2022 Candidate Guide Issued November 6, 2022

2022 Candidate Guide

Letter from the Chapter Leader

November 6, 2022

Voters of Guam,

The Progressive Democrats of Guam (PDG) prepared our six-question survey for senatorial candidates with three goals in mind. First, we believe that the people of Guam deserve to know where senatorial candidates stand on important issues to working families on Guam. Second, we want to promote the awareness of prospective political leaders of important progressive issues that are deeply important to the working people of Guam. Third, we want to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about important progressive issues and which candidates stand up for working families.

After considerable deliberation, PDG brought forward six issues of vital social and economic importance: protecting abortion rights, securing health care for all the people of Guam, providing unemployment insurance to protect those who lose a job through no fault of their own, taking an incremental step toward a living wage, ensuring access to adequate public transportation for working families, and ensuring that no person will be unable to attend public college at GCC or UOG because they cannot afford tuition.

PDG's 2022 Candidate Guide is intended to serve as a resource for fellow progressives to use while they make their individual decisions about which candidates they will support and vote for in the ongoing general election. We have chosen to highlight the eight most progressive senatorial candidates who responded to our survey, based on our ratings of their survey answers with respect to each priority issue.

Thank you for taking the time to review this 2022 Candidate Guide. Si yu'os ma'åse! Stand Up. Take Action. Vote.

Respectfully,

Julian Janssen Chapter Leader Progressive Democrats of Guam

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8 Most Progressive Senatorial Candidates

William M. Parkinson

Fred E. Bordallo, Jr.

Sarah Thomas Nededog

Dwayne San Nicolas

Jonathan Savares

Kelly Marsh Taitano

Roy A.B. Quinata

Tina R. Muña Barnes

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Survey Questionnaire

Hafa adai!

I am Julian Janssen, the Chapter Leader of the Progressive Democrats of Guam (PDG). In a zoom meeting, PDG adopted a 6-Point Platform for the 2022 Guam Legislative Election. PDG was organized in 2020 with a core group from the Guam for Bernie 2020 campaign group. In the 2020 Guam General Election, 5 out of the 7 candidates outlined as most progressive by PDG were elected to the 36th Guam Legislature. PDG has a Facebook page with about 3,500 likes, a Twitter account with about 850 followers, a website, and a small but growing following on Instagram. The following survey is based on the 6-Point Platform adopted by PDG.

Kindly submit written answers via email to pdguam671@gmail.com by not later than Wednesday, November 2, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. for review by the PDG and publication in a pdf booklet containing the answers for the review of voters.

1. Abortion Rights.

Pregnant people have the right to choose when and if they would have an abortion. Will you vote against any effort to ban or significantly limit the right of pregnant people to make their own decision about when and if they would have an abortion? Please explain why or why not.

2. Health Care Rights.

Health care is a human right, not a privilege. Do you support establishing a tax-funded universal single-payer health insurance system, similar to Medicare-for-All? Please explain why or why not. If you do not support such a plan, please explain how you would secure universal health care coverage as a right.

3. Enacting Unemployment Insurance.

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have unemployment insurance

programs providing partial wage replacement to those unemployed through no fault of

their own, at an average cost to employers of 0.47% of total payroll. Unemployment programs can borrow from the U.S. Department of Labor to cover benefits when local funds are insufficient. Will you vote in favor of establishing such an employer-funded unemployment insurance program? Please explain why or why not.

4. Living Wage.

PDG supports moving toward securing a living wage for all full time workers. Will you vote in favor of adopting a phased minimum wage increase to \$11.25 by 2024? Please explain why or why not.

5. Right to Adequate Public Transit.

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Public transit serves some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities, the elderly, working students, and low-income families. Providing adequate public transit in practical terms means GRTA's fleet should grow to around 100 electric buses (which would have major benefit to our air quality) to allow efficient service. Will you work with GRTA to ensure that its fleet increases to 100 electric buses, supplementing with local funds if necessary? Please explain why or why not.

6. Right to Post-Secondary Education.

PDG supports free public college and university at GCC and UOG. Will you vote to ensure that every student that does not receive adequate grants to cover tuition can have free college at GCC and UOG? Please explain why or why not.

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Senatorial Candidate Rating Summary

Candidate	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Score
William M. Parkinson	5	5	5	5	5	5	30
Fred E. Bordallo, Jr.	5	5	5	5	5	3	28
Sarah Thomas Nededog	4	4	5	5	5	5	28
Dwayne San Nicolas	5	5	5	4	4	4	27
Jonathan Savares	5	4	4	4	5	5	27
Kelly Marsh Taitano	5	3	4	4	4	4	24
Roy A.B. Quinata	5	5	5	5	1	3	24
Tina Muna Barnes	5	4	5	2	2	5	23
Joe S. San Agustin	1	3	4	4	4	4	20
Sabina Perez	5	1	1	1	4	5	17
Mana Silva Taijeron	1	2	1	2	4	4	14
Sam Mabini Young	1	1	3	2	2	1	10

Question Ratings

Ratings for each question are assigned a score of 1 to 5, with 1 being least consistent with the position of PDG and 5 being least consistent with the position of PDG.

Score

The score for each responsive candidate is the sum of all Question Ratings for the candidate.

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Candidate: William M. Parkinson

Party: Democrat

1. Abortion Rights.

Pregnant people have the right to choose when and if they would have an abortion. Will you vote against any effort to ban or significantly limit the right of pregnant people to make their own decision about when and if they would have an abortion? Please explain why or why not.

No, (sic) I am staunchly Prochoice and will defend a woman's right to choose.

2. Health Care Rights.

Health care is a human right, not a privilege. Do you support establishing a tax-funded universal single-payer health insurance system, similar to Medicare-for-All? Please explain why or why not. If you do not support such a plan, please explain how you would secure universal health care coverage as a right.

I support Medicare for all. Having our job tied to our employment is a major flaw when faced with a major mass unemployment event like a pandemic. Universal healthcare is the only system viable to meet the challenges of the modern world.

3. Enacting Unemployment Insurance.

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have unemployment insurance programs providing partial wage replacement to those unemployed through no fault of their own, at an average cost to employers of 0.47% of total payroll. Unemployment programs can borrow from the U.S. Department of Labor to cover benefits when local funds are insufficient. Will you vote in favor of establishing such an employer-funded unemployment insurance program? Please explain why or why not.

