

# LAURA ANDERSON



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

The working class needs independence from capitalist state parties. My party, the Socialist Workers Party, points to the leadership that needs to be built in struggle, by the class that produces the wealth—the international working class. Workers worldwide face increasing attacks from their bosses and governments as a result of the world capitalist economic crisis. Cuts in our wages and working conditions, including safety in every industry, are the results of competition and the drive for profit. The crisis of the system is driving toward World War III as capitalist rivalry sharpens. I am convinced that the most effective way to fight for what we need, in Miami as well as everywhere else, is to absorb historic lessons of history in working-class struggles, like the civil rights movement and revolutions like the Cuban revolution, that are built on solidarity.

On this road we can forge a leadership to lead humanity out of the crisis we face today and build a world based on human solidarity.

**Why do you believe you are a strong candidate who will be able to win this election and earn the endorsement of Engage Miami?**

I am an experienced leader. I joined the Socialist Workers Party in the early 1990s after being involved in the fights to push back attacks on immigrant workers under Proposition 187 in Los Angeles, in protests against the LAPD beating of Rodney King, and in joining an International Youth brigade to Cuba to learn from the living socialist revolution there. I realized that joining the Socialist Workers Party was the most effective way to advance workers' struggles worldwide. In the South Florida region I have joined actions demanding Moscow Out of Ukraine and joined actions that protest antisemitism.

I am an experienced leader. I joined the Socialist Workers Party in the early 1990s after being involved in the fights to push back attacks on immigrant workers under Proposition 187 in Los Angeles, in protests against the LAPD beating of Rodney King, and in joining an International Youth brigade to Cuba to learn from the living socialist revolution there. I realized that joining the Socialist Workers Party was the most effective way to advance workers' struggles worldwide. In the South Florida region I have joined actions demanding Moscow Out of Ukraine and joined actions that protest antisemitism. I defend Israel's right to exist as a refuge for the Jews and for the defeat of Hamas, whose October 7, 2023 pogrom signaled their intention to carry out another Holocaust.

**Do you support requiring developers to include affordable housing in new developments or contribute to a citywide affordable housing fund?**



**On a scale of 1-5, how committed are you to this priority?**



**Do you support investing in green infrastructure and flood protection for neighborhoods most impacted by climate change?**

Miami needs to be proactive in mitigating the effects of climate change. EPA regulations are being rolled back, and environmental agencies are being defunded. We must invest in NGOs that have developed databases of research and use this information to plan accordingly. Investing in modernized infrastructure is also crucial.

In 2017, residents voted to approve the \$400 million Miami Forever bonds, \$200 million of which was allocated for climate adaptation solutions. The Miami Forever Climate Strategy/Carbon Neutral Plan laid the foundation for our environmental future, and we must continue to supplement this by conducting periodic audits to ensure compliance and implementing solutions that provide immediate results: LED lighting, permeable pavement, and more trees.



I am an experienced leader. I joined the Socialist Workers Party in the early 1990s after being involved in the fights to push back attacks on immigrant workers under Proposition 187 in Los Angeles, in protests against the LAPD beating of Rodney King, and in joining an International Youth brigade to Cuba to learn from the living socialist revolution there. I realized that joining the Socialist Workers Party was the most effective way to advance workers' struggles worldwide. In the South Florida region I have joined actions demanding Moscow Out of Ukraine and joined actions that protest antisemitism. I defend Israel's right to exist as a refuge for the Jews and for the defeat of Hamas, whose October 7, 2023 pogrom signaled their intention to carry out another Holocaust. I am a freight rail conductor in SMART TD Local 1138 in Miami and have walked picket lines with the members of the International Longshoremen's Association, with autoworkers, postal workers and food concession workers in Miami as they have fought with their unions to win better wages and working conditions. Today workers are looking for answers out side of the lesser evil Democrats and Republicans or any other Capitalist party that make promises they can't keep.

**Do you support requiring developers to include affordable housing in new developments or contribute to a citywide affordable housing fund?**



**On a scale of 1-5, how committed are you to this priority?**



**Do you support investing in green infrastructure and flood protection for neighborhoods most impacted by climate change?**

Housing should be a basic human right available to all. And it can be. But under capitalism, the land itself and housing stock are not organized to meet these basic needs. Like everything else under this dog-eat-dog exploitative setup, housing is a commodity that is bought, sold, and rented for a profit—a setup worsened by a perennial shortage and the resulting competition among workers for an affordable place to live. Workers also face "gentrification," as landlords and real estate speculators search for profits; loan sharks; redlining; and racist discrimination. Landlords squeeze us because they are driven to do so by the operation of the market system. Therefore, the housing shortage is no accident; it is a necessary institution, a byproduct built into the heart of capitalist exploitation. Gains in fights for rent moratoriums, and to house the homeless along with solidarity from outside sources, can help to buy breathing room but do not solve this inherent problem.

That is why the struggle to organize and unionize all workers, along with the fight for better wages and conditions, is fundamental to being able to afford a place to live as we build a movement to get rid of the system altogether. The fight against high rents and mortgages is one of the key issues confronting the working class. In Cuba, it took a revolution that brought the working class to power to begin to resolve this. Fidel Castro, the central leader of the Cuban Revolution, took this up in a speech he gave to the United Nations General Assembly in September 1960: "The revolutionary government began to take its first steps. The first was a 50% reduction in rents paid by families. There were families paying up to one-third of their income for rent. The people had been the victims of housing speculation." We need something like that here.

