

MEMORANDUM

AGENDA ITEM #IV.B

DATE: JULY 20, 2026

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: STAFF

SUBJECT: SFRPC MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

The SFRPC Membership Committee¹ met on June 15th. SFRPC Executive Director Isabel Cosio Carballo and Legal Counsel Sam Goren were in attendance. Mrs. Cosio Carballo opened the workshop by outlining key membership challenges facing the Council, including inconsistent participation across counties and the impact of term limits on SFRPC Council Members, particularly county commissioners serving on the Board. She provided background on the Council's structure, noting that it was initially established through an Interlocal Agreement in 1974, and 186.505, F.S. (84-257), which governs membership, voting, and related procedures.

Councilmembers discussed appointment procedures, participation levels, and potential strategies to strengthen involvement. It was noted that members are appointed by the respective County Commission Chairs, Municipal Leagues, and historically by the Governor, prompting discussion on how to encourage more consistent engagement and expand representation. Mrs. Cosio Carballo emphasized the importance of maintaining a strong and balanced presence across all three counties and inquired if there was interest in exploring a structure that includes both primary members and alternate members as a means to engage potential new members. The state's regional planning councils vary in their membership approach with some not allowing alternate members, some permitting alternate members and allowing them to vote in the absence of the primary member, and others not allowing alternate members to vote.

Additional ideas that were explored included increasing outreach to municipal partners, particularly through the League of Cities, and reinforcing the value of Council participation through periodic presentations to the respective appointing bodies, to local governments and, on topics of interest, to community organizations. Upon deliberation, the SFRPC Membership Committee was not supportive of the creation of a class of alternate members which were seen to be of lesser standing, preferring instead

¹ Chair Senator García, Councilmember Allbritton, Councilmember Caplan, Councilmember Senator Steve Geller, and Councilmember Maria Rodriguez



to encourage greater participation of current members, and to identify service-minded elected officials to fill vacancies, with possible consideration of expanding the number of members on the Board.

Legal Counsel Sam Goren clarified that the Council is statutorily composed of 19 members and advised that modifications to the Council's membership structure may require amendments to the Bylaws and, more fundamentally, the 1974 Interlocal Agreement. He noted that such updates may be necessary to ensure the continued effectiveness and viability of the organization. Councilmembers discussed strengthening enforcement of attendance requirements and improving communication with inactive members to promote accountability and sustained participation.

Following discussion, there was early interest in expanding municipal representation and improving overall engagement. Councilmember Senator Geller made a motion to recommend amending the Interlocal Agreement to add one municipal representative per county to be appointed by the respective League of Cities. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Caplan. Mr. Goren clarified that, if supported, the motion would be forwarded as a recommendation to the full Council for consideration.

Before the motion was voted on, Executive Director Isabel Cosio Carballo pointed out that if this proposal were to go forward it would result in municipal members having the same number of votes as the counties despite not having responsibility for contributing to Council Dues as the counties do. The SFRPC Membership Committee then discussed potentially increasing the number of county commission members from 3 to 4 for greater county representation.

Mrs. Cosio Carballo reminded the Council Members that increasing the number of members on the Board would also increase the number of members needed to obtain quorum for future council meetings pursuant to [Chapter 120.525, F.S.](#) (Chapter 2020-122) which requires 1/3 of the voting members to be physically present at the meeting location. She recommended that the Board allow her to prepare documentation for consideration of the Council reflecting the impact that increasing municipal and county members would have on quorum requirements and delay any modifications to the Interlocal Agreement until such time that the Committee has an opportunity to consider the information and continue their conversation. The SFRPC Membership Committee agreed, did not vote on the previous motion, and delayed further action for the time being.

Recommendation:

Information only.

STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION	CURRENT STATUS	MODIFIED V-1 (Add +1 Municipal) ¹	MODIFIED V-2 (Add + 1 Municipal; + 1 County)	
Miami-Dade County Commission	FILLED		+1	
Miami-Dade County Commission	FILLED			
Miami-Dade County Commission	FILLED			
Miami-Dade League of Cities	FILLED	+ 1	+ 1	
Miami-Dade League of Cities	FILLED			
Broward County Commission	FILLED		+ 1	
Broward County Commission	FILLED			
Broward County Commission	FILLED			
Broward County League of Cities	FILLED	+ 1	+ 1	
Broward County League of Cities	FILLED			
Monroe County Commission	FILLED		+ 1	
Monroe County Commission	FILLED			
Miami-Dade League of Cities: Monroe County Municipal Appointment	FILLED	+ 1	+ 1	
Governor's Appointment ² Monroe	VACANT			
Governor's Appointment Miami-Dade	VACANT			
Governor's Appointment Broward	FILLED			
Governor's Appointment	VACANT			
Governor's Appointment	VACANT			
Governor's Appointment	VACANT			
Total Potential Voting (TPV): 19	TTL Voting: 14 TPV: 19	TPV: 17 TPV Full: 22	TPV: 20 TPV Full: 25	
Quorum: 6 physically present	(4.2) 5 @ 14 (5.7) 6 @ 19	(5.1) 5 @ 17 (6.6) 7 @ 22	6 @ 20 8 @ 25	
Ex Officios				
FDOT 4 & 6	FILLED			
FDEP	FILLED			
FloridaCommerce	VACANT			
SFWMD	FILLED			

¹ Under Modified V-1, Municipal Votes = County Votes

² Governor's Appointments: Maximum of six (6); Minimum of three (3) – one per county.

4.0 Membership, Voting, and Term of Office

- (1) Broward County and Miami-Dade County shall each be represented by three (3) county commissioners, and Monroe County shall be represented by two (2) county commissioners. All members shall be selected from the respective elective governing body by the Chair of the County Commission.
- (2) Monroe County, in addition to the membership in (1), shall be entitled to one (1) elected official member to serve on the Council. Broward and Miami-Dade counties, in addition to the membership in (1) shall be entitled to two (2) elected official members to serve on the Council. Such members shall be elected officials of general-purpose municipal government appointed by the respective League of Cities representing the county.
- (3) The Governor of the State of Florida shall appoint a maximum of six (6) voting members. Each county in the Region shall be represented by a minimum of one (1) appointment by the Governor.
- (4) The names of all Council Members shall be recorded in the Council minutes.
- (5) For the conduct of all business, each Council Member shall have one (1) equal vote.
- (6) The basic term of office for Council Members appointed by the Governor shall not exceed three (3) years. All appointed representatives shall be eligible for reappointment. This section shall not be construed to limit the authority or ability of governmental, collegial bodies to change their appointments to the Council.
- (7) The initial term and any subsequent terms of office for Council Members appointed by the Chairs of the county commissions shall be determined by the Commission Chairs as otherwise provided by law.
- (8) It is the express purpose and intent of this Statement of Organization that the composition of Council Members reflects the diversity in the community of South Florida and that appointments made by the Governor, by principal member units and member governments shall, in all instances, embrace the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual and multi-racial environment of South Florida.
- (9) No Council Member may serve more than ten (10) consecutive years.