

# WHY GINGER IS RUNNING FOR CONGRESS



*"I am passionate about our people and our island. We have an opportunity to leverage our position as America in the Indo-Pacific, focusing on the things that matter most - being safe from global threats and drug crime, bringing down the cost of living and housing, federal support for healthcare and workforce development, and investment in resilient infrastructure so future generations can prosper. This is my Vision. It is focused squarely on the notion that we can best prepare ourselves for the future by working together to take on the current challenges and those that will arise over the next several years. I invite you to join us in pursuing this Vision for Guam and I humbly ask for your support."*

**G**inger knows that we face a defining moment in our history—a time of enormous threats and even greater opportunity.

Ginger understands how decisions made 8,000 miles away directly contribute to the frustrating problems we face on Guam every day—housing that costs too much, a dollar that buys too little, crime that's gone too far and massive Defense Department plans that are having both good and unintended consequences for our people.

What's worse, problems that have existed for the past 20 years continue to linger without a solution. That is largely because of a lack of understanding of how the federal government can work better for Guam. This is an area where Ginger's 40 years of experience and connections can make a real difference.

Right now, the stakes have never been higher, and the opportunity has never been greater for our island. Before this window of time closes, we need leadership

with the experience and the know-how to leverage it to get results for the people of Guam. This moment calls for fresh ideas, new energy, and bold action to improve infrastructure, secure equal access to federal funding, protect our people and our environment, expand economic opportunity, and ensure our veterans get the services they have rightfully earned.

Guam needs a representative in D.C. who knows Washington and is bold, knowledgeable, creative, and resourceful. Someone not afraid to aim high, speak truth to power, build a vision that reaches across the aisle and delivers results. It is time to have a delegate who will challenge the status quo in Washington instead of just politely reading what is handed to us or issuing press releases about federal appropriations being given to Guam.

*We can no longer afford the same tired politics that has left us adrift while everyone around us is making decisions for us. Together, we have to be agents for our own change. With your support we can make it happen!*



## What will Ginger do Differently?

Ginger believes that Guam can't continue to do the same things in Washington, D.C. and expect a different result. That means we must work to urgently change the way we are seen and heard in Washington, D.C.

Since 2019 there has been a steady and dramatic global shift to the Indo-Pacific. America and its Indo-Pacific allies are now facing an environment of managed tensions with China, Russia, and North Korea.

At the forefront of America as a

Pacific power is Guam. We are America's only homeport and home base on U.S. soil in the Indo-Pacific. In that role, we are more central than ever to U.S. military strategy. However, we are lagging when it comes to inclusion in America's regional economic strategy. That needs to change, not only because the people of Guam deserve to benefit, but because a stronger Guam is a stronger America.

So how do we get there? We start by addressing systemic issues that are holding Guam back.

## Ginger's Priorities if Elected

### Elevate Guam Oversight from Interior to the White House

Ginger Cruz is running for Congress because the stakes have never been higher. When Guam transitioned away from Naval rule in 1949, our territory was placed under the Department of the Interior - with the buffalo and the trees. It's 2024, and Guam is at the center of national security and a keystone of deterrence in a growing Cold War with China. And while we are taking on more and more of the burden of a growing military presence, we are being left on the wayside of U.S. efforts to expand prosperity in the Indo-Pacific. It is past time for Guam to get the attention we deserve from Washington, D.C.

One of Ginger's first actions will be to start the process of elevating Guam's place in the federal system from the Department of Interior to the White House, similar to where Puerto Rico sits. This is how we get federal coordination that works. At a time when tensions have never been higher and engagement has never been wider in the Indo-Pacific, we have a window to leverage our value to build a better future for our people. But we have to act now.

### Protect the People of Guam

With the military hardening defenses to protect its personnel and infrastructure, we are behind the curve getting federal resources and attention to protect the people of Guam "outside the fence". We must strengthen our National Guard and Homeland Security - not with



more studies, but with actual funding and concrete federal support.

