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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

State Representative House District 15

Q2

Party

Republican

Q3

First Name

Steve

Q4

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Yoder

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Q7

Campaign Website

voteyoder.com (under construction)

Page 2: COVID-19 Response and Recovery

Q8

What steps do you think our state and/or counties should take to aid this recovery? Some examples could include how you think federal funds should be spent, diversifying the state's economy, etc.

The State and County of Kauai must take steps immediately to reopen to the visitor industry. There are many methods to allow people to visit our state and island. COVID-19 testing before boarding the plane is one idea. There are tests that can be conducted quickly and efficiently. Testing can be performed at the departure gate area. Federal money can fund this effort, as it did with the TSA check points. Those who are infected can still use their ticket during the next year. This is an accommodation the airline industry would make and some have already, including Hawaiian Airlines.

Neither the government nor an elected official can diversify the economy. Only technology, innovation and private business can accomplish diversification. The government sets up bureaucracies that are immune to elections and those who work in such bureaucracies then favor funding themselves so they can keep their jobs. They may not care if they are successful or not. They waste money and are not accountable for what they spend. This is the difference between small business or large business and government. Free markets, capitalism, and free enterprise are what drive the markets and create businesses and jobs. Necessity is the mother of invention, not an elected official or the government. Unlike bureaucrats, small businesses don't waste time, money and employees on measures that are unproductive and do not create profit.

Q9

Please share some of the efforts you have led or participated in response to COVID-19.

I'm running for office to influence the state legislature in regards to changing legislation to reopen Hawaii's economy. I've protested at rallies designed to bring attention to reopen Kauai and Hawaii, such as Walk for Our Rights Kauai. I've written articles that have been printed in The Garden Island Newspaper that have received favorable response from the public regarding this very subject. I'm a DJ (on hold till after the 11/3/20 election) at KKCR Community Radio where I've addressed many conservative issues to a generally liberal audience.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

Neither Kauai nor Hawaii can wait any longer for our economy to reopen. It must take place now. You don't quarantine the healthy with the sick. It simply is illogical and not medically sound. The press says that cases of COVID-19 have spiked. That's like saying the population has spiked when you take a census. COVID-19 isn't necessarily spiking, you just know what cases many times already existed. When hospital cases and deaths increase, then you have to reevaluate measures in reopening the economy. Hospital cases and deaths are continually decreasing, so let's reopen Hawaii. On 7/5/20, the Hawaii Department of Health reported a cumulative total of 1,023 cases statewide (reported since 2/28/20). Hawaii's COVID-19 case statistic is 0.07 per 10,000 that have contracted the virus. That means less than one person per 10,000 in Hawaii has contracted COVID-19. Nineteen people have died in Hawaii with no deaths on Kauai. Hawaii is #50 in comparison to the other 49 US States regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

Page 3: Tobacco and E-Cigarette Regulations

Q11

What policies do you think the state and/or counties should enact to reduce tobacco and e-cigarette use?

The same laws and regulations that govern cigarettes use should apply to E-Cigarettes. Adults should have the freedom to choose if they want to partake in either; the same is true of alcohol consumption. People shouldn't lose their freedom of choice.

Q12

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| Apply a tobacco tax to e-cigarettes, such as a percentage of the wholesale cost or taxing e-liquid by volume. | Strongly Oppose |
| Prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes and flavored e-liquids. | Strongly Oppose |
| Restrict online sales of e-cigarettes to tobacco retailers only, in order to curb illegal sales to minors. | Strongly Oppose |
| Increase the tobacco tax on cigarettes to help smokers quit and prevent new users from starting. | Strongly Oppose |
| Funds from the tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes should fund tobacco prevention and cessation efforts. | Strongly Oppose |
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Q13

Additional thoughts/comments:

Taxing a vice doesn't prevent people from using that vice. Government intervention in driving up the cost of a vice only drives it underground and creates black markets. This is why I'm for people to choose, and not lose their freedom of choice to government laws and regulations. If present law forbids the sale of cigarettes online, then the same restriction should be applied to E-Cigarettes. This doesn't mean that I approve on restricting online sales of either product. It should be applied fairly and justly.

The funding of education through the legalization of gambling in CA and other states is the reason for allowing it to take place. Legalization of gambling would create a revenue stream to fund education. Legalizing gambling and the taxing of it didn't solve education funding problems with education in CA. Why? They spend more than they take in. The government doesn't have a revenue problem, they have a spending problem.

Q14

What steps do you think the state and/or counties should take to ensure food security for all of Hawaii's people, and to significantly increase food self-sufficiency for our state?

