



Maxeme "Max" Tuchman

Miami Dade School Board District 7



The School Board of Miami-Dade County has nine members who govern the third largest public school district in the U.S with about 350,000 students. This year odd-numbered districts are up for election. In District 3, Max Tuchman is running against Mary Blanco.

Max Tuchman responded to our Voter Guide Questionnaire. Mary Blanco did not respond.

Why are you running for office, and how does your experience prepare you to be effective as a public servant in this position?

I am committed to ensuring every student in Miami has access to a quality education. My passion stems from my experiences as a public school teacher and EdTech founder. At Miami Northwestern, I saw firsthand the challenges students and teachers face. With Master's Degrees in Business and Public Policy, I am equipped to address these challenges. I aim to expand early childhood education, fund vocational and technical education, and prepare our students for the jobs of the future.

Do you believe students and families currently have equitable access to well-resourced public schools across zip codes and neighborhoods in Miami-Dade?

No, students and families do not have equitable access to well-resourced public schools across Miami. Significant disparities in resources and facilities exist. Every student deserves access to a quality education, support services, and modern facilities. We need equitable resource distribution, fair funding policies, and targeted programs for under-resourced schools. Collaboration with businesses and non-profits is crucial to bridging the gap and ensuring students reach their full potential.

Do you believe students have sufficient access to mental health services for students in schools? Why or why not?

No, students do not have sufficient access to mental health services in our schools. The demand far exceeds the available resources, and many schools lack enough counselors and mental health professionals. We need to hire more qualified professionals, provide training for staff, create a supportive environment, and reduce stigma. Partnerships with community organizations can help expand services. Prioritizing mental health will create a healthier, more productive environment for all students.




What do you believe Miami-Dade County Public Schools should prioritize when it comes to sex education in school curriculum?

MDCPS should prioritize comprehensive, inclusive, and evidence-based sex education. The curriculum should cover anatomy, reproductive health, contraception, STIs, consent, and healthy relationships, including LGBTQ+ inclusivity. All information must be medically accurate and research-based. Engaging parents and the community can reinforce learning, and schools should ensure access to health services. This approach equips students to make informed decisions and build healthy relationships.

Do you believe LGBTQ students currently feel safe and supported in Miami-Dade County Public Schools? What would be your priorities in addressing this issue?

Efforts have been made to create a safe environment for LGBTQ students in our schools, but more work is needed. Many students still face bullying and discrimination. My priorities include strengthening anti-bullying policies, clear reporting guidelines, and an inclusive curriculum. Staff training on LGBTQ issues, establishing support systems like student groups and counseling, and engaging parents is vital. Regularly assessing the school climate and ensuring accountability are essential steps.




Do you believe there is potential for Miami-Dade County Public Schools to reduce punitive disciplinary approaches? What approach would you take to improve disciplinary measures and procedures?

Yes, Miami-Dade County Public Schools can reduce punitive disciplinary approaches, which often harm minority and marginalized students. Shifting to restorative justice can create a more equitable system. I support implementing restorative practices, providing professional development for staff, and integrating social-emotional learning (SEL). Involving parents and the community and regularly reviewing disciplinary data will ensure a supportive and effective disciplinary system for all students.

If elected, would you recommend Miami-Dade Dade County Public Schools strengthen access to voter registration and education for students?

Yes, if elected, I would strengthen voter registration and education in Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Civic engagement is crucial. We can integrate voter registration drives into school events and partner with local officials. Comprehensive civic education, including the importance of voting and the electoral process, should be part of the curriculum. Mock elections and debates can also inspire students. Strengthening these areas will empower future voters and benefit our democracy.






What do you believe should Miami-Dade County Public Schools should prioritize when it comes to retaining and supporting teachers, as well as recruiting well-qualified educators?

MDCPS should prioritize retaining and supporting teachers and recruiting qualified educators by offering competitive salaries to attract and retain new talent, ongoing professional development, and a supportive work environment with adequate resources and manageable class sizes. Promoting work-life balance and recognizing teachers' contributions is crucial. Targeted recruitment efforts and involving teachers in decision-making can further enhance retention and attract diverse candidates.

What are your thoughts on the topic of book bans and removal of subject matter from curricula? What concerns would you like to have addressed?

Book bans and censorship undermine education by limiting diverse perspectives and critical thinking. They disproportionately affect marginalized communities and hinder students' engagement with challenging ideas. Educational decisions should be transparent and inclusive, involving educators, parents, and the community. Supporting teachers with resources and training is essential. Protecting education from political interference ensures students' best interests and prepares them for the world.



What would be your priorities when it comes to addressing funding and budget concerns in our public school system?

Addressing these concerns requires transparency, equitable resource distribution, and increased funding. I will involve the community in financial decisions and ensure regular audits. To close gaps, more resources must go to underserved schools. Advocating for increased state/federal funding, grants, and partnerships is crucial. Competitive salaries and professional development will attract quality educators. Upgrading facilities and prioritizing early childhood education are essential steps.