**Do you support investing in green infrastructure and flood protection for neighborhoods most impacted by climate change?**

Miami needs to be proactive in mitigating the effects of climate change. EPA regulations are being rolled back, and environmental agencies are being defunded. We must invest in NGOs that have developed databases of research and use this information to plan accordingly. Investing in modernized infrastructure is also crucial.

**On a scale of 1-5, how committed are you to this priority?**



**Please explain your position, and if in support, what steps specifically would you take to make proactive changes towards this priority, and if not, why?**

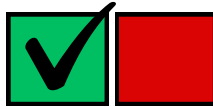
Older neighborhoods, famous for their single-family bungalows, tree-lined streets, and ample green spaces, are continuously being razed and replaced by expensive "McMansions" and condominiums. Summers in the city are less and less bearable as the trees and parks disappear. Wetlands are being destroyed that would absorb water and help prevent flooding and provide breeding grounds for wildlife. "Global warming" is blamed by liberals and middle-class radicals for every disaster—from hurricanes to forest fires. But wildfires don't just happen; they require both tinder and sparks. The real cause of social catastrophes like the massive fires in California is the refusal of both the government and power companies like Pacific Gas & Electric to take responsibility and act as stewards of the land. They fail to keep the ground clear of debris and dead plants, to remove fallen trees, and to repair and upgrade electric transmission lines and towers.



They refuse because doing so would cut into the bosses' profits. Social disasters when hurricanes hit are not because of climate change. Even on the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, death and destruction from flooding continue to impact different social classes in the US in starkly different ways.

Throughout most of the world, the poorest layers of the rural and urban populations live on or near flood plains, either to scrape out a living or because better-protected areas are reserved for the propertied classes. Truly natural disasters under capitalism, where individuals are left on their own, either to scrape out a living or perish, are minimized by careful planning and the protection of social solidarity. Revolutionary Cuba has shown for decades that loss of life can be minimized by careful planning and preparation. I point to this revolutionary example for what we need to do here.

**If elected, would you do to defend, support, and protect immigrants in the City of Miami, regardless of status?**



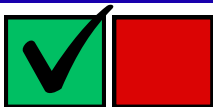
**On a scale of 1-5, how committed are you to this priority?**



**Please explain your position, and if in support, what steps specifically would you take to make proactive changes towards this priority, and if not, why?**

I support the fight for Amnesty for all immigrants. This is a union question. A question for all workers. One of the main ways the boss class keeps workers' conditions and wages down is by attacking immigrant workers. To try to prevent workers from uniting and fighting together for safety on the job and for what we need.

**If elected, would you commit to take action to ensure the LGBTQ+ community is safe and actively supported?**

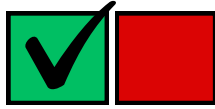


**On a scale of 1-5, how committed are you to this priority?**



We are against discrimination and any violence against gays and lesbians. As the working class advances in struggle this issue can be taken up and advanced through the power of our class.

**Do you support expanding city-funded youth jobs programs and funding local small business support in historically underserved communities?**



**On a scale of 1-5, how committed are you to this priority?**



**Please explain your position, and if in support, what steps specifically would you take to make proactive changes towards this priority, and if not, why?**

Youth programs have been devastated in the last 20 years. We need Massive programs to be developed to reverse this.

**Would you support allocating city funds toward programs that directly serve residents living below the poverty line such as rental assistance, food access, or guaranteed income pilots?**



**On a scale of 1-5, how committed are you to this priority?**

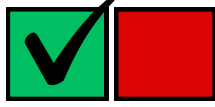


**Please explain your position, and if in support, what steps specifically would you take to make proactive changes towards this priority, and if not, why?**

Youth programs have been devastated in the last 20 years. We need Massive programs to be developed to reverse this.



**Many parks are locked on weekends or have bathrooms or facilities that are locked. Would you ensure these public spaces are accessible, well-funded, and available to neighbors on weekends?**



**On a scale of 1-5, how committed are you to this priority?**



**Please explain your position, and if in support, what steps specifically would you take to make proactive changes towards this priority, and if not, why?**

For a Public Works Program that would include creating beautiful parks that would make bathrooms comfortable and accessible.

**Do you support creating a digital budget interactive tool at the municipal level to increase transparency and make it easier for residents to understand and engage with how public dollars are spent?**



**On a scale of 1-5, how committed are you to this priority?**



**Please explain your position, and if in support, what steps specifically would you take to make proactive changes towards this priority, and if not, why?**

The program of a workers movement should be to open the books, digital or not, everything should be available to discuss and act on.

**There is currently a coalition called Stronger Miami working to change the city charter to move elections to even years, expand the number of districts from 5 to 9, and require fair redistricting criteria. Do you support this initiative?**





**On a scale of 1-5, how committed are you to this priority?**



**Please explain your position, and if in support, what steps specifically would you take to make proactive changes towards this priority, and if not, why?**

I do not support this.