

District 1 Candidate Questionnaire

CANDIDATES FROM EACH OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY'S 13 DISTRICTS WERE ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE TOPICS OF DEMOCRACY, HOUSING, CLIMATE, SAFETY, AND TRANSPORTATION.

All candidates with more than \$1,000 fundraised as of June 1st were invited to respond to the following questionnaire. Candidate responses to each question will be listed alphabetically.



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?**

SYBRINA FULTON

My campaign has been fueled by the support of hardworking people of our community not the lobbyists or special interest groups who have no vested interest in our shared future. Our residents know that wealthy special interests have far too much power over policymakers, blocking people from receiving fair representation and responsive, accountable government.

OLIVER GILBERT

In the City of Miami Gardens I created the Office of Civic Engagement as a way of incorporating civic engagement and interaction into every department and all of the City's front facing endeavors. I would look at the County's functions and see how and whether something like this could be useful.



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?

SYBRINA FULTON

First, I would streamline the long and arduous permitting process and adjust zoning procedures. But we must also make the county more economically affordable as a whole. That means also focusing on closing the growing economic equity gap as well and support measures that boost working people and strengthen our community at large.

OLIVER GILBERT

The affordability of housing, rental and ownership, speaks to the fundamental issue of supply and demand. We need different ways to increase the amount of quality housing to drive down prices. We can add density to the urban core along major transit corridors, this will have the most immediate effect. We should also look at expediting the building process in the Infill housing program.



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?

SYBRINA FULTON

I would advocate for installing more renewable energy and expanding Mass Transit, that would decrease our carbon footprint and dependency on oil and gas and reduce the number of cars congesting our roads. In District 1, I would increase the amount of protected bicycle lanes, and increase the energy efficiency of our newer buildings, adhering to green energy provisions and guidelines.

OLIVER GILBERT

I'd speak to scientist and follow their advice. We should also prioritize resiliency in the procurement process. Where possible we should give preference in the awarding of contracts to bidders that value resiliency in that proposals.



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?

SYBRINA FULTON

I am the daughter of a police officer, giving me a unique understanding of the need for accountability in our community. We must move towards community policing to build trust between public safety officers and those they protect. Mental health counseling, emergency response units, behavioral specialists are in dire need of funding and deserve resources.

OLIVER GILBERT

I don't believe it's an either/or determination, we have to find a way to meet needs that require law enforcement and social services considerations.



Given the lack of reliable and easily accessible **public transportation**, what are your plans to expand public transportation options for constituents?

SYBRINA FULTON

Throughout the County, highly congested streets and traffic are a constant source of stress for both our residents and our infrastructure. Our friends in South Dade have had to deal with inadequate public transportation for decades. In office, I will oppose any plans that continue to stall and procrastinate a robust expansion of mass transit countywide.

OLIVER GILBERT

I think we have to commit to build out of the SMART plan. We also need revised bus routes that reflect where people need to go and when they need to get there. Further, we need to have all municipal trolley systems coordinated with all mass transit options so that everything works together as a system.

