

QUESTIONS FOR THE CANDIDATES (INCUMBENTS)

*Required Question(s)

1. Public Law 1-35 (originally Bill 4-35) corrected language to increase the property taxes on those improvements valued at \$1,000,000 "or more". The increase in property taxes hurt our economy through higher rental amounts for renters. How did you vote on Bill 4-35?

I voted Yes

I voted No

*I was absent from session on the day they voted, because that was the day my mother died. I voted no on the original law that this bill was correcting.

2. Given our current economic situation, the rollback of this increase (property taxes of improvements valued at \$1,000,000 "or more") is an important part of reducing expenses. If re-elected, will you support the rollback of these property taxes?

Yes

No

3. Resolution 164-35 introduced in 2019 called for "A pause to the clearing, pre-construction, data recovery, and construction activities related to the U.S. Department of the Navy's proposed Live-Fire Training Range Complex at Northwest Field adjacent to Ritidian in order to ensure the protection of the environment and the historic and cultural resources of Guam.". How did you vote on Resolution 164-35?

I voted Yes

I voted No

4. Our economy is supported by 2 pillars, tourism, and the military. Our tourism industry is at a standstill with recovery projected to take 2 years. The only viable economic activity is the military. Given this, do you support resuming the military activity to stimulate economic activity?

Yes

No

*Military activity has never ceased, even during the COVID-19 pandemic, and continues to contribute to our economy.

5. During the discussions on the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Bill in August 2019, there was an amendment proffered to reduce the Business Privilege Tax from 5% to 4%. How did you vote on the amendment?

I voted Yes

I voted No

*More recently than August 2019 budget deliberations, I moved to reduce the BPT from 5% to 4% during debate on BPT exemptions for small businesses, which I also supported. My motion failed to garner

majority support. https://www.postguam.com/news/local/tax-rollback-small-business-relief-proposals-fail/article_319441bc-aa32-11ea-8c99-b3684b47c658.html

6. If re-elected, will you support the rollback of the Business Privilege Tax from 5% to 4%?

Yes

No

*I did not vote in favor of the increase in BPT.

7. Guam has experienced a serious economic downturn since the pandemic reached our shores at the start of the year. Since March 2019, "stay at home" measures, which have negatively impacted businesses and employees. Over 35,000 of our people are unemployed and as businesses continue to close, there are limited opportunities for them to get their jobs back. What actions did you propose as a Senator to help improve our economic conditions since the start of this pandemic and what will you do to help these people if re-elected? Please provide a short paragraph with no more than 4 sentences.

* I have proposed use of federal money for rent assistance and mortgage assistance. I successfully led an override to ensure accountability and transparency in the spending of CARES funds, release of a budget, access to procurement records, and demanding that procurement law be followed. I have pushed for prompt and more effective tracing and investigation, as I believe it is the key to opening up all businesses. I have insisted that Public Health release all data not prohibited by law, resulting in an AG Opinion clarifying release of information, and Public Health instituting new policies for efficient reporting of information as to high risk activity so the government is acting strategically based on fact and not speculation or anecdotal evidence. This is the only way to avoid blanket lockdowns, and to ensure business guidelines are least restrictive as necessary.

8. Bill 265-35 was introduced earlier in the year and proposes a "Citizen's Legislature" or basically a Part Time Legislature. What is your position on a Part Time Legislature? Please provide justification for why you either support or do not support one.

I support a Part Time Legislature

I do not support a Part Time Legislature

* The Legislature should not be a place to build a career, as wise public policy for Guam benefits greatly from diverse members of our community stepping up to public service after much experience in government, business, and raising families on Guam. It is physically not possible to truly hold the executive branch accountable or to have proper oversight of agencies looking at them only part-time. Legislators must become intimately familiar with the years long problems that were not resolved by quick

