



**GABLES
GOOD GOVERNMENT
COMMITTEE**



Newsletter

1st Edition, October 2012

REMEMBER TO VOTE IN THE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6TH ELECTION

In Coral Gables, your closest "Early Voting Site" is the Library located at 3443 Segovia Street.

EARLY VOTING

OCT. 27 to NOV. 3 FROM 7AM to 7PM

BOND REFERENDUM

Learn about it before you vote on Nov. 6th ...

VOTING YES IS BEST 

The Miami-Dade County School Board approved a \$1.2 billion General Obligation Bond which must now go to the voters to decide. If you vote YES, our schools in Coral Gables will receive funds for renovations and technology upgrades. This decision affects

Coral Gables Preparatory Academy, Ponce de Leon Middle School, Carver Elementary, West Lab and Coral Gables Senior High. **Voting "YES" means improved public schools in our area and increased property values.**



PHOTO: Superintendent of Schools Alberto Carvalho and Kai Bierman, a 5th grader at Sunset Elementary in the Spanish Language program, meet at a Bond Fundraiser in the Gables.

VOTER TOOLS



www.miamidade.gov/elections

- **SEE YOUR BALLOT BEFORE YOU VOTE**

Miami-Dade Elections has a really simple way to view your personalized sample ballot online. You'll need to enter your last name, date of birth and house number. Instantly, your information pops up including Early Voting sites, polling location, plus a sample ballot just like the one you'll get on Election Day. Try it. Use the website above.

- **VOTE FROM THE COMFORT OF HOME**

Request an absentee ballot online - or this way...

By Mail:

Attn: Absentee Ballot Section
P.O. Box 521250
Miami, Florida 33152

By Phone: 305-499-8444

By E-Mail: abunit@miamidade.gov

Don't forget to read important instructions about sending in your absentee ballot - like signing the envelope once it is sealed.

MORE ELECTION NEWS IN THE NEXT EDITION

The Coral Gables Municipal Election is on April 9, 2013. The Mayor and two Commission seats will be up for vote . . . so stay tuned.

PICK-UP TRUCK ORDINANCE

Affects the overall image of our residential community

VOTING NO IS THE WAY TO GO



This proposed amendment to the Coral Gables Zoning Code will be on your November 6th ballot for you to decide. The existing ordinance, that has been in effect since 1948, prohibits pickup trucks to be parked in residential areas **OVERNIGHT** if not housed in a garage.

If this proposal is approved, **the new law will allow pick-up trucks to be parked outside of a residence overnight and throughout the weekend** (which will, of course, inspire a proliferation of trucks in our neighborhoods) as long as these minor requirements are met:

- The vehicle has no commercial markings or advertising, and no commercial equipment or appendage is attached to the exterior of the vehicle
- The vehicle has no more than four wheels

After a lengthy and expensive legal challenge to the ordinance by a truck owner (who no longer lives in the Gables), the Florida Supreme Court determined that the City of Coral Gables has the right to enforce such a zoning law for aesthetic purposes. Now the small number of truck owners want to push their concept of "beauty" on the rest of us. **Voting NO maintains the pickup truck ban and keeps the City beautiful!**

An Ordinance Pertaining to Parking Pickup Trucks in Coral Gables



YES/SÍ/WI 260



NO/NO/NON 261



CITY BUDGET APPROVED

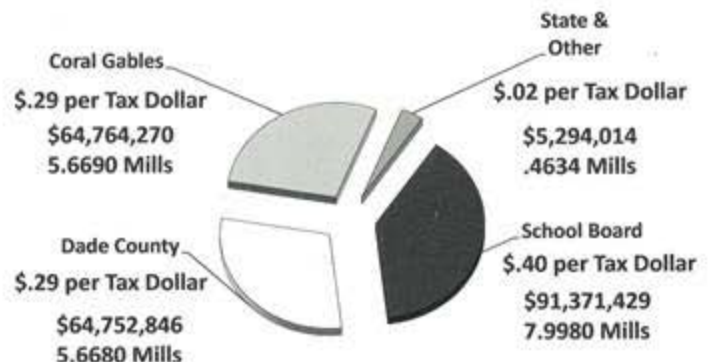
www.citybeautiful.net



The Coral Gables City Commission adopted the 2012-2013 budget of \$144.6 million effective October 1st. We have listed some important details below:

