

#55

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Invitation 1 (Email)
Started: Friday, June 12, 2020 8:47:36 AM
Last Modified: Saturday, June 27, 2020 4:52:14 AM
Time Spent: Over a week
First Name: Ho Yin (Jason)
Last Name: Wong
Email: jasonwonghnl@outlook.com
IP Address: 141.239.119.172

Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Honolulu Mayor

Q2

Party

Non-partisan

Q3

First Name

Ho Yin (Jason)

Q4

Last Name

Wong

Q5

Email

jasonwonghnl@outlook.com

Q6

Phone

8083439526

Q7

Campaign Website

www.2020jasonwong.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.

Recovery will only be starting once the 14 days quarantine period is lifted for any inbound travelers. But before that can happen, we have to put in place an effective screening/testing pre-flight health check before boarding. Being a Honolulu Mayor, I will request State Governor to allow all Oahu businesses to be open. Social distancing and disinfecting guideline will still be followed by residents at large. City administration has very little say about how federal funds can be allocated on city level. But under my administration, all city taxes should be lower, so that more disposable income will be available for taxpayer to save or spend on stimulating local economy by consumption. This is what we called, positive spillover effect - you give money to a resident, and that money is used to buy local business products and services, then local business will be growing and hiring more workers. In economics, positive spillover effect is the most viable way to re-build an economy. I am an Economist by the heart, therefore, I am a strong advocate for keeping more money in residents' hands during this challenging time.

Q9

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

Stayed at home, canceled meeting and gathering, conducted virtual meeting, delivered produce and essential goods to elderly, educated neighbors on social distancing and disinfecting procedures.

Q10

Additional thoughts/comments:

Definitely. First and foremost, at any port of entry (cruise ship terminal or airport), all inbound passengers are subject to testing and screening upon arrival. All inbound travelers will be transported to quarantine housing to wait for result. Upon receiving the lab report, any positive patients will be sent for treatment, the rest will be released from the quarantine housing. This process will stop majority viral carriers from spreading in our community, yet the test result waiting period is generally shorter than the current 14 days quarantine period, tourists and residents should understand the rationale behind this mandatory protocol – and to the local community, we will have more reassurance that no new viral carrier is being re-introduced to the community. This also avoids unnecessary lock-down. Being a Honolulu Mayor, my job is to align city officials to co-develop “business continuity plan” with business operators in Oahu – this serves as go-to-reference-guide on continuing business operation by minimizing health risks to employees and customers. To shut down our economy in this unprecedented way, Oahu cannot afford to go through another economic meltdown. Instead, we learned what we did well (masks, social distancing, staggered work shift schedule, senior shopping hours...) and have all island business operators to fully adopt such guideline if there were another pandemic hit the global scale. This business continuity plan will be no difference from hurricane preparation guidebook – hope for the best, yet prepare for the worst.

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 don't drink, I don't smoke, I don't gamble, I don't do drugs. Therefore, I would like to adopt Singapore's tobacco law: "this law prohibits the sale of tobacco products via vending machines and the internet. The law also prohibits the sale of single cigarettes, small packets of cigarettes, smokeless tobacco and waterpipe tobacco. The sale of tobacco products is prohibited to persons under the age of 18." I will extend the definition by including e-cigarette.

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:

Furthermore, we have to prohibit any smoking activities in any condominium and apartment complex in Oahu, regardless the association's rules. No smoking can be allowed in public beach, parks, hiking trails.

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?

Frozen produce and fruits are alternative ways to secure food security without over-haul any trading agreement on federal level. On city level, we should also provide more incentive (or reimbursement on property tax) for local property owners who cultivates their land to yield crops, vegetables (met health and safety guideline) that are donated to our local food bank.

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?

Education is the root of any social remedy. We have to train our next generation on the importance of road safety and no-drinking-driving habit. Once a good habit is formed, it's hard to de-rail in latter life. We also need to re-design some high traffic road, construct speed bump, add more solar-powered-street-lamps and build pedestrian sky bridge to prevent accident happening.