Water security must be a top priority. We need federal support to upgrade and improve security for our island's antiquated water delivery system. Did you know that it takes just 30 mobile desalination units to provide enough water for all our island residents, and the cost is less than \$10 million? In times of extreme natural or manmade disaster, we have to ensure that our people's most basic needs are met. Guam's delegate to Washington has a responsibility to lead our island's efforts in Congress to ensure that our people are protected, and our quality of life is enhanced.

Our National Guard needs the flexibility to reorganize and train, first and foremost, to defend Guam, given today's military posture in the Pacific. It should receive dedicated funding and a local training facility, like other states, so it doesn't have to burn through its budget on high airfares to California or Louisiana.

We need to look to the lessons learned from Ukraine and Gaza. Floating barges, held in reserve, should be ready for our National Guard to use for disaster response throughout the Pacific and in times of disaster or conflict. The resources for our Guard should reflect the unique level of preparedness and threat that Guam is currently under, given the budget increases being applied to protect military personnel and assets on Guam.

Our Homeland Security and Civil Defense offices need support and resources to expand public awareness and preparedness for man-made disasters, not just typhoons. And we have to get serious now about expanding production of sustainable crops, fisheries and livestock for the long-term sustainability of our island.

### **Unincorporated Territory Status as an Opportunity not a Barrier**

And while Ginger fully supports local efforts to move forward with decolonization, changing our political status is going to take time and Ginger knows we don't have time to waste. We can use our unincorporated territorial status as a blank slate rather than a barrier, leveraging our unique status to create opportunities for unique solutions.

Ginger understands, after more than a decade of D.C. experience, that in a Congress plagued by gridlock, Guam must have the tools to fix our problems by both updating legislation AND influencing executive policy at an agency level.

As America's hub and with the world's attention on us, the time is now for Guam to fight for federal policy changes that give us the advantage and ensure effective interagency coordination of our issues. Policies, including "Buy America" and "Cabotage," need to make sense for national security and for Guam. We have been trying for five years to get more cranes at our port and are suffering from exorbitant airfares due to powerful airline monopolies. We are sagging under the burden of federal immigration mandates that cost Guam taxpayers millions, without reimbursement. We need to open dialogue that finds new ways to meet federal intent while not hurting our people.

There is no reason for us to lament the lack of federal-Guam negotiation mechanisms when we can put them in place ourselves. Saipan, as part of its commonwealth status, has "904" talks. Guam can amend the legislation governing us to develop dialogue that puts these issues on the table so problems can be addressed.

Now is the time to ensure that the military build-up is good for Guam - that our schools are improved, our infrastructure is stronger, our healthcare is better, and crime rates are brought down by shutting down the importation of drugs. We are the only ones who can leverage our value to build a better future for our people. We cannot expect others to do it for us. We must be the agents of our own change.

### **Get Guam a Seat at the table for Asian Pacific Prosperity**

Ginger also believes that Guam's delegate must be an active and credible participant in the ongoing discussions related to America's positioning in the Indo-Pacific.

Guam can benefit from increased involvement in regional trade, commerce and defense agreements between the U.S. and our allies.

We need reasonable airfares, lower prices at the grocery store, and new investment from regional partners who are best able to help us improve healthcare and expand into technology industries.

We also have to invest in our most precious resource, our people, and build opportunities here to promote growth and spur new high-paying jobs, which is why Ginger will work to expand workforce development, advanced manufacturing and federal investment in new high-tech industries. At the same time, we have to secure SSI, finally relocate veteran's services from Hawaii to Guam, and raise the quality of life for everyone.

Ginger believes the delegate should be an agent of change for Guam, taking inspiration from the great former delegates who fought for U.S. citizenship and the right to elect our own governor. Experience matters, results count. Ginger is fully committed to fighting for Guam and producing results.



### **That's Why "Ginger Will Work Differently"**

Drawing on a lifetime network of high-level contacts throughout Guam and Washington, D.C., and a career of successfully influencing federal policy, Ginger will start by leading the development of a shared vision for our island "Guam 2044: A Path to Empowerment".

Path to Empowerment will be a visionary plan crafted by the island's leaders in the public and private sector and throughout the community. It would be an ambitious agenda, outlining goals aimed at securing sustainable development, enhancing autonomy, and improving the quality of life for all residents. Our plan would seek to



transform our island’s economic landscape, bolster infrastructure, and ensure environmental stewardship, reflecting the aspirations of Guam to achieve greater self-determination and prosperity over the next two decades.

