



2014 PRIMARY ELECTION VOTER GUIDE

LAKE, MARION & SUMTER COUNTIES

AUGUST 26, 2014

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF
THE VILLAGES/TRI-COUNTY AREA**

&

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MARION COUNTY



The League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area, with the assistance of the League of Women Voters of Marion County, created this Voter Guide to assist voters in their ballot choices. All qualified candidates were contacted by mail and asked to complete a questionnaire. Candidate responses are included as submitted. They have not been edited, nor have spelling and grammar corrections been made. If a candidate chose not to respond, it will be indicated by "Candidate Chose Not To Respond." The candidates' views expressed within do not represent those of the League of Women Voters of The Villages/Tri-County Area and the League of Women Voters of Marion County.

The League of Women of The Villages/Tri-County Area and the League of Women Voters of Marion County are nonpartisan organizations whose purpose is to engage voters in the political process by promoting informed and active participation in government. While the League may hold positions on various issues, it never supports or opposes candidates or political parties.

The 2014 Primary Election will take place on Tuesday, August 26, 2014. The closing date to register to vote in the Primary Election is Monday, July 28, 2014. In the Primary Election, voters who declared a party preference when they registered to vote will choose party nominees to appear on the November General Election ballot

All registered voters can vote in a primary election, regardless of which major or minor political party they are registered or even if they are registered without a specific party affiliation when:

1. **All the candidates for an office have the same party affiliation and the winner of the primary election will not face any opposition in the general election (i.e. no write-in candidates have qualified), as is the case in the 2014 Primary Election for the Florida House of Representatives District 31, in Lake County.**
2. **The race is nonpartisan (i.e., prohibited from qualifying or campaigning based upon party affiliation) (e.g., judicial and school board offices, nonpartisan special districts or local referendum questions), which is the case in the 2014 Primary Election for the School Board and Judicial positions on the ballot.**

This Voter's Guide includes candidates for:

- U.S. House of Representatives in Lake & Marion Counties;
- Florida House of Representatives in Lake County*;
- Marion County Commission;
- non partisan School Board races in Lake and Marion Counties; and
- non partisan Judicial races in Lake, Marion & Sumter Counties.

***All registered voters in Lake County Florida House District 31, whether or not they declared a party preference when they registered, will be eligible to vote in the Republican Primary race for this seat. This is due to the fact that there is no opposing party or write in candidate for this seat.**

OFFICES NOT ON THE 2014 PRIMARY ELECTION BALLOT

The offices of State Senator and State Representative in Lake, Marion and Sumter Counties will not appear on the August ballot, as the candidates for those offices faced no opposition and were automatically reelected at the close of the qualifying period on June 20, 2014.

In Lake County, two County Commission seats are up for reelection. One candidate was unopposed and was reelected; the other County Commissioner is facing a candidate with No Party Affiliation, therefore that position will appear on the November General Election Ballot.

In Sumter County, three Commissioners faced no opposition, therefore, they were automatically reelected.

The Sumter County School Board candidates were all automatically elected, because they had no opposition.

What You Need to Know to Vote!

If you moved, changed your name, party affiliation or your signature has changed, you must contact your local Supervisor of Elections office before you go to vote.

To request an Absentee Ballot, contact your local Supervisor of Elections office.

To find your Early Voting locations, contact your Supervisor of Elections office.

To find your Early Voting days and times, contact your Supervisor of Elections office. Not all counties maintain the same hours and number of days.

To find your Polling Place and Precinct Number to vote on Election Day, check your Voter Information card which you received after you registered to vote. If you cannot locate the card, contact your Supervisor of Elections office.

To vote Early or on Election Day, you must present a picture ID as well as a signature ID. The list of valid forms of ID can be found on the Supervisor of Elections websites.

Listed below is the contact information for the local Supervisors of Elections:

Lake County
elections.lakecountyfl.gov
352 343-9734

Marion County
votemarion.com
352 620-3290

Sumter County
www.sumterelections.org
352 569-1540

To contact the LWV of The Villages/Tri-County Area, go to
www.lwvtri.org.

To contact the LWV of Marion County, go to
<http://www.lwvmarion.org/>

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District 31 (covering portions of Lake & Orange)

(Note: because there is no Democratic Opposition, or all registered voters may vote for one of these candidates.)

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School Board Nonpartisan; 4 year term; \$37,729 salary

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Lake County, Marion County & Sumter County

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Lake County, Marion County & Sumter County

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Nonpartisan; 6 year term; \$146,080 salary

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Lake County

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Nonpartisan; 6 year term; \$138,020 salary

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Belita "B" Grassel
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**Lake County State Representative
District 31**

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

I have lived in Lake County since 1980. I grew up in Orlando and graduated from Edgewater High School. Then I earned Associate & Bachelor of Science Degrees in Nursing and Master of Science Degree in Counseling & Psychology.

I am retired. My nursing experience includes nursing supervision in pediatrics and mental health. I taught vocational Health Occupations. I was a guidance counselor at elementary, middle, and special needs schools. I am married and have two grown children and four grandchildren.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Formerly: Girl Scout & Cub Scout leader; school & district advisory committee member; band & athletic booster; Florida Nurses Association Lake County elected President -2 terms; Lake County Education Association elected President- 3 terms

Currently: member Florida Nurses Association, Lake County Education Association, Florida Education Association; volunteer Parish Nurse & Church Elder; Astor & Tavares Friends of the Library; Educational Foundation of Lake County Board of Directors; Florida Education Association Executive Cabinet

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I have advocated for Central Florida patients, nurses, students, and teachers since 1989. One of my nursing mentors told me everything I did in my practice was decided by an elected or appointed official, "So, go advocate!" I have been doing it ever since both locally and in Tallahassee. As a nurse I know how to solve problems and make decisions based on valid, reliable data. As a teacher and guidance counselor, I experienced the unrealistic, unfunded mandates made by non-educators making education decisions.

I know how the Legislature works. I have testified in Legislative committees. I know how to analyze the bills and their fiscal analyses. I can build consensus without compromising my principles. That's how good government works. I am the only candidate with both the education and experience for the job.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1 Growth of our economy- We must increase our ability to grow our business and industry by increasing our skilled workplace. College degrees are desirable but a workforce with current skills is vital. This is attainable through career/technical training offerings as well as internships and apprenticeships with current business and industry.

2 Improved public education- Our Legislature is mandating education changes that continue to put bandages on a broken public education system. Our students deserve the best possible education and Florida can lead the way. We need an entire paradigm shift and focus on teaching and learning based on valid, reliable research. We have non-educators making education decisions. The research is available to do this right for our students. We can do it!

3 Mental health care for decreased violence and increased safety- We need to increase education and decrease the stigma attached to seeking mental health care. Much of the violence in our communities occurs by those with mental health instability. I believe we need to protect the American right to bear arms and we need to provide mental health services for those in need.



GLEN FIORELLO

Republican
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**Marion County Board of Commissioner
District 4**

Background: personal history, education, occupation family etc.

Personal History:

1973 - present President and Owner Personalized Construction Corp..
2000 - 2008 President and Owner Personalized Waste Management
2008 - 2009 Consultant for Alternative Waste Services

Education and Licenses:

Broward Junior College, Business Administration and Civil Engineering
Leadership Ocala III
Central Florida Community College, Building Construction and Certified Public Mgmt.
State Certified Building Contractor

Community organizations in which you have been active:

President of the Marion County Home Builders Association
President Community Council against Substance Abuse
Marion County Library Board Member
Historical Commission Board Member
Life Time Member Florida Sheriffs Association

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office:

Leadership: My successful business experience as the owner and president of Personalized Construction Corp. and Personalized Waste Management Corp. give me the qualifications and ability needed for this office. One Commissioner alone cannot approve a vote. By building consensus based on facts and leadership we can approve issues that benefit all of Marion County.

