

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Dear Residents,

As your Mayor, it is my honor and duty to ensure that our county budget reflects our values as a community, continues to propel us toward shared economic growth, and invests in a more resilient and secure future.

Since I took office in 2020, we've faced unforeseen challenges and emerged stronger. Miami-Dade's economy rebounded from the pandemic and entered a stage of unprecedented growth. We faced a national affordability crisis head on, launching lifesaving programs and creating a pipeline for tens of thousands of new housing units to ensure all residents can afford to live and thrive here. And I'm proud that in last year's budget, as families faced escalating costs of living, we passed a historic tax cut – the first in over a decade and the lowest combined rate since 1982.

As I move into the third year of my term, we must continue making smart, targeted investments that afford everyone in Miami-Dade County the freedom to prosper and thrive. My administration and I continue working tirelessly to ensure that your voices are included in this budgeting process, as they have been in each year I've had the privilege to serve as your Mayor.

As we build our budget for the fiscal year ahead, we remain focused on delivering on the high-quality services that our residents need and deserve and taking on the biggest challenges facing our community. We will continue to invest in expanding access to housing people can afford; delivering on public safety programs that keep all our neighborhoods safe; upgrading our infrastructure, expanding public transit, and mitigating the impacts of climate change; and building a future-ready economy, all while safeguarding our fiscal stability for future generations.

While other major regions saw an increase in gun violence last year, Miami-Dade doubled down on successful programs that are preventing violence, and now we have one of the lowest rates of gun violence of any major metro area in the country. In the coming year, we'll continue to prioritize public safety. You can expect the continued implementation of our groundbreaking Peace and Prosperity Plan, a long-term investment in prevention, intervention and re-entry – creating opportunities particularly for at-risk young people. We will continue to invest in protection in the communities most affected by gun violence, in innovative police capabilities, and in strong relations between law enforcement and the residents we serve.

As we build for the future, it is critical that our residents can afford to live and work here. We're tackling the housing crisis by launching innovative new programs, including adding an additional 18,000 units of affordable and workforce housing in development to our previous goal of 14,000. Last year, we invested a record \$500 million towards the expansion of affordable housing and launched the multi- pronged HOMES Plan to provide relief to renters and homeowners – from working families to those who are very low-income. In the coming year we will double down on these successes.

Building a more mobile, connected Miami-Dade is key to creating opportunities for all our residents. In the year ahead we will continue to make significant investments in implementing the corridors of the SMART Plan, delivering on our commitment to connect all corners of Miami-Dade with reliable public transportation and helping take cars off the road.

As our economy grows and diversifies, it must also be inclusive and future-ready. We are making investments that help small businesses succeed, connect our workforce to high-paying jobs in the highest-growth industries, and unleash the power of innovation. Through the partnership of the private sector, our universities and academic institutions, we are strengthening pathways to the jobs of the future. And with the recent launch of the Miami-Dade Innovation Authority – which will fund startups to pilot technology that tackles our community’s biggest challenges – we are creating new ways to spark and scale innovation in our community.

Of utmost importance to our economy is our environment – our natural resources, water supply, and beloved Biscayne Bay. We will continue to safeguard our environment now and in the future by upgrading to green infrastructure like septic to sewer conversion, increasing energy efficiency in private and public buildings, and reversing decades of pollution in our Bay.

Building trust in our government means bringing residents directly into the decision-making process and uplifting the voices of those we serve. Each year as Mayor, I’ve hosted a series of budget town hall meetings across our community to gather your input and feedback. This will again be critical as we craft a FY 2023-24 budget that reflects your priorities, strengthens our economy, and leaves no family behind.

I look forward to continuing this work alongside our County Commissioners, hardworking county employees, local, state, and federal leaders, and our residents. Together, we will deliver on a safer, more resilient, and prosperous future for Miami-Dade County.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniella Levine Cava". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mayor Daniella Levine Cava