



miami-dade election reform coalition

Dear MDERC Members and Friends,

As we approach our 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary, we invite you to attend our celebration and fundraising event. Since igniting by spontaneous combustion in September 2002, MDERC remains fiercely non-partisan and dedicated to improving elections for all voters in Miami-Dade County, the State of Florida, and around the country.

Our first toast will be to member Francisco Pardo, who will be starting George Washington University in a couple of weeks. He will become part of our Washington team under the direction of Bobbie Brinegar who heads our D.C. office, one of many MDERC milestones reached in 2005.

MDERC has had a very busy year indeed.

We published a groundbreaking report on poll-closing observations, ballot accounting, and electronic security from the November 2004 election. It exposed serious weaknesses in the conduct of elections in Miami-Dade, including detailed reporting on yet-to-be-resolved electronic ballot stuffing at precinct 816. MDERC members volunteered thousands of hours to create and conduct the study, analyze mountains of public records, and perform the solid detective work to understand and evaluate a voting system that has become terribly technical and complex.

The report, called *Get It Right The First Time*, immediately buzzed all around the state and the country. Members testified on its contents and hand delivered it to Miami-Dade County, the Florida Division of Elections in Tallahassee, the US Senate Rules Committee in Washington DC, and the Election Assistance Commission's hearings on their Voluntary Voting System Guidelines, in New York City.

In Tallahassee we again lobbied tirelessly as the State re-wrote much of the Florida Statutes pertaining to election law. MDERC has earned respect from both sides of the isle. This year, Legislative Chair, Sandy Wayland circulated our carefully crafted position paper widely. We were able to help write language for numerous bills and amendments. In June, we were back in Tallahassee testifying on the proposed recount rule. We made progress but there remains much work to do at the state level. We continue to monitor rule changes and develop our relationships and our positions for the 2006 legislative session.

Here in Miami-Dade, we meet regularly with the Supervisor of Elections and the County Manager, sharing our concerns regarding issues past, present, and future, including Miami-Dade's current consideration of scrapping its touchscreen DRE voting machines. Having been the largest county in the country to acquire touchscreens in 2002, Miami-Dade would now be the largest to scrap them.

We held multiple press conferences and issued press releases continuing to share our important work through the press. And we continue to work with other organizations around the country.

Please join in this celebration and support this important work. If you cannot attend, please support MDERC with your generous contribution. Details are on the attached flyer, and Thank You!

The Miami Dade Election Reform Coalition

[www.reformcoalition.org](http://www.reformcoalition.org)



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### 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Fundraiser!

Contribute to the future of the

**MIAMI DADE ELECTION REFORM COALITION**

**Friday, 26 Aug, 6:30 - 8:30 PM**

**Casa McCrea**

6200 SW 63rd Court, South Miami

Phone: 305-667-6702

Call if you need directions

**Suggested Contribution \$25**

**If you're unable to attend, please consider sending a contribution payable to:**

**Miami Dade Election Reform Coalition Inc.**

All checks should be mailed to:

MDERC

c/o Edmund Campbell

PO Box 524297

Miami, FL 33152-4297

**RSVP to [dan@mccrea.us](mailto:dan@mccrea.us)**

Donations to the Miami Dade Election Reform Coalition are NOT tax deductible.