If elected to this office what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

Public Safety: Eliminate unnecessary projects and support police, fire safety and ambulance service
Solid Waste: Demand accountability for wasted 20,000,000 tax dollars in corporate welfare
Water Defend /protect the misuse of our natural resource



CARL ZALAK, III

Republican

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www.votezalak.com

Marion County Board of Commissioners

District 4

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

In College, I played football for the University of South Florida and had my heart stolen by my beautiful and talented wife Ann while earning my B.S. in Management Information Systems. Upon graduating we moved to Ocala and I started my business Busy Bee Waste Services, an environmental service company. Almost four years ago, at the age of 30 I was elected as one of the youngest, if not the youngest, Commissioners in the history of Marion County. Ann and I have been blessed with three amazing children Carl, Zach, Ellie.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Community Bible Study (CBS), Teaching Director

Church at the Springs, Member/Volunteer

Chamber Economic Partnership (CEP), Board of Directors

Withlacoochee Regional Planning Council

Veteran Services, County Liaison

Florida Association of Counties, Board Member

Marion County CNG Initiative, Commission Liaison

Marion County Board of County Commissioners, Chairman of the Board

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

It starts not only by being a commissioner, but in understanding the effects of government on businesses because I am a small business owner. If anything got me ready for the consensus building skills necessary for working on the County Commission, it's the years spent leading CBS, an interdenominational Men's Bible Study of about 80 men that meets on Monday nights at the First Baptist Church. During my first term Marion County was ranked number 5 on Forbes Magazine's list of top places for job growth. We are positioned for success and I would love to be part of the team that brings it to fruition.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

Making Marion county the best place for: 1) our parents to enjoy their golden years. 2) our neighbors to build careers and fulfill dreams. 3) our children to find work worthy of their talents and make a home. Nothing is more important to me than these three things, because I have "skin in the game" at all levels. My parents will retire here. I am raising my family here and I desire for my children to stay and do the same. What it takes is Solution - Focused Leadership. No matter the problem or our differences we all benefit from finding solutions that work. I will continue to bring everyone to the table without losing the ability to hear passed the special interests and be guided by sound reason, solid facts, and good stewardship. Let's build the future of Marion County together starting with the election on August 26, I humbly ask you to vote for me, Carl Zalak for County Commission, District 4.



Shayan Modarres

Democratic Party
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Shayan@ShayanForCongress.com
www.ShayanForCongress.com

U.S. Representative District 10

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc. I am a 30 year old first generation American. My parents emigrated from Iran when they were both just 18 years old. I was born in a college dormitory at the University of Maryland while both of my parents were students learning English as a second language. I received my bachelor's degree from American University in Washington D.C. and moved to Orlando in 2008 where I attended Florida A&M University College of Law. I served on the Executive Board of the Law Review journal and after graduating *cum laude*, I immediately opened my own law firm in Downtown Orlando. I also authored an article about wealth inequality and the role that the U.S. Supreme Court and 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution have played, which was published in the Georgetown Law Review Journal. As a small business owner, I have practiced civil rights litigation for the past several years and I've had the privilege of representing the family of Trayvon Martin for the last three years. Last July, I organized a rally protesting gun violence and disproportionate treatment of minorities in the Florida criminal justice system which drew over 2,000 people to Downtown Orlando. I am a diehard Washington Redskins fan, fluent in Farsi and also have a younger brother and sister who are both currently living in Maryland.

Community organizations in which have you been active: Young Democrats of Orange County, Orange County DEC, Human Rights Campaign and Equality Florida.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office. I am uniquely qualified for this office because I am young, I have never seen a million dollars, and I am not a career politician that will always look ahead to the next election or next campaign contribution. I can go to Washington and have the freedom to fight for what is right without worrying about what typical politicians are worried about. As a civil rights trial attorney and activist, I often fight for justice. I fight on behalf of people who can't or won't fight for themselves. I stand up for the voiceless. I take on cases that other attorneys decline because it is not financially worth their time. Fighting for justice for Trayvon was always much bigger than one person or one case. It has always been a fight for equal justice and fairness. Fighting for women's rights, LGBT equality, a livable minimum wage, workers' rights, comprehensive immigration reform, and care and respect for our veterans are all the same fight, just on a much larger scale. As a success story of the Affordable Care Act, I also look forward to having the opportunity to be a vocal advocate and protect the ACA from another 54 votes to repeal or defund it. I have the ability to connect with voters that may otherwise be disengaged because they relate to me and I relate to them. I have been on the front lines with them, fighting for ideas that we both believe in.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them? (1) The economy; (2) Equal Rights (comprehensive immigration reform, women's rights, LGBT equality, etc); and (3) foreign policy. I am a coalition builder, but a fighter when I need to be. I will vocally advocate for ideas that will improve the economy and create jobs, like clean solar energy, making college more affordable by refinancing student loans or making interest on student loans tax deductible, fighting for equal pay for equal work and marriage equality, and pushing for action on comprehensive immigration reform in the House to be passed in my first year. All of these ideas will boost the economy and help the middle class. Comprehensive immigration reform, for instance, will cut the deficit by nearly \$900 billion. Relieving the burden of debt on our young students and college graduates will allow them to achieve their highest potential and jumpstart the economy. And as an Iranian American, I also bring a unique understanding and perspective on foreign policy issues and I will actively work as a bridge to negotiate lasting peaceful solutions through diplomatic efforts, avoiding armed conflict except as a last resort. We have too many issues to deal with to narrow it down to just three, but I look forward to rolling up my sleeves and tirelessly fighting on behalf of the people that I represent. We can't afford another 2 years of the "Do Nothing Congress" and the "Do Nothing Congressman," Daniel Webster. We can't afford another \$24 billion government shutdown leaving the American people to foot the bill. Stand with me in this election so that I can go to Washington and fight for you!



Michael Patrick McKenna **U.S. Representative District 10**
 Democrat
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 Davenport, FL
 863-232-7955
 michaelmckenna@mckennaforcongress.com
 www.mckennaforcongress.com

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc:

Born: April 24th, 1980 in Providence, Rhode Island
 Residence: Davenport, FL (Polk County)
 Education: Trident University – Bachelors in Business Administration
 Family: Spouse – Robin
 Children – Jordan(23), Lance(19), Jacob(8)
 Occupation: Walt Disney Company – Security
 Military: Navy, Chief Petty Officer (August 8th 1999 – April 1st 2013)
 Community: Boy Scouts of America (EAGLE Scout)

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Boy Scouts of America	Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)	Habitat for Humanity
Rhode Island Blood Center	National Organization for Women	Disney VoluntEARS
Make-A-Wish Foundation	Navy SEAL Foundation	

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office:

From young Cub Scout at age seven until the present I have continuously served my community and Country with Honor, Courage, Commitment and Integrity. No matter what organization I represent or what position I hold I will always remain committed to ensuring my core values stay intact.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1. A balance budget - The United States has a spending problem as well as a problem with waste, fraud and abuse. To accomplish this I will bring forth a common sense budget plan. The plan ultimately rewards those departments in government who return money at the end of the FY.

2. Equal Rights –

Women’s Rights	Equal / Fair Pay
Voting Rights	Civil Rights
Marriage Rights	

To accomplish this – I will submit an Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) during my first term in Congress which will contain the above and more.

3. Immigration and VISA Reform - To accomplish this – I will submit Immigration Reform during my first term in Congress. This reform will be family based at the same time expediting the process for non-criminals and veterans of the military.



JOHN ARDIZONE
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Lake County School Board District 1

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

I have a diverse resume including law enforcement. I have worked in real estate, the hospitality industry and sales and marketing. From 1991 through 2008 I owned and operated a vacation ownership marketing company. The company was licensed both as a travel agency and real estate broker. I had over 20 employees and independent contractors working out of 9 locations at various times. Our lead generation programs provided over \$80,000,000 in sales for vacation ownership developers in Orlando. I maintain an active Florida Real Estate Broker's license. I have an AA degree from the Colleges of Sage in Albany, N.Y. When I was a Los Angeles Police Officer, I attended classes at UCLA. I served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve for 6 years. I was honorably discharged with the rank of sergeant (E-5).

My wife Lois and I have one adult son John. John is a 5th grade elementary teacher and his wife Jennifer is a school guidance counselor. Both work for Lake County Schools. John and Jennifer have 2 sons, both of their children attend Lake County Schools.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

I am a volunteer with the Lake County Sheriff's Department. I work the COP program, which is the citizen's on patrol.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

From 2008 until January of this year, I worked as a substitute teacher in the Lake County Schools. I worked over 600 days in 21 of our schools and have had teaching assignments in every grade from kindergarten to 12th. The knowledge and information I have acquired is invaluable. My business background provides me with the experience to make the cost effective business decisions and to provide a quality education for our children.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

Equitable funding for our schools with responsible frugal budgeting. There must be constant board oversight to ensure this happens. The Superintendent, school board, teacher and family involvement can provide effective policy. I want to be an advocate for our teacher's to ensure they are allowed to teach to the children and not to the test. I want to provide direction for a curriculum that represents the interest of Lake County residents. This should be accomplished with teacher and resident representation.

Please review my web site at www.voteardizone.com.



BILL MATHIAS
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 mfec@aol.com
 www.BillMathias.com

Lake County School Board District 1

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

I am a US Army veteran; I was honorably discharged in 1976. Originally I am from Jacksonville, Fl.

