

## Jason Ortiz

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### **1. State why you wish to serve on the Board of Directors.**

My reasons remain committed to serving my community that I reside in. I am very involved at the fair and I'd like to continue to see it flourish. Being a father of five children from ages 2 - 14 years of age, I would like my kids to be able to enjoy the fair for many years to come. My graduate education in public policy with an emphasis on management can also help bring a diverse approach to the challenging fiscal times that state will be facing.

### **2. Summarize employment experience; include work with budgets and supervisory duties.**

I have a decade of supervisory and managerial work experience at GCI. I helped oversee multi-million dollar budgets, worked with outside companies, and traveled to remote villages working with village elders to negotiate with them. My current role in the Palmer com1 system is also a supervisory position where I determine the sufficiency of pleadings pursuant to statutes and court rules. I assist in supervising the jury, civil, probate, and delinquency departments of the court. This work is very technical in nature and requires patience, and a great deal of understanding of the law, rules, and procedures. I also meet quarterly to discuss policy, legislative, and fiscal issues in an elected role within the court system.

### **3. List any volunteer activities, including board experience.**

My family makes every attempt to give back to our community; we understand how that it is a great life lesson. Anybody that knows me can tell you I sometimes spread myself thin because of my commitment to helping others. I also volunteer with the Matsu Ski and Snowboard Club and have recently got involved with the Boy Scouts of America (with my son). I am still serving in an elected position at the court representing the third judicial district. In this committee we discuss employee issues, budget issues, policy implementation and upcoming legislative concerns. This platform allows me to scrutinize the budget and offer solutions to the fiscal problems that the state is experiencing.

### **4. How have you participated in the Fair in the past? Includes fairgoer, vendor, volunteer, exhibitor, employee, events, programs, and activities.**

With my mother-in-law having a family business at the fair for 30+ years, I have been at the fair, nearly every day during my tenure. Every vendor knows the hard work that goes into the fair the week before, during, and the week after the fair (for take clown etc.). I have helped with other events throughout the year that were held at the fair as well. In addition to helping from a vendor perspective, I am obviously a fairgoer. I enjoy walking around and chatting with vendors or sometimes just meeting new people who are visiting Alaska. It is always my intention to introduce myself to all the vendors; nevertheless, the last day rolls around and I find that there are not enough hours in the day (smiling).

### **5. Summarize what you value most about the Fair. State your specific areas of interest.**

This statement will not change much for me because I still value the location of the State Fair. Located in a prime area of Palmer and with backdrop of Pioneer Peak, that is absolutely priceless. Every year I look forward to the craziness that the fair brings; the great food, and the entertainment. Throughout the year we like the various events such as the festivals, dog shows, gun shows, etc.

### **6. What is your vision for the Fair, and do you have specific goals?**

The upcoming legislative session is going to be very dismal for every Alaskan and we need to adjust accordingly. The ability to ensure the fair is on a concrete financial ground is critical. Ensuring that the fair is diverse in the entertainment and that it is attracting what people want is also imperative. I would like to

make sure the fair continues to have high quality educational shows and strives for excellence to programs such as 4H. The improvements at the equestrian have been amazing; however, there is room for growth to attract new crowds to an area they may not be familiar with. Reaching out culturally and adding more entertainment/shows would also been a priority. I would like to expand fair membership by educating the public on the importance of being involved and having a say at "their" fair.

I am a forward thinker who works well with any person. I can be non-bias and listen objectively to concerns from the public, members, peers, etc. I would encourage anybody prior to the election to call or email me and ask me any questions you might have. I may not always have an answer for you; however, I am humble knowing that I may not have an answer for everybody. The important part is I will listen and find an answer or solution to the problem. Listening to the members to make sure they are represented accurately, honestly, and with integrity is my objective. You know my face; you've seen me around, now I ask for your support in this upcoming election.