



## **ABOUT ACTION PAC, INC.**

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Action PAC, Inc. is a group of concerned constituents, nonprofit organizations, and business entities that believe that its citizens should have a stronger voice in shaping Guam's political and economic future. We strive for a non-partisan government that welcomes active participation and dialogue with its constituents, who can play a constructive role in shaping the local economy. We aim to improve the overall quality of life in Guam for all.

We aim to create awareness for issues that affect us daily and support initiatives that will have the most impact on our economy. We are driven to affect change through our strength in numbers – as a voting group that represents about 40,000 individuals. We will rally support for candidates who will fight for the interests of our people.

We are an inclusive group that believes in a respectful, professional, methodical approach to vetting candidates and supporting those who can stand behind the causes that matter most to us.

We are a nonprofit organization that relies on the fundraising and contributions of our members and residents of Guam. These funds will be used to create awareness for our core positions, starting important conversations at a Legislative level, from the legislative level to the administration in the Governor's office. We will support candidates who can best represent us in office.

We can't do this alone. It will take more of us, working in unison to propel this canoe in these rough waters. We urge you to jump on board and help us paddle toward a better future for Guam.

## **WHO WE ARE**

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Action PAC, Inc. was formed out of a need to play an active role in government starting at a grassroots level. Action PAC is made up of members from a cross-section of Guam's society. We represent all walks of life and are united in our belief that we can affect change through action. Get to know us:



- We are voting residents of all ages and backgrounds who believe in taking an active role in supporting and electing the right leaders in government.
- We believe that it's time for a change in our government and electing the right candidates will give our island a better chance at recovering, rebuilding, and becoming more fiscally responsible so it can serve its people.
- We believe in the power of free enterprise and its ability to improve the quality of life for all.
- We are a group of constituents -- business owners, managers, and workers of small to large businesses -- who need to get businesses reopened and people back to work so they can take care of their families.
- We believe in strengthening our economic environment to make it more viable for new businesses to develop and thrive.
- We support tourism, Guam's top economic driver, and the development of new industries for our island.
- We support a leaner and more efficient government that is self-sustaining and fiscally responsible.
- We do not subscribe to the idea that our government should provide for all our needs. Rather, we support respectful and collaborative public-private partnerships where we come together for the benefit of our island.

## **PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS**

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Action PAC thanks its partner organizations for their vote of confidence. Together we are stronger!

**Chinese Chamber of Commerce**

**Guam Association of Realtors**

**Guam Chamber of Commerce**

**Guam Contractors Association**

**Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association**

**Guam Women's Chamber**

**Korean Chamber of Commerce**

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## WHAT WE STAND FOR

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Action PAC, Inc. is a nonprofit, political action committee (PAC) that was formed to affect change in government, specifically as it relates to five key issues:

- 1. Decrease the size of the Government of Guam;***
- 2. Improve the transparency in all levels of the Government of Guam (this includes improved communication and collaboration with the business community);***
- 3. Support for the military build-up in Guam;***
- 4. Support for a part-time legislature; and***
- 5. Rollback of the BPT from 5% to 4% immediately***

We are a group of like-minded individuals who support these five key positions that will help to rebuild Guam's economy. Supporting the candidates who are committed to getting behind these issues will give us a better chance of seeing the changes we want to see in our local government. Action PAC will identify and support candidates in the 2020 election whose platforms align with our core values and not by their political affiliations or popularity.

We represent everyday residents who believe our leaders should listen to their needs. We all want a better quality of life on our island, and that begins with strengthening our economy. The politics of the past no longer serve us. Action PAC members require results that will positively impact our economic future.



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As we head toward the 2020 General Election on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, the Action PAC committee will be engaging with candidates to gather information about the issues they support, share information with our members and community, and identify the candidates that we will endorse. We will also work to simultaneously achieve community-wide support for our key positions and support candidates who can get the job done.

