



Engage Miami November 2021 City of Miami Voter Guide

District 3 Candidates:

Joe Carrollo, Andriana Oliva, Quinn Smith, and Miguel Soliman

Includes response from: Andriana Oliva and Quinn Smith

No response from: Joe Carrollo

Did not meet our requirements to participate: Miguel Soliman

Why are you running for office?

Oliva: I'm running to serve the community I grew up in and love, in a larger capacity for the greater good. District 3 saw me go from day care, to summers at the local library, to completing high school volunteer hours, my first apartment, and now to serving as a community and business leader. My personal and professional life have been built with service and leadership at the foundational core of everything I do. I strongly believe we need new faces, new...

Smith: I believe in public service and the power to do good, especially on a local level. Your city commissioner should also be able to solve problems of all sorts, not just city issues. I love to find solutions and dig into the details to help people out.

If elected, what are your top three priorities?

Oliva: 1. Clean, safe and resilient neighborhoods. 2. Job creation and providing access to resources for learning new workforce skills. 3. Workforce housing and housing affordability

Smith: Increasing low-income and workforce housing beyond the scale that we can imagine; tackling environmental issues at all levels, from cleaning the streets, to reducing flooding, to updating the building code and reducing carbon output; and bringing good, responsive government to all residents.



Housing

What steps will you take to increase access to affordable housing and prevent gentrification and displacement?

Oliva: Getting creative, I would like to look into rehabbing and preserving properties, explore building on public land at affordable rates in order to ensure pricing affordability, private and public partnerships, and look into increasing our inventory of mid level housing supply. I will also work alongside local organizations, agencies and the City's teams to review planning and zoning, taking into account community needs, planning for our future growth...

Smith: Implement the Miami City Affordable Housing Master Plan, require all requested changes in height to include low-income and workforce housing, and stop with the policies that accelerate gentrification by making residents' lives miserable (towing cars around Marlins Park, acquiring by eminent domain low-income housing for parks that no one has requested, etc.).

How will you support and protect renters in the city, especially those who are most at risk?

Oliva: As a renter, this is a topic that also concerns me. As I've been meeting with residents, I've been hearing and learning how many feel like they do not have a voice, whether it's within their communities or with their landlords. To support and protect renters, I would: 1. Ensure we build the adequate affordable housing supply needed. 2. Look for ways to improve tenant rights, advocacy and housing discrimination. 3. Work with County, State, local...

Smith: Renters keep paying more, but the quality of the housing drops. The City plans to hire more inspectors, and they should be tasked with ensuring that landlords take care of their properties. When it comes to protections, we need to further extend the time for termination of a month-to-month lease, which is the default for tenants who do not have a contract. We also need a Tenants Bill of Rights to ensure that tenants are treated fairly.



Transit

How will you make Miami a more walkable and bikeable city for all?

Oliva: About 4 years ago I gave up my car as an experiment to see how long I could go in Miami without one, and to see what the challenges of getting around were. Fast forward, today I consider myself a professional pedestrian, exploring neighborhoods, enjoying walks to local businesses, and taking public transit and ride-sharing to get around not just the City of Miami, but all of Miami-Dade County. There are several measures I'd like to take in effort...

Smith: As a cyclist and runner, I do not feel safe in Miami. We need more wide, dedicated bike lanes that connect to each other; lower car speeds; and integration between the county and city transportation infrastructure so that public transportation gets us closer to where we need to go. We need more trees, but we also need to internalize what that means: increasing the size of the swale, potentially removing or changing parking spots, and burying power...

Climate

How will you proactively improve city parks, green spaces, and tree canopy?

Oliva: Our parks and green spaces are an integral part of our community for families and individuals alike, for our physical and mental health, and for our environment. Meeting the requests of those living around parks is key to making improvements. As I've been meeting residents, many have shared that they would like to see more safety measures in the evenings, better lighting, parking/ no parking signage and proper enforcement, along with possibly some...

Smith: We need to increase funding and programming in parks and use the small spaces within neighborhoods to create beautiful, well-maintained parks. Residents do not trust the City to maintain parks, and this is creating unnecessary tension. We also need to implement the plan to redesign José Martí Park so that it is a model for a green space that is resilient to climate change.



What will you do to reduce carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions in the City of Miami?

Oliva: Embracing alternate forms of energy is one of the ways that I would like to see our carbon and greenhouse gas emissions reduced, by increasing solar energy usage, to finding ways to harness water and wind, improved forms of recycling and reuse of items and other natural and renewable resources, to providing better mass public transit options and increasing tree canopies and green areas. We would also develop educational community campaigns on how...