I founded Mathias Foodservice Equipment Company, thirty two years ago in Leesburg Fl. I have a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Masters degree in Organizational Management.

I am Married to Mindy Bailey Mathias and we have two sons, John 18 attends the University of Florida, Bob 28, is a US Air Force veteran, he has his Bachelors Degree in Business Management. Bob works at Mathias Foodservice.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

The Catholic Community of St Paul's	Chamber of Commerce Clermont
Chamber of Commerce, Leesburg	Chamber Alliance, education liaison
Boy's and Girl's Club	Lake Education Foundation
St Paul's Catholic School Board (9yr)	Lake Tech advisory board (11yr)
American Legion 101	Knights of Columbus (4 th degree)
Leesburg Partnership	

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I successfully ran for this open seat due to redistricting two years ago. I had a combined 20 years volunteer public and private school governance experience. I bring a business perceptive to a diverse board. I have been successful at reaching out to our county commission local municipalities and state representatives to solve complex problems facing our school district.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

- 1) For true economic stability we must insist on an "A" rated school district. An organization looking to expand or relocate to Lake County considers the quality of schools as the number one criteria in their selection process.
 The second criterion is a work force ready population. I have advocated for our 57 career tech and career academy programs.
- 2) During the mid 2000's South Lake County experienced out of control growth. Today we owe \$395,264,857.00 of the 600,000,000.00 that was borrowed to pay for that growth in South Lake. Over \$30,000,000.00 per year is spent to cover the debt which every tax payer is responsible. I have advocated to reduce debt paying off \$12,000,000.00 last yeas and reducing interest to 1.5% on \$22,000,000 saving \$5,000,000.00 in interest. I am advocating for a plan to fully fund the growth we know is coming.
 Our capital needs must be made on a pay as you go basis. Under that plan we will meet all our capital needs and have a surplus of \$19,000,000.00 by 2031.
- 3) Today only 53 cent of every dollar spent goes to the classroom. Under our new business plan over the next three years we will move \$31,000,000.00 to the classroom. We met our goal of \$10.1 million for next years budget by finding efficiencies in the district and eliminating wasteful programs.



JAMIE HANJA
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Lake County School Board District 3

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

Born in New York, Huntington Long Island. Attended College of New Rochelle, Katharine Gibbs School then worked Administrative Assistant for 8 years. Continued my education attending NYU in 1999 to study Proofreading in Book Publishing. Because of my love for children became a Nanny after training in 2002. Moved to Florida with retired parents in November 2004. Reside in the South Lake County area of Clermont.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Guardian ad Litem in Lake County, Kiwanis Club of Clermont, Lake County Historical Society, South Lake County Historical Society, Neighborhood Accountability Board, Junior Womens Club, American Cancer Society, South Lake Relay for Life committee, Boys & Girls Club South Lake Unit Board member, Lake County Affordable Housing Advisory Committee, Young Families Health Initiatives committee, Alliance to Protect Water Resources Vice President, Lake County School Elementary Mentorship program, Vice Chair of the Lake Sumter MPO Citizens Advisory Committee.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

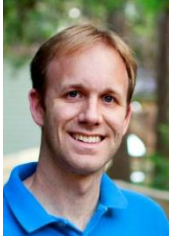
I have worked in the business world of deadlines and attention to detail. I am a problem solver willing and able to think on my feet to access evaluate and determine a proper course of action. I have a wide variety of work and education experience. Working with children pre-K age I am acutely aware of childhood development and preparing them for the world of education.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1)The Budget It needs to be reviewed with fresh eyes on the problems the county faces.

2)Safety is my priority. Cuts made to save money meant the end to courtesy bussing which put children at risk. I would find ways to cut elsewhere and keep our children safe.

3)Lake County used to be an A rated School District. We are currently a C. I have met with innovative leaders and plan to share my ideas for a turnaround that will make Lake County great again.



MARC DODD

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Facebook: "Marc Dodd for Lake County School Board District 3"

Lake County School Board District 3

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

Not only am I a husband and dad of three, but I am a current kindergarten teacher at Grassy Lake Elementary. A few years ago, I left the business world where I spent almost ten years (mostly as a manager in Park Operations with the Walt Disney Company). I was inspired to start teaching after my daughter started kindergarten as I watched her love of learning grow. I wanted to be part of creating that experience for other students. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from UF.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Relay for Life - Perform magic shows as entertainment free of charge at their events.
Buses n' Backpacks - Most recently built and assisted with a lemonade stand to raise money.
Church at South Lake - Volunteer in Children's Ministry.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

From 2008 to 2103, Lake County has fallen from an "A" District to a "C" District. As a teacher, I understand the problems plaguing classrooms because I face them too (out-of-date technology, class size violations, insufficient resources, too much testing, etc.). The school board is able to drive results through policy and budget decisions. By including a teacher's perspective, we can reverse the downward spiral.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1. Bridge the disconnect that exists between the school board and those it is elected to serve. Even though current school board members represent a few different walks of life, they don't bring classroom experience. Policy and budget decisions are often made without a full understanding of the implications, which in turn are poorly received in schools.
2. Restore fiscal responsibility and accountability. We need to list and prioritize capital and day-to-day expenses so we can make responsible financial decisions that meet both immediate and long-term needs. Impulse decisions over the last four years cause us to not have money to spend on the things that really matter (buses for student safety, classroom resources, teacher allocations). We can't determine the correct course of action for impact fees and the penny sales tax when we don't have a clear understanding of how much money we even need to operate.
3. Support teachers' need for collaboration and professional development. The bottom line is that the teachers have the greatest chance of influencing school and district performance. In order to get the results that we want of our schools, teachers must have what they need to create and deliver dynamic lessons that keep students engaged. That begins by making sure teachers have time for collaboration and professional development. Inside the classroom, teachers are begging for uninterrupted teaching time. Too much mandated county and state testing eats away at that time. It's time to make tests more efficient and informal so they can truly help teachers drive their instruction.



TOD HOWARD
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www.todhoward.com

Lake County School Board District 3

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

I am a Lake county native and son of a 30 year Lake County Schools teaching veteran. I graduated from Tavares High School and attended Lake Sumter Community College. I then went on to earn a BS in nutrition and a Doctor of Chiropractic from Life University. I have been in private practice for 15years. My wife is also a local small business owner and we have a 19 month old son. In my "spare time" I enjoy fishing and spending time outdoors with the family.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Member of Central Florida Offshore Anglers, Florida Chiropractic Association, Florida Chiropractic Physicians Association, South Lake Chamber of Commerce. Participated in high school internship for medical professionals, provided free sports physicals for Pop Warner, Gray Middle School and Southlake High School. I also participated in City of Groveland's Business Tax Review and South Lake Long Range Planning Committee. I currently serve on Lake County Schools technology committee, Capital Facility Assessment Committee, software committee, wellness committee, South Lake Chamber Education Committee, South Lake Chamber Economic Development Committee, and Four Corners Charter Board Member

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

As a small business owner, I have experience of managing personnel, meeting payroll, and the daily requirements of running a business. For the past 4 years I have been responsible for Lake County Schools \$600,000,000 budget. I remained fiscally conservative overseeing \$80 million in budget cuts while saving the district more than \$5 million through the refinancing and early payoff of debt. I also had the opportunity to craft policy for the district and successfully lobby state legislators for more local control of our schools.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1. Financial-Debt is strangling Lake County Schools. We must avoid further debt and pave the way for a Pay As You Go(PAYGO) policy. I support the use of real world data and cost analysis to guide in how best to invest in education. This is a new process which we were able to implement this year.
2. Unfunded mandates-State and Federal mandates like Common Core and overutilization of high stakes testing is wrecking our educational system. We need to allow our teachers to teach. I will be making a concerted effort to work with our legislators to reduce/eliminate unfunded mandates.
3. Education-The importance of education to our economy cannot be overstated. The purpose of education is to prepare students for college and career. I will work to implement targeted career technical programs that are attractive to business. I will continue to create opportunities for our college bound students that make them competitive in the global market. Ultimately, I will work to ensure our graduates have the opportunity to have a high skill/high wage career right here in Lake County.



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Lake County School Board District 5

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

Born in South Bend, Indiana. Graduated Washington High School, Indiana State University BS/MS in Education; Remedial Reading Specialist – Orange County Schools.

Darden Restaurants: Red Lobster Senior Financial Analyst, \$1.2 billion budget analysis responsibility.

Tupperware, Inc.: Director of Financial Planning, \$600 million Budget Preparation & Analysis.