To accomplish this, Ginger is committed to engaging in regular quarterly sessions on Guam with leaders in the public and private sector to develop a clear sense of what we together must achieve in Washington, something we can all unite behind.

Then, twice a year, she will invite leadership to Washington, D.C., to demonstrate a united front, meet with top level federal officials together, with a Whole of Guam Approach, and pursue a transformational agenda at the federal level.

And while the high-level agenda is set, Ginger will utilize a PACE methodology - Professionalize, Amend, Collaborate and Exempt - to achieve results within 24 months.

**PROFESSIONALIZE** We will bring together professionals from Guam and D.C. to build the best team possible to advance Guam’s agenda. We will focus on top-notch constituent services, something not seen over the past six years on Guam. We will push for data to be collected across the federal government to properly inform policy reform. And our team will make sure Guam’s voice is heard in the halls of Congress and in the federal agencies in Washington, D.C., that set the regulations that affect our lives and livelihoods so that D.C. does more for the people of Guam.

**AMEND** bills, address deficiencies in regulations to better serve the people of Guam. Ginger will use all the powers of the office to address the policy needs of Guam. We will be creative and seize both legislative and executive opportunities to address legacy issues, inspired by the works of former Delegates Won Pat, Blaz, Underwood and Bordallo

**COLLABORATE** As a non-voting member, Guam has to work harder to find solutions to our challenges. Collaboration with our fellow territories, Hawaii, Alaska and other like-minded states is essential. We need to work closely with federal agencies - the people who enforce the rules - on ways to make them work better for Guam. We must harness think tanks, international media, special interest groups and other powerful allies to strengthen Guam’s team and raise our profile - increasing our chances of scoring wins for our people.

**EXEMPT** We have to accept that the rules were not created for us 8,000 miles away from D.C. When those rules hurt us, we must secure relief because more and more, Guam’s success is America’s success. It’s not about changing the rules but carving out a path for Guam that allows us to thrive. Understanding our unique location on the globe, empowering Guam to thrive builds a stronger Guam, which in turn builds a stronger America.

### “Whole of Guam”

Underpinning all of this is a commitment to involve a “Whole of Guam” ethic. Ginger will work across the aisle and will value and prioritize the input of local Guam leadership from the executive and legislative branches, the private sector, and the people of Guam. And Ginger

will put Guam first every single time because she serves the people of Guam, not a national political party or special interest group.

By creating government and industry working groups from island leaders and experts to inform a broader vision, we can get to into the details of policy solutions, so we produce results.

## Ginger on the Issues



### Economy

From the gas in our tanks to the food on our tables, everything costs more than it did—making it harder for families to live—let alone live well.

Ginger understands that while inflation is hurting families across the nation—the pain is even greater in Guam where over 90% of consumer goods are imported.

But she also understands that we need to diversify and expand our economy to build new higher paying opportunities in order to keep our best talent, lure home our expat brothers and sisters, children and grandchildren, and bring much needed revenue to our shores. Below are a few of the key economic issues and Ginger's plans to address them.

#### Lowering Cost by Looking West

Lots of ink has been spilled over the economic cost of the Jones Act, which makes shipping to Guam from the mainland so expensive. But it is not just the law that impacts our high cost, it's also the distance and the fuel.

Guam also is served by multiple non-Jones Act carriers that come to our island from Asia. All we need to do is look at the sales and price drops the week that an Asian megastore opened on Airport Road, and it is clear that competition is the key to lowering prices.

Major efforts are currently underway in the Congress to revisit antiquated laws including the Jones Act. Guam must be a part of that discussion. But beyond that, we can also look to Asia for more competitive goods to immediately bring down costs for our consumers.

### Maritime Strategy

A bipartisan Congressional effort to rewrite U.S. maritime

strategy is underway, providing a huge opportunity for Guam to be part of the dialog.

