

#119

COMPLETE

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Page 1: Candidate Information

**Q1**

Office You are Seeking

State House District 29

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**Q2**

Party

Democratic Party

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**Q3**

First Name

James

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**Q4**

Last Name

Logue

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**Q5**

Email

James@Logueforhouse.com

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**Q6**

Phone

808-489-0792

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**Q7**

Campaign Website

www.Logueforhouse.com

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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.

I think the state should continue allowing businesses to remain open as long as they are abiding by the standards. At the same time the Governor should be applying for the federal loans that are available to help keep government operations moving forward. Federal funds should be spent on rental/mortgage assistance. In terms of diversifying the economy, that is more of a long term plan that will take years to get up and running, but we should be implementing the ground work now so we can create an economy that thrives.

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**Q9**

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

As an essential worker I have been processing SNAP and financial assistance applications for residents and families in need.

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**Q10**

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

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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?

Higher taxes on tobacco and e-cigarette products. Or, exploring the option of deeming e-cigarettes as medical devices to which users need a prescription to purchase and use. I feel that if this option is possible it would really help curb the ability for kids and teens to get a hold of e-cigarettes. Also, it would create a tracking system so that if a teen is caught with an e-cigarette the police can trace it to the place or purchase and prescription purchased under.

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**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. | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Prohibit the sale of all flavored tobacco products, including menthol cigarettes and flavored e-liquids.      | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Restrict online sales of e-cigarettes to tobacco retailers only, in order to curb illegal sales to minors.    | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Increase the tobacco tax on cigarettes to help smokers quit and prevent new users from starting.              | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Funds from the tobacco settlement and tobacco taxes should fund tobacco prevention and cessation efforts.     | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
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**Q13**

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

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Page 4: Healthy Eating + Active Living

**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?

I love the farm to school programs. As someone who is into fitness and nutrition I think we need to revamp the education of foods in schools. For example, soda is ok, but switch out regular sodas for zero sugar. These sodas taste the same and do not cause the cravings however, they do give the satisfaction of a cold carbonated drink. Other things like swapping added sugars for alternatives such as stevia, swapping milk for unsweetened almond milk, etc. We need to break down and rebuild how we prepare meals for our students. This in turn can be used to educate parents on how to prepare healthier meals at home. They can make the same foods and meals they love, but swapping out ingredients will make a huge difference. The state should also invest in agriculture and vertical farming. Partnering with the University of Hawaii and non-profits as well as providing good wages to attract workers is a great way to kick start the AG industry and create a thriving agricultural industry in Hawaii.

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**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?

I feel that designated bike and bus lanes on major roads would be beneficial to riders. Buses would be on time and will be a faster means of transportation than a personal vehicle. Perhaps looking at limiting parking in newly constructed condo towers is something worth looking at, while at the same time providing free bus passes to students. Also, promoting all state and county employees to telework is able. We need to reduce the amount of vehicles and people on the roads. We could even explore tax incentives to businesses that allow their employees to telework. As traffic increases and the population grows, we might end up like many other areas of the world such as Sao Paulo, Brazil, where only certain vehicles are allowed to operate on certain days based on their license plate numbers.

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**Q16**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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|---|-------------------------|
| 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. | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| 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.  | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Enact a one-cent per-ounce fee on sugar-sweetened beverages.  | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Use revenue from a sugar-sweetened beverage fee for obesity prevention programs.  | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| 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.                                     | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Implement a red light camera program to deter red-light running and help curb traffic fatalities and injuries.  | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
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**Q17**

Additional thoughts/comments:

I work at the SNAP office and to be honest we never received any information on the program until I asked about it 3 months ago. Sadly, on the island of Oahu there is only one participating farmers market which is located in Kalihi. This program is definitely in need of more support, promotion, and funding in order to spread it across the island.

In terms of sugary drinks, I feel that there should be a heavy tax on these products as they are unnecessary and create health issues that do indeed end up burdening families and tax payers.

Red light cameras should be implemented, but under the caveat they are not facial or license plate recognition and tracking. They should be clear and high definition to see the license plates and cars but should not actively track the plates or faces. As this opens up the door to other issues of government tracking and surveillance.

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Page 5: Oral Health

**Q18**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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|--|-------------------------|
| Reinstate coverage of preventative dental benefits for Adult Medicaid participants.  | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Fluoridation of community water supplies is an effective way to prevent tooth decay. | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
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**Q19**

Additional thoughts/comments:

I come from a city of fluoridated water and I am grateful for it. I used to be on the other side of the fence. I used to believe fluoridation was bad, but when you look at the reality of the situation, especially in Hawaii, we are doing a disservice to our residents by not allowing fluoridation. Between fluoridation and proper dental hygiene, we can save the oral health of thousands of residents. Not to mention the other health issues that arise from poor dental hygiene.