We welcome your active participation. Here are the ways you can take action now to stand with the PAC:

1. ***Sign up to be a member through our website – [actionpacguam.com](http://actionpacguam.com). You will receive updates by email.***
2. ***[Register to vote](#) through the Guam Election Commission for the 2020 General Election. Encourage your friends and family to register with you. We are stronger in numbers.***
3. ***Follow and engage with us on social media for member updates and insights about 2020 candidates: Facebook (Action PAC Inc. Guam) and Instagram/Twitter (@actionpacguam).***
4. ***Tag your posts in support of the issues – #JointhePAC and #TakeActionGuam***
5. ***Take action by donating to Action PAC, Inc. by sending an email to [takeactionguam@gmail.com](mailto:takeactionguam@gmail.com). Any amount will help.***
6. ***Let your voice be heard. Vote on election day on November 3<sup>rd</sup> by supporting candidates who support our causes.***

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## **ACTION PAC'S POSITIONS**

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Action Pac, Inc. has been formed to facilitate positive change for all Guamanians. There is an urgent need to transform how the Government of Guam works for the people of Guam. This transformation requires a shakeup of political leadership and policies. The PAC has the knowledge and leadership ability to create positive change in government and within the community from a public policy standpoint -- and it all starts with this election.

The current election cycle will be the ideal point in time for a voice of reason and sensibility to be heard. The PAC represents an overwhelming majority of Guam's workforce, local families, and business owners who believe that they can provide alternatives to current public policies. We have a progressive vision for Guam's future in which our people can prosper from a leaner government and a healthier economy that creates a more business-friendly environment and opportunities for its people.

### **THERE ARE FIVE POSITIONS UPON WHICH THE PAC WAS FOUNDED:**

#### ***1. DECREASE THE SIZE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM***

For decades, politicians have suggested and promised a decrease in the size of our government and the implementation of more efficient and cost-effective operating practices. We support the decrease of fiscal waste and better protection of our government's resources and funding.

It's time that we put a stop to political and unnecessary hiring throughout the government's branches and agencies. According to the latest figures (March 2019) by the Dept of Labor's Bureau of Statistics and Plans, the number of government workers was at 11,520. Let's cut red tape so the government no longer needs to hire people to assist in navigating bureaucracy.

In this modern time, businesses are learning to consolidate their resources, drastically reducing their expenses and overhead costs, and cross-training their workforce. We believe our government has that same capability and responsibility to utilize its finite resources wisely, such as investing in an educated and skilled workforce for the long-term.

We have also witnessed better working relationships between the public and private sectors to share resources and get things done for Guam. Our government needs to prioritize how it can operate more efficiently and begin identifying which of its functions would better serve the people through the privatization of services.

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## **2. IMPROVE THE TRANSPARENCY IN ALL LEVELS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF GUAM**

Governments exist to serve their constituents. The constituents pay government salaries, which should make it very clear to government workers that they work for the people. An accountable government shows its responsibility to the people and curbs any sentiment of government dishonesty and misappropriation of funds. It is even more so imperative that every community has an informed citizenry to keep the government in check and exercise their right to know how their tax dollars are being spent.

Beginning with the 2020 General Election, Action PAC will work to identify candidates who we believe will communicate openly and honestly with the people of Guam about issues that affect us all -- from the state of our government and its financial viability to the use of tax dollars and prioritizing programs that improve the quality of life for all. We have learned that we are better when we work together. Action PAC will support candidates who welcome the community's input and will work with other legislators in a nonpartisan fashion to do what is right for Guamanians.

## **3. SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. MILITARY BUILD-UP IN GUAM**

As the only area of American soil occupied by a foreign power, Guam understands the importance of independence, freedom, and liberty. Because of our geographic location, Guam is a strategic location for military activity, and along with that comes economic opportunities.

The realignment of U.S. Marine forces to Guam involves an \$8 billion investment into our economy, prospects for the creation of higher-wage jobs for our citizens, and entrepreneurial opportunities to support the infrastructure associated with the military's operations. It was recently reported that Guam will likely see an Aegis Ashore system in the next few years, which will further increase the Department of Defense's investment in Guam and the region.

Our local infrastructure has already benefited from the buildup's resources. Critical improvements in our roads and bridges over the past few years are directly related to the buildup. Over \$100M was invested in Guam's roads and bridges between 2009 and 2011. \$50M has also been invested in the modernization of the Port Authority of Guam.

Almost as important as the jobs it will create is the much-needed tax revenues from the military to the Government of Guam. This benefits the community's health, safety,

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and education systems, which are currently at maximum capacity. The increase in private investment and public revenues derived from the buildup will strengthen our ability to fund our education, healthcare, public safety, social and cultural programs. Employment and retirement security for government workers will be an added benefit.

As seen during this pandemic, when the island's businesses were closed, the military's construction projects continued, keeping money flowing into Guam's stagnant economy.

