

# County Commissions

## Marion County Commissioner, District 2

### Description:

The Board of County Commissioners is the primary legislative and policy-making body for the County. Each commissioner represents one of the five districts in which they reside and serves a four-year term

**(Vote for One)**

### Candidates (choose 1):

#### Kathy Bryant



**Party:** Rep

#### Biographical Info:

**Incumbent:** INCUMBENT

**Contact Phone:** 352-572-5775

**City of Residence:** Ocala

**Education:** High School

**Website:** <http://Votekathybryant.com>

**Email:** [Kbryant5586@aol.com](mailto:Kbryant5586@aol.com)

**Facebook:** <http://Kathybryantformarioncontycommissioner>

#### Questions:

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** Over the years, I have been proud to be affiliated with a variety of different organizations. These include Junior League of Ocala, Women of Worth, Ocala Royal Dames, Interfaith Emergency Services, the Ocala/Marion County Chamber and Economic Partnership, Tourist Development Council, Past President of the Florida Association of Counties, National Association of Counties, Withlacoochee Regional Water Supply Authority, and last but not least my home-based church, Church of Hope.

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** During my time as a county commissioner, I have dedicated myself to learning and understanding the ins and outs of our county government and the needs of our community. I believe my tenacity and problem solving skills have been recognized by my peers, as they have now elected me board chairman on three separate occasions. Additionally, I have committed to furthering my training as a county commissioner, by obtaining multiple certifications from the Florida Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties. Finally, my 20 years of experience as a business owner provides me with a deep understanding of how local economic and job growth occurs - a vital skill as we work to continue the rapid economic growth we've experienced since 2011.

**Q:** *Marion County's Board of Commissioners agreed in March 2018 that the County's fire and rescue department has been unable to recruit and retain a sufficient number of employees. What would you do to address this problem?*

**A:** The County Commission has already addressed this issue. On May 2, the County Commission renegotiated the contract with our fire rescue union. Following this renegotiation, the County Commission unanimously approved the contract at our June 5 meeting. The amended contract addresses the starting salary of all firefighter/paramedics. We have already seen a dramatic increase in applications and an end to the large amount of attrition the department had been experiencing.

**Q:** *What type of long range plan should be in place to ensure the conservation and stewardship of natural resources in the County?*

**A:** Marion County is indeed rich in natural resources. With the understanding that our population is expected to grow from 350,000 to more than 525,000 within the next twenty years it is imperative that we reassess our comprehensive plan and make the needed changes. These changes are not only needed to protect our natural resources, but also to accommodate our growth while still maintaining our identity.

## **Michael Crimi**



**Party:** Rep

### **Biographical Info:**

#### **Incumbent:**

**Contact Phone:** 352-427-8680

**City of Residence:** Ocala, Florida

**Education:** 1. Lake Weir High School - GRADUATED 2. Central Florida Community College - GRADUATED EMT/Paramedic, GRADUATED Associate of Arts Degree 3. Florida State Fire College - GRADUATED-Firefighter and Advanced Interior Firefighter ( Smoke Diver ) 4. US Army - Combat Medic AIT GRADUATED Distinguished Honor Graduate 5. University of Florida- GRADUATED Bachelor of Health Science Degree Physician Assistant 6. University of Nebraska-GRADUATED Master's of Medicine in Physician Assistant Studies.

**Website:** <http://www.ElectMikeCrimi.com>

**Email:** CrimiforCommission@gmail.com

**Facebook:** <http://fb.me/CrimiforCommission>

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/v/MIY0YxgA9Jg>

**Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** Chamber of Commerce, Chamber and Economic Partnership, VFW Veteran's Village, Veteran's Council, University of Florida Associate Professor/Preceptor College of Medicine School of Physician Assistant Studies, University of South Florida Associate Professor/Preceptor College of Nurse Practitioner Studies, South University Preceptor College of Nurse Practitioner Studies, Taylor College Advisory Board, Marion Technical College Advisory Board, American Association of Physician Assistants, Florida Association of Physician Assistants, National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants, Marion County Republican Executive Committee.

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** 1. My Business Experience for 22 years and I'm one of the largest employers in South Marion County. I fully understand and have managed Budgets and Expenditures. I have retained employees because of the respect, wages, and benefits they receive. 2. As a prior first responder and US ARMY Veteran I understand the top priority of the Safety and Security of the Citizens in Marion County. 3. My extensive education and I am a Medical Professional. I listen and care about real people with real problems everyday of my professional career over the past 26 years. I then solve their problems. I LISTEN, CARE, SOLVE.

**Q:** *Marion County's Board of Commissioners agreed in March 2018 that the County's fire and rescue department has been unable to recruit and retain a sufficient number of employees. What would you do to address this problem?*

**A:** I would have never let it get to this. Unlike my opponent I would have negotiated with the Fire Union long before this occurred and voted to increase their wages annually to get them to a living wage well before Marion County Fire and Rescue personnel went on a mass exodus over the last 8 years to other surrounding counties for higher paying Fire Rescue jobs so they could support their families. This would have avoided nearly \$50 MILLION DOLLARS in overtime wages and benefits over the last 8 years paid to Marion County Fire Rescue personnel. Marion Counties Fire and Rescue services are a vital part of our Community and the hard working dedicated men and women deserve respect and not neglect. My opponent slashed Fire Rescue/Firefighter funding in 2011 creating this crisis we are and have been experiencing over the last 8 years. Now all of a sudden, all at once, and during an election year, a 25% increase was voted in, to hopefully gain Fire/Rescue endorsement for re-election.

**Q:** *What type of long range plan should be in place to ensure the conservation and stewardship of natural resources in the County?*

**A:** Our most precious natural resource is water and we must protect our springs. We must keep the Nitrogen out of our springs by eliminating Urban runoff, not dumping sewage into the spring water, keeping septic systems at the proper distance away from the spring water and up to code, and be very mindful of tapping into the Aquifer. Long range we need a better read on the supply we have available and to better calculate out how long our supply will last. Knowledge of this is necessary to make decisions going forward.

