

OSCAR ELIO ALEJANDRO



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

I recently separated from the U.S. Navy and moved back home to a Miami that was unrecognizable. I learned how corruption and greed from our elected officials turned this city into a playground for the wealthy at the expense of pricing out people who make this magic city what it is. My time in the military exposed me to the impact of good leadership. I witnessed the stark contrast between leaders who prioritize their own interests and those who genuinely care about their people. Those who have only experienced poor leadership tend to accept what they're given, believing there is no "good" choice, only the lesser of two evils. I'm running to establish a standard of diligence, morals, and ethics that will hopefully serve as the baseline for whoever succeeds.

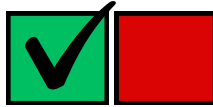
I'm also running to steer issues away from partisan beliefs that lead to arguments over who's right rather than crafting a solution. I've watched too many commission meetings that have been derailed by juvenile outbursts that turn into public spectacles.

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 take great pride in my sense of humility. I'm not an expert in everything, and that's okay. Recently, it has become an act of aggression to question someone's decisions when that couldn't be further from the truth. My platform is centered around using resources within the community to figure out solutions to problems that are haunting Miamians (e.g., housing affordability/availability, climate change, unreliable infrastructure, etc.).

My campaign focuses on promoting good governance by making civic engagement more accessible to everyone so that we can act upon the most pressing issues in our city rather than argue over politics. I'm not the first person to run with the purpose of "fighting corruption," and honestly, it's not a good enough reason to vote for someone. Being an ethical leader should be the default, not an incentive. My platform is made up of fundamental changes that could be made immediately. This includes hosting monthly town-hall meetings, establishing a transparency portal where residents can track city budgets and projects in real time, and restoring the Neighborhood Enhancement Team (NET) to do cleanups, serve as a liaison for local business owners, and establish a direct line of communication to ensure everyone has the opportunity to have their voice heard.

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.

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



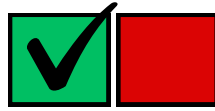
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Please explain your position, and if in support, what steps specifically would you take to make proactive changes towards this priority, and if not, why?

I would immediately make a motion to withdraw the City of Miami from the 287(g) agreement. I intend to utilize partnerships with organizations such as the FLIC to establish a hub in the D3 commissioner's office, where people can request access to assistance with forms, attend Know Your Rights (KYR) info sessions, and obtain resources without disclaiming their citizenship status.

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Similar to my approach of establishing a hub for undocumented people, I would create a space for members of the LGBTQIA+ community. Partnering with organizations such as The Trevor Project, Pridelines, and Prism would allow me to help build a coalition to distribute resources to those interested and provide safe spaces for communal engagement.

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



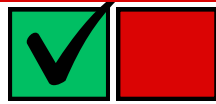
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I often hear from business owners who express how frustrating their experience has been dealing with permits, getting in touch with someone to get their street cleaned, and other issues that could be easily resolved. Community members support businesses in Little Havana, as city support is nonexistent unless they are located on Calle Ocho or near a major road. I've pledged to restore the Neighborhood Enhancement Team (NET) to enhance the quality of life in Miami neighborhoods by providing resources and information, and serving as the primary link to the city government. The NET helps residents, businesses, and property owners access city, county, state, and federal government services.

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?



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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?

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?



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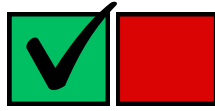
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Poverty is not just about income; it affects health, education, public safety, and our city's long-term economic stability. When residents can't meet their basic needs, the entire community feels the impact. Rental assistance and food access programs are proven tools that keep families stable and prevent homelessness. They cost far less than addressing the long-term consequences of displacement, hunger, and emergency care. Likewise, guaranteed income pilots (GIP) in other cities have shown success in helping families cover essentials, pursue job training, and build financial security. I reached out to a GIP in the area, GI 305, a grassroots campaign that aims to create a foundation of support and understanding, ensuring that the guaranteed income initiative reflects the diverse needs and aspirations of the Miami communities it serves. This program is organized by a team of fewer than 10 people with crowdfunded assistance. There's no reason why the city can't research ways to support our community in similar ways.

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I'm fully invested in cultivating community; this can't be done unless we have areas to congregate. With assistance from the NET, we could satisfy the requirements that come from keeping parks open on the weekends.

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?



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YES! This is the cornerstone of my campaign, and I don't understand why this isn't already established. Most major cities maintain a public portal that allows everyone to view the city's budget, what projects are being proposed/already underway, and request to receive status updates on select items. As someone who has spent countless hours looking for publicly available information, I've found that there are too many hurdles in place for the average person to stay informed. This discourages people from staying civically engaged and, as a result, deters young voters from participating in the democratic process.

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?



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I'm in favor of increasing the number of districts and expanding the commission board. Gerrymandering and redlining have historically marginalized neighborhoods that continue to be neglected. With proper representation, we could address the issues of the past and work to build a more equitable city. I'm also in favor of aligning city elections with state and national elections via amendment rather than unilaterally extending terms.