

# City of Miami 2019 Voter Guide

## Candidate Responses



*Our Future. Our City. Our Vote. Election Day: Nov 5, 2019*

### Question 3: Climate Action and Adaptation

*Are we acting quickly enough to become a sustainable city given our vulnerability to the climate crisis and sea level rise? If not, what would you do to accelerate our response to the changing climate?*

#### District 1 Candidate Responses

##### **Horacio Aguirre**

We are not at all acting quickly enough. As chairman of the Miami River Commission I have been crying out the risks of rising sea levels and we now see that Miami Beach, Brickell Avenue and low-lying areas of the City of Miami and Miami Dade County flood with just a minimal thunder storm. We must implement solutions now or learn to swim. I have a plan to minimize the risks of flooding. As chairman of the Miami River Commission I have been crying out the risks of rising sea levels and we now see that Miami Beach, Brickell Avenue and low-lying areas of the City of Miami and Miami Dade County flood with just a minimal thunder storm. We must implement solutions now or learn to swim.

##### **Verania "Betty" Hermida**

We are not acting quickly enough and we are not placing enough emphasis on requirements for new developments to reduce their carbon footprint and on building infrastructure that can withstand the impacts of sea level rise and severe storms. Funds from the Miami Forever Bond may also be a means of supplementing some of these projects.

##### **Eleazar Meléndez**

No, we are not working quickly enough to become not just a sustainable, but a resilient city. I will work to make Miami adopt a "100% renewable energy" goal under the standards suggested by the Sierra Club. I will make sure we start tackling the climate change crisis through the lens of community resilience: how do we make sure the changing climate, and its effects on our most vulnerable communities, is used as an opportunity to build community, create new green industries and strengthen our social bonds?

#### District 2 Candidate Responses

##### **Javier Gonzalez**

Use Miami Forever Bond fund and any other matching State / Federal funds to target specific projects that will make our City better suited for escalating climate change.

##### **Rosy Palomino**

Short term ensure rising seas do not intrude into the sewer system, build higher sea walls and keeping our storm drains clear. Long term we need to encourage development that considers rising seas such as higher starting floors, self-sufficient water and energy, and incorporate water-based transit.

##### **Ken Russell**

The Miami Forever Bond also includes \$200M in funding for resilience initiatives throughout the city. With these funds, we are installing significantly more stormwater pumps and one-way tidal valves than ever before. I am also committed to finishing the Baywalk, which when completed will be a 5-mile linear walkway along Biscayne Bay that will also serve as a protective barrier to storm surge & sea-level rise.

*This voter guide was created by Engage Miami. All candidates in District 1 and District 2 were sent questionnaires. We have included only the responses of candidates who submitted a response.*