

<b>Your Name</b>	Judith Thomas
<b>Seat running for</b>	Town Commission
<b>District</b>	N/A
<b>Website</b>	judiththomas.org
<b>How long have you lived in Palm Beach County?</b>	47 years

## **JOBS**

I believe in entrepreneurship and a skilled workforce. I have supported apprenticeship programs through the local unions that provide on the job training along with paid labor. As a former member of the Palm Beach County Planning and Zoning Board and the Town of Lake Park Planning and Zoning Board, I have recommended projects to the governing body that encourages job creation and economic growth. As a commissioner, I will continue to seek opportunities that will enhance and encourage the establishment of small businesses that are the lifeblood of the community.

## **TALENT**

I support programs in our local schools that provide opportunities for skilled labor. Workforce Development programs that train or retrain individuals transitioning into new fields is also important. We should be encouraging immigration that will support employment and assist with filling the existing employment gap.

## **BUSINESS CLIMATE**

I will support a skilled labor force, reduce costly permitting fees, encourage expedited permitting and expansion of local businesses with incentives.

## **AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

This is a major challenge for Palm Beach County and Florida as a whole. To attract and retain professionals, housing must become a priority. I support the County in its efforts to provide affordable housing through bonds that will assist in overcoming this challenge.

## **TAXES**

Taxes are necessary to ensure services are provided. However, it is important that the quality of services are in line with the taxes that are being collected. Taxes should be progressive not regressive.

## **COLLABORATION**

As an educator, I understand the importance of working collaboratively with stakeholders to accomplish tasks (We have worked with Fuel Up to Play 60 to support active teens, Guatemalan Maya Center that provides support for our families, as well as grants for community gardens on site.

**WOMEN IN THE WORKFORCE**

I support legislation that is consistent with equality for women in the workplace.

**WORKPLACE CULTURE**

I support legislation that is consistent with equality for women in the workplace.

**OUR COMMUNITY**

We need to encourage diversity within our community and ensure that everyone has a voice. America is the land of the free and the home of the brave. We are better collectively than alone. Therefore, I want to ensure that there is a process to create quality places that people want to live, work, play, and learn in. It is my goal to move our community towards that goal.

**Is there anything else you would like to add?**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.