

#120

COMPLETE

Collector: Email Invitation 1 (Email)
Started: Wednesday, June 10, 2020 7:43:59 PM
Last Modified: Sunday, July 12, 2020 11:46:17 PM
Time Spent: Over a month
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Page 1: Candidate Information

Q1

Office You are Seeking

Honolulu Prosecutor

Q2

Party

Democrat

Q3

First Name

Jacquie

Q4

Last Name

Esser

Q5

Email

vote@esserforjustice.com

Q6

Phone

808-517-6424

Q7

Campaign Website

<http://esserforjustice.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.

Though the Legislature has guaranteed no salary or benefit cuts for state workers, the decision to place \$1 billion worth of CARES money with the Department of Budget & Finance (BUF) to be disbursed by the Governor as needed seems as though they are not focusing on addressing the needs the community and State is facing NOW.

Beyond that, I believe the State and Counties have done reasonably well in their efforts to slow or halt the spread of the disease.

As the economy has slowly reopened, we have seen significant spikes in reported cases, which is a cause for concern. Our officials need to educate and communicate to the community the importance of practicing physical distancing, wearing masks, and limiting the number of people at gatherings. We must continue to work to provide housing and shelter for our houseless by collaborating with community based organizations like HONU and H4. In order to mitigate the transfer of COVID through travel, the State must require pre-flight rapid COVID-19 testing before boarding and continue to take the temperature and information of people upon arrival.

Q9

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

My campaign has made masks to be given to corrections officers, as well as inmates being released who meet qualifications for release under the guidance of the Hawai'i State Supreme Court. We also spearheaded two food banks partnering with HHRH.

Primarily, my efforts have been behind the scenes, as I have been working hard with others on the suit against the Department of Public Safety for the release of non-violent persons for our correctional facility. Our overcrowded jails and prisons are breeding grounds for COVID-19 and both the inmates, the corrections officers, staff, their families and larger community are at great risk.

Q10

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

Page 3: Tobacco and E-Cigarette Regulations

Q11

Respondent skipped this question

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

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

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

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?

The Legislature needs to significantly increase the Food/Excise Tax Credit and use CARES Act funds to expand local food stamp programs, including those that provide double-benefit for use at local farmers markets.

Beyond that, the State and Counties should stand firm on no rezoning of Prime Agricultural Lands (PAL) for development and instead work with local farmers to find creative ways to increase incentives for more people to take up farming locally as a profession.

Governor Ige, during his bid for reelection, called for a doubling of local food production, which is laudable. However, we do not have a clear sense of just how much (or how little) food is locally grown and consumed. To know where we are and where we need to improve, we need to accurately inventory not only how much food is being grown and consumed locally, but also a clear sense of total capacity with available agricultural lands statewide.

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 think it is important that we look to the experts and communities on this issue. ACT 134 (19) required the Department of Transportation (DOT) to submit to the Legislature this year a report "of findings based on the state highway safety council's efforts," as well as a process report. Though it is unclear whether or not this report has indeed been submitted (it is not posted on the DOT's website, as required), we should look carefully at the contents of that report, as well as the final report due later this year.

Additionally, the Hawaii Bicycle League has been holding "Solutions Meetings" around O'ahu. We should look closely at the outcomes of those meetings. It is important that any effort include input from communities around the State for solutions that will work best in their neighborhoods.

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

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

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. **Strongly Oppose**

Q19

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

Q20

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

Increase in alcohol taxes. **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 Support**

Q21

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

Page 7: Marijuana Regulations

Q22

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

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

Q23

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

Page 8: Economic Justice

Q24

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

We must stop investing in our jails and prisons and start investing in our communities and ensuring housing for all. We cannot leave it up to the private sector only to meet our housing crisis.

We also need to take a hard look at the Landlord Tenant Code for potentially necessary updates that sufficiently protects renters from rent spikes or other predatory practices by landlords and prosecute landlords when they violate the law and wrongfully convict tenants.

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?

Housing is a human right. The government should ensure housing for all.

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

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:
