

District 13 Candidate Questionnaire

**EACH CANDIDATE FROM THIS DISTRICT
WAS ASKED TO RESPOND TO A
QUESTIONNAIRE 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?**

RENE GARCIA

In order to increase civic participation we have to go back to the basics. I will work with our school board and legislature to once again make civics education a priority. I am known for having an open door policy in my office and I will continue with that policy in the county commission.



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?

RENE GARCIA

One solution is to have more public/ private partnerships that focus on building more workforce housing communities.



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?

RENE GARCIA

Through intergovernmental and community collaboration, we can address climate change. By increasing funding and leveraging collective efforts, we can better prepare our communities and neighborhoods for the increasing occurrences of hurricanes, storm surges, sea level rise and infrastructure failure. This way we can ensure a more sustainable future for our County and its residents.



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?

RENE GARCIA

I am not one for defunding our law enforcement. Through education we can address many of the problems our communities are facing. Through the use of career colleges and not for profits we can give all of our communities economic opportunities by training and retraining our workforce to ensure everyone has the same opportunity to thrive.



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

RENE GARCIA

Ensure that 1/2 penny tax is used in the manner that was promised to the voter. That it be used every year to expand transit and for the maintenance of the system.