## **Marion County Commissioner, District 4**

### **Description:**

The Board of County Commissioners is the primary legislative and policy-making body for the County. Each commissioner represents one of the five districts in which they reside and serves a four-year term

**(Vote for One)**

### **Candidates (choose 1):**

**Eddie Leedy**

**Party:** Rep

**Biographical Info:**

**Incumbent:**

**Contact Phone:** 352-843-2566

**Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *Marion County's Board of Commissioners agreed in March 2018 that the County's fire and rescue department has been unable to recruit and retain a sufficient number of employees. What would you do to address this problem?*

**A:** - no response -

**Q:** *What type of long range plan should be in place to ensure the conservation and stewardship of natural resources in the County?*

**A:** - no response -

**Carl Zalak III**



**Party:** Rep

**Biographical Info:**

**Incumbent:** INCUMBENT

**Contact Phone:** 352-266-4846

**City of Residence:** Fort Mc Coy, FL

**Education:** B.S. Management Information Systems from USF

**Website:** <http://votezalak.com>

**Email:** [votezalak@gmail.com](mailto:votezalak@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <http://Vote Zalak>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/votezalak](https://twitter.com/votezalak)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** Community Bible Study: Ocala Men's, Teaching director. CEP Children's Alliance Leadership Florida Florida Association of Counties National Association of Counties

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** I am not a bureaucrat and I am not a rookie. I am a business leader who is personally committed to Marion County being a place where our kids can find careers worthy of their talents and the best place in the world for our seniors to retire!

**Q:** *Marion County's Board of Commissioners agreed in March 2018 that the County's fire*

*and rescue department has been unable to recruit and retain a sufficient number of employees. What would you do to address this problem?*

**A:** We move quickly in Marion County! I serve on the board that identified the need and it was resolved by June 5, 2018. The salary package now puts us third in the state overall for firefighter/paramedics and the resumes are pouring-in!

**Q:** *What type of long range plan should be in place to ensure the conservation and stewardship of natural resources in the County?*

**A:** We have a long-range Basin Management action plan that will restore our springs. We are acting on it purposefully to restore our springs rightful place in our community, as the treasures they are! I was, also, quoted in the Ocala Star Banner for affirming that I would move to have the County sue the State government if they continue to pursue their ridiculous Coastal Connector. I believe every community should have an identity. I love Ocala and I don't want it to become like anywhere else, especially Orlando!

## Circuit Court

### 5th Judicial Circuit, Group 4

#### Description:

The majority of jury trials in Florida take place before one judge of the circuit court. Most criminal and civil cases originate at this level. Circuit court judges serve for six-year terms.

**(Vote for One)**

#### Candidates (choose 1):

##### Don Barbee Jr



**Party:** N

#### Biographical Info:

##### Incumbent:

**Contact Phone:** 352-428-4454

**Education:** Juris Doctor - Quinnipiac University School of Law - Magna Cum Laude; (final year at University of Florida Levin College of Law); M.S. - Sociology, Southern Connecticut State Univ. - Magna Cum Laude; B.S. - Criminal Justice and Political Science, Sacred Heart

University; FBI Academy, Quantico, VA - Graduate and Top Agent Award 2000;  
Connecticut Police Academy - graduate 1990.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** Florida Bar Association; Liaison to Florida Bar Juvenile Rules Committee; Hernando County Bar Association; Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers - Board of Directors, New Clerk Academy Vice Chair and Coordinator; Florida Courts E-Filing Authority - Vice Chair and Board of Directors; Lifesouth Community Blood Center - Board of Directors; 5 Points of Life Advisory Council - Hernando County Chair; Dawn Center of Hernando County (Domestic Violence Shelter) - past Vice President and Board Member; First Hernando Youth Soccer - past Vice Commissioner, Board Member and Coach; First United Methodist Church - Staff Parish Relations Committee Oak Hill Hospital - Community Advisory Board Member Dixie Youth Softball - coach

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify your for this position?*

**A:** 19 years as a licensed Florida attorney spending time as a civil litigator, Assistant Division Counsel to the FBI (collateral to regular Special Agent duties), Supervisory Assistant State Attorney, Director of Court Services and General Counsel to the Clerk of Court and for last 5 1/2 years as the elected Clerk and Comptroller acting as my own general counsel the entire time. I have experience in all types of Florida law. In addition to almost two decades of varied experience in Florida law, I would bring a very unique perspective to the bench. The Clerk's Office is truly the face of our judicial system. The praises, complaints and criticisms of our justice system are heard by my staff and I on a daily basis. The constituents want consistency, clarity and efficiency from their judicial branch. I hear this message loud and clear and would work exceedingly hard to ensure their expectations are met.

**Q:** *Briefly describe your philosophy of the judicial role, the qualities that are most important for the role, and the greatest challenges to the role.*

**A:** The role of the judge is often properly equated to the umpire of a baseball game. It is not the umpire's role to define the strike zone or the rules of the game. The umpire, like the judge, must review the facts presented and make the call. It is important for our judiciary to appreciate and have a commitment to the separation of powers and not re-define the strike zone from the bench. Judges must be excellent listeners, engaged students of the law and remember to stay connected to their community. If I were honored with this new role, the greatest challenge would be the vast array of cases heard by our Circuit Courts. The newly elected judge could hear anything from criminal cases, probate, civil, family law or juvenile. I have to assume that mastering the area of law to which one is assigned is the greatest challenge for any new circuit judge.

**Q:** *Juvenile justice actions should emphasize civil citations, rehabilitation, and other alternatives to incarceration.*

**A:** 4

**Q:** *Explain your answer.*

**A:** The goal of the juvenile justice system is quite different from that of the adult system. The primary goal of our juvenile system is to re-direct behavior and properly socialize our children to be productive, law-abiding members of society. It is with this goal in mind that the suggestions contained in the question should be a high priority. The only reason "strongly agree" is not marked is because there is a small subset of our juvenile delinquent population that must be incarcerated, albeit temporarily in most situations, to protect society from the behavior and provide a more structured setting for re-socialization.

**Edward C. Spaight**



**Party:** N

**Biographical Info:**

**Incumbent:**

**Contact Phone:** 352-651-3953

**Education:** Western New England School of Law, Juris Doctor, 2001, Magna Cum Laude; Siena College, B.A., Political Science, 1992, Cum Laude

**Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** Citrus County Bar Association: President 2016-2017 Florida Bar Association Wm. Reece Smith, Jr. Leadership Academy, Fellow 2016-2017 Maine State Bar Association Family Law Section: Vice Chair, 2008-2009; Secretary/Treasurer, 2006-2008 Penobscot County, Maine, Bar Association: Member, Board of Directors, 2005-2009 Inverness Primary School SAEC: Chairman 2010-2011, Member 2009-2010 City of Brewer, Maine, Planning Board: Chairman 2006-present, Member 2003-2009 I am also a Deacon at Seven Rivers Presbyterian Church, I have participated in performances at the Art Center of Citrus County, I have served as an assistant track and field coach at my daughter's high school, I have been a volunteer in my children's school and I am currently a candidate for membership with the Rotary Club of Inverness.