Tax incentives, operational subsidies and federal financing are all key elements that would see the effort located in the Office of the President. This is yet another reason why Ginger believes moving Guam's oversight from Interior to the White House is timely so that these longstanding issues including the Jones Act, the cost of shipping, the loss of the Ship Repair Facility and the roadblocks being faced by Guam's port in attempting to upgrade its infrastructure can be addressed.

Guam needs capable representation in D.C. that will advance efforts to bring back ship repair and dry dock capabilities. We have a rare opportunity to integrate high tech industries that are a key part of the new maritime footprint. And not only can we become a hub for military ships, but we can also support the Coast Guard which one of the most important U.S. assets in the Pacific. From interdiction of drugs to lifesaving support and preventing illegal fishing, the Coast Guard needs to use Guam as a port where it can maintain its fleet.

Current plans call for regulatory reform to make US flag vessels more competitive with international carriers. By being a part of that discussion we can finally address how to balance the benefits of Jones Act, which provides dedicated subsidized service to our island, with the economic benefits of non-Jones act U.S. flagged carriers which also service Guam.

It also calls for replacing foreign systems with American ones - and increasing funding for MARAD to address a national maintenance backlog. This is music to our ears. Guam has been trying for over 5 years now to get more gantry cranes at our port. We have been fighting policies that have stopped that from happening. As this strategy develops, removing those barriers is essential for Guam to prosper.

And it's not putting a signature on a letter created by other congressmen. We need to be a part of the discussion and decision making. To do that we need a DC representative that is bold, experienced, and capable of raising Guam's issues to the level where they can finally be addressed. America describes itself as a Pacific Power in this competition with China. The legitimacy of that power comes in part from its geographic presence in Guam, the CNMI, Hawaii and Alaska. How the US strengthens its Pacific strongholds will be a key part of the projection of power and the economic growth of the region.

### Infrastructure Resiliency and Defense Impact

From Guam's port to our international airport to the underground waterlines and our roads - much of the

current infrastructure that underpins our economy was first put in place during major military build-ups following WWII and the Vietnam War.

While Guam has made many improvements, it makes sense to again think about the infrastructure we need for the 21st Century and leverage the investments being made by defense and federal agencies to maximize the benefits for our local population.

We need to expand funding from Defense, FEMA, USEPA and Transportation, to name just a few federal agencies, to underground our powerlines, revitalize our port and install new cranes, build better roads, resolve the PFAS contamination of our water and expand our public health care clinics.

A key to this strategy is “dual use.” The more that Guam can develop long term infrastructure that supports our economy that can also be available during conflict in support of the military, the greater our ability to secure funding.

Strategies to diversify our economy including development of a sea drone industry, enhancing our positioning as a logistics hub and building up transshipment and additive manufacturing are all ongoing initiatives that need stronger federal support.

We must also mitigate the adverse effects of military buildup. It is time to revisit the funding and authorizations of the Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC) which is the main office in DOD tasked with supporting readiness and resiliency of defense communities across the nation.

The current national security imperatives demand a review of this 1960's era law to update its mandate and provide more robust assistance for Guam that addresses the poaching of our top law enforcement, educator and professional workers, relieves pricing pressure on our housing supply and widens the availability of funds for local infrastructure programs.

## Housing

Guam needs to rehabilitate housing with private sector partnership.

In 2012, the late Speaker Ben Pangelinan called on DoD to increase its existing housing inventory on Guam through the Military Housing Privatization Initiative. This Public/Private partnership allows private sector partners to rehabilitate and operate base housing to relieve housing pressure, with a waterfall provision that extends to needs outside the fence.

It is time to revisit that 1996 law, update it to meet current needs, and build in stronger provisions to mitigate adverse impacts on military adjacent communities.

Guam must also look to Asian Pacific allies to increase investment in Guam to expand affordable housing stocks. Federal investment incentives are a key part of this multi-



year effort, as is coordination with local government officials to ensure that procurement and investment regulations work to support economic development, not block it.

Thousands of skilled foreign laborers are working to build defense related projects in Guam. Yet the absence of skilled labor outside the fence has driven new home construction costs beyond the reach of most working families. Using administrative connections in DC, working administratively, Ginger will seek flexibility to expand the ability of foreign labor to work on civilian housing projects, especially those for low- and middle-income families.