20 Years' as Business Owner/Entrepreneur – Striking Effects Promotions;

Executive Director Eustis Chamber of Commerce; Lake-Sumter State College: Director of Business Opportunity Center/Incubator Program;

Family: Married 32 years; 3 step-children; 3 grandchildren

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Multiple Chambers of Commerce which include Education & Economic Development Committees, Kiwanis; Girl Scouts of America – Entrepreneurship Coach; Lake County Schools – Reading Mentor; Avid Program Speaker; High School Job Readiness/Soft Skills Speaker; Leadership Lake County Class of 2012

Charitable: Deliver the Difference, Boys & Girls Club; Amazing Race for Charity; Relay for Life

Recognition/Achievements: Community Service Awards Winner; Education, Leadership, Business Hall of Fame.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

My experience in education (both past & current) combined with my extensive business experience enables me to analyze issues in the classroom and administrative offices. By getting to the root of the problem, I can develop policy and financial strategies to support our students and teachers. I have a proven track record of creating and communicating a vision and building a team to implement the plan. I believe in collaborative problem solving. All stakeholders should have a true seat at the table. Experience: (1) Eustis Chamber of Commerce – Sale of old and purchase of new building. Partnership with Lake County Economic Development Dept. on Business Opportunity Center. (2) Lake Sumter State College: Business Opportunity Center – “Partners for Success” collaborative effort between Lake County Economic Development, Lake County Schools, Lake Tech College, and Lake-Sumter State College to bring business & education communities together.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

If elected to this office: (1) Create an environment where teachers can teach and students can learn, (2) Bring strong fiscal and management skills to improve efficiency and accountability to the board, and (3) Facilitate a partnership between our business and education communities. First step is to review current board policies and make sure there is a clear understanding of what they mean and how they are to be implemented. If clarification is needed – get it done! The next step is to hold everyone, from the top down, accountable for following said policies. To create a classroom environment conducive to teaching/learning, we have to empower our teachers to do the job for which they were trained. Good fiscal policy will spend money where it is needed. Funds should not be spent on items that do not support the mission to deliver the best education that we can afford. Every resource and tool that we can afford and teachers want should take priority in the budget. By partnering with the business community our schools will gain the benefit of their knowledge and experience, and financial support for things the budget cannot cover. We can also create a pathway for students' employment in local businesses.



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Lake County School Board District 5

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

Stephanie Luke is a graduate of Tavares High School, and the University of Central Florida, where she earned her BS in Elementary Education and her MEd in Science & Mathematics with an emphasis in Technology. She started her teaching career in Lake County in 2000. In 2007, she transitioned to Elementary Mathematics Program Specialist, where she implemented Curriculum Mapping, Benchmark Testing, Professional Development, and established Lake County Schools' STEM Bowl Competition. She served on several state-level FCAT Committees. In 2011, she worked as a Project Manager for the district's RTTT Initiative, helping to establish the newly revised teacher and leader evaluations. In 2012, she began teaching at the University of Central Florida. She currently teaches elementary teacher candidates mathematics and science methods courses and coordinate internships in Lake and Sumter Counties. Stephanie is married to a lifetime Eustis resident; James "Jimmy" Luke and they have three beautiful children. Their daughters, Jensen & Emery, are 8 and 5 respectively, and their son, Jace, is 1.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Children's Church Leader; Trinity Evangelical Free Church, Eustis, FL
Eustis Elementary Association of Parents & Teachers, SAC Committee, Safety Committee
Lake County School's Volunteer (Science Fair judging, STEM Bowl Competition)

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I have dedicated my entire career to education. I have a classroom, district, and state level perspective on education. I have positive, working relationships with classroom teachers, school and district administration and state level educators and administrators. I have had to take initiatives embedded in controversy and guide and facilitate positive change at the school level, the district level, and the state level. Not only have I helped shape the culture of these initiatives, I have done it with a positive outlook and built professional working relationships along the way, in spite of the negativity surrounding the new initiatives and changes. I have the leadership and innovation required to set sound policies regarding education because of this experience, and have kept our children at the heart of every decision that I have had to make over the last fourteen years.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1. There are policies that we have currently in place that need to be revised and implemented with fidelity to help improve our current standing as a "C" school district that my knowledge base and expertise can drive. One such policy is the School Improvement Plans. There is no accountability for the implementation (or lack of) in regards to this plan (and others). I would like to change this practice to ensure implementation with fidelity and ask what is the return on the investment.
2. There are inefficiencies in our management that need to be analyzed and acted upon now, to ensure we are capable of providing our students with the best education presently and in the coming years. If there are administrators (district & school level) and teachers who are not working to their potential, there must be a plan to correct the inefficiency and then act. The lack of responsiveness to ineffective leadership has been overwhelming and must be addressed immediately. All personnel must be held accountable.
3. In the same regard to lack of response to management inefficiencies, we must also address the budget shortfall that the school system is (and will continue to) face. The district is not being funded to the level required and rather than reacting, we must consider the long-term needs within the district and make decisions based on the present and the future needs of the organization. Listening to the stakeholders within the community and acting responsibly with fiscal decisions will allow the district to cut spending and plan for future growth.



PETER E. TARBY
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Lake School Board District 5

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

Born in Miami, moved to Umatilla in 1985, wife Cathie, son Cory, step-son Allen, granddaughter Teagan, father Ty Tarby (deceased), mother Dorothy, brother Todd Tarby.

AA degree from Lake-Sumter. Real Estate Broker 30 years

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Member Umatilla Chamber of Commerce

City Councilperson - Umatilla

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I have been an elected councilperson for 6 years. I have been appointed to several committees for the Lake County Commission, Solid Waste Committee, and Capital Facilities Committee.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

Accountability – make sure everyone from top to bottom is held to a high standard and is accountable for their actions

Responsibility – if you do something good or bad own it – do not pass the buck

Consistency – make sure we treat all students, parents, and staff fairly and the same, no favorites



Bobby James

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Marion County School Board District 3

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

Married to Veronica James; One son, Bevon; Member of Central Church of Christ: Owner, James Development; Member of the Marion County School Board since 2007; Two-Term Chairman of the Marion County School Board; Over 30 years in the Marion County School system as Teacher, Coach, Dean, Assistant Principal and Principal. Chairman of Central Florida Public School Coalition. Florida Delegate to National School Board Association. Master's Degree in Supervision & Administration .Bachelor of Science Degree in History, Health & Education. Graduate of Howard High School.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Boys & Girls Club of Marion County; Board of Directors of Kids Central; Take Stock in Children; YMCA ALPHA PHI ALPHA Fraternity

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I have worked in all levels of the school system as; Teacher, Coach, Dean, Assistant Principal and Principal. I've been Principal at elementary, secondary and alternative education levels. I have been very successful in all levels in terms of improving the schools with their scores, improving the facilities and increasing parental involvement and am currently on the Florida High School Activities Association Board of Directors.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

Provide stability & leadership to the School Board and to use my ability to get School Board members to work together in a cohesive manner to the benefit of our students, teachers, parents and community and to ensure that the Board members understand our mission and our duties as the caretakers of the future of our students and use my ability to get School Board members to work together in a cohesive manner to the benefit of our students, teachers, parents and community.

Provide a physical accountability by the introducing of a balanced Score-Card to the Superintendent and the School Board as well as the community. This will enable us to focus in on our strategic plan and direct our school funds to the assigned goals. This will also provide a quarterly report on what progress we are making to achieve these goals.

Provide Vocational and Technical programs with industry certification at each of our high schools and combine the Administrative Staff at Community Technical and Marion Technical. This would provide a cohesive plan to address the educational needs for students who are not college bound and give our kids an opportunity to compete in the rapidly growing economy.

What will you do to personally acquaint yourself with the environment (e.g., academic, cleanliness, safety, physical plant, educational materials) within the district's schools?

I am very familiar with the operations of the Marion County School System and the different aspects of the school system on a daily or weekly basis. I am communicating constantly with all levels of employees in the school system from teachers, non-instructional personnel, technical staff, and the community in which they serve.



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Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

I was born and raised in Suriname, SA. I have a Bachelors Degree in Law from the University of Suriname. My job experience in Suriname: Legal Assistant for the Attorney General in Suriname, Head of the Bureau of Industrial Property dealing with Patents and Trademark Law. Twenty years ago our life in America began in NYC and the Statue of Liberty, the monument that embodies freedom, hope and opportunity. My first job was working for McDonald and from there to the battle fields of the construction and unionized building trades in New York City. As part owner of a construction company we completed projects ranging from \$1M to \$10M with several government entities. Because of my work ethic, I was offered and accepted a job opportunity to work for the second largest engineering firm in the US, URS Corp. God had a different plan, my husband's illness in 2002 prompted our move to Ocala and in 2006 we were dealt a true loss with his passing. We worked thru our grief and all three of my children graduated with high honors from the Marion County public school. They are off to college in the field of medicine and engineering in pursuit of their dream. My employment history in Ocala: Design Consultant for Oak Run, Superintendent for Currington Contracting and currently, a financial consultant with AIG Financial Network. Eighty percent of my current profession involves asking questions, listening and finding solutions for families and business owners.

