

District 7 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.

The following candidates did not respond:
Rafael "Ralph" Suarez



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?**

CINDY LERNER

County commission committee work must provide more opportunities for resident engagement by establishing workshops with input and presentations around the county. Also must allow the public to speak at anytime the committee or the commission discusses an issue.

RAQUEL REGALADO

Quarantine has forced local government to embrace technology. We need a hybrid option so that those with limited access to technology can participate in public meetings. We also need live public comment and prerecorded public comment as well as participation by email. These options should always be available. We also have to notice public meetings on several digital platforms.



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?

CINDY LERNER

Two reasons the percentage is so high. One is that the costs of rental housing are too high, there are not sufficient workforce rentals especially centrally located. We must incentivize and subsidize more transit oriented development . Second reason is because we don't provide a living wage and don't support small businesses sufficiently to help them be successful.

RAQUEL REGALADO

Living in Miami-Dade County gets harder everyday, especially for the elderly and young adults who cannot afford to live in the neighborhoods they grew up in. At the school board I championed workforce housing & affordable housing around transit hubs, I will continue to do so as a BCC member. As a parent of two teens in autism spectrum I will also focus on housing for people with disabilities.



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?

CINDY LERNER

Conduct a county-wide vulnerability assessment including assessments of vulnerable populations. Prioritize investing in adaptations. Work collaboratively with the Miami Climate Alliance and incorporate their policies into county policy. County must demand FPL provide a significantly larger investment in energy efficiency assistance and improvements to low income communities.

RAQUEL REGALADO

We must start with compliance of ocean outfall & implementing recommendations of Biscayne Bay task force. Compliance with ocean outfall gets us state funding for septic to sewer conversion. Septic tanks and 70 year old WAST pipes are contaminating out drinking water & Biscayne bay. We need to start with compliance with already low federal water standards.



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?**

CINDY LERNER

The County should bring back the Alliance for social services to address provide a safety network. Invest in more mental health programs, vocational training programs and a public service / Peace Corps .
Improve and expand Police community policing programs.
And training for community anti gun violence programs.

RAQUEL REGALADO

Police and Fire are essential services. In Miami-Dade the Homeless Trust is funded mostly by alcohol tax and Miami-Dade County's part of education is head start and summer camps which are mainly state/fed funds and children's trust funding. At the state level corrections is woefully underfunded as is public health. The police budget is not exclusively from general funds, it includes federal funds.



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

CINDY LERNER

Restore the PTP funds to be used exclusively for transit expansion. Require the MDX provide 20% revenue to transit as it is supposed to. Solicit Public private partnerships to build transit oriented development along corridors. Bring in electric bus fleet. And enhance funding allocated to institute the Better Bus project redesign to allow full coverage and enhanced express service.

RAQUEL REGALADO

I created a transit plan in 2016 when I ran for mayor focused on federal funding and creating ridership. Because of COVID-19, the county's transit plan will need to change but transit hubs and PPP are still on the table as long as they make sense and do not improperly use PTT funds which has been the trend at the County.