With a natural increase in our population, Guam will be able to add "domestic tourism" as a strong new market and further diversifying our tourism mix. In addition to supporting the island's local businesses, Guam can look forward to an increase in demand for cultural entrepreneurship.

#### **4. SUPPORT FOR A PART-TIME LEGISLATURE**

We believe in a "Citizen's Legislature" -- a legislative body that would allow citizens from broader backgrounds to participate in the legislative process while maintaining their careers and contributions to the island. We welcome leaders in the private sector -- nurses, electricians, retired teachers and police officers, students, and business people -- to contribute their knowledge and expertise in drafting legislation that would make good sense for our island and lead our people into a new future of democracy. About 40 states in the nation have implemented similar models of a part-time legislature.

A part-time legislature keeps the government small by sharing staff and resources, which will keep the role of the legislature limited to the rules of engagement as mandated by the part-time legislature model adopted. Meeting at designated times of the year allows for more thoughtful discussion and strategic planning and will help to aside political pandering and posturing, forcing legislators to work together on issues important to the entire community and not a select few.

A part-time legislature also will curb reactive measures that have been practiced by past and current legislators. The Guam Legislature's 2019 Budget was approximately \$8.5M and the 2020 Budget is roughly the same. This number is very high for a small community but with very little to show for their efforts as witnessed during the current emergency pandemic.

The legislative branch is a critical component of democracy and a part-time legislature may be effective for Guam. Broadening democracy and providing opportunities for

more citizens to be a part of the legislative process is the positive change we need. We don't support career politicians. We support candidates who have the knowledge and experience our government needs to become more fiscally and socially responsible.

#### **5. ROLLBACK OF THE BPT FROM 5% TO 4%**

We remain hopeful that with the right candidates in place, we will be able to roll back the business privilege tax to 4%. Guam's economy, down to the local business level, is undergoing the most detrimental period in modern history. Businesses are barely hanging on, if they have survived up to this point, since the first state of emergency was declared in March 2020.

Tourism, Guam's number one industry, continues to lose an unbelievable amount of revenue each day and has gone from a record-breaking 2019 to a nonexistent 2020, all while trying to keep the lights on and people employed.

Businesses are in dire need of help, and we can make the most impact by returning the BPT to 4%. This reduction will allow businesses to begin to recover and use that money to rebuild and keep their employees on board.

#### **Challenges to Tourism-Related Businesses as a Result of the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Guam continues to reel from the current COVID-19 pandemic and from the geopolitical issues years prior. With both incidences, tourism came to a halt, and the island's tourism-related businesses have taken major blows. The effects on the economy have been ravaging.

A 2015 economic impact study, the Economic Impact of Tourism on Guam, Tourism Economics, reported that one in three jobs is sustained by tourism. This means that since March, at least a third of businesses have made little to no income, and a third, if not more, of Guam's workforce has been directly and indirectly affected. One thing is consistent across the board: the effects of this pandemic have been detrimental overall to the island's economy, beginning with every business on this island. We need a lifeline.

Since March 2020, Guam has been in an economic shutdown, with most businesses forced to close their doors to minimize the spread of the virus and keep people safe. We have since learned a great deal about how we can continue to operate while keeping employees and customers safe. Local businesses have been diligent and



compliant with the safety guidelines outlined by the Centers for Disease Control and the Guam Department of Public Health and Social Services. We can no longer afford to keep businesses closed. Employees can no longer go without paychecks.

In addition to these challenges, Guam's businesses faced an increase in the minimum wage, which was implemented on March 1, 2020. Groups reached out to the Guam Legislature and the Governor of Guam to seek a temporary moratorium. They expressed urgent concerns about the impending onslaught of the Coronavirus pandemic hitting Guam's shores, but their pleas were ignored. We need legislators to place greater priority on sound financial practices that have long-lasting effects. We expect them to respect and understand the nuances of doing business in Guam. We also need them to have a greater sense of urgency to correct issues that hurt our economy.

The reduction of the BPT by one point (25%) is the most effective factor in improving the sustainability of our local businesses. With the current economic and health emergency, longstanding businesses in our community are closing. Local companies need support now to keep their doors open, so they may continue to contribute to the economy and keep residents gainfully employed.

This issue affects us all; we are interconnected. We need leaders who can fight to reverse the BPT increase, make good on the original promise to do so, and commit to introducing legislation to return the BPT to 4% as a priority in this new legislature. Doing so will help to save what is left of our economy and create an environment where entrepreneurship is still feasible.