<u>I will vote in favor for local unemployment insurance program. It will be the first bill I introduce.</u>

4. Living Wage.

PDG supports moving toward securing a living wage for all full time workers. Will you vote in favor of adopting a phased minimum wage increase to \$11.25 by 2024? Please explain why or why not.

I would support \$11.25 by 2024. That said, I don't think it goes far enough and am open to going beyond.

5. Right to Adequate Public Transit.

Public transit serves some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities, the elderly, working students, and low-income

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families. Providing adequate public transit in practical terms means GRTA's fleet should grow to around 100 electric buses (which would have major benefit to our air quality) to allow efficient service. Will you work with GRTA to ensure that its fleet increases to 100 electric buses, supplementing with local funds if necessary? Please explain why or why not.

Yes I will support GRTA to make the green transition. I believe in reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and energy will take steps to take that attitude into governing philosophy.

6. Right to Post-Secondary Education.

PDG supports free public college and university at GCC and UOG. Will you vote to ensure that every student that does not receive adequate grants to cover tuition can have free college at GCC and UOG? Please explain why or why not.

<u>I support free college.</u> <u>I especially like it for jobs like teachers and nurses that we are constantly short in.</u> <u>I believe a free college program would be a great way to recruit and retain homegrown talent.</u>

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Candidate: Fred E. Bordallo, Jr.

Party: Democrat

1. Abortion Rights.

Pregnant people have the right to choose when and if they would have an abortion. Will you vote against any effort to ban or significantly limit the right of pregnant people to make their own decision about when and if they would have an abortion? Please explain why or why not.

Answer: I support the right for women to choose and decide on receiving from their healthcare provider a medical procedure of abortion. This is a decision between a women and their medical physician without Government intrusion. I am on the side of womens rights and pro choice.

2. Health Care Rights.

Health care is a human right, not a privilege. Do you support establishing a tax-funded universal single-payer health insurance system, similar to Medicare-for-All? Please explain why or why not. If you do not support such a plan, please explain how you would secure universal health care coverage as a right.

Answer: I support a tax funded universal single-payer health insurance plan because the benefit of this progressive initiative is that it can provide those with social economic challenges to survive and live with the services of our public health care system, and have opportunities to recover and thrive.

3. Enacting Unemployment Insurance.

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have unemployment insurance programs providing partial wage replacement to those unemployed through no fault of their own, at an average cost to employers of 0.47% of total payroll. Unemployment programs can borrow from the U.S. Department of Labor to cover benefits when local funds are insufficient. Will you vote in favor of establishing such an employer-funded unemployment insurance program? Please explain why or why not.

Answer:I will vote in favor of employer funded unemployment insurance. These programs will assist the worker to meet his/her essential needs and then return back to the work force.

4. Living Wage.

PDG supports moving toward securing a living wage for all full time workers. Will you vote in favor of adopting a phased minimum wage increase to \$11.25 by 2024? Please explain why or why not.

Answer: I will vote in favor of adopting a phased minimum wage increase \$11.25 by 2024

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5. Right to Adequate Public Transit.

Public transit serves some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities, the elderly, working students, and low-income families. Providing adequate public transit in practical terms means GRTA's fleet should grow to around 100 electric buses (which would have major benefit to our air quality) to allow efficient service. Will you work with GRTA to ensure that its fleet increases to 100 electric buses, supplementing with local funds if necessary? Please explain why or why not.

Answer: I support this fleet increase. Additionally because I rode on the mass transit and heard the concerns of riders I will add funding so that operations can serve Sunday riders,

6. Right to Post-Secondary Education.

PDG supports free public college and university at GCC and UOG. Will you vote to ensure that every student that does not receive adequate grants to cover tuition can have free college at GCC and UOG? Please explain why or why not.

Answer: I will support free college and university for those that meet this criteria economically disadvantage because this expands the level of persons in our community with the education to solve future complex challenges ahead. Their social economic challenges should not be a barrier for our island to invest in their education goals.

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Candidate: Sarah Thomas Nededog

Party: Democrat

1. Abortion Rights.

Pregnant people have the right to choose when and if they would have an abortion. Will you vote against any effort to ban or significantly limit the right of pregnant people to make their own decision about when and if they would have an abortion? Please explain why or why not.

I think prevention of unplanned pregnancies and education of our people especially our youth on sex education, and abuse including sexual assaults are important strategies. Oftentimes persons experiencing unplanned pregnancies go into a crisis mode and look for desperate and extreme actions to deal with their situation. Prevention is key but also working with those who find themselves with an unplanned pregnancy must be supported to make the best decisions for them. This means having good and accessible programs for prevention, and for those who do ultimately choose abortion, to have post-abortion counseling as well. Any decision made regarding a unplanned pregnancy is often very difficult, and we need to have educated and supportive families, communities and organizations to be there for them.

2. Health Care Rights.

Health care is a human right, not a privilege. Do you support establishing a tax-funded universal single-payer health insurance system, similar to Medicare-for-All? Please explain why or why not. If you do not support such a plan, please explain how you would secure universal health care coverage as a right.

Yes, health care should be available for any and all of our people. Preventative care is especially important in the schools, communities and worksites to do early identification of any condition that if left unaddressed, can lead to complex health problems. Support can come in the way of ensuring that all are provided insurance coverage - if this be universal health or other approaches, we need to bring the subject matter experts with users of services together to determine how this can best be accomplished for our community. Behavioral health including drug and alcohol prevention and treatment is critical to supporting the overall health of our community.

3. Enacting Unemployment Insurance.

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have unemployment insurance

programs providing partial wage replacement to those unemployed through no fault of

their own, at an average cost to employers of 0.47% of total payroll. Unemployment programs can borrow from the U.S. Department of Labor to cover benefits when local funds are insufficient. Will you vote in favor of establishing such an employer-funded unemployment insurance program? Please explain why or why not.

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Yes, I support unemployment insurance. I think if properly monitored can be the best fit for our people who are struggling with loss of income and employment while working towards re-employment to support themselves and families. If we do not develop these strategies we may see more people fall into poverty and have difficulty recovering.

