



Cindy Lerner
Mayor
council@pinecrest-fl.gov

VILLAGE OF PINECREST
Office of the Mayor

March 4, 2016

Dear Host/Moderator of the Democratic Debate on March 9th:

We, the 21 undersigned mayors from throughout Florida, are concerned about sea level rise and climate change and the severe impacts it is having on our communities. We are equally concerned that so little attention has been paid to these issues in the presidential debates. It would be unconscionable for these issues of grave concern for the people of Florida to not be addressed in the upcoming debate you will be hosting in the state. Thus, we are writing to ask that you ask the attached questions to the candidates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Lerner".

Cindy Lerner, Mayor, Village of Pinecrest
On behalf of 21 Florida Mayors

Peggy Bell, Mayor, Town of Cutler Bay
Bob Buckhorn, Mayor, City of Tampa
Alice Burch, Mayor, Miami Shores Village
Jim Cason, Mayor, City of Coral Gables
Joy Cooper, Mayor, City of Hallandale Beach
David Coviello, Mayor, Biscayne Park
Daniel Dietch, Mayor, Town of Surfside
Eugene Flinn, Mayor, Village of Palmetto Bay
Andrew Gillum, Mayor, City of Tallahassee
Rick Kriseman, Mayor, City of St. Petersburg
Connie Leon-Kreps, Mayor, North Bay Village
Cindy Lerner, Mayor, Village of Pinecrest
Philip Levine, Mayor, City of Miami Beach
Mayra Pena Lindsay, Mayor, Village of Key Biscayne
Jeri Muoio, Mayor, City of West Palm Beach
Martin Packer, Mayor, Bal Harbour Village
Tomas Regalado, Mayor, City of Miami
Gary Resnick, Mayor, City of Wilton Manors
John P. "Jack" Seiler, Mayor, City of Fort Lauderdale
Glenn Singer, Mayor, Town of Golden Beach
Philip Stoddard, Mayor, City of South Miami

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Democratic Florida Debate Questions from 21 Florida Mayors

1. Investments in infrastructure:

Miami is home to the largest amount of assets vulnerable to sea level rise in the world.¹ In addition to Miami already dealing with “sunny day flooding” just from high tides, coastal flooding has increased between 300 and 900 percent on all three of the nation’s coasts over the past 50 years.² With more than 123 million Americans and nearly half the U.S. Gross Domestic Product located in coastal counties across the country, we can no longer afford to wait for American innovation to solve the problem of climate change that we needed solutions for yesterday.³ As President, what investments will you make to protect our coastal assets and economy from the growing impacts of sea level rise and climate change?

2. American innovation:

Miami is “ground-zero” for sea level rise and many coastal communities here are already grappling with “sunny day flooding” from high tides alone. Miami has the largest amount of assets vulnerable to sea level rise in world and Florida is the most vulnerable state to sea level rise in the country.⁴ Miami-Dade has taken action by including adapting to climate change into its annual budget by appointing a Chief Resilience Officer and establishing a climate action plan.^{5,6} But as the 21 Florida mayors stated in a recent letter to some of the candidates, adaptation is only a “temporary stopgap unless global warming emissions are substantially reduced.”⁷ What are specific policies you would put in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help protect the future livelihoods of Americans like those in Miami from facing the worst of impacts from climate change?

3. Reducing emissions impact on sea level rise or warming:

Some of the Republican candidates (Rubio directly said this) recently stated that no matter what the United States does to reduce its emissions we will not stop climate change and future warming. However, the U.S, China, and India – the three largest emitters in the world – recently joined more than 180 other countries in pledges to significantly reduce future emissions.⁸ These commitments have the potential to reduce future warming by nearly half the warming that would take place if we were to stay on the business-as-usual path.⁹ As the next President of the United States, what policies would you put in place to ensure that America delivers on its commitment?

¹ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development: <http://www.oecd.org/env/cc/39721444.pdf>

² National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/publications/NOAA_Technical_Report_NOS_COOPS_073.pdf

³ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: <http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/wp-content/uploads/EconomicValueofResilientCoastalCommunities.pdf>

⁴ World Resources Institute: http://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/sealevelrise_miami_florida_factsheet_final.pdf

⁵ Miami-Dade FY 2015-2016 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan Volume 1: <http://www.miamidade.gov/budget/fy15-16-adopted-volume-1.asp>

⁶ Miami-Dade County: www.miamidade.gov/greenprint/pdf/climate_action_plan.pdf
⁷ <http://miamiherald.typepad.com/files/fl-mayors-climate-letter-to-senator-rubio.pdf>

⁸ World Resources Institute: <http://cait.wri.org/indc/>

⁹ World Resources Institute: <http://www.wri.org/blog/2015/11/latest-climate-commitments-how-much-will-world-warm-its-complicated>



Cindy Lerner
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VILLAGE OF PINECREST
Office of the Mayor

March 4, 2016

Dear Host/Moderator of the Republican Debate on March 10th:

We, the 21 undersigned mayors from throughout Florida, are concerned about sea level rise and climate change and the severe impacts it is having on our communities. We are equally concerned that so little attention has been paid to these issues in the presidential debates. It would be unconscionable for these issues of grave concern for the people of Florida to not be addressed in the upcoming debate you will be hosting in the state. In particular, Senator Rubio represents this state and should not be allowed to fail to provide, or side step, substantive answers to these questions. Thus, we are writing that you ask the following questions to Senator Rubio and the candidates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cindy Lerner".

