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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

MAYOR

Q2

Party

NON-PARTISAN

Q3

First Name

Choon

Q4

Last Name

JAMES

Q5

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ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com

Q6

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808 293 8888

Q7

Campaign Website

www.VoteChoon.com

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.

Education for our residents about COVID19 must continue.

Oahu must continue to be vigilant in working with the State to supervise the inbound visitors. They should be tested PRIOR to boarding the plane and tested again at our Airport. I recognize that testing is a point-in-time. Those tested positive must be addressed. Should the quarantine continues, regulation and enforcement must be followed through efficiently and effectively.

All our public facilities like restrooms, buses and facilities must be constantly cleaned and sanitized.

We will support employers such as the hoteliers and retails must ensure the safety and hygienic working conditions of their workforce. All city departments must follow strict guidelines.

Additionally, businesses will need help to retrofit and also obtain needed materials and so on.

I would also ensure that there be a creation of a food storehouse in each of the 9 city council districts. We will work in conjunction with the Hawaii Food Bank and nonprofits etc to have a 6 months food storage/essentials for emergency preparedness. I would encourage our local businesses to work with and support our farmers for more local consumption of local farm produce.

To me, this is a fundamental need that our city must be prepared for. It's the very basic Maslow's hierarchy of needs to contain unrest and worries in our communities. As long as we have this basic need fulfill, we can continue to work together to solve other challenges and prosper.

Similarly, we must further support our mental and health services. This would include making sure that our community health providers have more than ample materials and equipment to service Oahu in case there is a 2nd or 3rd wave. (I have a family member doing residency at John Hopkins right now and a head nurse in Singapore. I understand the need to protect our health workers.)

The City received \$378 Million and have access to its Rainy Day Fund as well. I want to see these funds quickly directed to our residents, businesses, non-profits, community health centers, city essential workers and so on.

For years, we have been voicing concerns about putting our economy into one tourism basket. COVID19 has again taught us a good lesson.

Many of our residents are already involved in diversification. As Mayor, I will encourage more entrepreneurship and support start-ups and so forth. I've been a successful small businesswoman for 34 years.

We have many experienced and successful residents who are willing to lead. So many of our young residents can be further supported in fields of their choosing. One area is of course food sustainability through farming enterprises as well as film or digital enterprises and so on. The sky is the limit.

COVID19 has negatively affected our local as well as global economy. But we will rebound! Our people are resilient.

The bottomline is the city should encourage and support but allows our residents the freedom to excel.

As Mayor, I would be supportive. I would make sure that I run a tight financial ship so that the city will not continue to escalate taxes and fees on our residents.

Providing a vibrant and strong city with good fiscal standing is the duty of the Mayor.

Q9

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

Being from Singapore, I've observed how the Asian countries have been able to control COVID19 more swiftly and efficiently.

At the initial part of this COVID19, I constantly urged the public including other states on social media to wear masks in public. Asian countries have a culture of wearing masks but we don't. I constantly posted on their Press Conferences with links to wearing masks. I do the same here locally. I post photos of those who wear masks as Rock Stars on social media to encourage this need.

I'm sure it's not my influence but I like to think that I helped in the collective efforts of encouraging the wearing of masks to short-circuit the spread of COVID19.

I was happy to see the change of heart from the US Surgeon, CDC and Mayor Caldwell to encouraging the wear of masks in public.

I don't believe in advertising the amounts of masks or the food or other essentials made or donated to kupuna or residents. We helped because we wanted to help, not to gain points. I'm not comfortable with that.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

Keep up your good work. What you do is critical to the success and general welfare of Oahu. Also, I don't hire any professionals to prepare my script answers for all these surveys. So, my answers are not textbook answers.

But these comments are my inclinations.

I've been participating in civic affairs for decades at City Hall for fiscal prudence, good governance, food sustainability, environmental, social and economic justice and so on. I've grown older and more impatient. I want to get inside to make positive changes. I do not accept donations from PACs and Lobbyists.

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?

I'm concerned that we're not addressing the root of the problems. When our young parents have to work 2-3 jobs to put food on the table and our elders have to delay retirement to survive, who is home to supervise and nurture the young ones?

We have done a good job on smoking. The efforts used can be duplicated. The STATE Department of Health can certainly begin campaigns to make vaping uncool and so forth.

As Mayor on the county level, I'm open to assisting any way I can. I'm a mother of 5 children. None of my children or us smoke or drink. I also have 12 grandchildren.

My father was an alcoholic and chain-smoker. So I understand. I also volunteer with youth groups and women groups. I get it.

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

Q13

Additional thoughts/comments:

I'm concerned about this issue. As Mayor, I will be very open to help any way I can.

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?

For years, I've been involved with groups like Save Oahu Farmlands, Defend Oahu to protect and preserve farmlands and support farming.