4. Living Wage.

PDG supports moving toward securing a living wage for all full time workers. Will you vote in favor of adopting a phased minimum wage increase to \$11.25 by 2024? Please explain why or why not.

Yes, I would. Alongside that I would like to see a robust education (academic and vocational) and training program in the community, in schools, and in the community to help people become more employable and to encourage lifelong learning.

5. Right to Adequate Public Transit.

Public transit serves some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities, the elderly, working students, and low-income families. Providing adequate public transit in practical terms means GRTA's fleet should grow to around 100 electric buses (which would have major benefit to our air quality) to allow efficient service. Will you work with GRTA to ensure that its fleet increases to 100 electric buses, supplementing with local funds if necessary? Please explain why or why not.

Absolutely would support GRTA expansion to electric buses. It will save money, energy and our environment to do so.

6. Right to Post-Secondary Education.

PDG supports free public college and university at GCC and UOG. Will you vote to ensure that every student that does not receive adequate grants to cover tuition can have free college at GCC and UOG? Please explain why or why not.

Yes, we need to do intense outreach to ensure that everyone, even those with disabilities or at-home caregiving responsibilities can learn and contribute to their livelihood and to their family and community. If they do not qualify for grants, but are unable to pay tuition, they should be eligible for participation in education and training programs. The path to our full recovery and to the socio-economic sustainability of our island requires that we protect our human resources and empower them to care for themselves and contribute to their families and communities.

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Candidate: Dwayne San Nicolas

Party: Democrat

1. Abortion Rights.

Pregnant people have the right to choose when and if they would have an abortion. Will you vote against any effort to ban or significantly limit the right of pregnant people to make their own decision about when and if they would have an abortion? Please explain why or why not.

I will oppose any legislation that would deny a woman's right to choose.

2. Health Care Rights.

Health care is a human right, not a privilege. Do you support establishing a tax-funded universal single-payer health insurance system, similar to Medicare-for-All? Please explain why or why not. If you do not support such a plan, please explain how you would secure universal health care coverage as a right.

<u>I support establishing a tax-funded universal single-payer health insurance system,</u> similar to Medicare-for-All!

3. Enacting Unemployment Insurance.

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have unemployment insurance programs providing partial wage replacement to those unemployed through no fault of their own, at an average cost to employers of 0.47% of total payroll. Unemployment programs can borrow from the U.S. Department of Labor to cover benefits when local funds are insufficient. Will you vote in favor of establishing such an employer-funded unemployment insurance program? Please explain why or why not.

I support establishing such an employer-funded unemployment insurance program!

4. Living Wage.

PDG supports moving toward securing a living wage for all full time workers. Will you vote in favor of adopting a phased minimum wage increase to \$11.25 by 2024? Please explain why or why not.

Although I encourage the market to decide what it should pay based on qualifications and skills, I support an incremental increase in the minimum wage as long as it doesn't place undue burden on our economic engines, small businesses and add to the rising cost of living on Guam.

5. Right to Adequate Public Transit.

Public transit serves some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities, the elderly, working students, and low-income families. Providing adequate public transit in practical terms means GRTA's fleet should grow to around 100 electric buses (which would have major benefit to our air quality)

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to allow efficient service. Will you work with GRTA to ensure that its fleet increases to 100 electric buses, supplementing with local funds if necessary? Please explain why or why not.

<u>I</u> will support the right to adequate public transit because I believe it will support economic activity and growth of our island.

6. Right to Post-Secondary Education.

PDG supports free public college and university at GCC and UOG. Will you vote to ensure that every student that does not receive adequate grants to cover tuition can have free college at GCC and UOG? Please explain why or why not.

I support the right to post-secondary education. As a post secondary graduate and a recipient of varying student aid and veterans benefits, I believe that higher education is the key to a better and brighter future for all!

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Candidate: Jonathan Savares

Party: Democrat

1. Abortion Rights.

Pregnant people have the right to choose when and if they would have an abortion. Will you vote against any effort to ban or significantly limit the right of pregnant people to make their own decision about when and if they would have an abortion? Please explain why or why not.

I will not (sic) vote against a bill to ban abortion.

I believe (sic) that the decision should be had between a women, her family, as well as her doctor.

2. Health Care Rights.

Health care is a human right, not a privilege. Do you support establishing a tax-funded universal single-payer health insurance system, similar to Medicare-for-All? Please explain why or why not. If you do not support such a plan, please explain how you would secure universal health care coverage as a right.

According to the United Nations development goal of the UN, "aims to be relevant to all countries and focuses on improving equity to meet the needs of women, children and the poorest, most disadvantaged people."

I believe that health care is a human right and I believe that everyone should have access to medical treatment. I have heard President Biden support universal healthcare and believe that it is the best direction for our island as well. This will allow us to keep a (sic) our island healthier and moving forward.

3. Enacting Unemployment Insurance.

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have unemployment insurance programs providing partial wage replacement to those unemployed through no fault of their own, at an average cost to employers of 0.47% of total payroll. Unemployment programs can borrow from the U.S. Department of Labor to cover benefits when local funds are insufficient. Will you vote in favor of establishing such an employer-funded unemployment insurance program? Please explain why or why not.

I believe that an (sic) permanent unemployment system needs to be established. We need to protect employees who are terminated, at no fault of their doing. I believe that the legislature needs to work with the employers to ensure that this will not drive up cost of products and services to island residents when doing so.

4. Living Wage.

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PDG supports moving toward securing a living wage for all full time workers. Will you vote in favor of adopting a phased minimum wage increase to \$11.25 by 2024? Please explain why or why not.

Absolutely. A living wage is why we have seen so many people leave Guam. Our people have been getting priced out of so many thing (sic) over the years, due to the rate of inflation and wages not catching up with this rate. When a gallon of milk and a dozen eggs costing more that (sic) what someone makes in an hour, we have a massive disparity.

5. Right to Adequate Public Transit.

Public transit serves some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities, the elderly, working students, and low-income families. Providing adequate public transit in practical terms means GRTA's fleet should grow to around 100 electric buses (which would have major benefit to our air quality) to allow efficient service. Will you work with GRTA to ensure that its fleet increases to 100 electric buses, supplementing with local funds if necessary? Please explain why or why not.