Smith: This requires changing how we see almost every decision. The City can play a large role with its vehicle purchases, opting for electric as opposed to gasoline-powered vehicles, but it has to help smaller commercial and residential buildings make the move to better consumption methods. I would push for partnerships with industry to help finance and retrofit buildings, while focusing on expanding mass transit by better integrating with the county's...

Community Safety

How will you invest in improving support for children, young adults, and families in the City of Miami through programming and city services?

Oliva: Collaboration and partnerships with the many non-profit and community organizations we have is absolutely essential to the success of our community. First, these groups are doing the work, they're meeting with the community members in need, and are developing the relationships needed to ensure success for children, young adults and families. Working alongside these groups, I would ensure our City agencies are working together to create collective...

Smith: We need to look at ways to activate spaces that are not used, such as school grounds and other public spaces. City programming is important, but it cannot fill the gap for all the kinds of programming the city needs. The city can help guarantee that parks are safe, well-maintained, and inviting for non-profits or neighborhood organizations. The city can also promote activities and provide facilities for people to safely play and enjoy being outside...



How will you reduce incarceration and criminalization of communities of color?

Oliva: Our most at-risk communities are often the ones in most need of services, resources and improved infrastructure. Preventative measures during the school-age years have proven time after time to work in making a difference in a young person's life, and we need more of it. I have had the honor of working with several inner city non-profits that provide youth with programming, and I've seen firsthand how important after-school activities, summer programs...

Smith: The city should pursue programs like CURE, which target the root cause of gun violence, instead of focusing on making arrests. I would advocate for changes in enforcement policies to move away from drug possession crimes, and I would push for social workers and mental health professionals to help de-escalate situations that often lead to unnecessary arrests.

Democracy

What will you do to make city government more transparent and inclusive?

Oliva: As a communications professional, putting out information, resources and collecting community input is a priority and integral part of transparency and inclusivity, along with making sure policy and procedures for vendors, RFPs, solicitations, and employment opportunities all have language that is inclusive and provides opportunities for all. I will work with all groups and communities in order to make sure our language is inclusive, and that communities...

Smith: I will hold weekly sessions online to explain what the government is doing and solicit feedback. I will advocate for holding public meetings at times when working people can participate, as well as providing a time certain whenever possible. I will also support participatory budgeting.



Equity

How will you promote racial equity and help repair harm?

Oliva: In working with City agencies and local organizations to learn about needs, actions that can be taken, and ways to create accountability, we can establish measures that ensure racial equity. We need to build trust, unity, and invest in our communities through education, awareness, job creation, meet basic infrastructure needs, and make sure we are doing it in a lasting way for generations to come.

Smith: This starts with the composition of my staff and includes our outreach and how we develop policy ideas and responses. We will be out in the community and listening to the people affected by policy, incorporating their demands. I will also push for the city to actively support black-owned businesses in bidding criteria and require that community benefits agreements incorporate black-owned businesses as contractors, not only as laborers.

How will you promote gender equity and support LGBTQ+ residents?

Oliva: Inclusivity is an important priority for me. I plan to work alongside community and advocacy groups to learn more about what can and should be done to promote and protect gender equity as well as our LGBTQ+ community. In doing so, we would look at policy change needs, review and follow potential recommendations for improvements and advocacy, and work towards ending discrimination.

Smith: This starts with the composition of my staff and our outreach. I will advocate for bidding requirements that reward gender equity and female-owned businesses. I will also work to ensure that the City of Miami scores 100 on the Human Rights Campaign's Municipal Equality Index and continue to fully support initiatives such as Gay 8 and other similar events in the city.



How will you help protect and support immigrants in City of Miami?

Oliva: As the daughter of immigrant parents, raised by a grandmother and single mother who fled to the USA to seek better life options, this is a topic that is very near and important to me. By providing resources and access through partners such as Florida Immigrant Coalition, The Office of New Americans of Miami-Dade, and Americans for Immigrant Justice, to name a few, working alongside with neighborhood organizations, we can develop and/or incorporate...

Smith: I will continue to advocate for the end of immigrant detainers. I will also advocate for a wage theft ordinance and programs to help supplement the Social Security payments for hourly workers or immigrants who arrived later in life. Often, these individuals receive around \$600 per month, which is nowhere near enough to live.