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify your for this position?*

**A:** I have been a practicing attorney for the past 17 years -- representing real people with their legal problems. I have represented individuals and families in court on a wide range of legal matters, including Family, Civil, Corporate and Criminal cases. I was in private practice in the State of Maine. I represented individuals in divorces and child custody cases. I served as a guardian ad litem, I helped put small businesses together and served as the Chairman of my local planning board. After we moved to Florida, I went from never handling a criminal case to representing clients facing the death penalty within two years. I have been recognized by my peers as a leader in the practice of law. I have been Citrus County Bar President and was the vice chair of the Maine State Bar Family Law Section. I have given seminars to attorneys and judges on Family Law and Juvenile Delinquency Law. I worked my way through law school and I have served in all three branches of state government.

**Q:** *Briefly describe your philosophy of the judicial role, the qualities that are most important for the role, and the greatest challenges to the role.*

**A:** I believe in judicial restraint. It is the role of the judiciary to follow the Constitution and to adhere to the laws as they are handed down by the Legislature. I understand the impact the courts can have in the lives of individuals, families and businesses. It is very important for cases to be addressed fairly, legally and as quickly as possible so that families are not completely destroyed by years of fighting in the courts, and businesses

are not crippled by protracted litigation. A judge must be able to handle a heavy caseload effectively and efficiently and must always treat all people involved with the court system – clerks, bailiffs, attorneys and litigants -- with respect. Legal matters are often contentious and emotional and it can be a challenge for a judge to keep his cool when everyone around him is losing theirs. I believe I have the necessary experience, temperament and respect for both the office I am seeking and for the people I hope to have the privilege to serve.

**Q:** *Juvenile justice actions should emphasize civil citations, rehabilitation, and other alternatives to incarceration.*

**A:** 5

**Q:** *Explain your answer.*

**A:** Nobody wants to criminalize children. Study after study has shown that children are not just little adults, but that children’s brains – including the capacity for executive thought and impulse control – do not stop developing until sometime in their mid-20’s. The Legislature has recognized this reality and has given clear direction that rehabilitation, civil citations and alternatives to incarceration are to be a primary focus of the juvenile justice system. I have represented children in Juvenile Court for several years. I believe that it is critically important for children to be represented by an experienced attorney, who is intimately familiar with the juvenile justice system. We can, and we should do everything possible under the law to help children who have committed crimes to learn from what they have done, to understand that all actions have consequences and – where appropriate -- to have the chance to enter adulthood without the stain of a criminal record.

## County Judges

### Marion County Judge, Group 5, Seat 2

#### Description:

County judges handle such matters as misdemeanors, small claims, civil cases, and traffic violations. They are eligible for assignment to circuit court. They serve for six-year terms.

**(Vote for One)**

#### Candidates (choose 1):

**William Ramputi**



**Party:** N

**Biographical Info:**

**Incumbent:**

**Contact Phone:** 352-274-3031

**Education:** Associate of Arts degree; Broward Community College Bachelors of Science degree; Florida State University 1985 Juris Doctorate degree; Nova Southeastern University 1989

**Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** Member of the Florida Bar since 1989; Member of the United States Federal District Courts since 1994; Florida Criminal Defense Attorneys Association; Marion County Criminal Defense Attorney Association; Marion County Bar Member; Member of First D. R. Smith Inns of Court; Marion County Big Sun Youth Soccer; and Marion County Youth Baseball.

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** Early in my legal career I worked for the Public Defenders Office and the State Attorneys Office here in the Fifth Judicial Circuit which encompasses Marion, Lake, Sumter, Hernando and Citrus counties. These positions provided me a broad range of experience dealing with law enforcement, victims, witnesses, plaintiffs, defendants and judges. The great values instilled in me through this governmental work built a solid foundation that allowed me to pursue the additional benefit of working in the private sector. The last twenty years of which has been operating the Law Offices of William E. Ramputi. The firm has provided a high level services to families in our great community with distinction and respect. Understanding how cases effect, not only the individual, but their families, loved ones, workplace and their community is an essential tool for a Judge to utilize in determining an appropriate sentence to impose.

**Q:** *Briefly describe your philosophy of the judicial role, the qualities that are most important for the role, and the greatest challenges to the role.*

**A:** A judge must first uphold the laws of the state, The United States Constitution and protect the public. A judge must possess an even temperament, be patient, courteous, and respectful to the litigants yet be firm and maintain decorum. They must be fair, impartial and possess a thorough knowledge of the law as to make well reasoned decisions. They must also be good stewards of the taxpayer dollars; which means being efficient without depriving an individual's due process rights. I was raised by an incredible mother and father, who was a police chief. They instilled in our family, a strong sense of moral and religious values along with a determined work ethic. People coming before the courts in our community need to be held accountable, however non violent offenders should be given the chance to prove themselves to their family and their community. My

goal is to keep people out of the system, not to keep them in the system.

**Q:** *What improvements can be made in the management of cases?*

**A:** Our Marion County courts have tremendous programs available to provide individuals with the tools and skills to be productive law abiding citizens rather than resorting to criminal conduct. These programs are not being utilized to their full extent. Case Management is always a concern as our county continues to grow. In the past 30 years, Marion County court system has adapted very well to the dynamic changes in growth and technology. I believe the collaborative effort between the court administration, clerk and judges has been outstanding. I would like to see the alternative court programs (Veteran's Treatment, Mental Health Treatment, Drug Court and Driving Under Influence Program) be utilized to its full potential as I think individual and the community as a whole would better be served. These programs certainly strive to reduce recidivism rates.

### **Sarah Ritterhoff Williams**



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**Party:** N

#### **Biographical Info:**

**Incumbent:** INCUMBENT

**Contact Phone:** 352-817-5506

**Education:** Forest High School - 1977; College of Central Florida - AA Degree 1979; University of Florida - Bachelors in Journalism - 1981; University of Florida - Juris Doctor - 1984

#### **Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** Currently - Take Stock in Children Mentor Rotary Forest High School Lacrosse Board - Team Mom Past - President - DR Smith Inn of Court President - Altrusa International YMCA Board of Directors St. John Lutheran Board of Christian Education Chamber of Commerce Ambassador Leadership Ocala Class VIII Advisory Board - MTI Legal Studies Academy Girl Scouts Cookie Mom Marion County Bar Member Justice Teaching Canvassing Board Florida Prosecuting Attorneys Association Education Committee DUI Trial Advocacy Class - Director

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** I have been a County Judge for eleven and a half years, serving the citizens of Marion County with honor and integrity both on and off the bench. Before taking the bench, I served as an Assistant Public Defender, and then as an Assistant State Attorney for 22 years. I prosecuted a death penalty case, and tried almost every kind of criminal case, both felony and misdemeanor. I daily treat litigants and attorneys with fairness and respect. My docket moves very efficiently, with cases going from arrest to trial in about three months. Defendants are treated consistently and fairly. Civil litigants get hearings

set quickly.