Yes, I absolutely agree that we should have a mass transit system that our island can count on. If the Government of Guam has to meet certain requirements that is needed in the legislature or through funding to ensure that we meet what is needed to build a mass transit system that works our (sic) our island, I will support this endeavor.

6. Right to Post-Secondary Education.

PDG supports free public college and university at GCC and UOG. Will you vote to ensure that every student that does not receive adequate grants to cover tuition can have free college at GCC and UOG? Please explain why or why not.

I believe that this needs to be taken a step further not just with UOG and GCC, I believe that we should also include Guam Trades Academy into this. Education for anyone who wants to further their education should have the ability to do so, the ability to pay should not be the limiting factor. This would allow for more talent to be developed locally to support our island as a whole.

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Candidate: Roy A.B. Quinata

Party: Democrat

1. Abortion Rights.

Pregnant people have the right to choose when and if they would have an abortion. Will you vote against any effort to ban or significantly limit the right of pregnant people to make their own decision about when and if they would have an abortion? Please explain why or why not.

I AM PRO-CHOICE. I WILL PROTECT A WOMENS RIGHT TO CHOOSE. I THINK OUR GOVERNMENT'S FOCUS SHOULD BE ON HEALTHCARE FOR ALL.

2. Health Care Rights.

Health care is a human right, not a privilege. Do you support establishing a tax-funded universal single-payer health insurance system, similar to Medicare-for-All? Please explain why or why not. If you do not support such a plan, please explain how you would secure universal health care coverage as a right.

YES, I WOULD GLADLY SUPPORT UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE. A GREAT NUMBER OF OUR PEOPLE SEE INSURANCE AND HEALTHCARE AS A LUXURY AND NOT A NECESSITY. IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE AS LEADERS WORK COLLABORATIVELY TO ESTABLISH THIS PROGRAM SWIFTLY AND PROMOTE HEALTHCARE THAT WORKS FOR ALL OF US.

3. Enacting Unemployment Insurance.

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have unemployment insurance programs providing partial wage replacement to those unemployed through no fault of their own, at an average cost to employers of 0.47% of total payroll. Unemployment programs can borrow from the U.S. Department of Labor to cover benefits when local funds are insufficient. Will you vote in favor of establishing such an employer-funded unemployment insurance program? Please explain why or why not.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE IS A MUST HAVE ESPECIALLY AFTER MANY OF OUR PEOPLE WERE UNEMPLOYED DURING THE PANDEMIC. BETTERING THE LIVES OF OUR PEOPLE. THIS PROGRAM CAN ALSO ALLEVIATE THE IMMENSE STRESS AND ANXIETIES MANY FACE WHILE LOOKING FOR OTHER OPPORTUNITIES. I BELIEVE IN THIS PROGRAM AND I WOULD GLADLY SUPPORT ANY MEASURE TO PROTECT OUR WORKING CLASS PEOPLE BECAUSE THE WORKING CLASS IS THE BACKBONE OF OUR ECONOMY.

4. Living Wage.

PDG supports moving toward securing a living wage for all full time workers. Will you vote in favor of adopting a phased minimum wage increase to \$11.25 by 2024? Please explain why or why not.

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WE NEED TO DO BETTER. THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY WILL ALWAYS USE THE SCARE TACTICS TO ENSURE THEY PAY EMPLOYEES LESS AND THAT'S THE REASON MANY OF OUR PEOPLE LEAVE OUR ISLAND. MOST OF ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE LEFT OUR ISLAND, DID SO TO LEAD BETTER LIVES FOR THEMSELVES AND THE FAMILY AS A WHOLE. LIVING WAGE IS DEFINITELY A MUST AND I WILL STAND BY THIS INCREASE. IT'S BEEN PROVEN TIME AND TIME AGAIN THAT THE MORE MONEY CIRCULATING THE MORE OUR ECONOMY THRIVES. IF OUR ECONOMY THRIVES OUR PEOPLE AND OUR ISLAND THRIVE BECAUSE ONLY TOGETHER CAN WE ALL THRIVE.

5. Right to Adequate Public Transit.

Public transit serves some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities, the elderly, working students, and low-income families. Providing adequate public transit in practical terms means GRTA's fleet should grow to around 100 electric buses (which would have major benefit to our air quality) to allow efficient service. Will you work with GRTA to ensure that its fleet increases to 100 electric buses, supplementing with local funds if necessary? Please explain why or why not.

PUBLIC TRANSIT HAS BEEN A GENERATIONAL HEADACHE— EACH ADMINISTRATION HAS DONE ITS BEST TO STAND UP PUBLIC TRANSIT BUT THERE IS JUST SO MANY PROCUREMENT BARRIERS WITH GSA. IF ELECTED I WILL WORK WITH MY COLLEAGUES TO INFUSE THE BIDEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FUNDS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO INACCESSIBLE ROADWAYS. I THINK RIDE SHARING CAN ALSO CLEAR RESPONSE TIME FOR OUR RIDERS.

6. Right to Post-Secondary Education.

PDG supports free public college and university at GCC and UOG. Will you vote to ensure that every student that does not receive adequate grants to cover tuition can have free college at GCC and UOG? Please explain why or why not.

HIGHER EDUCATION IS GREAT BUT I MYSELF COULDN'T AFFORD TO ATTEND COLLEGE BECAUSE MY PARENTS JUST MADE TOO MUCH OR TOO LITTLE. I WAS UNABLE TO QUALIFY FOR MANY PROGRAMS AND EVEN FAFSA WOULDN'T ACCEPT MY APPLICATION. I KNOW THE HARDSHIPS MANY FACE TO FILL OUT ALL THOSE DOCUMENTS. WE NEED TO FIND A WAY TO STREAMLINE THE ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE AND CONDUCT BUSINESS FASTER.

I WILL SUPPORT NOT ONLY GRANT FUNDING BUT ALSO PURSUE MORE GRANT WRITERS TO SHORE UP THE CAMPUS AND FACILITIES. WE NEED TO DO BETTER AND OFFER MORE EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH. THE MILITARY AS WELL HAS BEEN A FARMING HUB FOR MANY TO ATTAIN HIGH EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. IT IS MY BELIEF THAT WE JUST HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE SUPPORT OUR LOCALS FIRST AND INFUSE THEM INTO OUR LOCAL WORKFORCE. AN EDUCATIONAL INVESTMENT ONLY FAILS, THOSE WHO DO NOT EDUCATE THEMSELVES.