Community organizations in which you have been active:

Board of Directors: Indian Association of Central Florida, National Association of Professional Women (Ocala Chapter), Widowed Persons Service Support Group of Marion County, Business Networking International, Ambassador: Ocala/Marion County Chamber and Economic Partnership

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I have experienced life as an immigrant, as a McDonald worker, as a successful business owner, as a responsible and dedicated employee, as a widowed mother of three and as a true American citizen with the ability and desire to exercise my responsibility at becoming a means for the improvement of the future of my country. Education is a fundamental pillar of freedom and opportunity.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

1. Currently the vision to improve classroom needs is not a shared vision. It is my opinion that a vision to move our school system to the top tier should be and needs to be shared in its creation. When all participating groups assist in developing what is needed, we will have ownership. It will be through this shared ownership that all groups will perform at their best to achieve the goals set within the vision.
2. I see a disconnection between the community and the school system, one that disallows for installment of the creative solutions that the community has to offer. This disconnection can be repaired by incorporating the knowledge that businesses, retirees, parents and professionals have into the shared vision.
3. Performance evaluation of students, teachers, the administrative bureaucracy, transportation efficiency and the school system in general is often times not a true picture of performance. Unless there is a shared vision with performance indicators and markers, evaluations can become an exercise in futility.

What will you do to personally acquaint yourself with the environment (e.g., academic, cleanliness, safety, physical plant, educational materials) within the district's schools? I believe that any person that has a position of responsibility needs to have the ability to respond to the requirements and duties that accompanies that position. Childhood upbringing and business experience has taught me that wishes will not materialize out of thin air. I do not need to know every minute detail on how every aspect of the school system works, but I will need familiarity. The way to get it will be to take an active role by setting appointments with department heads, meeting with them, listening to their concerns and needs. I would then like to see for myself what their area of responsibility involves by taking a tour.



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Marion County School Board District 3

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.:

I was born and raised in Miami. My father was a Dade County Sheriff and my mother was an RN. I attended public school, community college, and received a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Florida in 1981. For the next 22 years I worked as an Engineer for corporations like AT&T, IBM, and HP. I raised four children with my wife and moved to Ocala in 2003. After training existing staff I was replaced with two part-time employees. So, with the encouragement of my family, I began my teaching career with Marion County in 2005. I received my education certification from the College of Central Florida in 2007 and have been a Technology, Drafting, Mathematics, and Physics instructor (engineering type courses) at North Marion and Forest High Schools.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Throughout my lifetime I have been an active member of a local church. I have taught hand-bells, youth and adult choirs, children's Sunday School, VBS and AWANAs, and soapbox derbies. Currently, I serve as a church pianist. Over the years I have been involved in March of Dimes walk-a-thons, American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, offered community tutoring services, been President of the Board for the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra of Huntsville, Alabama, participated in community Block Parties with our church, assisted with my daughter's Girl Scouts Troop, built sets for the Huntsville Children's Playhouse and participated in local food drives. This past week I was a VBS instructor and games leader.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I am an able and quick learner. I have performed tax preparation services, held a real estate license, and hold a Health and Life insurance license. My formal schooling demonstrates this also. As a creative problem solver, I have programmed a visual inspection device with only a black-and-white camera to determine the color of jumper wires. Also, I authored and co-filed U.S. Patent #5530887. One of my many responsibilities with IBM was to write, update, and control classified documentation on Personal Computer architecture for the Corporation. In addition, I had several white papers published for IBM. These qualities, experiences, and abilities, along with nine-year's experience in the classroom, and eight in leadership positions among the teachers, have uniquely prepared me for the challenges of refocusing MCPS and improving the education of our children. I'll build a solid foundation of support for our students.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

The most important issues are *focus*, *commitment*, and *integrity*. I will work to **focus** the board on the effective and efficient education of our community's children, from the budget, to parent and community involvement and cooperation, to improved learning and classroom environments. I will personally make, and work to forge a Board consensus of **commitment** to excellence in the complete education of each and every student of Marion County to include music, art, physical education, life skills, critical thinking, problem solving, technology and vocational training. **Integrity**, honoring commitments, standing up for what is right, is as much caught as taught. By example, I will work to lead the Board to a level of recognized *integrity* in the *commitment* to an absolute *focus* on quality in the education of our children. Collaborative community commitment can cause a culture of educational excellence.

What will you do to personally acquaint yourself with the environment (e.g. academic, cleanliness, safety, physical plant, educational materials) within the district's schools?

I plan to: visit every campus; visit classrooms, cafeterias, maintenance rooms, etc. on each campus; speak with every Principal; and develop amenable relationships with every employee group (MEA, MESP, IUPAT, and unrepresented), within the first year of office. I also plan to inform every employee the lines of communication to my office are bi-directional, and invite them to share their concerns and triumphs. Together, we can build the best public school District in the state, and possibly the nation.



ED WILSON
electedwilson@aol.com

Marion County School Board District 3

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

I have lived in Marion County for 33 years and have been a Contractor here since 1985. My wife and I will be celebrating 28 years of marriage in August. I have an Associates Degree in Electronic Engineering.

Community organizations in which have you been active.

I coached co-ed softball in Marion Oaks for several years.
While a Scout Leader, for 8 years, I helped four young men earn Eagle Scout.
I served on the Board of Directors and as Treasurer for the Marion County Building Industry Association and I served as Treasurer and President for Tea Party Solutions, Inc.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

As a businessman I have always had to watch the money and I have never had a “spend it or lose it mentality.” I’ve had to develop budgets and come in at or below budget to be successful whether it was my money or someone else’s money that was being spent.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

If I am elected to the School Board I will find the wasteful spending and get that money to the classroom. We do not have a revenue problem we have a spending problem and it is not in the classroom. I believe that it is in the bureaucracy, in unfunded mandates, unnecessary legal fees, theft and unproductive personal.

Parents should have more choice in their child’s education. Parents should also have more responsibility in their child’s education.

We must raise, truly raise the standards and common core is not the answer. I am vehemently opposed to common core.

We need to pay the best teachers well and get rid of the teachers who fail to motivate their students to learn and succeed.

Most importantly we need to bring back morals like honesty, integrity and personal responsibility by welcoming God in our schools, by setting the example and by accepting nothing less.

My Christian beliefs are what guilds my decision making every day and that is what will continue to guild my decision making if I am elected to the School Board.

Thank you and God Bless you.

What will you do to personally acquaint yourself with the environment (e.g. academic, cleanliness, safety, physical plant, educational materials) within the district’s schools?



JAMIE BEVAN

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Marion County School Board District 4

Facebook: Jamie Bevan for School Board District 4 or Jamie N Jerry Bevan

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc. Jerry and I have been married 21 years and have two gorgeous children. Amber who is 17 and Derek who is 15. Both attend Forest High School. I graduated from Vanguard High School, received my AA degree from Central Fl. College and my Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education from St. Leo University. I began my career teaching when I was 19 years old. I was hired as a teacher assistant at Oakcrest Elementary. I worked my way through college and graduated with high honors from St. Leo in only a year and a half. Upon graduation I was hired at Oakcrest Elementary as a Kindergarten teacher. After 4 years my unit was transferred to Ward Highlands Elementary where I now teach 4th grade Language Arts, Reading, and Social Studies. I just completed my 17th year teaching and 21st year in the district.

