



Young People's Policy Priorities

Democracy Done Right

1. Our County must do its best to **make voting and civic engagement as participatory as possible**, especially for those for whom it is most difficult, such as working people, young people and people of color
 - a. Example Policies
 - i. Preserve early voting on college campuses
 - ii. Create a permanent system of recorded virtual public comment on agenda items
 - iii. Increase the salaries of County Commissioners so it is more accessible for regular people to run for office
2. Our County must make our **budget process more transparent and increase the direct participation of residents**
 - a. Example Policies
 - i. Create a pool of discretionary funds for which a community-input process decides the priorities and seek community input on the budget with months of anticipation
3. Our County must **ensure all residents have an equal voice** and reduce the influence of special interests such as real estate, utilities, development and construction
 - a. Example Policies
 - i. Reforming campaign finance laws to ban donations from lobbyists, County contractors and vendors with pending or recent applications or proposals
 - ii. Reforming campaign finance laws to reduce the maximum contribution from \$1000 to \$250, and not allow for the same entity to donate through multiple names or accounts
 - iii. Pursue public financing of County elections, providing \$100 in matching funds for residents

Housing Justice

1. Our County must invest substantial amounts of money and resources in the **expansion of affordable housing** to ensure local residents are able to afford living here, and have a clear benchmark of what amount of affordable housing and at what income levels public funding is available to
 - a. Example Policies
 - i. Investing at least \$60 million yearly in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund
 - ii. Use public land for the public good, including gathering community priorities whenever public land is available and prioritizing permanent affordable housing for those most cost burdened, and invest in a distressed asset acquisition fund
 - iii. Declare an affordable housing state of emergency
 - iv. Prioritize affordable housing be for those earning 60% or less of Area Median Income

2. Our County must **put people first** in tackling our housing crisis and ensure its investments and regulations benefit the **housing needs of our residents rather than speculation and profit**
 - a. Example Policies
 - i. Pass and enforce fees along with the Vacant Property Registration Ordinance for properties that have been vacant for 3 months and incentives to rent these properties at an affordable level, and urge the legislature to enact a vacancy tax
 - ii. Institute mandatory inclusionary zoning for upzonings, and use other zoning and land use code tools
 - iii. Support in expanding the capacity of land ownership models that will preserve affordability in perpetuity, such as Community Land Trust, cooperatives, long-term leaseholds and shared equity

3. Our County must **prioritize community preservation**, and that people are not displaced from their communities or that a community's character is destroyed
 - a. Example Policies
 - i. Creating a registry of public, affordable and subsidized housing, and focusing on local residents in promoting these income-restricted units
 - ii. Authentically include local communities in decision making, including requiring Community Benefit Agreements in cases of upzonings or public subsidies
 - iii. Expand termination notices to 30 days across the County

- iv. Use mediation and direct rental assistance to prevent evictions, and pursue forgiveness for those who have fallen behind due to the Covid-19 crisis

Climate Justice

1. Our County must leverage its investments and regulatory powers to help **drive our local ecosystem and economy towards a more resilient and sustainable future** to match the threat climate change places on Miami-Dade
 - a. Example Policies
 - i. Declare a climate state of emergency
 - ii. Make a plan to transition the county to 100% clean and renewable energy by 2050
 - iii. Establish a community-led revolving loan fund to invest in renewable energy and efficiency solutions, funded by a tax on our largest polluters and savings from transitioning County-owned infrastructure to 100% clean and renewable energy
 - iv. Invest in addressing our septic and sewer infrastructure needs as well as nutrient runoff into the Biscayne Bay

2. Our County must take advantage of this threat as an **opportunity to invest in marginalized communities** and create good green jobs, increase wages and reduce inequality as well as mitigate how climate change will disproportionately impact vulnerable populations
 - a. Example Policies
 - i. Invest in the Community Emergency Operation Center and resilience hubs in low-income communities that include cooling centers, solar energy and storage assets, food, medical supplies and check out supplies for vulnerable people
 - ii. Create a job placement-driven green jobs program in collaboration with private companies that prioritize young and low-income people and people of color, such as on solar certifications or climate evaluation

Safe Communities

1. Our County must **divest from police and prisons and instead invest in our communities and solutions** to address root causes of violence
 - a. Example Policies
 - i. Invest in community centers, mental health resources, trauma response centers, social workers, and libraries, primarily in communities most affected by violence and disinvestment
 - ii. Not allocate funds towards the construction of new jails or expansion of the amount of jail beds
 - iii. End cash bail and close the pre-trial detention center, and instead replace with needs assessment processes
 - iv. Continued expansion of Group Violence Intervention strategy, including into South Dade

Transportation That Works

1. Our County must **expand and improve our systems of public transportation** to increase mobility and options, alleviate our high transportation costs and make working and living here more affordable and sustainable.
 - a. Example Policies
 - i. Making our existing bus, trolley and rail systems more reliable and efficient, such as by implementing the Better Bus Project and bus lanes
 - ii. Reform the SMART Plan to make it more actionable and allocate the necessary funding to proceed
 - iii. Encourage transit-oriented development & density where appropriate with maximum levels of affordable housing for those most cost-burdened
 - iv. Create an independent Miami-Dade Transportation Authority, an independent public transit agency serving Miami-Dade County