**Q:** *Briefly describe your philosophy of the judicial role, the qualities that are most important for the role, and the greatest challenges to the role.*

**A:** I see my job as applying the law fairly and consistently. It is not my job to write the laws, but to apply them as written by the legislature. Being a judge is an awesome and serious job. I believe in holding people responsible and accountable for their actions, and when the facts, circumstances and prior criminal history demand, this can include jail time, even when it is unpleasant or unpopular. However, the most rewarding part of my job has been supervising DUI Court, which is intensive outpatient treatment with court supervision, for repeat DUI offenders and those with serious alcohol or substance addictions. Participants are required to attend two group counseling sessions a week, 90 AA/NA meetings within the first 90 days (3 a week after), and come to court weekly for a judicial review. They carry a portable intoxilyzer 24/7 and are screened for alcohol two or three times a day. I am proud to say DUI Court not only changes lives...we SAVE lives.

**Q:** *What improvements can be made in the management of cases?*

**A:** It would be nice for County Judges to be able to use law clerks, but at this time, they are only available to circuit judges. More money for treatment would be an improvement, especially for treatment courts, such as DUI Court, Mental Health Court, Veterans Treatment Court and Drug Court.

## **Marion County Judge, Group 5, Seat 3**

### **Description:**

County judges handle such matters as misdemeanors, small claims, civil cases, and traffic violations. They are eligible for assignment to circuit court. They serve for six-year terms.

**(Vote for One)**

### **Candidates (choose 1):**

#### **Leann Patrice Mackey-Barnes**



**Party:** N

#### **Biographical Info:**

#### **Incumbent:**

**Contact Phone:** 352-622-1280

**Education:** -Bachelor of Arts in Criminology -University of Florida Bachelor of Arts in

**Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** \* Pace Center for Girls, Vice Chairman \* Kiwanis Club of Ocala, Member \* Juvenile Expunction Program, Volunteer Attorney \* Florida High School Athletic Appeals Committee, Chairman \* Law and Justice Youth Conference, Presenter and Volunteer \* Teen Court, Former Volunteer Judge \* Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Member \* Order of Eastern Star, Member \* Marion County Bar Association, Member \* Josiah T. Walls Bar Association, Member \* Opioid/ Heroin Task Force

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** \*16 years practice of law, including 14 years of county court experience \* Marion County Chief Assistant at the Law Office of Michael A. Graves, Public Defender \* Criminal Experience -Felony, Misdemeanor and Juvenile \* Civil Experience -Baker Act, Marchman Act, Domestic Relation, Intellectual Disability and Truancy \* Licensed to practice in the United States District Court \* Helped to initiate Marion County's Veteran's Treatment Court, Mental Health Court and The Juvenile Expungement Program

**Q:** *Briefly describe your philosophy of the judicial role, the qualities that are most important for the role, and the greatest challenges to the role.*

**A:** I have a deep respect for the justice system. I believe we need rules to maintain societal order and for the protection of ourselves and our property. Justice is not just about the law, It is also about the person interpreting the law. Fairness, respectfulness, patience, commitment to the job, and a willingness to follow the law regardless of their personal, social or political views are all qualities a great judge should have; and, I believe I possess all of these characteristics. I feel the greatest challenge to this role will be dealing with the high case load this docket currently has. I am more than capable of not only handling that issue but correcting it.

**Q:** *What improvements can be made in the management of cases?*

**A:** I have had the unfortunate opportunity to handle a high case docket before and I was able to work the cases down to a manageable size for one attorney. The improvements I would make in the management of cases would be to encourage all parties to work together, to grant continuances only when necessary and not for any unreasonable delay, to work to become familiar with my cases prior to each docket to make the docket run more efficiently. Lastly, I would make sure to familiarize myself with the resources that are available for our Veterans, people with mental illness and substance abuse issues to better assist in getting the appropriate people into to Marion County's three diversion courts: Veteran's Treatment Court, Mental Health Court and Drug Court.

**Tommy Thompson**



**Party:** N

**Biographical Info:**

**Incumbent:** INCUMBENT

**Contact Phone:** 352-895-4903

**Education:** Law School Degree from the University of Florida, Fredric G. Levin College of Law, Juris Doctorate, 1999; Undergraduate Degree from the University of Florida,

Bachelor of Arts in Criminology & Law, 1996.

**Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** \*Board of Directors, The Centers \*Board of Directors, West Central Florida Driver Improvement \*Marion County Justice Teaching Institute Coordinator \*Ocala Lions Club Member \*Marion County Heroin/Opioid Task Force Member \*Lake Weir High School Mock Trial Coach \*Former President, Marion County Bar Young Lawyers Section \*Former President, Marion County D.R. Smith American Inn of Court \*Leadership Ocala/Marion, Member of Class XXI \*Former Chairperson, The Florida Bar Fifth Judicial Circuit Grievance Committee "B" \*Conference of County Court Judges of Florida, 5th DCA Vice President, Parliamentarian (2016-2018), Circuit Representative (2013-2016). \*Member, Marion County Bar Association

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** For over a decade prior to taking the bench, I practiced as both a criminal and civil attorney, handling cases spanning multiple legal disciplines. In 2012 I was elected to the bench, where I have served on both the Criminal and Civil dockets. Most of my legal experience was gained by serving as a state prosecutor, a position I proudly held for over 8 years; to further my expertise and knowledge, in 2015 I agreed to serve as the sole County Court judge presiding over civil cases, exposing me to controversies and issues that I otherwise might not have the benefit of understanding. I also preside over the Mental Health Court program, which provides treatment and counseling services for individuals charged with misdemeanor criminal offenses and suffering from a diagnosed mental illness. My training and background as a prosecutor, a criminal defense and civil attorney, and most of all, my experience as a county court judge, have combined to prepare me well to preside over county court.

**Q:** *Briefly describe your philosophy of the judicial role, the qualities that are most important for the role, and the greatest challenges to the role.*

**A:** The judicial role is to preside fairly and impartially over cases and controversies. While I believe that a judge sometimes can, and should, consider the political, economic and social consequences of rulings, proper construction of the applicable law/statute/rule is always necessary, and the judiciary must not purposefully usurp the power of the legislative branch. Consequences can often be taken into account, and play a proper role in reaching the right ruling, but other times such matters must be disregarded in favor of what the law absolutely requires. Important qualities for the role include respectfulness - for the participants and the process. It is critically important for judges to be mindful that it is the people that are served by the justice system, not the other way around. The greatest challenge to the role is likely the problem of equal access to justice; individuals who can afford counsel enjoy marked advantages in litigation and make the system appear unfair.