Community organizations in which have you been active: I have been an active member of the Ocala Civic Theater for the past 6 years. I have taught in the Education programs and volunteered. I have been the Head Coach and assistant head coach for the Junior Cowboy Cheerleaders for M.C.Y.F.L. I have served on Kimberly's Center fundraising committee and volunteered for many events. Assisted in presentations at local churches concerning Human Trafficking and Child Abuse (physical and sexual)

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office. My experience in the classroom has brought a deep understanding of how policies and budget issues directly affect our students. I have sat on negotiations, school board meetings, served on multiple committees concerning various issues throughout my career and taught in our Staff Development Department. I have lived the various different evaluation procedures that are in place.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

- 1) **TRANPARENCY OF THE BUDGET AND OPERATIONS:** We will restore televised public comments at the beginning of every School Board Meeting. We will have quarterly Town Hall meetings at each end of the county to give updates on budget and operations of the school system. Also with a portion of educating the public on our various operations such as ESE, Student Services, Staff Development, Transportation etc. The town hall meetings will be open for questions as well and will be recorded to be televised on the Marion Education Channel. Also on our web page we will have a summarized version of the staffing plans and budget so that it is user friendly to the public. We MUST regain trust in our community and make sure that our taxpayers, parents and business leaders have a VOICE.
- 2) **BUILD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY:** You know the old saying: "it takes a village." It truly does. We need to build a strong alliance with our businesses here in Marion County to provide excellent opportunities for our students. We need apprenticeships, job shadowing, expert speakers and volunteers. We need true partnerships to build our school system into the BEST it can be. NO longer will we shut and lock our doors to this community. We will engage this community with activities being advertised for all of our schools by using social and print media. We will involve parents and community leaders daily on our classroom activities through open forums. The list is endless. Time to show our community how wonderful they are!
- 3) **QUALITY CURRICULUM:** Our Marion County Schools must raise the BAR!!! We can no longer accept what is happening with our students and their education. It is our JOB to provide the BEST education possible. With that being said we MUST look into our curriculum, high school requirements, and lessons that we are teaching our students. We must provide our students with thought provoking material. Lessons that build critical thinking, analytical thoughts and problem solving. Let's not forget to nurture creative and artistic ideas. Marion County must prepare their students for the "REAL" world. Whether that be college bound, vocational, or other. We need to track our students once they leave high school for at least 3 to 5 years to see if we are giving our students what they need.



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Marion County School Board District 4

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

Angie Boynton was born and raised in Ocala, Florida. She is a product of the Marion County School system so it has a special place in her heart. She graduated from Forest High School and attended the University of Florida. She is the mother of one daughter, who is currently working on her PhD in Psychology at Antioch University. She is the daughter of the late Douglas Boynton, Sr. and Mildred Boynton. She is a business owner, Instant Tax Group & Associates, specializing in Income Tax prep and small business accounting.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Boynton is a member of the Republican Women Ocala Marion Federated, Florida Federation of Republican Women, National Federation of Republican Women, Florida Assembly of Black Republicans, Samaritan Corporation of Hernando County Inc. Advisory Board, Ra-Khor Enterprises, Advisory Board, and Ocala Royal Dames. She is also a member of the Calvary Missionary Baptist Church Ladies Auxiliary. Boynton always reads for Florida Farm Bureau Agricultural Day to elementary students and donated funds to Public Education of Marion County for the development of a vegetable garden at Evergreen Elementary.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I am the current representative for Marion County School Board, District 4. I bring Leadership, Experience and Proven Results to the Board. I represent you on the Florida School Board Association on the Finance, Legislative and Multicultural Diversity Committee. I will continue to use a common sense approach for you during decision making on the board. I bring my past experience as a Finance Director, Chairman of the Board for PACE Center for Girls, Narcotics Supervisor, prepared for the job as your school board member. I bring leadership to the board in my capacity as Republican Executive Committee Vice Chairman, Republican Party of Florida African American Leadership Council, NAACP Political Action Chairman, Marion County School Board Race Relations Task Force Alternate, American Red Cross Advisory Board, MAD DADS of Greater Ocala, Inc. MOMS Division President.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

The greatest needs of the district is school achievement plus adequate school funding to restore art, music, PE teachers, and librarians in elementary schools, meet class size, and maintain school facilities.

As your board representative, I have put forth solutions for the Administration and Board to enhance our funding, rather than raise taxes. The Board voted with me to change our Naming Rights policy to seek funds from outside sources to help bridge the gap created by what we know as the "Great Recession." I will use a common sense approach and continue to look for other funding avenues.

What will you do to personally acquaint yourself with the environment (e.g., academic, cleanliness, safety, physical plant, educational materials) within the district's schools?

As your board member elected only 4 years ago, I visited each department, classrooms and set with the directors/teacher to learn the role and responsibility of each. This enabled me to address their needs as presented at our meetings, if I have a concern, I call or meet with the person/department to get a clearer understanding of their need or request. I learned the role of a Board Member and attended workshops held for development and training. I attended Legislative Reviews to become familiar with new laws instituted by our Legislator.



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Marion County School Board District 4

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

I'm a recent widow with 2 daughters. I've been a teacher since 2003 – first at Ft. McCoy (1yr) and since then at Ft. King, teaching American History and Language Arts. I have an MBA from NYU in International Business/Finance, a BA from Syracuse University, a Teaching Certification from West. Connecticut State Univ., a real estate license through New York School of Real Estate, and a Microsoft Certified Professional from Skidmore. Honored in the 2012 U.S. Congressional Record for being an outstanding teacher, I travelled to Hong Kong, China, Japan, Vietnam and Korea through Freeman Foundation grants and studied in Florence, Italy. I was a financial controller at Citibank, handling a \$36 million budget and assistant to the Vice Chairman at Cushman & Wakefield, an international real estate firm.

Community organizations in which have you been active.

I have been active in AAUW (American Association of University Women) – branch president, state public policy director, national board for public policy; GFWC Woman's Club of Ocala; One Ocala One America talent shows; Girl Scout Leader (13 years); chaired Ridgefield Commission to Prevent Teenage Drug and Alcohol Abuse; directed over 22 plays and talent shows; chair Marion County Spelling Bee; sing in St. Paul's UMC Choir; presented at Florida Councils for Teachers of Language Arts and for Teachers of Social Sciences on East Asian History, Literature, Culture and Women; chaired the No Girl Left Behind Forums for Middle School girls and High School girls.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I have a unique mixture of teaching and business experience. I know how to create a financial statement, understand what a statement is saying or omitting, and negotiate a budget or contract. I have proven leadership skills, know how to work with people and how to accomplish a goal. Teaching, directing commissions, talent shows and plays have taught me how to trust people to work, encourage them when they fall short and how to make sure that goals are completed on time. I'm an outstanding researcher and I remember and know how to utilize what I learn.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

I plan to work on these from Day 1. Student engagement and lessening the percentage of students who drop out is very important. I will implement more career training courses, such as vocational courses and have more creative, engaging and challenging curriculum. The "non-core" classes must be expanded to encourage student interest. New curriculum must be incorporated with the maximum amount of teacher involvement. Excessive assessments must be reduced and penalizing students, teachers and schools must be stopped. In a period of severe budget constraints, money must be found and the line items must be moved to fulfill the necessary budget requirements, including technology. The referendum must pass so art, music, PE, library, vocational classes and technology can be increased. Decreasing student arrests and off-campus suspensions will improve learning and student morale.

What will you do to personally acquaint yourself with the environment (e.g. academic, cleanliness, safety, physical plant, educational materials) within the district's schools?

As a teacher, I already know a lot about curriculum and have visited different schools. I will research all the requirements and then personally investigate educational materials and the different physical plants. I will read all the reports and then compare the present with past information. Prioritizing the needs will be essential and then setting a timeline to accomplish needed repairs or changes must happen.



RON CRAWFORD
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Marion County School Board District 5

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

Born and raised in Miami, Florida.

Graduated from the Dade County Public School System.

Associates Degree from Miami-Dade Junior College.

Bachelor Degree from the University of South Florida.

I have worked for national companies in the truck leasing, movie theatre and the industrial electronics industries.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Board of Directors for the Children's Alliance.

Board of Directors for the Public Education Foundation of Marion County along with the Rookie Teacher of the Year and Grants for Great Ideas Selection Committees.

The Commissioner of Education Safety Task Force. I was the only School Board Member in the State asked to be a member of the committee.

University of South Florida Alumni Association and the University of South Florida Government Relations task force.

Lions Club.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

The primary function of the School Board is dealing with budget and policy. My 30 years of business management experience along with my 16 years as a member of the School Board gives me the background, experience and insight to do this job.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

There are actual four major issues facing our school district. Meeting the requirements of the class size amendment, preparing for the introduction of the State mandated electronic textbooks which is a projected 18 million cost for Marion County, preparing for the new statewide tests, and maintaining our schools.

I will continue to try to find ways with the revenue that we have to meet these needs. I will also continue to lobby the Legislature to do their part to help meet the issues facing our school system.

What will you do to personally acquaint yourself with the environment (e.g., academic, cleanliness, safety, physical plant, educational materials) within the district's schools?

I will continue to operate the same way that I have during my service on the School Board. I will continue to visit schools and classrooms. I will continue to meet with members of the Administration to discuss issues that are coming in front of the School Board. I will continue to address community groups about the Marion County School System and solicit their opinions about education in our county. I will continue to respond to emails, letters and telephone calls dealing with the issues in our school system.



