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**ESTEBAN "STEVE"
BOVO**
for **MAYOR**



Leadership to Take Miami-Dade Forward

STEVE BOVO'S VISION AND PLAN TO STRENGTHEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR MIAMI-DADE'S BLACK COMMUNITY

Our diversity makes Miami-Dade County unique, and makes us proud. It also requires that our entire community have equal access not only to the best quality services, but also to the same opportunities for success. As Mayor, I am prepared to answer this call to action by continuing to strengthen those opportunities for the Black community with a focused plan directed at growth and prosperity. We must ensure that all residents of Miami-Dade participate equitably in the success and economic growth of our County, and I am committed to making that possible.

★ **ECONOMIC INCLUSION**

The economic impact of the pandemic confirmed the need to establish a comprehensive plan that focuses on attracting new industries to Miami-Dade to diversify our economy and strengthen economic inclusion. This requires us to evaluate the factors and shortfalls that prevented the County from successfully attracting new companies and industries in the past, such as Amazon. It also requires a serious commitment toward developing innovative programs, with institutions like Florida Memorial University, to meet the workforce qualifications requirement of the industries we want to pursue. We must create opportunities and ensure our workforce has the tools it needs to achieve steady and sustained wage growth.

From the onset of this campaign, I have stressed the importance of making Miami-Dade County government accountable and accessible to all taxpayers. At times, the County's procurement process has an unintended consequence of limiting opportunities for minority-owned businesses. This requires that we facilitate and alleviate the County permitting process. I will explore developing an incubator exclusively for minority-owned business owners to open doors to the County procurement process. This will allow minority-owned businesses the possibility of effectively and successfully competing for County contracts. We, as County government, have an obligation to level the playing field and open doors for these critical small businesses.

★ OUR YOUTH

Education is the cornerstone to economic prosperity. As Mayor, I will work with the Miami-Dade Public School System and our State Legislators to make certain our County receives the necessary funding for our public schools. I also believe we should encourage and support programs like Step-Up Scholarships, which strengthens parental choice in education. A child's ability to obtain the best possible education should not be limited by socioeconomic or geographic factors. It's also important that minority-owned institutions and faith-based organizations be able to provide early learning programs throughout our community. Additionally, we must invest in our County's parks and sports facilities so our kids can play, learn, and develop in a healthy and safe environment.

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★ TACKLING RACIAL INEQUALITY

We have an obligation to address issues of social injustice and inequity. Every member of our community needs to know there is a space and platform to address racial inequality. As County Mayor, I will not shy away from addressing these concerns and will maintain an open dialogue. We, as a County, must welcome the opportunity to improve by understanding the challenges and concerns of the Black community in Miami-Dade. My administration will commit to an annual summit that will bring together business, faith, and civic leaders from our diverse communities to better understand one another's' perspectives and challenges. The goal of the summit will be to learn from and support each other, discover synergies, and identify solutions. Ultimately, we will create a more effective dialogue between County Hall and our residents, and within our communities themselves.

★ INCREASE HOME OWNERSHIP

One of my focuses as Mayor will be to advocate for expanding home ownership for our Black residents. Currently, the gap between black and white home ownership in the County is 29%. We must do better. The Miami-Dade Economic Advocacy Trust (MDEAT) is a critical tool my administration will utilize to expand home ownership opportunities in the Black community. MDEAT's Homeownership Assistance Program offers first-time home buyers up to \$7,250 in down payment and closing cost assistance. My administration will seek to expand opportunities like this to close the gap. With hard work, smart programs, and focused goals, we can reduce the home ownership gap in Miami-Dade County.

★ AFFORDABILITY AND HOUSING

I am committed to expanding affordable housing throughout our community. As Mayor, I will collaborate with the private sector to create programs to best equip the next generation of our County's workforce. There is a unique intersection between transit and housing, which ultimately leads to affordability. Providing incentives to develop affordable housing along our transit corridors is also key to maintaining a balanced workforce. I will encourage affordable housing developers to build by expanding incentives and rebate programs. I will also work with the State Legislature to preserve the purpose of the Sadowski (Housing) Trust Fund, which will create additional opportunities to develop affordable housing.

★ THE ROLE OF FAITH BASED INSTITUTIONS

Miami-Dade's black faith leaders play a vital role in addressing the most pressing struggles of our community. Often times, when a person is most in need, the first person they approach is their pastor or spiritual advisor. For this reason, it is critical the faith community have a voice at County Hall. I created the Interfaith Advisory Board as a County Commissioner, and I will replicate the same model in the Mayor's office. My administration will work with the faith-based community to develop my administration's core initiatives, such as affordable housing, educational and youth programs, employment opportunities, vocational training and entrepreneurial development.

★ QUALITY TRANSIT

As a County Commissioner, I dedicated a considerable time and energy planning and implementing projects aimed at alleviating the transportation woes in Miami-Dade County. I strongly believe we have made strides, but we are not where we should be. Our Metrobus system is one of the largest bus networks in the United States, with 2/3's of our transit riders using a bus, yet over time the system has become inefficient. I launched a Bus Network Redesign with the Transit Alliance that plans to streamline our bus routes to create the best and most cost-effective system for our community. Our riders not only deserve a reliable system, but they also deserve accommodations that will not expose them to unpredictable rain or piercing sun. My administration will be committed to providing proper bus stops to protect our riders from the South Florida elements. I will also continue advocating for first/last mile solutions to allow all residents, whether they own a vehicle or not, the ability to use our transit system. Under my administration, no neighborhood will be ignored or excluded. I will also fight against unnecessary toll increases while working to reduce or eliminate tolls wherever possible.

★ COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

I am committed to building bridges between residents and those who are sworn to protect and serve. The most effective way to increase public safety and reduce crime in our community is to creating partnerships between law enforcement professionals and the communities they bravely protect. Ultimately, our local law enforcement is accountable to the community they serve. By acquiring firsthand knowledge from residents, officers will be equipped with an understanding of the community in an intimate setting. It is imperative that we continue to focus our efforts on building bridges between residents and law enforcement. I will also continue working with community organizations that help and assist neighborhoods impacted by gun violence.

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FOR ALL

"Our diversity is our greatest strength, as well as a key factor for our long-term economic success. But our collective success is contingent on ensuring that every single member of Miami-Dade has the same opportunities to achieve individual success. As Mayor, I will direct County policies and resources in a manner that ensures equitable opportunity and prosperity throughout all of our neighborhoods. If we commit ourselves to this vision, I have no doubt that we will build a stronger and better Miami-Dade County for all."

Bovo

—Esteban "Steve" Bovo

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