## Workforce of the 21st Century - AI Corps

Ginger is committed to transforming Guam into a premier hub for artificial intelligence (AI) development through the establishment of a Guam AI Corps.

Leveraging Guam's strategic location as America in Asia, a critical hub for underwater cables and destination for companies like Google positioning data centers, we will ensure that AI development efforts are secure and align with national security interests, enhancing the Indo-Pacific's communications infrastructure and augmenting cyber security needs to protect Guam's information infrastructure. The goal is to position Guam as a vital center for AI innovation, driving technological advancement, economic growth, and securing our place in the global AI landscape.

We will advocate for robust federal support to create a comprehensive educational pathway that engages students from middle school through adult education in high-tech environments. This initiative will equip our youth and workforce with cutting-edge skills in AI and technology, providing them access to modern laboratories and hands-on learning experiences that inspire innovation.

We will seek expanded federal funding for Guam entities already doing some of this great work like Guam Community College, the University of Guam, high schools, and training organizations like the Guam Contractor's Association, ensuring they can offer advanced AI curricula, state-of-the-art facilities, and attract top-tier faculty. Additionally, we will promote scholarships and financial aid programs to ensure equitable access to these



opportunities for all our students. A key ingredient will be collaborating with local government to forge strategic partnerships with leading AI firms from the mainland and the region, and identifying the federal incentives to facilitate collaborations that provide valuable industry insights through internships, mentorships, joint research initiatives, and high paying jobs.

With millions in federal funds being poured into Guam and the region to strengthen broadband and communications infrastructure, Guam must develop the talent and support local entrepreneurs big and small so that we benefit from the investment. Workforce acceleration is the key component - if we develop the workforce, the work will come. But if the work is not here, the workforce we develop will continue to leave. We have to stop the bleeding and have high-paying jobs and all the associated economic activity that comes from that to strengthen our island and the only way to do that is to have a plan.

### **Hub and Spoke Economic Expansion**

We are in an era of Great Power Competition that has brought global focus on the Indo Pacific Region. Economic and diplomatic alliances are rapidly expanding

in an area where a majority of the world's economic activity takes place.

America has declared its role as a Pacific Power and is fully committed to a free and open Indo Pacific. With Guam on the frontlines as the closest U.S. soil to Asia, we must start now establishing a vision and the building blocks to become the hub of economic activity in the Pacific.

Part of that is moving to open competition for air routes to bring fares down to reasonable levels. This in turn will fuel economic activity. But more fundamental than the money is the lifeline of air travel for so many Pacific islanders with health issues, seeking education or training, or just simply wanting to maintain family ties.

As Congress looks to invest in marine highways, we need to build a vision for Guam as a hub and wheel spoke of the U.S. in the greater Pacific. Leveraging groundbreaking efforts in updating maritime strategy, Guam can build our economy and be a central solution to the challenge of navigating smaller islands, generating economic activity that benefits us and our Pacific neighbors.

By expanding more affordable air and sea transportation routes in the Pacific, Guam can build demand to attract more commerce and trade and lower prices.





# Secure Guam

Our place in the Pacific and our role in the defense of the nation means that Guam is on the frontlines of potential conflict on a regional scale. While peace must be the goal, history teaches us to prepare for a day we hope never comes.



## Civil Defense/Homeland Security

Guam needs a comprehensive civil defense plan coordinated at the highest levels of the federal government. It must link our local government to DoD, Homeland Security, the Guam National Guard and others. The same coordination Congress is demanding inside the fence must occur outside the fence, with the meaningful participation of our entire community. We must urgently determine our preparedness needs and have the tools to meet them.

We also must resource our Homeland Security office to address the threats faced by our island. Robust communications plans and more support for cyber-security are key, as well as:



## Water & Food Security

With billions being invested in a 360° Missile Defense System for Guam, we must be prepared for the most essential needs – food and water. Pre-positioned portable desalinization units and floating temporary docks will give us capabilities that our Guam National Guard can utilize to maintain critical shipments while longer term solutions are put in place.