I personally protested against the loss of farmlands in Waianae, Ho'opili, Koa Ridge, Envision Laie at Gunstock and so forth.

I'm a strong advocate for the Oahu General Plan where diversification of land use to provide for agriculture and food sustainability is part of the plan.

We have more farmers and cooperatives such as the Ulu Cooperative that have been in existence for many years. We need to strongly support and coordinate our farmers and other food sources with our schools in local communities to offset the 90% imported food presently.

Yes, there is much still to do and educate about sodas and other processed food.

Public transportation is obviously important and we must continually assess and work towards improvement.

The Mayor's job is to promote the safety, happiness, prosperity of our residents in a sustainable manner for now and for the future. I'm open to suggestions and willing to help.

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?

Part of this is infrastructural improvements which should continue to proceed at city hall.

Part of this commitment involves personal behavior which would require more efforts to convince. Certainly alcohol is a significant factor. However, there are those who fall asleep at the wheel or suffer health breakdown while driving.

I'm certainly open to politics and suggestions.

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 Support**

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 Support**

Enact a one-cent per-ounce fee on sugar-sweetened beverages. **Strongly Support**

Use revenue from a sugar-sweetened beverage fee for obesity prevention programs. **Strongly Support**

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 Support**

Q17

Additional thoughts/comments:

Yes, I'm personally very concerned about the loss of recesses or even music or art periods in our public schools.

Some of these initiatives are on the state level. But as Mayor on the city county level, I would be open to help wherever I can. These are very significant issues for our residents.

Q18

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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

Q19

Additional thoughts/comments:

This is a state issue.

I would like to see Oral/mental health be included in Community Health Centers that are operated by the city.

In fact, it would be great if each school has a dental and nurse on site to provide for those students with no medical insurance. We had that when I was a student in Singapore.

Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

Q20

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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

Q21

Additional thoughts/comments:

I also believe in the free agency of a person. I know a lot of people who are very responsible "drinkers". If a person who eats at a restaurant wants to take home their left-overs, it seems reasonable enough. Otherwise, this rule may forces to person to drink more than he can, which will probably aggravate the drive home.

But, I'm open to listen.

Page 7: Marijuana Regulations

Q22

Respondent skipped this question

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Q23

Additional thoughts/comments:

This is a state issue.

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

I've been in the real estate sector for 34 years. Affordable housing is not just an affordability issue, it's also an income issue.

There are many components to this issue. Oahu is such a beautiful place and the US is an open market that bars no one from ownership. So, we have a situation where our local residents have to compete for property ownership with international tycoons.

Furthermore, we have an oligarchy in Hawaii who continues to protect its power, money and opportunities at the expense of our ordinary residents.

Singapore has successfully met its goal of affordable housing for its citizens. Part of its success is due to its Central Provident Fund that requires all to contribute to its HOUSING, MEDICAL and EDUCATIONAL fund.

Also, Singapore has no middle man or lobbyists in its housing developments.

For now, I would:

1. Increase rentals for the houseless and our residents. I will increase rentals through various options - creating compounds, apartments, and high-rise rentals.
 2. I will work with the state, federal and private companies to provide truly affordable housing for our residents. i would also want to insure that there is no "insider-trading" of such units. I would also want to make sure that tax credits provided must be reciprocated as contracted and developers should not be able to amend those terms and conditions that negatively affect our tenants.
 3. I will hire the best legal minds to navigate how we can serve our residents first and how we can legally control foreign investors through taxations and so forth.
-

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?

There is a role of government in addressing affordability through its policies, permitting and regulations.

I've been in the real estate sector for 34 years. Affordable housing is not just an affordability issue, it's also an income issue.

There are many components to this issue. Oahu is such a beautiful place and the US is an open market that bars no one from ownership. So, we have a situation where our local residents have to compete for property ownership with international tycoons.

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Also, Singapore has no middle man or lobbyists in its housing developments.

I would certainly want to work with the Department of Planning and Permitting and other entities to see how best to improve. We believe in the Oahu General Plan. I also want to make sure that our Residents are part of this decision-making.

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**

Q27

Additional thoughts/comments:

I've answered these questions in one setting. These are my thoughts and inclinations. I have not hired a professional to produce any textbook answers.

As Mayor, I will be open to listen and weigh the merits and demerits. I'm open to work with any interested party for the public good.

A lot of the land use issues will be processed through the legislative Honolulu City Council.

As Mayor, I'm open to host meetings of minds and ideas among all stakeholders in public. I think this will cut down on a lot of tension and agrgravations during the council hearings where a testifier is allowed 1 or 3 minutes.

I truly believe that whether we're young or old, rich or poor, unionized or not, military or civilian, Democrat or Republican, we can all work together. We can help each other out. We can all win and live a happy, safe and prosperous and sustainable life in Oahu,