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Marion County School Board District 5

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

I am a native of Florida and have lived in Marion County for 16 years. I have a Masters in Educational Leadership, and recently completed my 12th year of teaching all in Marion County.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

I have been a classroom teacher where I have served on numerous committees. I have also raised children in Marion County where we have been actively involved with participation in numerous programs and activities. For example, organizing educational tours abroad with Marion County students.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I have quality experience with instructing general education students along with experience in ELL (English Language Learners) and inclusion. Not only do I teach numbers, but I analyze data on a weekly basis to drive classroom instruction. I understand the effects in the classroom and to students from the decisions made by the School Board.

If elected to this office, what do you see as the 3 most important issues? How will you deal with them?

An important issue is to bring teachers and paraprofessionals back into the classrooms. This includes Music, Art, Physical Education, and Vocational teachers.

Absenteeism and tardiness- Encourage community involvement including the parents by emphasizing and placing value of attending school and significantly minimizing the problem of excessive absenteeism and tardiness in all grade levels.

Fiscal Responsibility-Efficiency of every item and program purchased should be evaluated. There should not be any wasteful spending that takes away from the priority of educating our students.

What will you do to personally acquaint yourself with the environment (e.g., academic, cleanliness, safety, physical plant, educational materials) within the district's schools?

I will personally visit schools. As an educator I understand the importance of School Board decisions made in the classroom. Also, I will keep communication open with all Marion County School employees and promote problem solving together. Furthermore, I will continually acquaint myself with the laws and guidelines as mandated.



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**Lake County, Marion County & Sumter
County 5th District Court of Appeals**

Background:

Personal: Married, four children

Education: B.A., Political Science, University of Florida, 1976, with Honors
J.D., University of Florida, 1980, with Honors

Professional Experience:

Judge, Fifth District Court of Appeal, July 2006-Present
Circuit Judge, Eighteenth Judicial Circuit, January 1993-June 2006 (Chief Judge, July 2005-June 2006)
County Judge, Brevard County, May 1989-January 1993
Gleason, Barlow, & Evander, P.A., Indialantic, FL, February 1988-May 1989
Associate Professor, Mississippi College of Law, Jackson, MS, August 1986-May 1987
Reinman, Harrell, et al., March 1980-August 1986, May 1987-January 1988

Community organizations in which have you been active:

First United Methodist Church of Melbourne (Prior activities include staff-parish committee, finance committee, leadership council, small group teacher – adults and youth)

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

Breadth of experience – I have been a private practitioner, a law school professor, a county court judge, and a circuit court judge. I have also been selected to serve on numerous statewide law-related committees, including the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission (2011-present), the Florida Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee (2007-2011), the Florida Supreme Court Steering Committee on Families and Children in the Court (2002-2005), the Florida Supreme Court Children’s Improvement Committee (2000-2001), the Florida Supreme Court Dependency Court Improvement Committee (1999-2000), and the Florida Supreme Court Family Court Steering Committee (1998-2000).

What do you see as the most important quality for a judge?

Integrity

No Photo **C. ALAN LAWSON** **Lake County, Marion County & Sumter**
 DATE OF BIRTH: May 12, 1961 **County 5th District Court of Appeals**
Available **BIRTHPLACE:** Lakeland, Florida
 SPOUSE: Julie Carlton Lawson
 CHILDREN: Two

DEGREES: J.D., Florida State University, 1987, with Highest Honors;
B.S., Parks, Recreation & Tourism Management (with emphasis in Natural Resource Management),
Clemson University, 1983, with Highest Honors; A.A., Tallahassee Community College, 1981, with
Highest Honors.

LEGAL OFFICES & POSITIONS:

Judge, Fifth District Court of Appeal, 2006 - Present;
Circuit Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit, 2002 - 2005;
Assistant County Attorney, Orange County, Florida, 1997 - 2001;
General Counsel, Verses Wear, Inc., 1996;
Associate & Partner, Steel Hector & Davis, Miami & Tallahassee, 1987 - 1995.

BAR OFFICES & ACTIVITIES:

Chair, District Court of Appeal Budget Commission, 2013 - Present;
Florida Courts Technology Commission, Member, 2008 - Present;
Legislation Chair, Florida Conference of District Court of Appeal Judges, 2011 - 2013;
Appellate Practice Section, Fifth District Representative, 2006 - 2014;
Appellate Court Technology Committee, Fifth District Representative, 2006 - Present;
Rules of Criminal Procedure Committee, 2004 - 2009;
First Central Florida Inns of Court, 2002 - 2007;
Orange County Bar Association, 1996 - Present;
Former Test Writer (Evidence) and Grader, Florida Board of Bar Examiners;
Code and Rules of Evidence Committee, Past Member.

HONORS AND DISTINCTIONS:

Martindale-Hubbell "A.V." attorney rating;
Florida Council on Crime and Delinquency, Outstanding Jurist Award (2005);
University Graduate Award and Fellowship, Florida State University;
O'Kelly Civil Trial Practice Award and Scholarship, Florida State University;
Book Awards in Evidence and Legal History, Florida State University;
Rhodes Scholarship Nominee, Clemson University;
Hartzog Award and Scholarship, Clemson University;
Order of the Coif.

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

First Presbyterian Church of Orlando (Member);
House of Hope (Former Board Member and Volunteer);
Surgical and Medical Assistance Relief Teams (Volunteer);
Hope for Honduras (Volunteer);
Junior Achievement (Past Volunteer);
2008 Boston Marathon Qualifier and Finisher.



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**Lake County, Marion County & Sumter
County 5th District Court of Appeals**

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc. and community organizations in which you have been active:

RICHARD B. ORFINGER has been a Judge of the Fifth District Court of Appeal since 2000, and served as the Court's Chief Judge from 2011 to 2013. While a Circuit Judge for the Seventh Judicial Circuit of Florida from 1991-2000, he served as Chief Judge from 1996-1999. Prior to taking the bench, Judge Orfinger was a shareholder in the firm of Monaco, Smith, Hood, Perkins, Orfinger and Stout, P.A. from 1990-1991, and a shareholder in Orfinger and Stout, P.A. from 1979-1990. His public service includes working as an Assistant State Attorney in the Seventh Judicial Circuit from 1976-1978. Judge Orfinger has served on numerous court committees and workgroups including the District Court Budget Commission from 2009-2013, serving as its Chair from 2011-2013; the State Court Administrator Selection Committee in 2013; the Court System/Clerk of Court Revenue Stabilization Workgroup in 2011 and the Judicial Branch Governance Study Group from 2009-2011. Judge Orfinger received a B.A. from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1974. He was awarded his J.D. with honors from the University of Florida College of Law in 1976. Judge Orfinger was instrumental in organizing the Seventh Circuit's Committee on Professionalism in 1997. He was a founder and has been a member of the Dunn-Blount Chapter, American Inns of Court, Volusia-Flagler Counties since 2001 and was its president from 2002-2004. He also served on the Florida Supreme Court's Commission on Professionalism from 2001-2006, and the Florida Bar's Professionalism Committee. Judge Orfinger has been an instructor at the Florida College of Advanced Judicial Studies and has been a frequent lecturer on ethics and professionalism topics. He is a member of the Florida Bar Association, Volusia County Bar Association, and is admitted to practice before all Florida Courts, the United States Supreme Court, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida. Judge Orfinger was born in Daytona Beach, Florida, is married and the father of two children.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I believe my thirty-seven years as an attorney, twenty-three of which have been as a judge, has prepared me for the challenges of my position. I have been active in developing statewide judicial policies, managing resources and transforming the court to the digital age. Also, my experience as Chief Judge in both the Circuit and District Courts has helped me understand how to make the judicial system more user friendly for the people of Florida.

What do you see as the most important quality for a judge?

Being honest, ethical and unbiased in all proceedings, and demonstrating civility and courtesy to all justice system stakeholders.