Present environmental laws are more than sufficient where we live, work and play. People should have the freedom to choose what they want to consume and not the government regarding food. It should not be regulated. If daily or weekly exercise will make you healthier, do you think the government should force you through laws and regulations to exercise; emphatically NO. It's freedom of choice. Former NYC mayor, Mike Bloomberg, outlawed the sale of larger sodas so people just purchased two of them. You cannot limit freedom. Freedom is like water; it will follow the path of least resistance and find a way to travel.

Government programs are not the answer, simple education is. The government can't spend money to keep people from doing what they want. Government control over our lives leads to socialism, tyranny and a society void of people who choose what they want versus the government. The government's role is to protect the people (foreign and domestic aggression), not run their lives.

Q15

In 2019, Hawai'i made a commitment to adopt Vision Zero, an initiative to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. What policies and infrastructure changes should the state and/or counties make to achieve this goal?

The government cannot eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries. If they could, why stop at severe injuries, why not promote a zero policy in regards to all injuries? People take risks every day. Present traffic laws are sufficient to protect pedestrians and those who drive as well as their passengers. Present safety measures like speed limits, stop and yield signs and speed zones are in place. What's lacking isn't more government policies and laws, its enforcement of these laws and the severity of breaking those laws. Many judges are too lenient and criminals see that breaking the law can be with impunity or small fines.

Q16

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| We must significantly increase public investment in food systems workforce development, including programs such as farm to school, agriculture and food systems education (PreK-12 and higher education), and farmer training programs. | Strongly Oppose |
| The state should continue to invest in a Double Up Food Bucks program, which doubles the value of SNAP benefits when buying fresh, locally grown produce at participating retailers. | Strongly Oppose |
| Enact a one-cent per-ounce fee on sugar-sweetened beverages. | Strongly Oppose |
| Use revenue from a sugar-sweetened beverage fee for obesity prevention programs. | Strongly Oppose |
| Make health and physical education (PE) courses a curriculum requirement, rather than an option, for middle school students. PE is currently a requirement for elementary and high school students. | Strongly Support |
| Implement a red light camera program to deter red-light running and help curb traffic fatalities and injuries. | Strongly Oppose |

Q17

Additional thoughts/comments:

Whenever the word "investment" it means higher taxes. The government has an insatiable desire to separate people from the money they've earned for the higher good. That's why it's so much more expensive to live in Hawaii because of the unbridled and unwarranted taxes on the populace. SNAP benefits are entitlements given to many who choose not to work. Once receiving government welfare was shameful. There is very few times where a person needs welfare, if they are willing to work. SNAP and other government handouts keep people poor because if they make too much money they'll lose their benefits (entitlements). Whenever the government becomes the guardian of people's personal welfare, people will continually ask and demand more welfare. Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. JFK's Inaugural Speech, January 22, 1961.

Red light cameras have incumbent flaws as to who is driving the car and I don't believe there is any evidence they help curb traffic fatalities and injuries. Studies are not proof; statistics of where they are in place and the results are proof. People know they shouldn't run the light and a camera won't deter most from a snap decision to break the law.

Page 5: Oral Health

Q18

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Reinstate coverage of preventative dental benefits for Adult Medicaid participants. **Strongly Oppose**

Fluoridation of community water supplies is an effective way to prevent tooth decay. **Strongly Support**

Q19

Additional thoughts/comments:

I dispute the assumption and premise that "improving oral health in Hawaii is a social justice issue." Social Justice is justice in terms of the distribution (redistribution) of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society. The individual's wealth and freedom is sacrificed to the struggle for social justice.

I don't favor LBJ's war on poverty which includes Medicaid. Taxing people is unconscionable. Regarding Medicaid, which began under the LBJ "War on Poverty", which after five decades and \$22 trillion and roughly 80 welfare programs later, we should evaluate it to see if it worked or not. The War on Poverty created negative incentives. Instead of promoting the growth of healthy families people remain poor so they don't lose their Medicaid benefits. In 1996 when a Republican Congress passed historic welfare reform legislation (over President Clinton's veto-twice) welfare agencies became job placement offices. People who had been dependent on government began seeking employment. Within the first five years after the reform, welfare caseloads were cut in half. Employment for single mothers also increased dramatically, and child poverty plummeted.

Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

Q20

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- Increase in alcohol taxes. **Strongly Oppose**
- Repeal of the alcohol takeout laws that allow people to buy and take home liquor-based mixed drinks from restaurants. **Strongly Oppose**
- Repeal of alcohol delivery laws that allow restaurants to deliver beer and liquor-based mixed drinks to people's homes. **Strongly Oppose**
- Increase in enforcement that helps ensure that youth do not access alcohol through existing laws allowing for alcohol takeout and delivery. **Strongly Oppose**

Q21

Additional thoughts/comments:

Did we not learn anything from the Volstead Act of 1920 called Prohibition? What did regulating alcohol and its use do? The government intervention increased crime because people will find a way to consume alcohol. I don't believe the state of Hawaii allows alcohol delivery of beer and alcohol-based mixed drinks to people's homes. Why would you ask this question? I'm in favor of funding law enforcement rather than the BLM call to defund law enforcement. It's not the government's role to raise our children; it is the father and mother's role. BTW, government Medicaid for single mothers encouraged them to remain single and not marry the father of their children, as well as continuing to have children out of wedlock in order to receive government welfare.