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Candidate: Kelly Marsh Taitano

Party: Democrat

1. Abortion Rights.

Pregnant people have the right to choose when and if they would have an abortion. Will you vote against any effort to ban or significantly limit the right of pregnant people to make their own decision about when and if they would have an abortion? Please explain why or why not.

Being a survivor of sexual assault as a child and having friends that have suffered an ectopic pregnancy and other such real-life situations helps me understand firsthand that the issue is complex. Such complex issues must be decided upon by the individual, their loved ones, and their health-care provider. Those tackling these complex issues need to have safe, accessible options for reproductive health care that is the right choice for them.

2. Health Care Rights.

Health care is a human right, not a privilege. Do you support establishing a tax-funded universal single-payer health insurance system, similar to Medicare-for-All? Please explain why or why not. If you do not support such a plan, please explain how you would secure universal health care coverage as a right.

I believe that health care is a human right. I prefer a mixed system between public and private sector coverage with the goal of providing universal health insurance coverage.

3. Enacting Unemployment Insurance.

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have unemployment insurance programs providing partial wage replacement to those unemployed through no fault of their own, at an average cost to employers of 0.47% of total payroll. Unemployment programs can borrow from the U.S. Department of Labor to cover benefits when local funds are insufficient. Will you vote in favor of establishing such an employer-funded unemployment insurance program? Please explain why or why not.

We all learned a lesson about the importance of unemployment insurance programs for communities. During this pandemic, we were fortunate that the federal government augmented programs and that we were allowed to receive such funding even without a program which saved our economy and allowed for the survival of our people. However, there is no such guarantee of this in the future, nor of any assistance for other unemployment insurance-type needs for our people. I support a well-written, well-researched, and thoughtful approach to what makes sense for us in our community regarding unemployment insurance. The Dept. of Labor is conducting such research and I look forward to their findings as to what approach makes the most sense for our community.

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4. Living Wage.

PDG supports moving toward securing a living wage for all full time workers. Will you vote in favor of adopting a phased minimum wage increase to \$11.25 by 2024? Please explain why or why not.

Guam has a high rate of poverty and families that struggle. We must find ways to train and upskill our people, create a better set of dynamics that provide more higher paying jobs, and make sure that they have living wages. We all know the cost of living is significantly higher in Guam, we must support our people with a wage that reflects their realities. Economists say that this will expand our economy and better support our businesses because those making minimum wage will spend every additional dime in our local stores and restaurants. Toward that end, I support a carefully phased increase to the minimum wage that takes into consideration our local economic dynamics.

5. Right to Adequate Public Transit.

Public transit serves some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities, the elderly, working students, and low-income families. Providing adequate public transit in practical terms means GRTA's fleet should grow to around 100 electric buses (which would have major benefit to our air quality) to allow efficient service. Will you work with GRTA to ensure that its fleet increases to 100 electric buses, supplementing with local funds if necessary? Please explain why or why not.

I am working on a bill that will help ensure that GRTA expands its services to our people on a regular basis, helping out more and more of our people which makes our economy run by providing transportation to their work, getting people to their medical appointments, and other necessities of daily life. Not only does mass transportation itself help ease our carbon footprints and growing traffic jams, electric vehicles are the way to go--they are cleaner, greener, more energy efficient, and in the end, have the potential to be less costly to our government. I think we need to consider public transit as more than a service but as a utility. Like power and water, there needs to be adequate access to public transit. I therefore support expansion of the vehicle fleet to achieve this goal and the utilization of electric vehicles financed by federal funds first and foremost and local funds as is feasible.

6. Right to Post-Secondary Education.

PDG supports free public college and university at GCC and UOG. Will you vote to ensure that every student that does not receive adequate grants to cover tuition can have free college at GCC and UOG? Please explain why or why not.

We all stand to benefit from having more of our population be educated, especially in the fields in which we need for our community to run. We need more teachers, more nurses, and the list goes on. Early on, Guam actually had programs that provided free college education for its people. We need to be serious about this possibility for our people and for the benefit of our community by exploring how a transition to a system

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of free tertiary education would work well for us. We stand to have much to gain if this possibility is thoughtfully established. At the same time, we must think about how we can also offer the same level of support for training in other fields such as the trades that our community desperately needs to function as well and which provide well-paying jobs for our people.

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Candidate: Tina Rose Muña Barnes

Party: Democrat

1. Abortion Rights.

Pregnant people have the right to choose when and if they would have an abortion. Will you vote against any effort to ban or significantly limit the right of pregnant people to make their own decision about when and if they would have an abortion? Please explain why or why not.

When I was confronted with that choice a long time ago, I chose life and I still believe that every woman has the right to make that same choice for themselves.

Our focus as legislators is to make it easier for mothers to raise their children well. That's why I introduce bills that give pregnant women the support they need and protect them from workplace discrimination.

2. Health Care Rights.

Health care is a human right, not a privilege. Do you support establishing a tax-funded universal single-payer health insurance system, similar to Medicare-for-All? Please explain why or why not. If you do not support such a plan, please explain how you would secure universal health care coverage as a right.

<u>In the 27th Guam Legislature, I introduced legislation that would lay the foundation for universal healthcare. I was crucified for it, and I did not make it in the next election.</u>

<u>Times are different now, and I think that more and more people are acknowledging the fact that health care is not a privilege but a human right.</u>

I believe that we need to prioritize making healthcare accessible, available, and affordable—not just for the fortunate but for everyone. I will support a plan to secure universal healthcare coverage as a right.

3. Enacting Unemployment Insurance.

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have unemployment insurance programs providing partial wage replacement to those unemployed through no fault of their own, at an average cost to employers of 0.47% of total payroll. Unemployment programs can borrow from the U.S. Department of Labor to cover benefits when local funds are insufficient. Will you vote in favor of establishing such an employer-funded unemployment insurance program? Please explain why or why not.

As we continue our recovery from the pandemic and focus on creating new jobs and fostering new industries, we have a responsibility to every worker who has lost their job or experienced a reduction in hours through no fault of their own.