**Q:** *What improvements can be made in the management of cases?*

**A:** A marked improvement in the management of cases could likely be achieved through greater integration of technology into the services provided by the court. The time and expense of requiring personal appearances at the courthouse, court reporter's office, or elsewhere, can often be avoided or at least reduced by permitting remote video or telephonic appearances. Some jurisdictions are experimenting with placement of kiosks or other equipment in rural areas for purposes of allowing remote appearances for traffic court and other routine proceedings. It seems that with the advent of smartphone technology there should be a more economical solution, to better serve a technologically sophisticated citizenry, than requiring personal appearances as a matter of routine. Cases can be advanced much quicker, when the various competing schedules of attorneys, witnesses, and the court can be harmonized by providing remote accessibility to the justice system.

## **Marion County Judge, Group 5, Seat 4**

**Description:**

County judges handle such matters as misdemeanors, small claims, civil cases, and traffic violations. They are eligible for assignment to circuit court. They serve for six-year terms.

**(Vote for One)**

**Candidates (choose 1):**

**Bryon Aven**



**Party:** N

**Biographical Info:**

**Incumbent:**

**Contact Phone:** 352-304-6728

**Education:** \*More than 315 hours of Continuing Legal Education \*University of Minnesota Law School, J.D. \*Arizona State University, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law, Visiting Student \*Weber State University, B.S. with majors in Criminal Justice and English

**Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** \*February 2003-June 2003: International Language Program - Volunteer English teacher in Tianjin, China \*September 2005-May 2007: Harriet Tubman Family Alliance Center (shelter for domestic violence) - Volunteer \*March 2008-Present: Boy Scouts of America - Various Positions \*April 2008-Present: Florida Bar - Member \*April 2009-Present: March for Babies - Volunteer \*May 2009-Present: Marion County Teen Court - Judge \*April 2011-Present: Marion County Children's Alliance - Participant \*April 2011-Present: Marion County Child's Protection Team - Member \*April 2017-Present: Rise for Hunger - Volunteer \*July 2017-June 2018: The Lodge Health and Rehabilitation Center - Volunteer

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** \*I have been proudly serving Marion County for more than a decade as an assistant state attorney. \*I have prosecuted homicides, sexual offenses, crimes involving children, robberies, burglaries, drug trafficking cases, crimes involving firearms, domestic violence offenses, violent crimes, dangerous criminals, and high profile cases. \*I have conducted more than 130 jury trials and participated in nearly every type of criminal hearing. \*I supervise, assist, aid, and train other attorneys and support staff. \*I have participated in more than 315 hours of continuing legal education. \*I have presided as a teen court judge over juvenile criminal offenders. \*I have taught and trained corrections officers the legal aspects of their jobs. \*I have volunteered as a law student with the local prosecutor's and public defender's offices, the law school clinics, and the U.S. Attorney's Office. \*I have served as a teacher, juvenile probation officer, and deputy juvenile probation officer.

**Q:** *Briefly describe your philosophy of the judicial role, the qualities that are most important for the role, and the greatest challenges to the role.*

**A:** Our country has the best judicial system in the world. Although it is not perfect, it is far better than any other alternative. Attorneys and judges have a profound impact on that system, but their ultimate responsibility is to the community that they serve. I do the right thing at the right time for the right reason. I recognize the great trust this community has placed in me as a public servant. At times, I have had to make tough and unpopular decisions, but at all times I know that I am accountable to those I serve. I have executed my office to bring about justice with integrity and diligence. Judges are the gatekeepers of that justice system. They should ensure that everyone has an opportunity to be respectfully heard, regardless of who they are, and that matters brought before them are considered with fairness and impartiality. Judges have an obligation to timely resolve the numerous cases and follow the law as it is set out by the people through their elected officials

**Q:** *What improvements can be made in the management of cases?*

**A:** Judges improve the efficient management of cases when cases are correctly resolved in a timely manner. County court cases can generally reach resolution within 90 to 120 days. There are rare cases where justice may require additional time and resources because of an unusual set of circumstances. However, the vast majority of the cases can be resolved in that time frame. Parties have a right to appeal decisions that they believe are unfair or in violation of the law. Generally, the decisions of a court do not require reversal unless a judge fails to follow the law or abuses their discretion. A reversal requires that the parties and the judge return to the litigation in order to correct the violation of the law or abuse of discretion. Reversals demonstrate a mismanagement of cases and can be avoided if the judge follows the law and exercises proper discretion.

### **Robert Edward Landt**



**Party:** N

#### **Biographical Info:**

**Incumbent:** INCUMBENT

**Contact Phone:** 352-629-7271

**Education:** Graduated Vanguard High School 1977, Graduated College of Central Florida 1981, Graduated University of Florida 1984, Graduated Stetson School of Law 1986.

#### **Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** In my 25 year career as an attorney, I have always been active in numerous community and professional organizations, and have taken leadership roles in most. Following is a list of those organizations: Rotary (Sunset Club) - past president/current member, Elks Club - past president/current member, Habitat for Humanity - past vice-president/Board of Directors, Boy Scouts of America Troop 172 - past treasurer/adult

leader, Marion County Gator Club - past president, Marion County Bar Association - 30 yr member, Kiwanis Club of Ocala - 30 yr member, Blessed Trinity Catholic Church - 30 yr member, Blessed Trinity Catholic School - volunteer coach. As a County Judge, I continued by participating in the following additional community and professional organizations: Judicial Liaison to Marion County Heroin Opioid Task Force, Judicial Liaison to CCF Public Policy Institute, Study of the Cost of Justice, Selected to teach my fellow Florida Judges at the Annual Conference of County Judges.

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** First is the 5½ years I have already been a judge. Second is my 25 years as a practicing attorney representing hundreds of people in County Court. My understanding of the issues facing litigants in civil matters in County Court make me uniquely qualified in this race. My skills are the ability to see the big picture and think outside the box to create solutions to problems. For example, I created misdemeanor Drug Court, an alternative court which allows non-felons with addiction issues to participate in closely supervised drug treatment programs instead of being tried for their crimes. Participants report to my Court weekly, and complete whatever treatment they are assigned. If they do not cooperate with the program, they will still face trial. By addressing the addiction issue, you get a much better outcome for the participant and for society, and save the taxpayers the high cost of putting these people in jail.

**Q:** *Briefly describe your philosophy of the judicial role, the qualities that are most important for the role, and the greatest challenges to the role.*

**A:** My philosophy is to lead our judicial system by providing expedient access to the courts with legally correct results in both civil and criminal matters. I believe judges should work with other community leaders to create and enhance public, private and philanthropic partnerships which promote safer communities and effectively and efficiently utilize our tax dollars in reaching that goal. This philosophy is known as "smart justice". The qualities that are most important for a county judge are leadership, compassion and patience. Leadership, because people do need to know that the judge is in charge of his courtroom. However, many people appear in County Court without an attorney and do not understand all the rules. It takes just a little patience and compassion to make the process go smoothly in those circumstances. The greatest challenge to judges is having enough time to review each individual case when the average docket for each Marion County Judge is over 3,400 cases per year.