- **The City's millage rate ranks 24th lowest out of 35 municipalities in Miami-Dade County.**
- Some capital improvements approved are fire station repairs, playground equipment replacement, and roadway improvements.
- A line item was appropriated for \$25,000 each to the Coral Gables Museum and Actors' Playhouse, a small but helpful allotment.
- **The estimated average taxable value of a homesteaded property increased from \$503,989 in 2010 to \$509,044 in 2011 to \$515,662 in 2012.**

PROPERTY TAX DISTRIBUTION PER TAX DOLLAR



Property Tax Based on Certified Taxable Values on July 1, 2012 of \$12,025,562,902 at 95% collection.



HOW MANY GABLES RESIDENTS VOTED IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION?

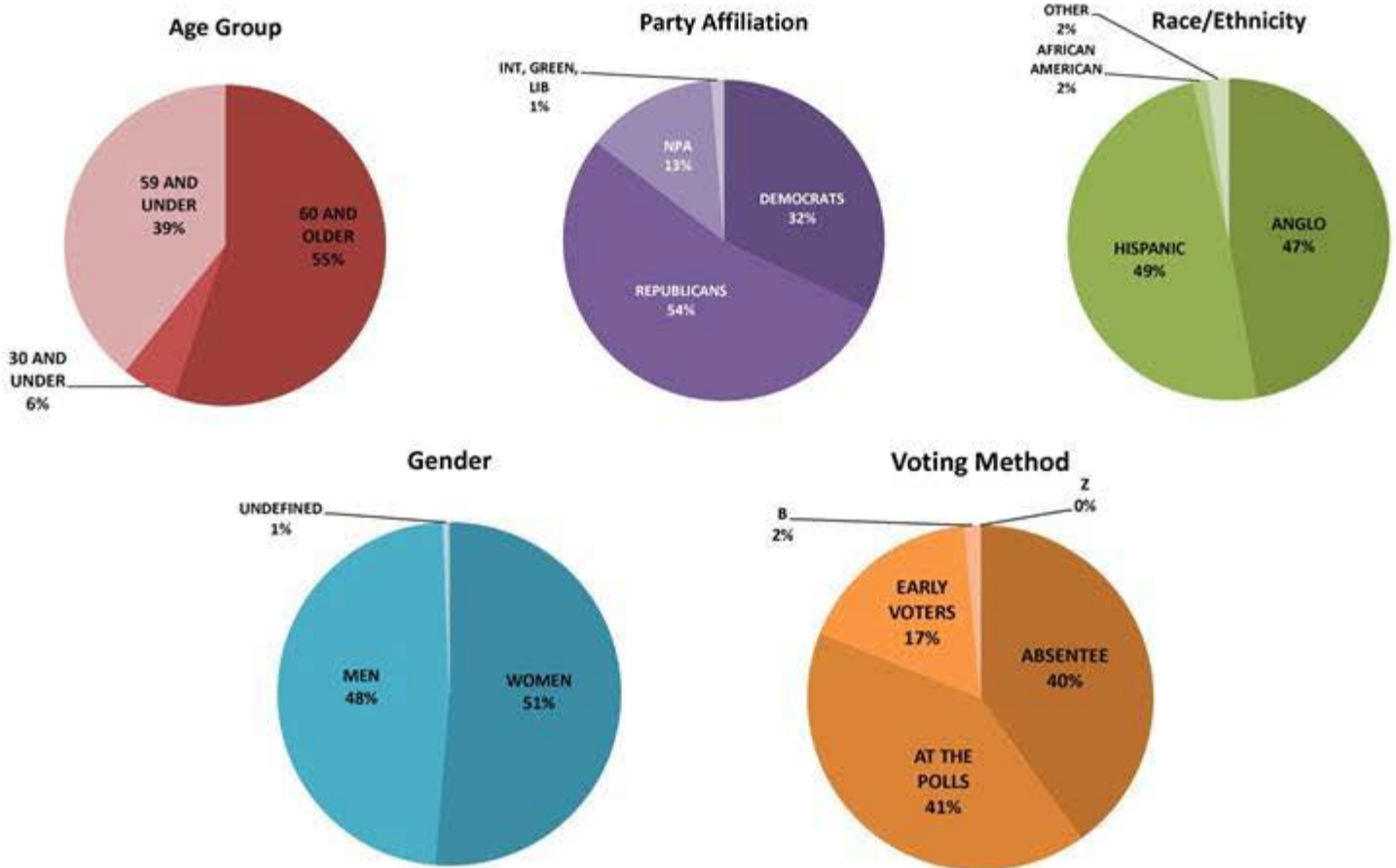
of Registered Voters in Coral Gables

29,662

that Voted at the August 14, 2012 Primary

7,400

About 25% of registered voters in our City cast their votes at the Primary. Below is more data about those who voted on August 14, 2012. The upcoming November 6th General Election is important. Hopefully, Coral Gables will have the 90% turnout it normally sees in presidential elections.



KEEP CORAL GABLES BEAUTIFUL



Rules about posting political signs

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL CODE ENFORCEMENT 305-460-5226

The Gables Good Government Committee wants to remind residents that there are strict guidelines for posting political signs in front of homes in Coral Gables. **Political signs are not permitted on public rights-of-way** and cannot be placed closer than five feet to the front of the property line. This means the sign needs to be five feet back on your own property (or from where a sidewalk would run). There is a limit of one sign per candidate or issue and signs shall not exceed 22" by 28" and need to be removed within five days after the election.





1825 Ponce de Leon Blvd. #448
 Coral Gables, FL 33134
 305-975-8158

Pd. Pol. Adv. Paid for by the Gables Good Government Committee
 1825 Ponce de Leon Blvd., #448, Coral Gables, Florida 33134.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS SAYS:

