

DOMINIC HERNANDEZ/REPUBLICAN

1. Will you support the preparation and passage of legislation to classify the whole of the real estate industry encompassing both the private sector and related Government of Guam agencies as TRUE ESSENTIAL SERVICES?

A: With how much our economy has been affected by the crisis, I believe giving every business a fighting chance to survive the crisis while maintaining and ensuring public safety in accordance with public health standards even with capacity limitations is the best course of action to take. Throughout the crisis, I have never understood or made sense of why or how the government operates in the way it does. As you stated, having real estate be considered an essential business but close government agencies and certain private industries that have huge impacts on the real estate industry in order to operate properly and/or be in compliance with government regulations in my own opinion does not make sense. If government regulations state that real estate is considered an essential business than it would make sense to operate said agencies or private businesses that affect the real estate's ability to operate or be within compliance even if they only open with limitations.

2. Will you support the classification of the GLUC application processing system (critical to improving Guam's economic well-being) as an essential service during the COVID-19 Condition of Readiness operating restrictions?

A; I do believe the public safety and health is without a doubt important, however, so is our ability to continue operating our businesses, our livelihoods, & the welfare of our citizens are equally important. Many have suffered during this crisis most notably our high rate of unemployed citizens. Even operating with limitations will help reduce the number of citizens who are jobless or on the edge of losing everything. I would support and agree to continue GLUC operations so long as public health & safety guidelines to operate the agency are met.

Government Questions:

1. Will you support the creation, introduction and passage of a bill to change the operation of the Guam Legislature from full time to part time?

A: yes, I would agree to support our legislature to change operation from full time to part time.

2. Will you support the repeal of the 1% increase in the Business Privilege Tax/Gross Receipt Tax rate, i.e. restoring the BPT/GRT rate to 4%?

A: Yes I will support the repeal of the 1% increase and resort the BPT/GRT rate to 4%. It will help many businesses save money to be able to survive and recover from the effects of the economic crisis.

3. Are you in favor of increasing taxes and/fees to deal with Government of Guam revenue shortfall caused by COVID-19 imposed restrictions on private sector business operations?

A: I am not in favor of increasing taxes or fees to help recover the shortfall. There are other avenues to reduce government spending without the need to increase any taxes or fees. One example is pushing the issue on reducing the number of government agencies within our GovGuam system and combining the smaller agencies with the larger agencies. Just this one method will get rid of directors and/or deputy directors of agencies who earn anywhere from \$75,000 per year & up for agencies with less than 20 staff members in total. There are other methods as well to help save more money by reducing how much GovGuam spends per year to operate.

4. Will you support a significant reduction in Government of Guam expenditures including payroll during COVID-19 lockdown and PCOR2 periods in order to keep the Government solvent?

A: Under the organic act govguam employees are allowed to be paid even though they are not working due to a public health emergency. I plan to change that. If any person is not working they will have the option to use their paid leave, sick days, or simply do not get paid if they're not working. Many in the private sector did not get paid anything for the first several months of the crisis and only received something after PUA was finally released with some still who have not received anything. It is unfair that taxpayers in the private sector are paying government employees despite not working. If that is the case then in order for it to be fair the same tax funds being used to pay govguam employees also should pay the ate sector since they too are taxpayers and in fact the biggest contributor to taxes. As well I will support deductions in unnecessary expenditures expect agencies that need to stay fully funded and operations ie Police, Fire, Education, Public Health, DRT, and other related agencies.

5. Are you in favor of increasing the local minimum wage and Why?

A: I am not in favor of increasing minimum wage because every time we do increase it, everything else rises with it making it pointless to raise it, to begin with. Instead, I offer another solution, government funded programs to help our citizens learn a new trade and/or skill to improve work abilities to help them earn better wages.

6. Are you in favor of reducing taxes and fees to assist in the start of small businesses and in maintaining their viability?

I would be in favor of this idea with the added fact of a cap limit.

7. What functions of the Government of Guam do you believe should be privatized?

One Department should be the Decolonization Commission. Not everyone on Guam who pays taxes wants to "decolonize" therefore to be fair it should not be considered a department under GovGuam rather a privatized organization. They can still earn grants from the government to

help to research decolonization but it should not fall under the government itself or be the responsibility of the government to operate it.

8.Are you in support of the impending military buildup and the Marine relocation?

Yes I do support it and believe it will benefit Guam in many different ways

If you have any concerns or questions please contact me via email or by phone 671-488-4467.
Thank you and I look forward to the opportunity to speak to your association.

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