**Q:** *What improvements can be made in the management of cases?*

**A:** County court in Marion County has been very pro-active in seeking the most efficient way to handle its caseload. Currently in Marion County, each of the four judges has ¼ of each docket (criminal, civil, small claims and traffic). Since each docket has its own, inherent, time and volume challenges, this is a very effective way to manage the different types of cases so no one judge gets bogged down with just one docket. It also allows the citizens to benefit from the involvement of all four county judges in all types of County Court cases, as well as prevent "forum shopping". All the county judges also use Mediators for civil cases to help keep cases moving. Each judge has an alternative court (Drug Court, Veterans Court, Mental Health Court and DUI Court) which assists in case management by identifying those cases that would be better and, therefore, more efficiently served out the constraints of their normal dockets.

## School Boards

### Marion County School Board, District 3

#### Description:

The School Board determines the policies needed to operate and improve the public schools of the District. This includes overseeing all decisions related to both paid and volunteer school personnel, providing adequate instructional materials and technology, ensuring appropriate upkeep of school property, and visiting the schools to observe, give suggestions for improvement, and advise citizens.

(Vote for One)

## Candidates (choose 1):

### Eric Ruben Cummings



**Party:** N

#### **Biographical Info:**

#### **Incumbent:**

**Contact Phone:** 352-804-6871

**City of Residence:** Dunnellon, FL

**Education:** 1987 Graduate of Ocala Forest High School Bachelor of Business Administration, Edward Waters College, Magna Cum Laude, Jacksonville, FL Bachelors and Masters of Theology, United Theological Seminary and Bible College. Monroe, La

**Website:** <http://ElectEricCummings.com>

**Email:** [EricCummings4Schoolboard@gmail.com](mailto:EricCummings4Schoolboard@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <http://Eric Cummings 4 School Board>

**Other Social Media:** N/A

#### **Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** Florida Association of Hostage Negotiators Pastors With A Purpose Second Bethlehem Baptist Association Christians United, Marion and Citrus Counties Meridian Masonic Grand Lodge of Florida Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Psi Chi Chapter NAACP, Marion County, FL Marion County POP Warner Football-Raiders

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** My experience as a father and grand father of kids that attend Marion County School, in addition to pastoring a congregation whose children attend public schools gives me a "people" perspective of our school system. My ability to communicate with people and to seek reasonable and logical solutions to issues would be an asset to the dynamics of the board. I also have the ability to access and analyze situations and see potential or future problems and look for ways to address these potential problem areas before they manifested.

**Q:** *Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.*

**A:** I would look to recruit high quality teachers first from our in state institutions of higher education. Implement staffing a District Recruiter that will go to all of our Florida School to include our Historical Black Colleges and Universities and bring those teachers to Marion County. I would also take a look at counties that are recruiting and retaining high quality teachers and seek to replicate those best practices that have proven to be successful in other Florida School Districts. I would also work with the other Board

Members, Superintendent and the teachers to access their needs and concerns, to make sure that our teachers are given the resources to raise our school to a higher level of success.

**Q:** *The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.*

**A:** 1

**Q:** *Explain your answer.*

**A:** My experience in law enforcement causes me to not support having administrators or teachers in the school armed with guns. I believe the Educators and Teachers focus should be concentrated on educating our students. The security of our schools should be left in the hands of our law enforcement agencies and school resources officers. Arming teachers and staff would be putting more guns in schools when we should be seeking to keep guns out of school.

## **Donnie Prophet**



**Party:** N

### **Biographical Info:**

#### **Incumbent:**

**Contact Phone:** 786-708-1754

**City of Residence:** Ocala

**Education:** Southeastern University Bachelors of Science in Ministerial Leadership

**Website:** <http://Donnieprophet.com>

**Email:** [prophet4schools@gmail.com](mailto:prophet4schools@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <http://facebook.com/prophet4schools>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/prophet4schools](https://twitter.com/prophet4schools)

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/v/7SHYGDIFUa0>

**Other Social Media:** [instagram-Prophet4schools](#) [Youtube-prophet4schools](#)

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** Meadowbrook Church- Elementary Dream Team Coach and Middle/High School Small Group Leader Cherubz Internation, Inc (Non-profit promoting family stability) Florida Education Association- Governance Board Member Florida Young Remarkable Educators National Education Association- Early Career Educator Taskforce Member Marion Education Support Professionals- President School Advisory Council and Parent/Teacher Association- Osceola Middle School Mentoring Program for- Young boys in Marion County Pop Warners Little Scholar- Marion County Raiders Youth Football

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** As an educator for the better part of a decade, I have the experience, passion, and

record to empower parents, teachers, support professionals. By empowering all stakeholders we reach the goal of a great public school for every child. I am on the ground and know the issues of our school system. I fought for a high-quality education in Tallahassee. Also, I know children and their needs and concerns. I believe we need someone who is dedicated to the cause of providing high-quality education to every student. That person is me. I particularly teach students with emotional and behavioral challenges. This is a population of kids that some people discounted, but I get results. I believe in children. I have one of the lowest discipline rates while having some of the highest proficiency and academic growth rates. I am also an expert in the education field. I am well versed in education policy due to my leadership roles in Florida and National Education Association

**Q:** *Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.*

**A:** -Competitive wages and benefits. -Treat our employees with respect and professionalism -provide teacher-responsive and lead support -reconnect schools to our community and parents.

**Q:** *The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.*

**A:** 2

**Q:** *Explain your answer.*

**A:** Administrators should be focused on students and support their teacher, paraprofessionals, and other Education Support Professionals. We need Schools Resources Officers (Certified Law-Enforcement Officers) focusing on securing our students. I will leave safety to the professionals. But our state politicians must fully fund education and stop risking our children learning and safety.

## **Ed Wilson**



**Party:** N

### **Biographical Info:**

#### **Incumbent:**

**Contact Phone:** 352-237-8650

**City of Residence:** Dunnellon, Florida

**Education:** AS Degree Electronic Engineering

**Email:** edwilsongc@aol.com

**Facebook:** <http://Elect Ed Wilson School Board District 3>

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** Florida Citizen's Alliance Advisory Board Member, Marion County Building Industry

Association Board Member and Treasurer, Boy Scout Leader

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** I have many years of experience working to improve public education locally and in Tallahassee by building relationships with all our elected officials and working with other organizations whose goals are to improve our K-12 education system. I have personally made many trips to Tallahassee, working with groups like Florida Citizen's Alliance and Americans For Prosperity, meeting with our Legislators to show them some of the most egregious problems that need to be corrected and offering them solutions to those problems. Florida Citizen's Alliance worked diligently to get a bill passed and signed into law (CS989) that strengthened our ability to be part of the instructional material adoption process, and to view and object to all the instructional materials being used in our schools. I proudly serve on their Education Advisory Board.

