



Engage Miami November 2021 City of Miami Voter Guide District 5 Complete Questionnaire with Responses

District 5 Candidates:

***Francois Alexandre, Zico Fremont, Michael Hepburn, Christine King,
Reuran Shoshana Lincoln, Stephanie Thomas, and Jeffrey Watson***

Includes response from: Zico Fremont, Michael Hepburn, Christine King, and Stephanie Thomas

No response from: Francois Alexandre

Did not meet our requirements to participate: Reverend Shoshana Lincoln and Jeffrey Watson

Why are you running for office?

Fremont: I am running for city commissioner to create opportunities for the youth and locals by implementing emerging technologies in our community. I want to improve the Miami Robust transportation system to reduce traffic and carbon emission footprint. My goal is to increase the quality of life for the people and businesses in district five by teaching and executing simple financial know-how like blockchain. Our vision for Miami is a city with no wage...

Hepburn: Everything I do is rooted in hope, love and my belief in the power working people have when we stand united and take collective action. When we transcend our differences to collectively fight for the things that directly affect our quality of life, we all win. I believe that public service shouldn't be about lying to get appointed to elected-office, family dynasties or who has the most money. Public service should be about leading by listening...

King: I am running because I have a passion for public service and I truly love the City of Miami!



Thomas: I believe I am the most qualified candidate and understand the ends out of government. I have close to 20 years of municipal government experience and I understand the dynamics of government to help constituents. I am a good listener and dedicated to assisting constituents and assuring equitable services to our community. Economic development – my goal is to create jobs, develop job training and opportunities in District 5. I want to establish...

If elected, what are your top three priorities?

Fremont: Safety, Cultural Preservation, Affordable Housing

Hepburn: #1 Our Miami Promise initiative – I will make a \$1 Million Dollar commitment to our future by utilizing a portion of our Anti-Poverty funds and leveraging my investment with philanthropic partners to provide last dollar scholarships to public high school graduates from Miami Northwestern, Miami Jackson, Booker T. Washington, and Miami Edison High Schools. We will create Tuition-Free College or Vocational School for them. #2 Pushing forward a...

King: Increase affordable housing, gun violence reduction, climate change and sea level rise mitigation.

Thomas: Healthcare, Safety, and Economic Development

Housing

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

Fremont: We will make sure developers implement affordable housing units in their projects.

Hepburn: My administration will focus on creating mutually beneficial developments that work for both our communities and developers to create low-income rentals, workforce housing and Rent-to-Own mixed-use apartments units. We will also focus on: Increasing funding for our Senior Rental Assistance Program; Investing in



homeownership preservation initiatives to assist with exterior & interior repairs and also weatherization improvements...

King: I would expedite the spending of the 100 million dollars for affordable housing that was approved by the City of Miami voters in 2017. To date, the only affordable housing that has been built with these dollars is the MLK Boulevard project that has 120 units and I serve as co-developer.

Thomas: It is important to obtain the input of residents who will potentially be affected by gentrification and displacement. Having dialogues with developers and coming to a common ground to support benefit packages for the community will be important for sustainability and protecting the future of our district.

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

Fremont: I will support and protect the renters in the city by creating a transparent resolutions that help the ones at risk.

Hepburn: I will sponsor legislation and push for more allocation of funds to extend our Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP); increase funding for our Senior Rental Assistance Program, advocate for Inclusionary Zoning practices; and empower our residents with the tools and resources needed to advocate/negotiate Equitable Community Development agreements with property developers.

King: I would hire a housing advocate in my commission office to help people dealing with evictions and foreclosures.

Thomas: Through the American Rescue Plan (ARP), I will assist to protect renters who are at risk. I will encourage town hall meetings, outreach and utilizing existing resources to help promote these initiative.

Transit

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



Fremont: Police enforcement on roads, more bike trails, and sidewalks in our city streets.

Hepburn: First our Miami Dade County Commissioners need to stop treating public transportation like it's only for poor people and lower-income residents. I actually believe the Metrorail, Metro Mover, and Metrobus should be free and a part of our comprehensive plans to build-out our neighborhoods, so they can become more walkable and bike friendly. But to be honest—my focus will be on improving the City of Miami Trolley services that we offer and...

King: I will use non-motorized transportation master planning as a tool to make Miami a more walkable and bikeable city.

Thomas: I will advocate for improving our infrastructure and creating user-friendly bike paths for our community. I will work with the City of Miami public department improving the pedestrian trail system throughout our communities.

Climate

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

Fremont: We will create a budget to manage and improve city parks and green spaces.

Hepburn: We actually need to become laser-focused on revitalizing our neighborhoods overall not just the parks and green spaces by fostering a culture of code compliance through empowering our residents and by actually enforcing the laws on the books. My administration will focus in on enhancements at our parks (including providing access to Wi-Fi); repaving our streets; drastically reducing illegal dumping; removing un-authorized Graffiti; and eliminating...

King: In 2017 the Miami voters also approved 78 million dollars for parks. I would expedite the spending of these dollars to improve our parks.

Thomas: I will advocate and assure more funding is allocated through the City's annual budget to improve our City parks and green space. I will also ensure it is part of any future benefit packages when economic development is proposed.



