

# #103

**COMPLETE**

**Collector:** Email Invitation 1 (Email)  
**Started:** Sunday, July 12, 2020 10:32:52 AM  
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**First Name:** Vicki B.  
**Last Name:** Higgins  
**Email:** higginsvb@gmail.com  
**IP Address:** 24.94.94.108

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## Page 1: Candidate Information

### Q1

Office You are Seeking

Hawaii State Senator - District #10

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### Q2

Party

Democratic

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### Q3

First Name

Vicki

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### Q4

Last Name

Higgins

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### Q5

Email

higginsvb@gmail.com

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### Q6

Phone

8082509536

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**Q7**

Campaign Website

www.higgins2020.net

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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.

Hawaii has always been economically vulnerable because of our reliance on the visitor industry. It's time to look closely at some form of Universal Basic Income which will make us "pandemic proof" and not so heavily dependent on visitor industry and imported goods.

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**Q9**

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

I have not been in a position to assist in these efforts in a public way. Our focus has been on keeping our families safe and whole during this period by remaining compliant with existing safety measures. Among our family members and friends, there are those with compromised immunity systems, expectant mothers and others that are considered high risk. Since mid-March, we have not had or attended large gatherings in an effort to keep everyone safe.

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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?

The only sure-fire way to accomplish this goal is to prohibit the sale of these products. It's always difficult to implement policy that involves behavior.

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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 Oppose</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 Oppose</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**

Additional thoughts/comments:

Increasing taxes on these products does not reduce use. Because these are addictions, users will pay by sacrificing basic essentials.

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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?

This is a national tragedy that is, again, dictated by addictive behavior. Education in all these areas must start early and information on consequences must be shared for families to implement healthy habits at home.

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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?

Because Honolulu is densely populated, it's perfect for biking to and from work, beaches, shopping. The arrival of Lyft and Uber has helped for door-to-door service at a reasonable cost. Personally, I love Biki Biking - so I'm especially interested in Honolulu becoming totally bike friendly. To assist in safe biking, I believe we should restrict one side of certain streets for pedestrians, and dedicate the opposite sidewalk for bikers.

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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 Oppose**

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**

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**Q17** Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

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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. **Strongly Support**

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**Q19** Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

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Page 6: Alcohol Regulations

**Q20**

Please indicate your position on the following policies:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| Increase in alcohol taxes.  | <b>Strongly Oppose</b>  |
| Repeal of the alcohol takeout laws that allow people to buy and take home liquor-based mixed drinks from restaurants.                       | <b>Strongly Support</b> |
| Repeal of alcohol delivery laws that allow restaurants to deliver beer and liquor-based mixed drinks to people's homes.                     | <b>Strongly Support</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**

Respondent skipped this question

Additional thoughts/comments:

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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 Oppose</b>  |
| If recreational marijuana is formally proposed by the state, how strongly would you support that the price of marijuana be regulated?                             | <b>Strongly Support</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>Strongly Support</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**

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 with developers on "smart" development for new homes based on demand. There has been resistance to certain types of dwellings that should be explored.

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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 can provide subsidized long-term rentals. These can be private/public projects. Also, more needs to be done to keep the median prices of homes low by aligning with median incomes rather than artificial market based on outside investors.

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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. **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 Support**

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**Q27**

**Respondent skipped this question**

Additional thoughts/comments:

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