

# Olathe USD #233 Board of Education 2021

Response ID:7 Data

## 1. Candidate Information

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### 1. Candidate Name

Jennifer Gilmore

### 2. Candidate for Board Seat #

USD 233 District 3

### 3. Address

Street Address/Apt/Suite : 2282 W Layton Drive

City/State/Zip : Olathe, KS 66061

### 4. Phone Number

913-210-0918

### 5. Email Address

jennifergilmoreboe3@gmail.com

### 6. Campaign Website

www.JennyforOlathe.com

## 2. Candidate Background

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### 7. Occupation/Work History (last 5 years - 25 words or less)

Payroll- Performance Contracting Group

### 8. If you are or have been affiliated with a chamber of commerce or other business organization, please list which organization(s) and any leadership positions you have held.

### 9. Other recent political/community experience (50 words or less)

President / Treasurer of Madison Park Homes Association

Planning Commissioner for City of Gardner

## 3. Issues and Policy

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### 10. As a candidate, what are your top three education policy issues? (100 words or less)

Transparency- Parents deserve timely and professional communication from school board members. The district needs to represent families, not special interest groups, and keep schools safe, secure and OPEN.

Engagement- Creating life long learners, who enjoy school. Let's teach kids how to think and to be problem solvers. In all things, learning needs to focus on preparation for life after school.

Prosperity- Giving students the tools to achieve their dreams and pursue their passion. Whether it is a 4-year degree, vocational training, or a different career path. Our schools need to support the needs of every student in Olathe schools.

### 11. The Kansas Supreme Court ruled the current K-12 education funding formula is both equitable and adequate. The Court, however, has retained jurisdiction over the case to assure funding is maintained. What are your thoughts on the formula and additional funding that has been added? (100 words or less)

Local districts need to utilize funding responsibly. Studies are showing the increase in funding is not increasing individualized student achievement and preparation for life after high school.

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**12. The K-12 education system requires accountability measures for student performance, focused on post-secondary success and career-readiness. Do you believe the District is meeting expectations for student achievement? (100 words or less)**

I do not believe the district is meeting expectations. Student engagement is low, hundreds of students fell behind especially during the 2020 school year and only a third of high school students are college or career ready by graduation.

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**13. Kansas is experiencing low unemployment rates and employers are struggling to find qualified workers. How do you see the school district helping to meet the business community's future workforce needs through work-based learning such as internships, training, and other career exploration opportunities? (100 words or less)**

Districts should work on one to one engagement, especially in the classroom. Meeting the individualized needs of students and pairing them with education that match their interest for future careers. Many trades are in high demand, yet we funnel all students to college pathways.

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**14. What do you believe the takeaways for the District should be, if any, from the COVID-19 pandemic experience? (100 words or less)**

Students are both resilient and the glue to any school district. We should not isolate healthy children but find ways to make schools safe, so students, teachers and school staff all feel confident in our buildings. Learning is such an important piece to our thriving economy that children should be of high importance and Educators know the community values their hard work and commitment to education.

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**15. Other than funding, what do you see as the greatest challenge facing the District? (100 words or less)**

Transparency in curriculum and bridging the gap of trust between all district stakeholders and the Board of Education.

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**16. Why are you seeking this public office? (100 words or less)**

As both an alumna of Olathe Schools and a mother of two amazing girls, I would like to see the Olathe legacy continue on for many years. We have an opportunity to make Olathe the best place for students to excel and be leaders in our state.

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**17. What makes you uniquely qualified to serve on the Board and most distinguishes you from your opponent(s) in this race? (100 words or less)**

I have served in a variety of public service roles but most specifically I have school finance work experience and understand the challenging points within a school budget. I know the importance of creating a safe environment with open dialogue for the integrity of the greater community. As well, I fully understand the importance of education for our youth and the realization Educators are Essential! Together, we can make Olathe the best place to live, LEARN, work and play!

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