

Senate District M Senator

Patricia R. Chesbro, Registered Democrat



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AGE: 78

PLACE OF BIRTH: Norwich NY

SPOUSE’S NAME: James (deceased)

CHILDREN’S NAMES: James Jr, Mark, Heidi,
Jennifer, Carrie

OCCUPATION: Retired educator

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 52 years

ALASKAN COMMUNITIES LIVED IN:
Palmer (74-77)
Wasilla (77-present)

EDUCATION:
Sherburne NY High School
Syracuse University
SUNY Albany
UAA

POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:
Mat-Su Borough Planning Commission

BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:
Teacher Bay Trail Middle School (NY)
Teacher & Principal Palmer High School
Superintendent of Mat-Su Schools
Assistant Professor UAA
Interim Dean UAA College of Education

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS MEMBERSHIPS:
Palmer Community Foundation
Palmer Museum of History and Art

SPECIAL INTERESTS:
Playing Mountain Dulcimer

STATEMENT:
When my husband and I moved to Alaska from upstate New York in 1974, it was a land of opportunity. Both of us were raised in small towns, where we grew up with strong families, good friends, good schools, and good neighbors who watched out for everyone’s children. That also described the Alaska we found those 50 years ago. The Annie E Casey Foundation has evaluated children’s well-being since 1990. The data assess four categories: economic well-being, education, health, and family and community. Between 1990 and 1995, Alaska’s children were ranked among the top ten states in the nation in overall well-being. In 2026, our children’s well-being ranks 47th out of 50 states. These data are appalling to me. We are betraying our children.
I believe every decision the government makes should address the well-being of our children. Are we enacting a fiscal plan that addresses fair revenue sources? Are we adequately funding a robust education for all? Do we have good, up to date job training opportunities? Are we ensuring youth have enough food and adequate health care? Are we supporting early childhood education? Are we figuring out why our kids die from suicide, accidents, or homicide more frequently than most US kids? Are we seeking localized renewable energy for remote areas and training our young workers to build and operate them?
When elected, I will be sure every decision I make assesses its effect on our children. Children are our future, but we are responsible for building theirs.

*The views expressed in this statement are from the candidate and not endorsed by the Division of Elections.
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