

**Second Place**  
**Marialucia Hernandez**  
**Emerald Cove Middle School**  
**Village of Wellington**

If I were elected Mayor, I would prioritize public transportation. Public transportation can aid many citizens, especially elderly people who can't drive and minors under the age of 16 who can't get a driver's license yet. Public transportation can additionally help better the local economy, since one dollar invested in public transportation is estimated to generate 5 economic dollars back. Public transportation would be advantageous for essentially everyone.

Furthermore, I would also concentrate on affordable housing. Astronomically high prices for homes can be lowered by making tax delinquent property and publicly owned land available for development for affordable housing. I would also make sure to take measures to prevent the loss of existing affordable housing and provide down payment assistance to help families afford their homes. Pushing for the idea of affordable housing will allow for financially struggling residents to move in with ease into the community.

Home Rule can help a city become more independent and allows flexibility in a city. Home Rule grants locals to make autonomous decisions without having to ask the legislature for permission. Home Rule allows for cities to grow and become more self-sufficient as they flourish; Home Rule gives a sentiment of individuality to the city's locals.

To conclude, if I were to be elected Mayor, I would focus on improving the quality of life, fostering community growth and promoting economic development. I vow to lead the community with integrity and utilize Home Rule to meet civilian's needs.