August 12, 2026

Via Email

Honorable Alina Garcia
Miami-Dade County Supervisor of Elections
2700 NW 87th Avenue
Miami, Florida 33172

Re: Request for Restoration of Early Voting Site on Miami Dade College North Campus

Dear Supervisor Garcia:

On behalf of Fair Elections Center, its Campus Vote Project and a coalition of voting rights and civic organizations, we write to express our concerns about the removal of Miami Dade College (MDC) North Campus's early voting site, and we urge your office to restore this site in November's election to ensure that the thousands of community members and students who use the site have the opportunity to vote. This is even more urgent given changes to Florida's vote-by-mail requirements, post office delays, and other barriers to mail voting that make early voting even more important, especially for Black voters. Importantly, Florida law now requires voters to re-enroll in vote-by-mail after each general election, adding an additional burden.

In the 2024 election, 7,100 voters utilized the early voting site at Miami Dade College North Campus. As of February 2026, our understanding is that your office indicated there would be early voting sites at both the MDC Kendall and MDC North Campuses. However, in May of 2026, the Supervisor's office published a list of early voting sites that did not include MDC North. While not the highest-turnout site offered, it still serves thousands of students and community members, including as a secure ballot intake station (drop box) location, and we write to seek its reinstatement for the November 2026 election. Cutting this site will make voting harder for students, school faculty and staff, and for the surrounding community.

A site at MDC North helps address significant barriers to voting, particularly for young voters in the community, who are some of the least likely to own a car. In 2023, for example, only 60% of 18-year-olds nationwide had a driver's license compared to nearly 90% of those over 35. For residents of North Dade without a polling place that is accessible via public transportation, lacking a driver's license or access to a car can turn voting into an extraordinarily time-consuming, burdensome task.

An on-campus polling location, however, does not just benefit students who attend campus academic programs. MDC North serves thousands of students and employs hundreds of faculty and staff. While it is certainly true that not all of these individuals are necessarily Miami-Dade voters, removing this early voting site makes voting early substantially less accessible for the thousands of students and community members who have used it. The MDC North location provides a centralized place for many county residents beyond the school's student body to vote. It is also a central, accessible location for college employees and staff, as well as for the numerous residents who live near campus. The surrounding community benefits from this site as an accessible location with significant public transit routes reaching the campus, making voting accessible for individuals who use public transit.

On-campus voting sites can also often provide crucial infrastructure to accommodate voters with disabilities, such as ample parking and modern ADA-compliant facilities. This reality can make on-campus locations particularly important to voters with disabilities, especially during early voting, when voters may choose any early voting location in their county to cast their ballot, allowing them to choose a location that suits their needs.

Importantly, we are particularly concerned about the elimination of this site because of the large number of Black and Hispanic voters it serves: 39.4 percent of the over 7,000 voters who cast their ballot at this site in November 2024 identified as Black, while 53.8 percent identified as Hispanic. In fact, among Black voters, it ranked eighth out of 33 Miami-Dade early vote sites for the number of voters served. In contrast, the site on MDC Kendall's campus, which we understand you plan to reinstate as an early voting site in November, served a voter population in 2024 that was only 3.2 percent Black.

Ensuring equitable access to early voting strengthens public confidence in our elections and demonstrates a shared commitment to fairness and civic participation. We urge you to restore the MDC North early voting locations to make casting a ballot accessible for the many Floridians connected with the college, as well as those who live and work in the surrounding community. We also ask that you, as Supervisor of Elections, engage directly with the Black community in Miami-Dade County and work collaboratively with these constituents to identify and approve trusted and accessible locations.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this further and to work collaboratively toward a solution that serves all voters in Miami-Dade County. Should you have questions or need additional

information, please contact Michelle Kanter Cohen, Policy Director in Fair Elections Center's Voting Rights Project, at mkantercohen@fairelectionscenter.org.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kanter Cohen Policy Director and Senior Counsel, Voting Rights Project Fair Elections Center	D'Bria Bradshaw Florida State Lead, Campus Vote Project Fair Elections Center	Daniella Pierre, President NAACP Miami-Dade Branch
Jan Domlesky Vice-President 16+Vote	Amy Keith Executive Director Common Cause Florida	Ricardo Negron-Almodovar Senior FL Campaign Manager All Voting is Local
Donald Hart President NAACP Florida State Conference	Katherine Leiva Executive Director Engage Florida Civic Fund	Marisol Zenteno President League of Women Voters of Miami-Dade County
Clarissa Unger Executive Director Students Learn Students Vote Coalition	Cassandra Brown Cofounder, Executive Director All About the Ballots	Kate Renchin Co-Chair Palm Beach County Voting Rights Coalition