**Q:** *Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.*

**A:** We trust teachers with our precious children. We need to appreciate, respect, honor and support them. I would give them the respect, honor and support they deserve and I will stay focused on getting more resources to the classrooms.

**Q:** *The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.*

**A:** 5

**Q:** *Explain your answer.*

**A:** Our school must be safe places to learn, work and visit. I support the Guardian Program. The unfunded portion of the funds needed to place a School Resource Officer in every school, two at our largest high schools, will be covered but the increase in revenues come through rising property values.

## **Marion County School Board, District 4**

### **Description:**

The School Board determines the policies needed to operate and improve the public schools of the District. This includes overseeing all decisions related to both paid and volunteer school personnel, providing adequate instructional materials and technology, ensuring appropriate upkeep of school property, and visiting the schools to observe, give suggestions for improvement, and advise citizens.

(Vote for One)

### **Candidates (choose 1):**

#### **Angie Boynton**



**Party:** N

**Biographical Info:****Incumbent:** INCUMBENT**Contact Phone:** 352-817-9986**City of Residence:** Ocala, Florida**Education:** Forest High School, Sheppard University, attended University of Florida As a business owner, Instant Tax Group & Associates LLC, specializing in Income Tax prep and small business accounting, I review and audit small business tax records and represent them before the Florida Department of Revenue and IRS. The Boynton Firm LLC, specializing a on-line designer for women and men Shoes, Purses, etc. I'm a author for books and Awards for songwriting.**Website:** <http://www.angieboynton.us>**Email:** [angeliaboynton@gmail.com](mailto:angeliaboynton@gmail.com)**Facebook:** <http://RelectAngieBoynton>**Other Social Media:** Instagram**Questions:****Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?***A:** I currently serve as your School Board Member representative from Marion County Commissioners, Marion County Republican Women, Florida-Marion County Education BlakPAC, Heritage Foundation, Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, and the Boynton Education Scholarship Foundation,**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?***A:** I currently serve as your representative from Marion County on the Florida School Board Association, Atl. Board Marion, Citrus, and Hernando (District 23 ) and Committees - Vice-Chair Multicultural Diversity, Finance, Legislative and Advocate. My experiences as a Finance Director, Chairman of the Board for PACE Center for Girls, Pharmacy Narcotics Supervisor at Shands Teaching Hospital, Red Cross Advisory Board member, and current Vice-Chair of the School Board prepare me to be your school board member.**Q:** *Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.***A:** I believe to create obstacles recruitment and retention high quality teachers enhance our policies influences impact on student learning:: 1. Diviserty 2. Salaries and other compensation 3. Working conditions 4. Resources for teaching**Q:** *The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.***A:** 3**Q:** *Explain your answer.***A:** I believe that guns for the administration might be inviting attacks on themselves. With the Feis Program recieve proper training and requirements are conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission certified instructions. Participation in the program must have a annually: 1. Law Reinforcement firearms qualification. 2. Active shooter or assailant scenario. Which are sworn under the Sheiff responsibility.**Jane Moerlie**



**Party:** N

**Biographical Info:**

**Incumbent:**

**Contact Phone:** 352-216-8865

**City of Residence:** Ocala

**Education:** Bachelor of Science in Law - Suriname, SA Construction Management Certification New York, NY Life Health and Annuity License Ocala, FL Business Insurance Certification American College PA

**Website:** <http://janemoerlieforschoolboard.com>

**Email:** [jane.moerlie@gmail.com](mailto:jane.moerlie@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** <http://janemoerlieforschoolboard>

**Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:**  Board Member of the India Association of Central Florida  Past Board Member of RAMAL  Volunteered at the Marion County Literacy Council  Past member of the Family Outreach Network  Leadership Team Business Networking International  Ambassador: Ocala/Marion County Chamber and Economic Partnership  Volunteer of the Freedom Health Clini

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:**  Excellent knowledge of budget constraints and cost control  Working knowledge of construction specifications and bidding processes  Knowledge of legal documents and legal research  I treat others as I would want to be treated  I have mastered the complexities of solving health insurance coverage issues for my clients with the Federal Marketplace and the insurance carriers. Life tends to knock us to our knees at times. My desire to get back up and try again comes through faith. Not to get back up is failure. My life experiences have taught me that my success is dependent upon my desire and my action. I would consider myself goal oriented.

**Q:** *Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.*

**A:** I would advocate offering a work environment that is supportive of new teachers with practical mentoring that would assist them in developing the skills necessary to be a truly effective educator. This would be done through a team approach in an attempt to build loyalty.

**Q:** *The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.*

**A:** 4

**Q:** *Explain your answer.*

**A:** When parents send their children off to school each morning, they have a reasonable

expectation that they will return unharmed. The School District accepts that responsibility and should respond in ways to protect the students and staff. The events on 911 have not been repeated due to the steps taken to prevent a re-occurrence. To not harden our schools would be negligence.

## Nancy Thrower



**Party:** N

### **Biographical Info:**

#### **Incumbent:**

**Contact Phone:** 352-462-1783

**City of Residence:** Ocala

**Education:** BA and Graduate Board Certification in Applied Behavior Analysis from Penn State.

**Email:** Completed\_Project@yahoo.com

**Other Social Media:** Facebook

### **Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** Marions United for Public Education Marion Therapeutic Riding Association (MTRA)  
Agency for Persons with Disabilities Children's Medical Society Behavior Analysts  
Certification Board

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** I worked my way up through the school system from Teacher Aide/Vocational Job Coach, to high school teacher, then on to the district level as a staffing specialist, and for the past 14 years as a Behavior Specialist. There's not much I haven't seen. I'm a passionate problem solver and I've learned it's all about building relationships within the school system, with outside agencies and with families. The schools that are the most effective at doing this are the most successful. I also own a small residential real estate rental and investment business so I understand the impact of taxes and the cost of doing business. I was raised with a "Waste Not, Want Not" mentality along with a strong work ethic. I qualified to run via the Petition Card process and am the only candidate in this race to do so. My husband and I have 3 boys that are all graduates of Marion County Schools, our youngest just graduated in May. My experience in Public Education is deep and broad.

