

Thank you for allowing me to introduce myself. My name is Jackie Tillman and I am seeking election to the Berkeley County School Board for District 3.

I am 38 years old and spent the first 10 years of my life moving from base to base as the daughter of a military father. In fact, it is the Navy that brought my family to Goose Creek in 1980. And, it was by the Grace of God that the military allowed us to spend the next seven years stationed here. In doing so, I was able to attend and graduate from Goose Creek High School in 1987.

After graduation, my family was transferred to Jacksonville, Florida, and I left to attend college at the University of Kentucky. In 1991, I graduated from UK with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a major in Marketing.

In August of 1991 I began a career in Retail Management with K-Mart Corporation. Working in Retail Management is much like being in the military. Over the next 5 years, I worked in 6 different stores – always going where I was needed. Thankfully, during this very busy time, I was able to plan a wedding and in 1993, I married my high school sweetheart – Mr. Aubrey “Audie” Tillman.

In 1997, I was asked to consider making a career change and moving back to Goose Creek. After much consideration, my husband and I decided to move back to the area where many of his family still lived. So, I left the world of retail and entered the world of sales and marketing. Unfortunately, the company was opening a new division and marketing a new product (a tankless water heater) that did not see the expected success due to manufacturing difficulties and the local office closed in 1999. After that, I worked briefly for Service Master of Charleston as the Marketing and Customer Service Manager until I took a position with Express Teller Services. I worked for Express Teller for 3 years. During that time, I worked in a number of capacities – from route technician to armored car driver to vault associate and finally as a trainer for new employees.

Then in 2002, I had the opportunity to go to work for Berkeley County Water and Sanitation. I started in the Billing Department and moved in 2003 to the position of Recycling Coordinator. While working as the Recycling Coordinator, I had the opportunity to visit a number of schools and classes and talk with the students about recycling, solid waste reduction, and the environment. Additionally, I met a fine group of teachers that any school district would be proud to have as educators for their students.

Although I loved my job, our family had some personal issues arise that necessitated our making some changes. After much discussion, my husband and I decided that it would be in the best interest of our family if I resigned my position with the County in order to provide full time care for our two boys – Hunter who is 9 and in 4th grade at Marrington and Logan who is 2.

After this decision was made, I became aware that an opportunity existed to run for School Board. I have no previous political experience, but as a parent of a child attending school in Berkeley County, I feel I have a vested interest in what shape my child's education will take. In fact, my intention upon being a stay-at-home mom was to be more physically involved in my son's education by doing more at the school. The opportunity to be on the School Board will give me an avenue to be more involved in the lives of all our wonderful students in the County. I know that I would be a positive voice for our children and a valuable member of the School Board Team.

I hope you will give me the opportunity to serve you and the students of the Berkeley County by voting for me on November 4.