

**Rating Criteria:**

**Please tell us the following information about yourself:**

Name: Michelle Thompson

Position Running For: School Board Trustee, Zone 3, Lakeland Joint School District

Website: Currently under construction for this position.

Tell us a little about yourself and your family, how long have you lived in the area and your occupation.

*I am married and this year will mark our 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary. My husband and I have lived in Kootenai County for the last 31 years and have seen a significant amount of growth and change. We have four (4) girls, together, and grandbaby No. 9 is due in November! I am currently employed as a counselor, and I own my own business providing various court services. My husband is self-employed and has been continuously for the last 32 years.*

**Please answer the following questions:**

1. Do you have experience as an elected official, and if so, what was your position, and how would you describe your voting record?

*I have served as a trustee for the Lakeland Joint School District since January 2020. My voting record supports parents and their children, as well as returning the district's focus back to education.*

2. Please tell us about your activity as a Republican. Have you previously voted for candidates of other parties? If yes, explain.

*My activity as a Republican has been to cast my vote in elections. To my knowledge, I have never voted for candidates of other parties.*

3. What is the purpose of government?

*The purpose of the government is to serve the people who are electing representatives to its body. The government's powers are limited by the Constitution and are to be controlled by the voice of the people.*

4. Describe why you are running for this particular office. What are your qualifications? What are your goals?

*I am running for re-election because there is still more work to be done. I have dedicated countless hours in the last four (4) years to my position, and as a member of the Board, I believe we have effectuated positive change for the education of children. However, ensuring every child is able to receive an*

*education without society circumventing the authority of parents is still a battle that needs to be fought.*

*My qualifications are (1) I'm a taxpayer; (2) I believe children deserve the best education possible; and (3) I am willing to stand for the rights of parents.*

*My goals are to continue to turn the district's focus back to education and ensure parents determine what's best in education for their child.*

5. Describe experiences where you are or have been engaged such as non-profit organizations, clubs, churches, boards, commissions, etc., where you have been of service to others.

*From 2000 – 2010, I was actively involved in the Lakeland Soccer Club. I worked with other committed community members, and we grew from a recreational organization to a competitive club that supported the growth and development of the player, the coach, and the game.*

*I have been active in my church through serving in the nursery, Sunday School, singing with the worship team, helping with hospitality, providing meals to others, and helping wherever I was needed.*

*Finally, I have been the treasurer for the road maintenance association in my housing development since 1999 with a small hiatus from the position for approximately two years (2008-2010).*

6. Do you describe yourself as fiscally conservative? Please, elaborate.

*Yes, I am fiscally conservative. I support lower taxes and less regulation over businesses.*

7. Do you consider yourself as socially conservative? Please elaborate.

*Yes, I consider myself socially conservative. I am a Christian, first and foremost, and my relationship with Christ supersedes all others. I believe in traditional family values and the sanctity of marriage being between one man and one woman, and I believe life is created at conception and should be respected as such.*

8. Describe which party platform best aligns with your positions on public policy (Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or Constitutional Party) and where do you disagree with that platform?

*The Republican party platform best aligns with my positions on public policy, and I don't disagree with it. It believes in and supports the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness as identified within the Declaration of Independence.*

9. Do you have any history of tax liens, criminal record, bankruptcy or conflict of interest that may affect your future decisions or desirability to be voted into office?

*As I stated when I ran for election previously, my husband was a partner in a local business operation in 2005. The market crashed, and in 2009 we became entangled in an extensively long and costly legal battle regarding the partnership which led to us filing for bankruptcy.*

*That being said, I do not have a history of tax liens, criminal records, or other conflicts of interest that may affect my future decisions or desirability to be voted into office. I've listened to my constituents and represented them. Parents have the right to govern their children's education.*

10. Describe how you will make yourself available to your constituents and vote as their representative with FORTITUDE, adhering to the values and answers you have stated above.

*I am available to my constituents, and I have been for the last four (4) years, via personal conversation, email, telephone, and through random encounters. I listen and I want to hear what people have to say. The governance of the school district affects the education the children receive. Parents have the right to voice their wants, needs, and concerns when it comes to their child's education, and trustees should represent them accordingly.*

*I believe my FORTITUDE shone through during the recall attempt against me. I didn't waiver; and I stood for what was right for the parents and children within our district despite the accusations and falsehoods reported, various character assassination attempts, and the blatant lies spread about me. I rose above their noise and remained focused on doing the job I was elected to do.*