Cindy Lerner, Mayor, Village of Pinecrest
On behalf of 21 Florida Mayors

Peggy Bell, Mayor, Town of Cutler Bay
Bob Buckhorn, Mayor, City of Tampa
Alice Burch, Mayor, Miami Shores Village
Jim Cason, Mayor, City of Coral Gables
Joy Cooper, Mayor, City of Hallandale Beach
David Coviello, Mayor, Biscayne Park
Daniel Dietch, Mayor, Town of Surfside
Eugene Flinn, Mayor, Village of Palmetto Bay
Andrew Gillum, Mayor, City of Tallahassee
Rick Kriseman, Mayor, City of St. Petersburg
Connie Leon-Kreps, Mayor, North Bay Village
Cindy Lerner, Mayor, Village of Pinecrest
Philip Levine, Mayor, City of Miami Beach
Mayra Pena Lindsay, Mayor, Village of Key Biscayne
Jeri Muoio, Mayor, City of West Palm Beach
Martin Packer, Mayor, Bal Harbour Village
Tomas Regalado, Mayor, City of Miami
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Philip Stoddard, Mayor, City of South Miami

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Republican Florida Debate Questions from Mayors:

Investments in infrastructure:

Senator Rubio, Miami is not only home to you but also the largest amount of assets vulnerable to sea level rise in the world.¹ In addition to Miami already dealing with “sunny day flooding” just from high tides, coastal flooding has increased between 300 and 900 percent on all three of the nation’s coasts over the past 50 years.² Senator, with more than 123 million Americans and nearly half the U.S. Gross Domestic Product located in coastal counties across the country, we can no longer afford to wait for American innovation to solve the problem of climate change that we needed solutions for yesterday.³ As President, what investments will you make to protect our coastal assets and economy from the growing impacts of sea level rise and climate change?

American innovation:

Senator Rubio, Miami is “ground-zero” for sea level rise and many coastal communities here in your home state are already grappling with “sunny day flooding” from high tides alone. Miami has the largest amount of assets vulnerable to sea level rise in world and Florida is the most vulnerable state to sea level rise in the country.⁴ Miami-Dade has taken action by including adapting to climate change into its annual budget by appointing a Chief Resilience Officer and establishing a climate action plan.^{5,6} But as the 15 Florida mayors stated in a recent letter to you, adaptation is only a “temporary stopgap unless global warming emissions are substantially reduced.”⁷ Senator, while you have said that American innovation will provide the solution to climate change, what are specific policies you would put in place to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help protect the future livelihoods of Americans like those in Miami from facing the worst of impacts from climate change?

Reducing emissions impact on sea level rise or warming:

Senator Rubio, you recently stated that no matter what the United States does to reduce its emissions we will not stop climate change and future warming. However, the U.S., China, and India – the three largest emitters in the world – recently joined more than 180 other countries in pledges to significantly reduce future emissions.⁸ These commitments have the potential to reduce future warming by nearly half the warming that would take place if we were to stay on the business-as-usual path.⁹ As the next President of the United States, what policies would you put in place to ensure that America delivers on its commitment?

¹ Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development: <http://www.oecd.org/env/cc/39721444.pdf>

² National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/publications/NOAA_Technical_Report_NOS_COOPS_073.pdf

³ National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration: <http://www.ppi.noaa.gov/wp-content/uploads/EconomicValueofResilientCoastalCommunities.pdf>

⁴ World Resources Institute: http://www.wri.org/sites/default/files/sealevelrise_miami_florida_factsheet_final.pdf

⁵ Miami-Dade FY 2015-2016 Adopted Budget and Multi-Year Capital Plan Volume 1:

<http://www.miamidade.gov/budget/fy15-16-adopted-volume-1.asp>

⁶ Miami-Dade County: www.miamidade.gov/greenprint/pdf/climate_action_plan.pdf

⁷ <http://miamiherald.typepad.com/files/fl-mayors-climate-letter-to-senator-rubio.pdf>

⁸ World Resources Institute: <http://cait.wri.org/indc/>

⁹ World Resources Institute: <http://www.wri.org/blog/2015/11/latest-climate-commitments-how-much-will-world-warm-its-complicated>