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I will support a program that will ensure every worker has access to this vital assistance.

4. Living Wage.

PDG supports moving toward securing a living wage for all full time workers. Will you vote in favor of adopting a phased minimum wage increase to \$11.25 by 2024? Please explain why or why not.

It's been said that nobody working 40 hours should be living below the poverty line. Too many of our people are working two, three, or even four jobs just to make ends meet. As public servants, it is our duty to improve—not impair—the lives of working people.

It is why I joined Senator Joe San Agustin in raising the minimum wage, and it is why I will continue to do what I can to make life more affordable for the working class.

5. Right to Adequate Public Transit.

Public transit serves some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities, the elderly, working students, and low-income families. Providing adequate public transit in practical terms means GRTA's fleet should grow to around 100 electric buses (which would have major benefit to our air quality) to allow efficient service. Will you work with GRTA to ensure that its fleet increases to 100 electric buses, supplementing with local funds if necessary? Please explain why or why not.

Adequate and well-funded public transportation has the ability to improve community health, strengthen the workforce, and reduce air pollution. I believe we can bring together GRTA, DPW, and community stakeholders to help increase the capacity of our public transportation.

6. Right to Post-Secondary Education.

PDG supports free public college and university at GCC and UOG. Will you vote to ensure that every student that does not receive adequate grants to cover tuition can have free college at GCC and UOG? Please explain why or why not.

Higher education should not be a privilege of the few, especially as the need for specialized skills increases. Too many of our bright and ambitious students are unable to pursue higher education—not because they aren't qualified but because they cannot afford the tuition.

This is why I've passed legislation to tap into existing programs like WICHE to lower the cost of education for our students. I will continue looking at other ways to ensure that every resident who wants to learn a new skill is able to do so without worrying about how they are going to pay for it.

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Candidate: Joe S. San Agustin

Party: Democrat

1. Abortion Rights.

Pregnant people have the right to choose when and if they would have an abortion. Will you vote against any effort to ban or significantly limit the right of pregnant people to make their own decision about when and if they would have an abortion? Please explain why or why not.

I am anti-abortion, but I cannot support any measure that does not allow exceptions for victims of rape or incest or deemed medically necessary to save a life. Those decisions are made by women, their doctors and law enforcement.

2. Health Care Rights.

Health care is a human right, not a privilege. Do you support establishing a tax-funded universal

single-payer health insurance system, similar to Medicare-for-All? Please explain why or why

not. If you do not support such a plan, please explain how you would secure universal health care coverage as a right.

<u>Our people of Guam deserve access to adequate healthcare. A tax funded universal</u> healthcare

system has its advantages, but before I can provide my full support I would like to work closely

with all entities and professionals regarding this. I have always maintained we must do thorough research and develop a careful plan of action before introducing legislation as it must benefit our people today and in the future.

3. Enacting Unemployment Insurance.

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have unemployment insurance programs providing partial wage replacement to those unemployed through no fault of their own, at an average cost to employers of 0.47% of total payroll. Unemployment programs can borrow from the U.S. Department of Labor to cover benefits when local funds are insufficient. Will you vote in favor of establishing such an employer-funded unemployment insurance program? Please explain why or why not.

I am in support of unemployment insurance programs to help our citizens. Before moving forward, I'd like to work closely with GDOL, the Administration, local employers, and my colleagues in the Legislature to support a sound and equitable option that benefits our community as a whole. Using federal dollars has its advantages and stipulations; and as a potential sub-grantee of USDOL it is crucial that our government is able to fulfill the requirements should we borrow money from USDOL. During the pandemic, our local DOL director worked diligently to provide and create a pandemic unemployment aid program using

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federal dollars and with that record of good stewardship it is only right that our local government continue to do the same with this.

4. Living Wage.

PDG supports moving toward securing a living wage for all full time workers. Will you vote in favor of adopting a phased minimum wage increase to \$11.25 by 2024? Please explain why or why not.

Being that I authored the laws that raised the minimum wage for the first time in years, and I would consider raising it further based on the state of our economy and available data. I support a living wage for our workers that keeps pace with inflation and the cost of living.

5. Right to Adequate Public Transit.

Public transit serves some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities, the elderly, working students, and low-income families. Providing adequate public transit in practical terms means GRTA's fleet should grow to around 100 electric buses

(which would have major benefit to our air quality) to allow efficient service. Will you work with GRTA to ensure that its fleet increases to 100 electric buses, supplementing with local funds if necessary? Please explain why or why not.

The Guam Regional Transit Authority continues to provide a critical service for island residents. Working closely with the authority to revitalize its current operations and support an

<u>environmentally friendly fleet is a way that I could help the authority expand its</u> services. The

Administration has been advantageous in utilizing federal grants and this would be an additional option as we consider the use of local funds for support.

6. Right to Post-Secondary Education.

PDG supports free public college and university at GCC and UOG. Will you vote to ensure that every student that does not receive adequate grants to cover tuition can have free college at GCC and UOG? Please explain why or why not.

An (sic) an undergraduate student I was privileged to be supported on a free twoyear higher education program, many years ago here on Guam. If we can find a way to make this a reality, it would be a boon to our students. I stand ready to work with organizations, individuals, and our academic institutions to explore ways to provide opportunities for everyone because it truly benefits our community.

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Candidate: Sabina Perez Party: Democrat

1. Abortion Rights.

Pregnant people have the right to choose when and if they would have an abortion. Will you vote against any effort to ban or significantly limit the right of pregnant people to make their own decision about when and if they would have an abortion? Please explain why or why not.

I would support legislation to preserve the right of women to make their own reproductive choices. Abortion is a moral choice that should be left to the individual woman to make. It is a private issue, with which the government should not interfere. With the high rates of sexual abuse, we need to empower our youth and women to establish positive relationships and access to overall health care.

2. Health Care Rights.

Health care is a human right, not a privilege. Do you support establishing a tax-funded universal single-payer health insurance system, similar to Medicare-for-All? Please explain why or why not. If you do not support such a plan, please explain how you would secure universal health care coverage as a right.

