

Free-for-all in North Miami Beach

Written by Mark Sell, BT Contributor
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Election pileup concludes a year of chaos



In a contest for the most confusing election in Miami-Dade County, North Miami Beach deserves the blue ribbon.

This year's November 6 free-for-all municipal election boasts 16 candidates vying for six spots on the seven-member at-large commission.

Just two of the candidates -- Commissioners Anthony "Tony" DeFilippo and Barbara Kramer -- are elected incumbents. Two other incumbents, Fortuna Smukler and Ingrid Forbes, were appointed within the past five months. Voter registration deadline is October 9, and early voting starts October 22.

This scramble caps a year of cockeyed events (see "[City in Chaos](#)," August 2018). George Vallejo, the popular mayor who ran unopposed in 2015, suddenly resigned April 10 after pleading guilty to two campaign finance misdemeanor charges over filing a false report on at least \$5000 to shell corporations. He had also acknowledged in depositions that his wife was quietly employed by the Dezer family developers and paid through a shell corporation while he was voting on Dezer-related issues.

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