## Prepare Protective Shelters

Whether it is the danger posed by foreign advisories or the threat of the unforeseen, the federal government must immediately construct protective shelters strategically placed throughout Guam.



## Harden Guam's infrastructure

Running water and sewage removal, two of our most basic societal needs, are dependent on the power to operate water pumps and the ability to transmit safe electricity. The same is true for DoD operations on Guam, demanding the phased-in strategic placement of power transmission underground. We also re-learned a hard lesson from Typhoon Mawar in 2023, that communications are also an essential need. Critical back-up capability must be maintained, protected and available. At the same time we must build local capability to protect Guam's information security against cyber-attack. This will create high-paying jobs and shore up a key vulnerability.



## Critical Issues

### Crime

So much of the crime we face is directly linked to the drug trade. And the drug trade is now being linked at the national level to the geopolitical players in the Pacific, which means Guam should have added support for increased interdiction.

To seriously fight crime we must stop drugs at our borders, invest in treatment and recovery, and harness the power of best practices and technology to reinforce our efforts. To fight crime more effectively, Ginger will

- Initiate discussions with like-minded states and territories aimed at screening 100% of all incoming packages from sea and air. Federal agencies concur that a huge proportion of the drugs sold in Guam, and in the nation for that matter, arrives via the Postal service in domestic mail. Guam also relies heavily on the US Coast Guard to patrol our shores, and they are in need of increased support. 100% Screening for drugs will prevent crime before it starts and protect families from the pain of addiction.
- Treat Drug Addiction. Ginger supports the expansion of drug treatment options on Guam. Leveraging existing provisions requiring Medicaid to cover drug treatment and expanding incentives for social workers, we can widen options for those who need help through partnerships with the private sector.
- Leverage Technology & Training. Work with the Department of Justice and federal law enforcement agencies to increase the use of artificial intelligence and best practices nationwide to supplement our law enforcement efforts and improve effectiveness through training and inter-agency collaboration.

### Veterans

The sacrifices of our veterans who risked their lives to protect our freedom deserve not only our respect, but also our unwavering support as they navigate life beyond the battlefield. It is past time to have the Veterans Administration establish an adjudication office and improved medical and mental health support programs in Guam.

As the hub of national security in the Western Pacific, Guam also must be the hub for our veterans and those from the CNMI and FAS. Imagine telling a New York veteran to get healthcare in Alaska – that is the 7-hour flight that our veterans are being asked to take, and it is not right.

By reallocating the proportion of Guam's use from Hawaii to Guam and including the millions spent on airfare and lodging, the Veteran's Administration will both save



money and improve service by bringing services to where the veterans need it most – at home where their families and support networks live.

### Environment

Ginger believes that protection, enhancement and revitalization of the environment is a key public responsibility. Environmental Impact needs results not more studies. We need to get down to discussions with the Federal Government that produce results. These plans will take years, but if we don't start now, we will not get anywhere.

To start with, we need to collaborate to develop a substantial, multi-year fully-funded environmental remediation campaign – paid for by the U.S. government – as a concrete form of action to address the extensive and decades-long contamination of the island (sites both on and off base). This would include mitigating the PFAS contamination of our water and cleaning up all the recognized Superfund sites.

That is one concrete way to make amends for the ways in which this poison has upended the lives of our people. But it's not just remediation – it is also about pursuing a vision of a vibrant environment that we must also set in motion, one that addresses invasive species, and protects the seas around us.

A well-funded brown tree snake suppression program that takes a whole of island approach is the only possible way we can ever hope to repatriate our endemic endangered birds before it is too late. We need to set a vision for an island that is reforested, snake free, and once again filled with the birdsong from Sihek, Ko'ko, and Aga. This will not happen without sustained financial support from federal and grant sources.

Our vision must also include dramatically increased funding and support from top scientists to help our local experts combat the rhino beetle. Serious R&D. Guam can



solve this if we have enough funding and expertise. And we must also ensure continued protection of marine life that is so much a part of our identity.

### **Healthcare**

We need to remove the cap on federal Medicaid dollars coming to Guam. This does not exist for any of the states. Because of our capped funding we are hampered in our ability to tackle long standing healthcare problems. Local dollars strain to cover more of what the federal government could.

