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“Ethical Governance Day” wins the endorsement of Florida’s largest school system

The Miami-Dade Commission on Ethics and Public Trust’s declaration of October 12, 2012, as “Ethical Governance Day,” has won the endorsement of the School Board of Miami-Dade County. The goal of this premier event is to promote a greater appreciation of how responsible citizenship and increased participation promotes better government. It is timed to spotlight the important choices voters will face during the fall election that will have a significant impact on the future of our nation, state and local communities.

On Wednesday, July 18th, School Board Chair Perla Tabares Hantman sponsored the proposal to endorse Ethical Governance Day and encouraged all high school students -- many of whom will vote in their first election the following month -- to participate. With the District’s support and cooperation, the Ethics Commission will ask civic and community leaders, elected officials, academic experts, attorneys and other professionals to serve as guest speakers in American Government classrooms in every senior high school in the district on Ethical Governance Day. Their charge is to spark a dialog with students about the importance of practicing and recognizing honesty, civility, integrity and respect in citizenship and public service.

Also on October 12th, the Ethics Commission will invite all candidates running for national, state and local offices in the November 6th election (or in municipal races during the weeks that follow) to the Miami-Dade Commission Chamber, where they will each have the opportunity to explain their ideas for promoting ethical government. By televising and web streaming the forum, residents across the County will be able to learn more about the candidates seeking their votes and public trust.

“We are asking all local governments to follow the lead of the Commission on Ethics and the School Board and adopt October 12th as Ethical Governance Day, as well,” said Ethics Commission Executive Director Joseph Centorino. “We also hope that local business and civic groups will promote Ethical Governance Day in their workplaces and provide staff members the opportunity to learn and reflect on incorporating high morals and values in their work and home lives,” Centorino added.

For more information or to volunteer in the schools, call the Ethics Commission at **305-579-2594** visit www.miamidadeethics.com or e-mail ethics@miamidade.gov.

The Ethics Commission was created in 1996 as an independent agency with advisory and quasi-judicial powers. It is composed of five members, serving staggered terms of four years each. Through a program of education, outreach and enforcement, the Commission seeks to empower the community and bolster public trust.

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