Page 7: Marijuana Regulations

Q22

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- Do you support legalizing recreational marijuana sales in Hawai'i? **Strongly Oppose**
- If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana be regulated by the Department of Health? **Support**
- If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the price of marijuana be regulated? **Strongly Oppose**
- If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the promotion and advertisement of marijuana sales be regulated? **Oppose**
- If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana potency be regulated? **Support**
- If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the number and placement of marijuana outlets be regulated? **Strongly Oppose**

Q23

Additional thoughts/comments:

I do not support the use of recreational marijuana at all. As far as marijuana being used medicinally and the restrictions that are in place are good. I believe the medicinal use has been abused. Either way you slice it, when recreational marijuana is legalized, and I'm sure it will be, when it's too difficult to purchase legally, due to government control and regulation, then people will turn to the black market as they are currently doing.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

What are your immediate plans to help make Hawai'i more affordable for its residents?

Introducing legislation that removes or modifies those policies which increase the cost of living. Hawaii depends upon shipping products to our ports. Asian ships transporting products used in Hawaii are required to bypass Hawaii entirely to land their products in West Coast ports and transfer those products to US flagged ships who in turn travel to Hawaii because of the Jones Act. West coast ports are allowed to receive products from foreign ports because they have Direct Shipping and Receiving status whereas Hawaii doesn't. This can be corrected by modifying the Jones Act to allow Hawaii ports to qualify for Direct Shipping and Receiving status as the West Coast ports presently are. Hawaii ports then would be upgraded to receive international shipping which will create jobs to modify our ports as well as hire more people to work to handle international shipping.

Hawaii also depends heavily upon shipping products from the mainland to Hawaii. The Jones Act requires only US flagged ships to travel between US ports whether it be cruise ships (tourism) or shipping; ships are mandated to be only made in the US (no competition for better pricing and quality of the ship produced in comparison with other countries who build ships); a minimum of 70% US crew (unions having higher pay and benefits which is funded by the private sector); higher taxation than foreign flagged ships. This is why cruise ships have foreign registry. Deregulation of the Jones Act will help make Hawaii more affordable for its residents.

Q25

What is the role of government in addressing housing affordability issues and what would you do to encourage the production of more affordable homes for Hawai'i residents?

The problem is government not being limited in their role regarding the issue of lower building costs. Log onto <https://ags.hawaii.gov/bcc/building-code-rules> to see all the rules and overregulation that drives up the cost of building a simple home in Hawaii. We should work toward giving the counties more local control (this is true of education also) over zoning, instead of having all of the power at the state Land Use Commission: allowing the individual greater leeway to build on their own properties. Introducing legislation that cuts red tape for private sector development projects: and streamlining affordable housing development rules.

The vast majority of products consumed and raw material for construction in Hawaii are imported. Federal protectionist shipping law from the 1920s, known as the Jones Act, ensures that Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Guam, all surrounded by water, have high costs of building construction. Exemptions from these laws as Alaska has achieved, will dramatically lower the costs of building homes in Hawaii. Much of what I used in my answer can be found at grassrootsinstitute.org under, "Economic Freedom Needed to Increase Affordable Housing"

Q26

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Increase the state's minimum wage in a series of annual steps to a living wage of \$17 per hour. **Strongly Oppose**

Create a statewide Paid Family Leave Program, which would allow up to 12 weeks for employees to provide care for a newborn, bond with a new child, or care for a family member with a serious health condition. **Strongly Oppose**

Q27

Additional thoughts/comments:

Whenever government begins to regulate how much any business whether large or small pays their employees it only exacerbates the problem, especially when it comes to small businesses. A small business has a finite amount of money to run their business based on their profits. If government mandates a \$17 minimum wage, the small business owner will be forced to reduce his workforce in order to pay a higher minimum wage than the market can allow. A living wage for a senior or an untrained teenager is much different than a person who has a family of four to support. This is the problem with government's one size fits all regulations. You don't over pay an untrained worker. You pay them what the competitive market allows. As the worker becomes more valuable to the owner, the owner will in turn pay them more. If they don't, then the employee has two choices, find another business owner who values their experience, paying him more, or start their own business from what they learned from their employer. It's called free enterprise. Why are there automated checkout counters at supermarkets, big box stores and fast food outlets? It's because of mandated higher wages. It's cheaper to hire fewer people and use automation. Is that what we want? Fewer people being hired leads to less service.