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

Fremont: Promote carbon-friendly transportation systems, communication networks, sewage, water, and electric systems.

Hepburn: My focus will be on cutting our city Carbon Emissions 60% before 2035. We must act now to start transitioning towards a 100% renewable energy system for our electricity, transportation and heating options. Miami should be leading the charge on this — because with this transition comes the creation of thousands of new jobs, cleaner air and healthier families. I am for implementing weatherization programs to further help our residents conserve...

King: I would support the replacement of the city's current fleet of vehicles with electric vehicles to the greatest extent possible. I would also build charging stations throughout the city of Miami.

Thomas: By creating walkable communities and pedestrian-friendly trail systems, I plan to reduce the carbon footprint and emissions by the continuous support of green energy efforts. The interim goal of the City of Miami is aimed to cut Citywide green-house gas emissions by 60% from 2018 levels by 2035 which I support to help improve the quality of life.

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?

Fremont: Supporting Non profits organization for children, young adults, and families in the City of Miami. Create the City of Miami Family committee.

Hepburn: During my process of walking every single block that I am running to represent – our residents made it very clear that they would like me to address the following: Help our children holistically develop and equip them with skill sets that they can monetize to become successful in life; Rehab, Develop, and Preserve Affordable



Housing, help keep our Seniors in their Homes, and cultivate Homeownership for our young professionals; End Illegal Dumping...

King: As a former employee of Miami-Dade County Community Action Agency, (CAA), I am very sensitive to the needs of our children, young adults, and families. I will invest heavily in programming and services for them.

Thomas: Increasing services for children, young adults, and families will be a priority. Working with agencies to bring these initiatives will be important and assuring funding is allotted for these programs in the future will be equally important. Develop telehealth, retail clinics, home-based care, micro-hospitals; and full-service hospitals, moving care closer to District 5 residents. Develop public health interventions and policies that address...

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

Fremont: Create opportunity and mental counseling centers in communities of color.

Hepburn: Instead of police departments stocking up with military-grade weapons and armor, my focus will be to adequately fund our Miami Police Department to execute innovative relational policing practices; increase the number of women on our police force to at least 1/3; support our civilian investigative panel; and build community-led partnerships, so we can serve and protect our city together. I will also hold our Miami Police Department accountable...

King: I would use my training as an attorney to find ways to reduce incarceration and criminalization of communities of color.

Thomas: I will be vigilant in creating an environment of community policing that nurtures, builds relationships with community stakeholders and law enforcement. Safety in our community deserves attention; we need to continue to find ways for our families to be safe. As your Commissioner, I will prioritize this initiative.

Democracy

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



Fremont: We will create a public domain online where all city business, budget, and city information can be accessed by the public.

Hepburn: I'm all about transparency. My primary focus will be to empower our people with the knowledge, resources and tools needed for them to prepare for the opportunities that will arise. As your next City of Miami Commissioner -- I'm just getting started. I will continue to walk every block that I will represent, meet our people where they are, and so much more.

King: I will only conduct City business in the sunshine, no back room deals.

Thomas: Transparency and inclusivity are important in any form of government. Sharing information through various communication platforms and door-to-door contact will be important in an open form of government. Making sure that citizens have access to their local elected bodies through an open forum.

Equity

How will you promote racial equity and help repair harm?

Fremont: I will develop goals and outcomes that will result in improvements for all groups.

Hepburn: We will collectively have to do this together but to give an example of where we can start look at this. Our counties and cities in Florida are expected to receive \$7 Billion from the American Rescue Plan. So, now is our time to ensure that our money is used towards pushing forth WE The People priorities-such as quality education, affordable housing, access to health care and creation of good jobs that pay a living wage. We need to hold our...

King: As President and CEO of the Martin Luther King Economic Development Corporation, I have a long history of promoting racial equity.



Thomas: By working closely with constituency groups such as community-oriented policing, local chamber of commerce, faith-based organizations, and civic groups to promote racial equity and help repair harm.

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

Fremont: Promote human rights. It is important we respect each other.

Hepburn: We all have a part to play with doing this but I will personally continue to lend my voice to be an ally to advocate for our cities improving the well-being of LGBTQ people by: Promoting the economic security and financial stability of LGBTQ people by fostering inclusive labor practices and workplace policies; Fostering inclusive, safe, welcoming, and affirming schools and educational environments for LGBTQ students; Ensuring greater access...

King: As Commissioner, I will be a strong advocate for gender and LGBTQ equity.

Thomas: I will support equality and gender-neutral programs regardless of gender identification.

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

Fremont: Homeownership and credit counseling for first time homebuyers, for families in public housing or receiving Housing Choice Voucher, and newcomers to the United States of America.

Hepburn: Even though immigration policy falls under the purview of our Federal Government, I still believe in advocating for a comprehensive immigration strategy that includes pushing forth the notion that families need to remain together. I am for fostering an environment that is friendly to immigrants and I do not support mass deportation policies that threaten the fabric of who we are. I will continue to advocate for refugees fleeing violence and those...

King: As an immigrant from Guyana, I will protect and support immigrants by any means necessary.



Thomas: By advocating with legislatures, local organizations, and supporting proposed legislation is how I propose to protect and support immigrants in the City of Miami.