By working on a long-term vision to lift the caps on Guam's Medicaid, we can expand its use to better address homelessness and increase support to our most vulnerable women and babies who could qualify for 12 months of postpartum care. Only the U.S. Virgin Islands has taken up this option.

Beyond that, there needs to be a serious examination of federal public-private partnership incentives to address the need for capital to support Guam's struggling hospital and regional health care centers.

### **Women's Reproductive Health**

When addressing matters concerning women's reproductive health, Ginger strongly advocates for a system where these life altering decisions are not made politicians, most of whom have no medical expertise, and a majority of whom are not women.

We must prioritize respect for individual responsibility and provide unwavering support for a woman's autonomy and ability to consult with her medical practitioner, family, and support network, ensuring that she can make decisions that align with her unique circumstances.

Moreover, in a society marked by remarkable scientific progress, Ginger emphasizes the importance of not only legalizing and ensuring access to contraception but also advancing research and development efforts aimed at enhancing contraceptive methods. This includes addressing a wide spectrum of women's health needs, such as making menstrual products affordable for those facing financial hardship and developing effective treatments for menopause.

### **Compact Impact**

The impact of migration to Guam from Compact States is a creation of federal control over Guam. For the first time in decades, despite a Congressional Delegation last year that heard Guam's case, the Congress failed to provide funds to mitigate the impact of its decisions – and the taxpayers of Guam are now left holding the bag.

That loss of funds hurts all of us – FAS migrants and Guam residents alike. That door has closed, so we need to find a new avenue to address this long-standing injustice. As American citizens we should have fair access and funding support that is available to all other Americans.

The most dramatic example of injustice is the provision of Supplemental Security Income – SSI – needed for our most vulnerable elderly and disabled. Everyone around us now receives this benefit – Hawaii, the CNMI, and the non-US citizens of the FAS who live in those jurisdictions. In this region, only Guam does not receive this funding. We must continue to press for inclusion of Guam in SSI benefits until we receive them.

### **Healthcare Workers**

We also need to have the flexibility to recruit temporary health care professionals until we are able to build sufficient local capacity. Guam needs an immigration



carve-out for special expedited visas for licensed health professionals willing to practice in Guam. If we can import thousands of foreign laborers to save our construction industry, we should be allowed to recruit dozens of health professionals to save lives.

### **Visa Waiver**

The visa waiver program continues to be an essential component of Guam’s tourism industry. Expanding that to the Philippines is an effort that continues to garner support and with the U.S. looking at ways to strengthen its ties to Manila, support for this waiver makes good foreign policy. To mitigate concerns about program management, new technology can help supplement federal immigration staff to ensure the program maintains strong border control while at the same time encouraging diplomatic and economic gains.

### **Federal Contracting**

Billions in federal spending is being invested in Guam, but too many small businesses can’t compete against large federal contractors who have mastered the art of navigating federal bureaucracy.

Ginger will work with the Small Business Administration to require that federal contracts increase local employment and local small business partnerships.

She will also work on developing enhanced data gathering to support stronger enforcement of Guam tax collection from federal contractors and employees living and working on Guam.

### **Grant Center of Excellence**

There are millions of dollars left on the table every year that Guam could be using but that go to waste. Two main things get in the way. First, we need more training and expertise on how to apply for grants. Secondly, we need more support for administering grants so that we keep that pipeline open.

Ginger will pursue federal support for the establishment of a Grant Center of Excellence that will support government and non-profit organizations throughout the grant process. And we are not only talking about federal grants, but private sector and international organization grants as well. The private sector will also be able to utilize the center for a fee, providing a source of income that will help sustain the program.

We will find avenues through DC to expand support to get this put in place for our government and especially our mayors who should be able to focus on the important work in their villages and not tied up for hours in front of a computer screen!

**Putting Ginger Cruz’s federal and local experience to work for Guam will open many possibilities for a brighter future.**



**Experience Matters, Results Count.**

Please Vote Ginger Cruz for Washington Delegate on August 3rd.  
Si Yu’os Ma’åse, Thank You, and Maraming Salamat Po.