



Mayoral Candidate: Xavier Suarez

CANDIDATE RESPONSES TO THE ENGAGE MIAMI-DADE COUNTY AUGUST 2020 VOTER GUIDE QUESTIONNAIRE ARE BELOW.

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?

Most public input is taken in unwieldy commission meetings, rather than through meetings with the mayor or even town hall meetings. I intend to be active in social media, in meetings and with civic associations throughout the county, as envisioned by Alexis de Tocqueville and the other great political philosophers.

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?

Miami is a haven for foreign capital, much of it in real estate. We need to double our efforts at affordable housing by using 1% of our operating budget, or more than \$50M/year, making land available for free (our current inventory is 4,500 properties), self-insuring the housing and legislating catastrophic coverage from the state, and reducing utilities to zero by incorporating solar energy.

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?

All subsidized and public housing should use solar energy; all new county light vehicles, buses and trucks should be CNG or electric powered; recycling should be enforced and single-use plastics prohibited as much as possible.

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?

There's not much we can do about corrections, except not to build another jail, which will reduce the capital and operating costs of the department. As for police, I am currently looking at calls for service, most of which do not involve crimes per se in order to deploy better and use other departments for mental health and such.

GIVEN THE LACK OF RELIABLE AND EASILY ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS TO EXPAND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FOR CONSTITUENTS?

I will immediately restore funding to the CITT and issue \$1.8 of bonds to build the North corridor and the S Dade corridor. I will make all public transit free and accelerate the use of the FEC line with the existing perpetual easement from downtown to Little Haiti, Liberty City and Hialeah.

