are limited. Partners interested in joining should contact us now so we can build the roster and schedule meetings.

3 What we are monitoring, and where sentiment is moving

Tourist Development Tax

Protecting the TDT from diversion is our central fight. Property tax relief tightens local budgets, raising pressure on dedicated revenue streams that are not property tax.

Tourism marketing

Visit Florida drew full funding this year, but its authorization is revisited regularly. We support stable, multi-year funding rather than annual uncertainty.

Environment and resiliency

Water quality, beach renourishment, Biscayne Bay and flood mitigation. The natural environment is this region's most important tourism asset, and its condition is a competitiveness issue for the destination.

Workforce affordability

Housing supply and cost, and transit service and funding. Our members cannot staff properties in a market where team members cannot afford to live or reliably commute.

Vacation rentals

Preemption of local regulation remains active in both chambers. We monitor for parity — platforms competing with licensed lodging should meet comparable tax, safety and registration standards.

Operations and regulation

Implementation of SB 606, licensing and inspection requirements, alcohol and F&B rules, insurance costs, and workforce and immigration effects on staffing.

Tell us what is affecting your property. Member evidence is what turns a position into a persuasive argument — as our TPS survey demonstrated.

KEY DATES

The public policy calendar through the 2027 session

AUGUST – SEPTEMBER 2026

Aug 18	Primary Election, plus Miami, Miami Gardens and Sweetwater municipal ballots
Aug 19	GMBHA Government Affairs Breakfast — Hyatt Regency Miami, 8:30 a.m.
Sep 3	Miami-Dade first budget hearing
Sep 9–11	Governor's Conference on Tourism — West Palm Beach
Sep 10	City of Miami Commission; Miami Beach Commission + budget hearing
Sep 17	Miami-Dade second budget hearing — FY 2026-27 budget adopted
Sep 24	City of Miami Commission

OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2026

Oct 5	Voter registration deadline for the November 3 General Election
Oct 1	County fiscal year begins
Oct 8 & 22	City of Miami Commission
Nov 3	General Election — 3 amendments, County runoffs, 20+ municipal races
Nov 17–19	Senate organization session and member training
Nov 19	City of Miami Commission
Nov 23	GMBHA 13th Annual Hospitality Leadership Awards
Nov 30–Dec 3	First interim committee week of the 2027 cycle
Dec 1 & 8	Municipal runoff elections
Dec 10	City of Miami Commission

JANUARY – MARCH 2027

Jan 4–7	Interim committee week
Jan 11–14	Interim committee week
Feb 1–4	Interim committee week
Feb 8–11	Interim committee week
Feb 15–18	Final interim committee week
Mar 2	2027 Regular Legislative Session convenes — 60 days
Spring	GMBHA Tallahassee fly-in with Dade Days

Miami-Dade Commission and municipal meeting calendars are subject to change — confirm before scheduling. Contact GMBHA if you plan to speak at any hearing and we will help you prepare.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Upcoming GMBHA events

AUG 25

MDGLCC & GMBHA Hospitality Council Meeting & Social

4:30 – 7:00 p.m. · Delano Hotel, Mimi Kakushi Restaurant, Miami Beach

Joint council meeting with the Miami-Dade Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, followed by a networking social. Complimentary for GMBHA and MDGLCC members using code GMBHA; $25 for non-members.

AUG 27

Executive Board Meeting + Hospitality Unwind

Board 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. · Networker 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. · JW Marriott Marquis Miami

The Executive Board Meeting is reserved for Executive Board members. The wellness-themed Hospitality Networker that follows is open to members and guests.

SEP 24

Board of Directors Meeting + 30 for 30 Networker

Board 4:00 – 5:30 p.m. · Networker 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. · Eden Roc Miami Beach

The Board of Directors Meeting is reserved for board members. The 30 for 30 Networker that follows is open to members and guests.

NOV 23

13th Annual Hospitality Leadership Awards

5:30 – 9:30 p.m. · JW Marriott Marquis Miami

Our annual recognition of the leaders, innovators and organizations shaping Greater Miami hospitality. Watch for details and sponsorship opportunities.

GMBHA hosts more than 45 events a year. Full calendar and registration at members.gmbha.com/events · Paula Ortiz · paula@gmbha.com · (305) 531-3553

LET'S KEEP TALKING

Questions, concerns, or an issue at your property?

Reach out directly. If a policy change is affecting your operation, we want to hear about it early enough to do something about it.

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Thank you to our members and partners — your engagement is what makes this advocacy credible.

This briefing is provided for general informational purposes only and does not constitute legal, tax or human resources advice. Members should consult qualified counsel regarding their specific obligations.