

#52

COMPLETE

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**First Name:** Sne  
**Last Name:** Patel  
**Email:** sne1@mac.com  
**IP Address:** 66.91.106.122

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Page 1: Candidate Information

**Q1**

Office You are Seeking

West Maui County Council

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**Q2**

Party

Non-partisan

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**Q3**

First Name

Sne

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**Q4**

Last Name

Patel

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**Q5**

Email

connect@joinpatel.com

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**Q6**

Phone

(808) 283-0492

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**Q7**

Campaign Website

[www.joinpatel.com](http://www.joinpatel.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.

The first step we should take is to safely bring back tourism, our primary economic driver. We can do this with the help of testing and screening measures and ensuring our businesses are equipped with necessary PPE and logistical modifications. CARES Act money can be utilized to help fund these efforts. Concurrently, federal aid should be spent increasing our local capacity in areas such as agriculture/food security, energy security, tech infrastructure for e-learning and e-commerce, and creating innovation hubs for entrepreneurial development, to help diversify our economy and create greater resiliency in the face of continuing global challenges.

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**Q9**

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

As President of the volunteer LahainaTown Action Committee, an organization dedicated to enhancing the vitality of Lahaina, I have convened regular meetings for our businesses to express their challenges, find ways to adapt to the changing commercial landscape and advocate for aid to cover operating costs. As Gallery Director for Peter Lik Lahaina, I have worked with my staff to help them continue to generate income despite being closed by pivoting to greater digital commerce efforts.

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**Q10**

Additional thoughts/comments:

COVID-19 has put the spotlight on some of the greater challenges that Maui County faces. While we have many challenges, our beautiful islands also offer many opportunities to address these and create new possibilities for our community. I believe that by working together we can not only meet these challenges, but create something greater.

As a husband and father of three children I want to do my part to ensure that all of our keiki inherit a vibrant future.

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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?

I think the state and county need to ensure that sales to underage consumers are prohibited through stringent age verification measures and corresponding fines for violation. I think greater awareness of the detrimental effects of e-cigarettes in particular needs to be made more clearly to our youth through increased education initiatives.

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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>Support</b>          |
| Restrict online sales of e-cigarettes to tobacco retailers only, in order to curb illegal sales to minors.    | <b>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 think Maui County and the state should work to increase access to farmland, training/apprenticeship programs, and capital to grow, process and market our own food.

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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?

Maui County should increase its infrastructure investments in initiatives such as the West Maui Greenway, a proposed 25-mile multi-use trail that safely connects users to the outdoors and community destinations. The county also needs to invest in necessary signage and lighting to create safe crossing areas as well as build more sidewalks.

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**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:

Page 5: Oral Health

**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**

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

**Q20**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- Increase in alcohol taxes. **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. **Oppose**
  - Increase in enforcement that helps ensure that youth do not access alcohol through existing laws allowing for alcohol takeout and delivery. **Strongly Support**
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**Q21**

**Respondent skipped this question**

Additional thoughts/comments:

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Page 7: Marijuana Regulations

**Q22**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- Do you support legalizing recreational marijuana sales in Hawai'i? **Support**
  - 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? **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? **Support**
  - 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 Support**
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**Q23**

**Respondent skipped this question**

Additional thoughts/comments:

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Page 8: Economic Justice

**Q24**

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

Work to increase affordable housing inventory; advocate for a minimum wage increase; provide greater access for agriculture and public transportation.

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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?

Government's role is to create policy that fosters the building of affordable homes in a timely and cost effective fashion through zoning, permitting, land acquisition, finance and incentivization measures. Streamlining the permitting process, working with lenders to negotiate favorable interest rates, applying timelines to developer projects, acquiring donated or below-market value land for building are some ways to expedite building. In the rental market lack of inventory is a great constraint, due in part to short term rentals but also to high home values and the high cost of living, which put many homeowners in a difficult financial situation. The removal of illegally operating short term housing units from market through effective policy can increase inventory.

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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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