

# ROLANDO ESCALONA



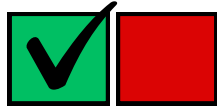
## **Why are you running for office, and how does your experience prepare you to be effective as a public servant in this position?**

I am running for City of Miami Commissioner for District 3 because Miami has given me and my family so much, and I am committed to giving back to the community that shaped me. Born in Havana and having lived in Miami for nearly 12 years now, I know firsthand the challenges our families face. Over the last three years, I've served as General Manager of a well-known Miami restaurant, where I learned the value of hard work, leadership, and accountability. I also earned a degree in International Relations & Political Science from Florida International University, equipping me with the knowledge to navigate complex policy issues. And I have accomplished all this through hard work and determination. This combination of management experience and academic training has prepared me to be an effective public servant who brings both practical solutions and a deep commitment to public service.

## **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 a strong candidate because my life story reflects the journey of so many Miami families. My immigrant roots, combined with hard work in the service industry and a commitment to building a better future here, make me the right person to run and deliver for my district. My campaign is focused on issues that matter most to our neighbors: combating crime, expanding affordable housing, improving public transportation, supporting small businesses, and ensuring every resident's voice is heard. I have knocked on over 7,000 doors and have established a base of committed voters ready to vote for major change this November because they see me as a resident-focused, community-centered candidate with strong neighborhood ties. So I am confident we are building the campaign needed to win this year!

**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?**



**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 strongly support this priority. Affordable housing is one of the most important issues in Miami, and we must ensure that growth benefits everyone, not just a few. I would work with the private sector to achieve needed reforms that ensure developers include affordable units in new projects or contribute to a dedicated affordable housing trust fund. I would also advocate for transparency and accountability in how those funds are used, ensuring they go directly toward housing that working families can afford.

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



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

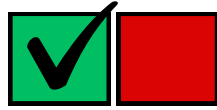


**Please explain your position, and if in support, what steps specifically would you take to make proactive changes towards this priority, and if not, why?**

Our residents are feeling the impacts of flooding and rising sea levels. As commissioner, I will request for an immediate audit of the Miami Forever Bonds to determine what projects remain outstanding and reprogram projects to include expedited stormwater management, seawalls, and green spaces that reduce flooding. I would also fight to secure state and federal funding to ensure these projects don't overly burden local taxpayers.



**If elected, would you 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?**

As an immigrant myself, I know the struggles and opportunities that come with making Miami home. I would oppose any policies that seek to criminalize or discriminate against legal immigrants. Instead, I would work to expand access to city services, strengthen language-access programs, and collaborate with community-based organizations to ensure immigrants feel safe. As commissioner, I will first seek clear guidance from the City Attorney on the pending lawsuit from South Miami and request that the City consider joining the lawsuit to better receive guidance from the Courts as questions remain if cities are required to sign these agreements. Partnering local police with federal immigration enforcement undermines trust between immigrant communities and law enforcement and further dilutes needed police resources from achieving the mission of the agency. I believe local resources should prioritize community safety over deportation.

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



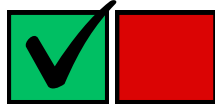
**On a scale of 1-5, how committed are you to this priority?**



**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?**

Every resident deserves to feel safe, respected, and valued. I would support non-discrimination protections, seek input from the city's advisory board, and look to trusted advocacy groups for information and briefings.

**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?**

Expanding youth job programs provides young people with opportunities, skills, and a path to success, while also helping to reduce crime. Supporting small businesses is key to economic growth and equity. I would advocate for dedicated city funding for both, ensuring programs are well-managed and accessible to the communities that need them most.

**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?**

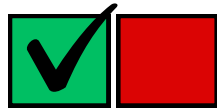


**Please explain your position, and if in support, what steps specifically would you take to make proactive changes towards this priority, and if not, why?**

I will work with trusted community organizations to identify funding needs, as well as complete a thorough review of any existing programs within the city that offer rental assistance, as we know too many are being impacted by growing economic challenges.



**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?**

Parks are vital public spaces, and they should be fully accessible to residents on weekends, the times when families need them most. I would work to allocate resources for maintenance and staffing, and ensure facilities like bathrooms and playgrounds remain open and safe. Investing in parks strengthens neighborhoods and quality of life.

**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?**

Transparency builds trust. A digital budget tool would enable residents to easily see where their tax dollars are being spent and provide input on priorities.



**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 look forward to learning from Engage Miami on the proposed reforms, as I am fully supportive of reforms that achieve more trust with our residents as corruption and chaos is what governs City Hall today. I know elections timed during even years will increase voter participation, so I am eager to learn more on the entire package so I can be better prepared to show support.