I do believe that healthcare is a human right, and not a privilege. On Guam, one of the mainstays of our cultural practices is the value of inafa'maolek, and there is no better way of expressing this value than through ensuring that all on Guam have access to healthcare regardless of their economic situations. With that being said, a program such as this will take the cooperation of our whole community, and for it to come to fruition, will additionally require changing parts of our lifestyles, promoting and maintaining wellness starting from a young age, and ensuring a healthy environment. A tax-funded universal single-payer health insurance system could be one of the approaches, provided no new taxes are raised in these times of economic uncertainty. The source of revenue could potentially come from existing taxes that have not been fully collected, such as use tax and others which run in the millions.

3. Enacting Unemployment Insurance.

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have unemployment insurance programs providing partial wage replacement to those unemployed through no fault of their own, at an average cost to employers of 0.47% of total payroll. Unemployment programs can borrow from the U.S. Department of Labor to cover benefits when local funds are insufficient. Will you vote in favor of establishing such an employer-funded unemployment insurance program? Please explain why or why not.

It's important to assess whether there needs to be a threshold for which employers are deemed capable of affording an unemployment insurance initiative. Many small businesses have trouble staying in business as it is, so it could be a costly burden for them, on the other hand, there are many other businesses that are able to take on

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this measure. A private/public unemployment insurance initiative is something I'd support. If costs to employers is indeed less than half of a percent, as stated in the question, the initiative could be manageably funded provided there is increased collection of existing taxes.

4. Living Wage.

PDG supports moving toward securing a living wage for all full time workers. Will you vote in favor of adopting a phased minimum wage increase to \$11.25 by 2024? Please explain why or why not. If you are working a full time job, you should be entitled to a wage that you can live on.

I certainly would support a living wage for all full time workers, and I believe that most decent people would as well. A living wage speaks to the heart of sustainability on our island and our planet, but that idea is dependent on so much more than what a particular region's minimum wage is. So much more comes into play in that regard, such as the price of shipping, goods, housing, healthcare, and in large part, our political status as a colony, to include just a few things, and addressing the minimum wage alone is not enough to ensure a living wage, let alone the idea of sustainability on our island. I feel strongly that through internships and apprenticeships, and a stronger level of education in general, we can prepare our youth to take on the much needed careers right here at home and in our government that pays living wages. There is so much institutional knowledge of our infrastructure that needs to be passed to our future generations, we just need a more reliable system of educating and training them to attain it.

5. Right to Adequate Public Transit.

Public transit serves some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities, the elderly, working students, and low-income families. Providing adequate public transit in practical terms means GRTA's fleet should grow to around 100 electric buses (which would have major benefit to our air quality) to allow efficient service. Will you work with GRTA to ensure that its fleet increases to 100 electric buses, supplementing with local funds if necessary? Please explain why or why not.

I'd support GRTA's electric fleet and agree that it would be beneficial to many of our most vulnerable as well as our environment. We've seen the consequences of our reliance on fossil fuels for gas and energy and I do not foresee relief to our situation unless we take the next steps to secure and depend on renewable energy sources. We are working to ensure that GPA lays out a plan for solar energy plants and last term I introduced and passed legislation extending the plug-in electric drive vehicle rebate program to businesses and nonprofit organizations. I also introduced a bill in this term that mandates government purchase of zero emission vehicles. Naturally, I'd support a fleet of electric buses to overhaul our much needed public transportation sector.

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6. Right to Post-Secondary Education.

PDG supports free public college and university at GCC and UOG. Will you vote to ensure that every student that does not receive adequate grants to cover tuition can have free college at GCC and UOG? Please explain why or why not.

I would support legislation that offers to cover remaining balances of eligible students that do not receive adequate grants, financial aid, or scholarships to cover their tuition. It would be ideal for students to focus on their studies and not have to worry about keeping up with their finances to pay for their tuition. Increasing work study opportunities through partnerships with private and public sectors could be a potential avenue to pay for additional costs, in addition to the appropriation of excess funds.

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Candidate: Mana Silva Taijeron

Party: Republican

1. Abortion Rights.

Pregnant people have the right to choose when and if they would have an abortion. Will you vote against any effort to ban or significantly limit the right of pregnant people to make their own decision about when and if they would have an abortion? Please explain why or why not.

I am pro-life. I would be in support of legislation that seeks to protect the life of an unborn child. However, if asked to consider a bill to ban abortion, I would look to include an exception for victims of rape or incest.

2. Health Care Rights.

Health care is a human right, not a privilege. Do you support establishing a tax-funded universal single-payer health insurance system, similar to Medicare-for-All? Please explain why or why not. If you do not support such a plan, please explain how you would secure universal health care coverage as a right.

I am open to it. I would, however, like to explore the concept further. I definitely see the need to seek more opportunities for single payers to avail themselves of health insurance coverage. There are individuals whose employers do not provide the benefit and would otherwise not be able to purchase health coverage.

3. Enacting Unemployment Insurance.

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have unemployment insurance programs providing partial wage replacement to those unemployed through no fault of their own, at an average cost to employers of 0.47% of total payroll. Unemployment programs can borrow from the U.S. Department of Labor to cover benefits when local funds are insufficient. Will you vote in favor of establishing such an employer-funded unemployment insurance program? Please explain why or why not.

Unemployment Insurance could be beneficial, especially seeing how many people were affected by the pandemic closures and layoffs. However, I would not want to force employers to fund the program, instead I would consider a program that would offer a tax incentive to businesses that implement a program.

4. Living Wage.

PDG supports moving toward securing a living wage for all full time workers. Will you vote in favor of adopting a phased minimum wage increase to \$11.25 by 2024? Please explain why or why not.

While I would like to support higher wages for workers, I remain cautious, because such an increase could severely impact small businesses. Some have expressed concern that an increase in minimum wage would force them to reduce work hours,

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<u>or even eliminate some jobs altogether. Additionally, the increased minimum wage</u> could also result in additional cost for consumers.

5. Right to Adequate Public Transit.

Public transit serves some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities, the elderly, working students, and low-income families. Providing adequate public transit in practical terms means GRTA's fleet should grow to around 100 electric buses (which would have major benefit to our air quality) to allow efficient service. Will you work with GRTA to ensure that its fleet increases to 100 electric buses, supplementing with local funds if necessary? Please explain why or why not.