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. **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. **Support**

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

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

Implement a red light camera program to deter red-light running and help curb traffic fatalities and injuries. **Oppose**

Q17

Additional thoughts/comments:

Any State or city government subsidized farm projects may not be sustainable in long run. The most viable solution is to invite trading partners and good-standing local business operators to conceive new business model that allow them to carry on the program without much government funding. Government function should be provided guideline, oversight, authorship of regulation and enforcement. Execution part should be rendered upon private business operators.

Q18

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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

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

Q19

Additional thoughts/comments:

Education is imperatively important. Once a student forms good habit of brushing teeth regularly, good habit will continue. In addition, all public facility (like shopping center) public washroom should have mouth wash dispenser station, so that anyone can take a small paper cup to rinse the mouth - this may be proven more effective than paying a visit to see a dentist.

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. **Strongly Support**

Repeal of alcohol delivery laws that allow restaurants to deliver beer and liquor-based mixed drinks to people's homes. **Strongly 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 don't drink, yet, I do understand, some elderly seniors will drink a glass of red wine to ease their joint pain. As long as consumption is on modest and control manner, I do not see any social harm for giving residents some freedom on drinking responsibly. In fact, when I lived in Italy, wine was cheaper than soda, yet I hardly came across anyone in the town that local Italians were drunk. They drank and entertained at night, but never addicted to it.

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? | Strongly Oppose |
| 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? | Strongly Oppose |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that marijuana potency be regulated? | Strongly Oppose |
| 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 don't do drugs. Ever since marijuana dispensary was being introduced in Oahu, violence, gang/crime, drugs addiction are climbing to new high. I am not running for State Governor at the moment but on city level, I would want to ban dispensary being set up on Oahu's soil. People who need this drugs can fly to other liberal States or counties. Here in Oahu, this is one bad thing that corrupt the innocent souls without merit.

Q24

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

Introduce rent control and rent stabilization licensing program: Honolulu residents are subject to high cost of living. Most Oahu residents are contributing more than half of their post-tax income to rent a dwelling in Oahu. While public housing development is expensive, and taking too long to conceive with limited units, in fact, there are many vacant dwellings that stay emptied for years. A rent control and rent stabilization licensing program will achieve win/win situation among landlords and the tenants. Subject to review, inspection and approval, a tenant can make below market rental to the landlord for the duration of the licensing period, in exchange, the landlord's rental property's property tax will be subject to a much lower tax rate subject to qualified property after obtaining approval for structural integrity and health & safety checkpoints. The dwelling must meet minimum sanitation and health standard which will be subject to annual inspection conducted by independent inspectors. Guideline will be authored by the City administration, yet inspection job will fall on small business operators who are licensed to conduct such inspection in Oahu. This program will achieve multiple positive outcomes: 1) tenants pay less than market rate rental, 2) landlord pay less property tax on investment property, 3) best use of vacant properties by increasing supply of rental units at affordable rate, 4) relatively short time to deploy this program in contrast to public housing development project which takes years, 5) this program introduces competition among market-rate rental units to rent-control units - eventually, both rent control rental rate and market rental rate may aligned on the same equilibrium point based on supply and demand in the rental market.

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?

It's proven that, all these years of so-called "Affordable Housing" projects are just a cover-up for small group of insiders to flip for profits by finding policy loopholes. We have enough vacant dwellings to meet the demand of housing, with my policy on Rent Control and Rent Stabilization Licensing Program - Oahu residents can immediately take advantage of this program.

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:

In free economy model, wage should be dictated by supply and demand. If there is a surge of demand for cashiers in a supermarket, the employer must raise the hourly wage at a level to effect influx of job applicants. There is no need to set minimum wage in free world. Popular, yet hard to fill job placement, those jobs will be compensated much higher to attract talents. While jobs that do not require education nor experience, then the pay level will be lower since lower entry threshold. Any government control of minimum wage will just kill local business operators.
