

2024 Official Candidate Statement City & Borough of Juneau, Alaska

Jenny Thomas

Candidate: Board of Education



Name as it appears on the ballot: Jenny Thomas

Office Sought: Juneau School Board (Board of Education)

Residence Address: 4460 Windfall Ave., Juneau, AK 99801

Mailing Address: Same

Email Address: jenny.thomas2024@yahoo.com

Website Address: www.jenny4schoolboard.com

Age: 46

Occupation: Business owner

Spouse or Partner name: Bryan Thomas

Children's names: Harbor and Neela

Place of Birth: Juneau

Length of Residency in Juneau: 23 years

Communities lived in & dates of residency: Juneau, AK: 1978 -1980
Northway, AK 1980 -1986
Eagle River, AK 1986 -1993
Juneau, AK, 1993 -present

Political or Government Work: Secretary, Alaska Department of Labor; Human Resource Specialist, Alaska Department of Administration; Human Resource Technician, Juneau School District

Business or Professional Work:

Business Owner

Special Interests:

My family and I enjoy all that Southeast Alaska has to offer, from boating to hiking, rain or shine.

Biographical Information *[limited to 150 words or less. Articles such as “a”, “and”, and “the” will be counted. Any words beyond the allotted word count will not be published]:*

I’m a lifelong Alaskan. My father was an Alaska State Trooper, and his job took us to various parts of Alaska. I was born in Juneau and moved to Northway, then Eagle River, before returning to Juneau in 1993. I graduated from Juneau Douglas High School in 1996. Over the years, I have had a diverse career path while taking courses at the University of Alaska Southeast. I worked for the State of Alaska as a secretary to a director in the Department of Labor, a human resource specialist for the Department of Administration, and later as a human resource technician for the Juneau School District. I then chose to stay home with my two young children. During that time, I dedicated myself to volunteering in their classrooms several times a week. In 2013, my husband and I started our plumbing and heating business.

Position Statement *[limited to 250 words or less. Articles such as “a”, “and”, and “the” will be counted. Any words beyond the allotted word count will not be published. Negative campaign material will not be published.]:*

Over the past year, the sudden decisions to close schools have created challenges and disruptions for our students, teachers, and parents. While we understand that declining enrollment requires changes, the rushed process resulted in undue stress to the entire community. I will advocate for a board that values transparency, accountability, and open communication. For the school board to be effective, it is crucial to create an environment where teachers, parents, and other stakeholders can openly voice their concerns without fear of retaliation, the administration's actions are evaluated, and concerns raised by the community are acknowledged and addressed. As a board member, I will address past shortcomings, promote transparency and accountability, and create a more responsive and supportive school board environment. I will work to foster trust and improve the overall functioning of the school system in Juneau.