fix legislation. They must take the time to study the impact of their potential decisions on all the people of Guam and listening only part time is not good representation. To hold the government accountable and for true checks and balances, the Legislature requires leaders who cannot be misled on the facts or how the government works, and who are familiar with what has been tried before and have the perseverance to try different ways when unsuccessful. I have watched the most controversial measures be passed after several attempts by legislators who were able to withstand the whims of the day and continued to hammer away at the long term solutions, and to gain consensus from the broader community that sometimes takes time. Some of the most beneficial laws implemented on Guam were a result of years of work in complex areas, and by gaining the trust of the people over the course of dedicated, selfless, public service. Legislators cannot serve two masters and must serve all the people of Guam, notwithstanding private interests and special interests. Serving full time and focusing on legislative duties only, offers a temporary insulation from undue pressure from employers or other special interests and honors representation of the entire community. Conversion to a part-time basis should not occur without full community input and would require careful protections be built in to protect from undue influence of special interests to the detriment of the health and welfare of the people of Guam.

9. What have you proposed to Reduce or Right Size the Government of Guam this term, and if re-elected into the 36th Guam Legislature, what actions would you pursue to reduce or right size the Government of Guam? Please provide a short paragraph with no more than 4 sentences.

In FY21 Budget deliberations, I supported a decrease of \$64.6M in government operations. I opposed increasing expenditures beyond revenue that could be collected, and that the 30,000 processed tax returns awaiting refunds be paid within 2 months of processing notwithstanding the court decision allowing 6 months from due date (from July 2020). I proposed that special funds set aside for roads and removal of abandoned vehicles and other special purposes not be diverted until those critical services were completed. I proposed that non-critical services such as youth employment program that was not implemented due to COVID, be put off until our unemployed workforce is taken care of, that deputy directors for other than public health be eliminated, that funds from non essential agencies be transferred to ensure federal match for Medicaid and prompt response by public health to displaced workers and businesses trying to reopen.

10 What have you proposed to promote greater government transparency this term, and if re-elected into the 36th Guam Legislature, what actions would you pursue to promote greater government transparency? Please provide a short paragraph with no more than 4 sentences.

I have a proven record of numerous bills, amendments to bills, and an override dedicated to increased transparency in the government especially in fiscal and procurement matters. This is on top of the ability and integrity to ask questions of government officials and hold oversight over agencies where necessary to expose corrupt, inefficient or questionable practices.

11. Regarding the Military Buildup, do you support the present Data Collection process for the preservation of Historical Artifacts? If not, what process would you support, and would this recommendation create

any further delays for the ongoing buildup? Please select a YES or NO answer, followed by your thoughts with no more than 4 sentences.

Yes

No

- Comment: Data Collection is appropriate in some but not all circumstances. Data collection removes artifacts from sites eligible for the National Registry of Historic Places and effectively renders the site ineligible. It is a literal erasing of the significance of that site in the history of Guam, and wiping out of any further potential learning or discovery relative to the history of the people who used or inhabited that place. This does not need to occur with proper enforcement of the Programmatic Agreement, which is premised on proper surveying and planning by the DoD.
- It is especially inappropriate when a thorough survey of the area was not completed prior to the clearing, which is what the State Historic Preservation Officer has been finding on several occasions. The DoD agreed in the Programmatic Agreement to avoid adverse impacts to cultural sites, and has much opportunity to make slight shifts early on to avoid cultural sites at relatively little cost or delay, based on thorough survey, planning and communication. If DoD fails to adequately survey and plan, and does not avoid negative impacts, then delays occur in the construction phase. Given the massive amount of land the military owns on Guam, it is unreasonable that the DoD cannot be held on Guam to the same avoidance standard as is recognized nationwide or that it be allowed to simply use Data Recovery in place of true heritage preservation and stewardship.

12. If re-elected into the 36th Guam Legislature, what ideas will you propose to help resurrect our economy? Please provide a short paragraph with no more than 4 sentences.

First and foremost, in the next few days and for the remainder of the Health Emergency, follow up on the promised expansion of Guam's tracing and investigation program in order to isolate infectious disease and prevent further spread or closure of business. I will continue to require that decisions to close business or activity are evidence based and least restrictive as possible. Resurrection of our economy requires that we ensure the utilization of increased Manpower Development Funds to re-train in critical industries and to ensure diversification of economy especially into healthcare expansion that supports a sustainable open economy and community needs.

 Please enter the information indicated below.

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