

# District 3 Candidate Questionnaire

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**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.

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The following candidates did not respond:  
Eddie Lewis



# **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?**

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## **KEON HARDEMON**

I would implement the measures that I have in the city of Miami to encourage residents' participation. My residents participate heavily in our deliberations because of our constant outreach through our "This Week in Commission" agenda explanation, "The Redevelopment" talk radio show, "What's Happening in District 5" email blasts, our "District 5" newsletter, and text messages to residents

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## **TISA MCGHEE**

I would invest in community engagement and systemic interventions for community control and benefit policies to improve equity. For example, I would ensure that in the reinstatement of the County's Civilian Investigative Panel includes a community member who is able to fully participate and represent the overall community.

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## **GEPSIE METELLUS**

I will ensure that spaces are available to all residents to provide input. I will create a D3 residents' policy council, through which potential policies ideas can be lifted up; I will also proffer that all current communications tools, including social media platforms, technology solutions for meetings such as zoom/MSTeams, be utilized to increase resident participation.



# **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?**

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## **KEON HARDEMON**

Renters are cost burdened in Miami because of the high costs of buying property and the lack of housing available to be rented at affordable rates. I will implement housing initiatives in District 3 that convert renters to owners. The most important step to doing this is utilizing county resources such as land and bonding capacity to leverage home ownership opportunities.

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## **TISA MCGHEE**

One of the factors contributing to our affordability crisis is the lack of new, higher-paying jobs as well as for gainful full-time employment with benefits for our residents. I would review incentivizing models (zoning and financial) to create more mixed-use and fixed-income developments to provide more opportunities for people to live and work in the same area.

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## **GEPSIE METELLUS**

The housing cost burden is tied to the low-to moderate wage jobs prevalent in our local economy and the shortage of affordable housing units for low-to moderate income households. It's imperative to create a comprehensive housing plan that includes mixed-use/income/micro/supportive units; preserves NOAH; preserves single/multi-family home-ownership; redevelops public units/expands rental units.



**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?**

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**KEON HARDEMON**

In Miami, I passed \$200 million towards combating sea level rise and flooding. I also implemented a program where residents can receive grants to make their homes storm resistant with high impact windows and doors. I will do this in the county. All levels of government, including the federal, must acknowledge and commit to mitigating the effects of climate change.

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**TISA MCGHEE**

I would work to strengthen District 3 infrastructure, enhance natural protections, promote economic resilience, and identify innovative solutions to the challenges of climate change. I also believe we need to have more community involvement in the discussions around climate change and issues like climate gentrification which is a real issue in District 3.

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**GEPSIE METELLUS**

All communities need to be informed and engaged in the climate change conversation, especially under-resourced ones. This engagement can serve to educate residents about their own responsibilities in resiliency and can serve to maintain their continuous engagement in the important conversations about needs, issues, resources, investments, policies, strategies to protect our environment/planet.



# **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?**

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## **KEON HARDEMON**

It is imperative that we create more opportunities for investment in social ills and community concerns. In the city of Miami, I created the Anti-Poverty Initiative that allocates \$2.5 million towards fighting these types of concerns. I will fight to create a similar program in the county that is commensurate with the county's budget to tackle the issues that our districts believe are pressing.

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## **TISA MCGHEE**

As a 26 year social service advocate I am interested in the County meeting the needs of the residents of District 3 and Miami-Dade County. As policy makers we can't afford to get this wrong, I will review the budget to make sure we are addressing the issues of homelessness, education and public health adequately while ensuring we have the budget required to keep our community safe.

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## **GEPSIE METELLUS**

The current conjuncture clearly points to the need to re-imagine police and corrections; to enact policies that guarantee accountability; and design approaches that result in improved police/community relations, and a force that truly protects and serves. I'm in favor of investing in preventive services that promote access to benefits, opportunities, training, resources and social services.



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

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## KEON HARDEMON

I believe that public transportation should be available to our residents at no cost. Transportation and housing costs usually make up a large percentage of the household budget of cost burdened families. By incentivizing commuters to use public transportation and expanding our railways to capture to more ridership, I believe we can make a positive impact on traffic in Miami-Dade County.

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## TISA MCGHEE

I would work with the Transit Alliance to reform the SMART Plan and review options to expand public transportation. So many studies have already been done and we have not been able to use the data to make informed decisions, I am concerned about the traffic in district 3 specifically on the Biscayne corridor.

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## GEPSIE METELLUS

Our transportation options must be incorporated in a multi-modal system with connectivity to the major commercial, residential, entertainment, cultural and sports attractions throughout the county. Our transportation system must prioritize transit-dependent residents; must promote bikes, scooters and walkability; increase safe, reliable and attractive public and private transportation assets.

