

# District 9 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:

Mark Coats

Kionne McGhee



**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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## **JOHNNY FARIAS**

I would sponsor an ordinance that would make it mandatory that every registered voter receive a vote-by-mail application. And to receive a call or email within 48 hrs, if one is provided, if their Vote-by-Mail ballot is rejected for any reason in order to give voters a chance to cure their signature.

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## **MARLON HILL**

We must ensure that our local government is more accessible for civic participation. This means utilizing the full breadth of technology options to make government meetings more accessible remotely and possibly providing text alert updates on projects or initiatives of importance to each voter.

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## **ELVIS MALDONADO**

I would like to implement a community-based participatory engagement committee tasked with including all involved entities providing transparency in the process.



# **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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## **JOHNNY FARIAS**

A lack of good paying jobs to meet a good living wage is a part of the underlying problem. We also must reform the PHCD, MDEAT and NHSSF to help renters become homeowners.

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## **MARLON HILL**

Housing affordability is crippling the bank accounts of working families as we compete with overseas market investors for our real estate inventory. We pursue the establishment of a community land trust model to provide more balance in the marketplace for workforce and affordable projects.

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## **ELVIS MALDONADO**

The census indicates 900 people move to Florida per day. Simple economics are at play "Supply & Demand". Think how many of those individuals move to Miami-Dade. Innovative solutions including inclusionary zoning, development impact fees and a revolving affordable housing loan fund would help us meet the rising demand for affordable housing.



**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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## **JOHNNY FARIAS**

It is hard but it has been done in this county before. We must change our building code, like we did after Hurricane Andrew.

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## **MARLON HILL**

In order to preserve access to our resources to adapt and thrive in a climate emergency environment, we must elevate a sense of urgency and awareness among our residents in conveying what they could do on an individual basis to address the crisis (e.g. water usage, recycling, carpooling, or home energy savings).

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## **ELVIS MALDONADO**

We are far behind right now! I would continue to follow our current "Resilient305" plans and continue to provide funding for it.



# **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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## **JOHNNY FARIAS**

There is no cost on safety. As elected officials, we must balance other quality of life issues. I will deal with these investments the same way I've always done my entire life, by setting priorities, which is why we have elections. And priorities reflect our values and our values reflect what is most important when setting priorities as an elected official.

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## **MARLON HILL**

Our County budget reflects our community values and priorities. Given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, our local economy will be negatively impacted in a retraction of budgetary resources. We will need to reassess the reallocation of resources to prioritize greater support for needs of residents in regards to mental health, restorative justice, and social service support programs.

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## **ELVIS MALDONADO**

Safety is a cornerstone to all great communities, without that foundation we cannot build a better community. I've worked with great national organizations in planing and implementing strategic policy that tackles these social issues.



# **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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## **JOHNNY FARIAS**

One of the two emergencies in this county, this is one of them. Rail, Rail and rail. Leaders lead and priorities reflect our values.

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## **MARLON HILL**

As I engage with residents, I hear constantly the demand for some relief to being able to get to and from work in an easier manner. We should advance the redesign our bus routes taking into consideration the frequency and coverage that meets the needs of specific neighborhoods and maximizing the use of the South Dade busway for all options of BRT and Rail in short term and for the future.

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## **ELVIS MALDONADO**

As the chairman of the transportation committee for the Florida League Of Cities we've dealt with this continued trend of declining funds due to aging policy. Our only methods of funding transportation expansion is through new taxes or public private partnerships.