I would certainly like to work with GRTA to grow and maintain its fleet of busses, and further expand its service. I think public transit is a necessity, to ensure that people are able to move to and from work, and throughout the community. I have spoken to many individuals who have faced hardships in keeping a job, because of their inability to get to work. This will definitely be a move in the right direction. I am also open to supporting an electric fleet. The U.S. Department of Transportation has been giving grants to states for the electrification of their public transit systems, and it could also mean facility and infrastructure upgrades for Guam. Additionally, this could be expanded to include school busses. This is something that has already taken place in a number of states.

6. Right to Post-Secondary Education.

PDG supports free public college and university at GCC and UOG. Will you vote to ensure that every student that does not receive adequate grants to cover tuition can have free college at GCC and UOG? Please explain why or why not.

I support the idea of a tuition-free college education on Guam, funding however has to be looked at closer. There are a number of countries that provide government funded college, and perhaps we could consider some of those models when developing the policy here. But I would consider it as an investment into our future and could help to improve the quality of life for our people. Many high school students here do not seek higher education, because they can't afford it. If we are able to provide for free college, these individuals will be in a better position to pursue higher paying jobs.

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Candidate: Sam Mabini Young

Party: Republican

1. Abortion Rights.

Pregnant people have the right to choose when and if they would have an abortion. Will you vote against any effort to ban or significantly limit the right of pregnant people to make their own decision about when and if they would have an abortion? Please explain why or why not.

Being proactive, versus reactive, is key. So education first is critical. Women and men of appropriate age must be trained or receive education on the realities of the consequences of any sexual activities, before finding themselves in the precarious situation of an unplanned family. The hope is that we protect and respect the life of the child, while considering the life and personal circumstances of the mother.

2. Health Care Rights.

Health care is a human right, not a privilege. Do you support establishing a tax-funded universal single-payer health insurance system, similar to Medicare-for-All? Please explain why or why not. If you do not support such a plan, please explain how you would secure universal health care coverage as a right.

Health care also means personal responsibility and independence for one's health early on, so individuals, family, and community must address this seriously. A campaign to make Guam the healthiest Pacific Island is missing, and is a critical step to temper the need for avoidable or constant medical treatments (unhealthy eating habits, obesity, diabetes, alcohol/drug abuse, etc.). As a single woman, mother and wife, I worked hard to save money for unexpected expenses and to ensure our family lived a healthy lifestyle so that dependence on a healthcare system would not be a constant issue. Of course, certain health conditions cannot be avoided (ex: accidents, cancer, etc.), so we do need to look at a systemic change in how we provide treatment to residents and explore innovative cost-reducing measures for regular or high-demand treatments. Eliminating bureaucracies that hinder the recruitment of high-demand physicians or specialists and the tools they need is another step. We must improve our public health facilities (GMP, DPHSS -- organizationally and likely digitally), examining previous recommendations for improvements (OPA, audits, etc.) to identify priority steps or feasible legislations. We're looking for immediate, mid- / long-term plans for changes needed to improve services. I am a strong proponent of prioritizing training in organizations, ones that lead to improved quality of services. Training operational staff, line supervisors and administrators will help improve morale and delivery of services. We need to support successful partnerships that work with either private groups or NGOs, and encourage more private/public partnerships that can tackle infrastructure and service improvements (including insurance).

3. Enacting Unemployment Insurance.

All 50 states plus Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands have unemployment insurance programs providing partial wage replacement to those unemployed through

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no fault of their own, at an average cost to employers of 0.47% of total payroll. Unemployment programs can borrow from the U.S. Department of Labor to cover benefits when local funds are insufficient. Will you vote in favor of establishing such an employer-funded unemployment insurance program? Please explain why or why not.

An unemployment program for Guam should be considered only after reviewing its feasibility and fit for the community considering the employment base is small (compared to other sites). I understand that the Guam DOL is looking at doing a grantfunded feasibility study, which would help determine how to move forward (determining its viability, employer buy-in, costs, etc.). Making data-driven decision is important. So my decision to support this measure would be dependent on the findings of the feasibility study, with a clear plan that works for Guam.

4. Living Wage.

PDG supports moving toward securing a living wage for all full time workers. Will you vote in favor of adopting a phased minimum wage increase to \$11.25 by 2024? Please explain why or why not.

Living wage for full time workers is important. Increasing minimum wage may be feasible during a growing economy. However, with the impact of the pandemic and the opposite effect on small and large business operations -- the economy has significantly slowed down. As such, it would not be a good idea to increase the minimum wage in 2024, which will likely have a detrimental impact all around -- forcing increased business costs that will trickle down to residents.

5. Right to Adequate Public Transit.

Public transit serves some of the most vulnerable members of our community, including people with disabilities, the elderly, working students, and low-income families. Providing adequate public transit in practical terms means GRTA's fleet should grow to around 100 electric buses (which would have major benefit to our air quality) to allow efficient service. Will you work with GRTA to ensure that its fleet increases to 100 electric buses, supplementing with local funds if necessary? Please explain why or why not.

Public transportation needs to be a priority, considering high fuel prices and vehicle maintenance costs. I have worked with GRTA during my time as Director at Guam Department of Labor to assist our job seekers, which worked well. Also, I have worked with transportation engineers when I was in Minnesota, and saw firsthand how they systematically researched and designed traffic movements to plan for private and public transportation. This must be done on Guam to move forward, no pun intended:)

6. Right to Post-Secondary Education.

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PDG supports free public college and university at GCC and UOG. Will you vote to ensure that every student that does not receive adequate grants to cover tuition can have free college at GCC and UOG? Please explain why or why not.

We have brilliant and creative students in high schools, and many are prepared to begin their post-secondary education or career training while still in the K-12 system. That is where we need to start, supporting our teachers to allows students early on to begin exploring and pursuing their post-secondary education and training while still in high school. This will help reduce costs (as it is absorbed while in high school), and allow students to begin their career-training pathway as soon as possible. High school students may be able to finish 2-years of post-high school training and education even BEFORE they graduate. I support career-readiness education and Career and Technical Education while still in high school, helping them prepare for life after graduation (covering topics like financial literacy, saving wisely, family planning, etc..) and providing stronger guidance to the resources available if further training or college education is needed.