VOTE NO on all 11 Amendments on Nov. 6 ... **VOTE YES** to retain the three current Florida Supreme Court Justices.

- The GGG does not take a stand on this or any candidates but wants to supply information from reputable organizations. - The League of Women Voters of Florida is urging residents to vote **NO** on all 11 proposed constitutional amendments placed on the November 6 ballot by the State legislature. Among the proposed changes is Amendment 5 which gives the legislature a say in the selection of Supreme Court Justices appointed by the Governor. To read these amendments before you vote, view your sample ballot at www.miamidade.gov/elections.

NEW TROLLEYS IN TOWN

The first trolleys purchased by the City of Coral Gables were meant to carry a thousand people daily but they became too small for the passenger load that has increased to over 5,000 riders a day. The program has freed up over 750 parking spaces on a daily basis. This service continues to be free of charge and runs on Ponce de Leon from Flagler Street to the Metrorail on US1.



Officers

- Jeannett Slesnick**
President
- Deborah Swain**
President-Elect
- Evelyn Budde**
Vice President
- Enrique Lopez**
Vice President
- Gay Bondurant**
Secretary
- Richard Dewitt**
Treasurer
- Jorge Alvarez**
Immediate Past President



Message from the President...

The GGG hopes you enjoy this first of our quarterly newsletters. It is our goal to keep you informed about the important events and topics facing the Gables.

Jeannett

Join now! The Gables Good Government (GGG) Committee was organized by former Mayor Don Slesnick to support issues and causes that preserve and improve the quality of life in Coral Gables and promote the effective and efficient management of its government.



Yes, I would like to join...

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

E-mail _____

Please make your check in the amount of \$50 payable to Gables Good Government Committee, and mail form to 1825 Ponce de Leon Blvd., #448, Coral Gables, FL 33134.

Trim here to mail.