**Q:** *Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.*

**A:** Hire administrators and keep them at the same schools for at least 3-5 years. It takes this long to establish a bonded, stable and trusting school culture where teachers feel supported. Increase teacher pay. Begin an in county "Teacher to Be" program where

students can volunteer in classrooms as an elective and if passionate about the field of public education, continue coursework and internship experiences that lead to eventual certification.

**Q:** *The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.*

**A:** 2

**Q:** *Explain your answer.*

**A:** I think hiring additional, specially trained School Resource Officers is a better option. School Administrators have enough on their plates already. We also have many Veterans in Marion County that have expressed interest in helping in this capacity. I would like anyone assigned to enhance school safety to also serve as mentors and "ear to the ground" proactive monitors of the daily goings on in the schools to stay ahead of potential crises.

## **Marion County School Board, District 5**

### **Description:**

The School Board determines the policies needed to operate and improve the public schools of the District. This includes overseeing all decisions related to both paid and volunteer school personnel, providing adequate instructional materials and technology, ensuring appropriate upkeep of school property, and visiting the schools to observe, give suggestions for improvement, and advise citizens.

(Vote for One)

### **Candidates (choose 1):**

#### **Pete Anderson**



**Party:** N

#### **Biographical Info:**

**Incumbent:**

**Contact Phone:** 352-690-6889

**City of Residence:** Ocala

**Education:** BBA (Bachelor of Business Administration in Management) from Georgia College and M.Div. from New Orleans Baptist Seminary with an emphasis in Psychology and Counseling

**Website:** <http://www.anderson4schoolboard5.com>

**Email:** commonsensepete2016@gmail.com

**Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/anderson4schoolboard5/>

**Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** Member of the MEA (Marion Education Association), active member of One Life Fellowship Church in Ocala, and have worked on various committees while employed with the Marion County School Board (in the performance of being a teacher).

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** For the past 12 years, I have been an elementary school teacher for our Marion County schools. I know the concerns of parents, teachers and other school support staff with our schools. I know the iReady computer program our district is using to track student progress. I am very familiar with the day to day operation of the classroom. Besides having been a teacher (I retire from teaching in August 2018), I have worked with budgets from having served on various church staffs and in working in the business world as a manager and area manager. I am uniquely qualified because in each responsibility, I have worked with my employer, my employees and with others to achieve a desired outcome.

**Q:** *Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.*

**A:** We do need to recruit and retain high quality teachers. We can do that now by increasing employee morale. Teachers and school staff want to feel valued and know that what they do is important for our children. We can empower our teachers by allowing them to use their creativity in the classroom and having "fun" while they are teaching within our Florida State Standards. Students learn better when learning is fun and challenging. I think by adding various activities during the school year that are fun and educational will help the morale at our schools. District leadership should publicize to the community that teachers have the tools and ability to have appropriate autonomy in the classroom. That will help attract quality teachers.

**Q:** *The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.*

**A:** 3

**Q:** *Explain your answer.*

**A:** Our district has provided each school with an armed school resource officer (SRO) for the 2018-2019 school year. We will need to look for solutions following this school year, 2019 and beyond. I am NOT opposed to having qualified administrators carry guns, but I am concerned exactly how that will be performed (proper training, security of the guns, and cost). Principals aren't armed guards. I can see the possible need for administrators to have access to a gun, but I want to make sure the training is exemplary.

**Shelia Arnett**



**Party:** N

**Biographical Info:**

**Incumbent:**

**Contact Phone:** 352-209-1037

**City of Residence:** Ocala, FL

**Education:** High School graduate with some Community College credits

**Website:** <http://votearnett.com>

**Email:** [sarnett@mfi.net](mailto:sarnett@mfi.net)

**Facebook:** [http://www.facebook.com/search/top/?](http://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=shelia%20arnett%20for%20school%20board%2C%20district%205)

[q=shelia%20arnett%20for%20school%20board%2C%20district%205](http://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=shelia%20arnett%20for%20school%20board%2C%20district%205)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** I currently serve on the board of the Marion County Homeless Council. Previously served on the board of the Marion County Literacy Council. Work with organizations around the county that service the homeless population.

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** My husband, former County Commissioner Earl Arnett, and I have been involved in our community since moving here in 1981. I frequently volunteer at events that give back to the community. I am an advocate for the homeless in the county and work with organizations that give a hand up not just a hand out. Earl and I have been business owners in Ocala - we owned a BMX bicycle shop and baseball card store; Earl was a private investigator for 14 years; we owned a window tinting and sign shop; I published a magazine in the Villages for 2 years; and I have been a healthcare recruiter since 2000. My work in the community, along with the experience of owning and operating several small businesses, uniquely qualifies me to hold the office of School Board.

**Q:** *Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.*

**A:** In May, the district held a job fair for teachers that was well received. As a recruiter I am well versed in attracting excellent talent for the companies that hire my firm. I would help utilize some of the same practices to find high quality teachers for the district.

**Q:** *The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.*

**A:** 5

**Q:** *Explain your answer.*

**A:** I recently attended a presentation where Sheriff Billy Woods described the extensive training that would train qualified district employees before they would be allowed to carry a gun on campuses. I feel confident in Sheriff Woods training and feel that administrators, coaches, and other staff members would be an asset to keeping our schools safer. However, I never think a teacher that has responsibility for students should be allowed to carry or have a gun in their possession.

**Kelly King**



**Party:** N

**Biographical Info:**

**Incumbent:** INCUMBENT

**Contact Phone:** 352-817-7371

**City of Residence:** Ocala

**Education:** Elementary Education B.S. Educational Leadership M.Ed

**Email:** KellyKing2018@gmail.com

**Facebook:** <http://Kelly King Marion County School Board District 5>

**Twitter:** [twitter.com/Kelly\\_King2018](https://twitter.com/Kelly_King2018)

**Questions:**

**Q:** *In which community/professional organizations have you been active?*

**A:** I am currently a board member of Kids Central, volunteer for Reading Pals, Certified Member of Florida School Board Association, and a member of Central Florida School Board Coalition.

**Q:** *What experiences and skills qualify you for this position?*

**A:** I have 12 ½ years teaching experience and 3½ years school board experience that include decisions in making policy and approving budget for over a half a billion dollars.

**Q:** *Describe one or more specific measures you would support to improve the ability to attract and retain high quality teachers.*

**A:** Competitive Salaries.

**Q:** *The District should allow qualified school administrators to carry guns under the provisions of Florida's newly enacted school guardianship program.*

**A:** 4

**Q:** *Explain your answer.*

**A:** I approve of qualified administrators carrying guns with the requirement that the volunteer receives mental health and drug screening, as well that they receive 140 hours of mandated training from the Sheriff's Office before carry a gun on campus.