



Mayoral Candidate: Alex Penelas

CANDIDATE RESPONSES TO THE ENGAGE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AUGUST 2020 VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE ARE BELOW.

HAVING A LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT IS RESPONSIVE TO RESIDENTS AND GIVES EVERYONE AN EQUAL VOICE IS CRUCIAL FOR DEMOCRACY. WHAT SPECIFIC POLICY CHANGES WOULD YOU PURSUE TO EXPAND CIVIC PARTICIPATION AND REDUCE THE INFLUENCE OF SPECIAL INTERESTS?

Aside from expanding the powers of Community Councils, which are critical to our UMSA residents, I will also provide funding increases for cultural exchange programs, like the MOSAIC Initiative, which give our County's diverse people the chance to interact and learn from one another. I also plan to reform our procurement process so that county contracting decisions are made more independently.

AN ANALYSIS BY APARTMENT LIST SHOWS 62.7% OF RENTERS IN MIAMI ARE COST-BURDENED, THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF THE NATION'S 100 LARGEST METRO AREAS. WHY DO YOU THINK THIS IS AND WHAT ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT STEPS YOU'LL TAKE TO ADDRESS THIS PROBLEM?

Miami-Dade County's problems with housing affordability have accelerated in recent years and thus warrant a set of programs that focus on three key areas:
Preserving the existing stock of affordable housing; expanding the number of affordable housing units; and increasing access to Miami-Dade residents by educating them about affordable housing opportunities outside of their immediate area.

CLIMATE CHANGE IS A MASSIVE CHALLENGE TO MIAMI AND IS PARTICULARLY HARMFUL TO UNDER-RESOURCED COMMUNITIES. WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO MAKE US MORE RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE? HOW WILL YOU ENSURE ALL COMMUNITIES HAVE ACCESS TO RESOURCES TO ADAPT AND THRIVE?

To begin, I will strengthen Community Councils to provide UMSA residents with increased resources to push back against climate gentrification. Additionally, I have a plan to, in my first year in office, provide every county department with carbon emission tracking technology so that we can set specific goals for every department and get our County to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.

THE COUNTY SPENDS OVER \$1 BILLION DOLLARS OF THE BUDGET ON POLICE AND CORRECTIONS. HOW DO YOU WEIGH THIS AGAINST MAKING INVESTMENTS IN COMMUNITIES TO TACKLE ISSUES SUCH AS HOMELESSNESS, EDUCATION, AND PUBLIC HEALTH?

Problems that we tackle reactively are more costly than ones we tackle proactively. By proactively investing in mental healthcare, homeless services, education, and economic development, we can divert people from our Corrections Department and lower the costs of keeping our communities safe and healthy. I will make these proactive investments as your Mayor.

GIVEN THE LACK OF RELIABLE AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO EXPAND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR CONSTITUENTS?

- 1) Reverse the South corridor BRT project and begin an expedited process to convert it to rail.
- 2) Fund the most effective and efficient mass transportation solution for the North Corridor.
- 3) Enter into P3's for the Miami Beach, Northeast, and Kendall corridors to develop commuter-friendly rail.
- 4) Finalize the design of our East-West corridor and make the project eligible for federal funding.