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Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

**Q20**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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|---|-------------------------|
| Increase in alcohol taxes.  | <b>Oppose</b>           |
| Repeal of the alcohol takeout laws that allow people to buy and take home liquor-based mixed drinks from restaurants.                       | <b>Oppose</b>           |
| Repeal of alcohol delivery laws that allow restaurants to deliver beer and liquor-based mixed drinks to people's homes.                     | <b>Oppose</b>           |
| Increase in enforcement that helps ensure that youth do not access alcohol through existing laws allowing for alcohol takeout and delivery. | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
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**Q21**

Additional thoughts/comments:

Let me explain my positions. I oppose and increase in the alcohol tax, repealing alcohol take out laws, and repealing alcohol delivery laws, because these will negatively impact many businesses and in turn impact employees and working class families.

I have no issue with alcohol, as I myself enjoy having drinks. However, I do believe that there should be a 0 tolerance law for drinking and driving. In today's age of ride share, buses, taxis, etc. there is absolutely no excuse to drink and drive. Again, referring back to Brazil (I used to live there), they have a zero tolerance policy for drinking and driving. When people want to drink they carpool, have designated drivers, or take taxis and buses. Oahu is an island, and is not so big. There is no reason someone can spend money on drinks all night, but not budget for a ride home.

So instead of punishing businesses, I would prefer to deter consumers from getting behind the wheel.

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Page 7: Marijuana Regulations

**Q22**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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|---|-------------------------|
| Do you support legalizing recreational marijuana sales in Hawai'i?  | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana be regulated by the Department of Health?              | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the price of marijuana be regulated?                             | <b>Oppose</b>           |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the promotion and advertisement of marijuana sales be regulated? | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana potency be regulated?                                  | <b>Oppose</b>           |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the number and placement of marijuana outlets be regulated?      | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
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**Q23**

Additional thoughts/comments:

The reason I don't support price regulation of marijuana is because this would limit the industry to a few companies who will most likely not even be locally owned or will force out the locally owned businesses. We should allow the businesses to set the prices based on their costs, etc. This way we reduce the ability for large conglomerates to simply have a strangle hold on Hawaii's industry. We need to allow local families and farmers to compete.

In terms of potency, I see it much like alcohol. Some strains are going to be stronger than others. Perhaps a North Shore farm creates a highly potent strain that others don't have. This is their strain and their creation so they should be able to sell it as they please.

One thing that is not asked in this section is do I support taxing recreational marijuana. The answer to that is YES. This tax is the key. This is why regulating prices is something I can't get behind because companies, especially small local businesses, need to be able to make profit after the costs of operations, payroll, rent, utilities, businesses taxes, and still be able to sell it at a price that consumers will pay when the state tax is added on.

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**Q24**

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

Honestly, this is tough. When talking about affordability there are multiple facets all intertwined and much of it is determined by the agenda of the sitting Governor and Mayor of each island.

Based on the current economic situation of Hawaii, and our State Government, we have to look at what can realistically be done to make Hawaii more affordable. The majority of costs go to housing, food, medicine, and transportation.

We need to look at lowering the cost of food and medicines. This could be tied in to a legal marijuana bill that calls for a portion of the tax revenue to subsidize these products.

Raising the minimum wage would lift many out of the economic woes they are experiencing. We can do this, but must also be friendly to small businesses. We can implement an increase in the minimum wage and implement tax incentives to businesses to help with the payroll increases. We have to ensure businesses can thrive and retain employees as well as hire more. Otherwise, we're not helping workers or businesses.

We must start looking at the national average of wages for positions and implementing them in Hawaii. Most positions in Hawaii pay well below the national average. Creating new revenue streams can allow the state to push businesses to increase wages by assisting businesses with the added costs.

While these technically are not "immediate" as all of these must go through a legislative session which isn't until January 2021, they are ideas that can be implemented if the political will is there. We need to do more to assist our residents and local businesses or else nothing will change for the positive.

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**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?

I would introduce a bill calling for the state to immediately donate state lands for development of affordable housing units. In order to lower costs for development and construction the state should cover the upgrades and connections of infrastructure such as water and sewage. The state should also expedite the permitting process. Time is money and our permitting process timelines is over 2 years. That is way too long.

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**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 Support**

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 Support**

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**Q27**

**Respondent skipped this question**

Additional thoughts/comments:

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