

MICHELLE ARMENTA/REPUBLICAN

GAR QUESTIONNAIRE

A. Real Estate Industry Related

1. The Governor's office has upgraded the classification of the real estate industry as an essential service during COVID-19 "Condition of Readiness" operating restrictions. However, Government of Guam agencies that are part and parcel of the real estate industry remain either closed or inactive. (The real estate industry encompasses private sector real estate activities as well as Government of Guam agencies that are involved in the processing of real estate transactions including taxation, recordation, land management interaction, construction and land use permitting, building inspections, building occupancy and document recordation.). 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?

Yes

2. The Guam Land Use Commission (GLUC) application processing system has been rendered inactive by GovGuam COVID restrictions since March 2020 with no apparent urgency to restore the system to full operation. The estimated value of development projects currently awaiting Department of Land Management and GLUC-related action since March is nearly \$2 billion. 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?

Yes

B. General Government

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? Yes

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%? Yes

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? No

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? Yes, a reduction in GovGuam expenditures including payroll should not be limited to the lockdown.

5. Are you in favor of increasing the local minimum wage and Why? No, the minimum wage was not meant to be a living wage and has many negative effects on the economy:

1. Reduction of employment positions which leads to layoffs.
2. Reduction of hours for employees.
3. The loss of the "first-time job." Teenagers without job experience will lose out on job opportunities to older applicants which will lead to producing low skilled workers in the future.
4. The price of products will increase to make up for the wage increase. This will be felt by many on a tight budget such as low and middle income families.

6. Are you in favor of reducing taxes and fees to assist in the start of small businesses and in maintaining their viability? Yes, some fees should even be eliminated.

7. What functions of the Government of Guam do you believe should be privatized? A lot of people are talking about privatizing the power company. I want to have it deregulated. The supply of the electricity is separated from the utility but the electricity would be given to private Retail Electric Providers. This would create competition, thereby creating low electric rates, better service, more jobs, and improved energy technologies for greener energies because it would be left to the private market which is much better at innovation than government.

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