DENISE DYMOND LYN
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Lake County Circuit Judge Circuit 5/Group 3

www.facebook.com/lyn4judge

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

Denise A. Lyn, P.A., Inverness, Florida

Solo Practitioner, March 2001 – Present

Representative clients: Citrus County Property Appraiser, City of Inverness, City of Crystal River

Community Redevelopment Agency, Homosassa Special Water District, Floral City Water Association

Brannen, Stillwell & Perrin, P.A., Inverness, Florida

Associate Attorney, August 1997- March 2001

EDUCATION:

University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida

J.D., July 1997

Honors, Spring 1995, *High Honors*, Spring & Summer, 1997

Troy State University, Troy, Alabama

B.S. Accounting, Business Administration, 1993

Cumulative GPA: 3.7, Magna Cum Laude

President's list, 4 Quarters, Dean's list, 2 Quarters

MILITARY:

United States Air Force and Air Force Reserves 1985-1991

Community organizations in which have you been active:

- Florida Bar Board of Governors, 2005- 2010
- Florida Bar Board of Governors, Young Lawyer's Division, 2000-2003
- Citrus-Hernando Inn of Court, Secretary-Treasurer, 2000 - Present
- Citrus County Bar Assn., President, 2000 - 2001, Treasurer, 1998 - 2004
- Rotary Club of Inverness •Teen Court Judge •American Legion, Post 155, 2008-Present

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

I currently serve as a Special Magistrate for Value Adjustment Board proceedings. My experiences as a Magistrate have exposed me to the responsibilities of a Judge. When hearing petitions I hear evidence, apply the law to the facts that are presented and prepare decisions. These experiences have shown me the necessity of being impartial and patient. Each petitioner deserves an opportunity to present their case, their evidence, without unnecessary time limitations and with little interference.

What do you see as the most important quality for a judge?

I believe a Judge should be, above all, honest, fair and impartial. Every individual who finds themselves in Court should be met by an impartial decision maker who will not be influenced by their personal views or opinions but should be committed to the Rule of Law.



MARY HATCHER
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Lake County Circuit Judge Circuit 5/Group 3

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

Graduated from Stetson University College of Law with a Juris Doctor.
Owner and solo practitioner of Mary Hatcher, P.A., Bushnell, Florida for 15 years.
Two children: Robert W. Attridge, III and Lile M. Attridge

Community organizations in which have you been active:

For the past several years I have been involved with domestic violence organizations in the Central Florida area. In addition, I have also volunteered with Metropolitan Ministries.

Member on Board of Directors for Community Legal Services of Mid-Florida from January 2008 through present.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

The most compelling quality I possess, which is critical to this position, is my interest in the welfare of others, particularly children. My diverse background has given me an education in several areas of the law. My tenacity and strong work ethic allow me to complete tasks and comprehend concepts expeditiously.

What do you see as the most important quality for a judge?

The most important quality that a judge possesses is a well-informed focus on the issues(s) at hand, coupled with the ability to listen to all parties and apply the law appropriately.



SANDY K. KAUTZ
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Lake County Circuit Judge Circuit 5/Group 3

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

Raised six boys as a single working mother, educated at the University of Florida and Stetson Law School, over 11 years as an Assistant State Attorney, and 5 and 1/2 years as a sitting Circuit Court Judge in Citrus County.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Ocala Lions Club

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

My time on the bench has given me a vast array of legal experience. I am currently assigned to the Family Law Docket, which includes divorces, paternity actions, adoptions, and name changes, the juvenile delinquency docket, child support, first appearances, Department of Children and Families Dependency cases, and the Jimmy Ryce civil commitment cases involving sexual predators. I have been assigned Mental Health Court, Drug Court, and Domestic Violence Injunctions in the past. I have tried criminal cases, both as a prosecutor and as a judge. While on the bench, I have presided over more than 200 trials in various areas of the law, and have written over 300 orders.

What do you see as the most important quality for a judge?

A judge must be dedicated to the duty required of the office, which includes many nights and weekends when orders need to be prepared or they are serving as a duty judge. A judge should move their assigned cases swiftly, fairly and efficiently, without bias, giving each party the right to be heard, and according to the applicable law involved in each case.



BO SAMARGYA

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Lake County Circuit Judge Circuit 5/Group 3

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

Bo Samargya is a native Floridian who currently lives in Marion County. Bo is married to his wife Debra who is a registered nurse and is employed by Munroe Regional Medical Center in the cardiac catheterization unit. They are blessed with two beautiful daughters, Tabitha Leigh, 9 and Danica Lynn, 8. Both of their daughters attend Blessed Trinity Catholic School.

Bo was born in Deland, Florida and spent his childhood in Pasco County. Shortly after graduating from High School Bo enlisted in the US Army. Once Bo finished Basic Training at Ft. Dix, NJ he was stationed in Giessen, Germany. Bo left the US Army and used his GI Bill to pay for his undergraduate degree that he received from the University of Central Florida.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Bo Samargya is an active volunteer Judge for Marion County Teen Court. Bo also finds time to coach and train the students interested in law, at the Marion County Technical High School for their annual trial competition. Bo is a member of the Knights of Columbus in Marion County and the F&AM. Bo also volunteered as a Hernando County Teen Court Judge from 2008–2012 and served on the Pine Ridge Board in Citrus County. He participates in other organizations both presently and in the past.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

Bo Samargya is uniquely qualified for Circuit Court Judge. Bo is admitted to practice law in Florida and the United States Supreme Court. He has been an attorney for 20 years and has spent his entire career in the courtroom. Bo's life experience has prepared him for Judge. His experience includes being a felony prosecutor for the State of Florida where he handled thousands of cases from murder to misdemeanors. Also he was Assistant Regional Conflict Counsel where he represented indigent clients in Citrus, Hernando and Sumter counties, once again handling cases that ranged from murder to misdemeanor. Bo is a State Certified Circuit Civil Mediator where he is required to mediate disputes pending in the Circuit Court. Bo also obtained his Real Estate Broker's License in 2004 which has proven to be an asset in his practice as he handles real estate issues.

Bo Samargya has also managed two law firms and during his career in the private sector has handled cases in the following areas: Criminal, Civil, Divorce, Real Estate, Wills and Trusts and Small Claims. During Bo's 20 year legal career he has presented some 75 cases to juries for their verdict, throughout this Circuit and the State of Florida.

Bo Samargya's diverse background and experience coupled with his humble personality and sense of Justice makes him the right fit for the bench.

What do you see as the most important quality for a judge?

Bo Samargya's belief is that a Judge should be fair. Fairness requires the Judge to follow the law and treat people that appear before him with respect, because Bo understands that a person's case is very important to them as they appear before the Judge. Bo understands in order to be fair you must have courage to make the right decision, without any influence from outside the courtroom. Bo will only be influenced by the law, and by doing so Bo will make the right decision, respecting the rule of law.



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Lake County Judge Group 3

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

My father is retired from US Air Force and we moved often, so I attended 10 or 11 different schools from 1st grade through high school. I worked my way through Lake Sumter State College and the University of Florida by waiting tables, working in restaurants and offices and even worked stacking lumber in a lumber yard in Cross City, Florida one summer. After graduating from Florida, I worked as a legal secretary for 15 years before going to law school in Memphis, Tennessee. I graduated in the top 10 of my class and successfully practiced law in Lake County for 12 years before being appointed to the bench in 2005. I have been a County Judge in Lake County for over 8 years. My husband is a retired instructor from Lake Sumter State College and we have been married over 31 years.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

- *Past President and Treasurer, Lake County Bar Association
- *Past Member, Sumter County Bar Association
- *Past Chair, Florida Bar Grievance Committee, Fifth Circuit "A"
- *Treasurer and founding member, Lake Sumter Chapter of the American Inns of Court
- *Past President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Leesburg Sunset Rotary Club
- *Past Vice President and current board member Lake County Educational Foundation
- *Past Advisory Board, Leesburg Partnership Association
- *Past Member, Lake County Home Builders Association
- *Past Instructor, Lake-Sumter Community College (Law Office Management)
- *Judge, Lake and Sumter Teen Courts
- * Past Chair, Lake County Canvassing Board 2009-2013

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

Having moved so often and lived overseas, I have gained a wealth of experience in dealing with all kinds of personalities and communication styles of people who appear before me as a judge. Also having been a legal secretary and then running my own law office, I have a great appreciation for all the various entities that are involved in the judicial system such as clerks, probation officers, and state agencies who are integral to the smooth operation of a judge's docket.

What do you see as the most important quality for a judge?

There are actually 2 qualities: knowledge of the law and the commitment to following it fairly and impartially; and patience and understanding in dealing with the people who appear before you.



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Lake County Judge Group 3

Background: Personal history, education, occupation, family, etc.

Mr. Archer enlisted in the US Air Force in 1992 and served in Operation Provide Comfort in Southwest Asia. Honorably discharged from the US Air Force in 2000 and thereafter completed two Bachelor degrees (McMurry University – 2001 – Multidisciplinary Studies; University of Central Oklahoma – 2002 – Business Administration) and a Juris Doctorate degree (Barry University School of Law – 2005). Mr. Archer began his legal career as a partner in the firm of Reed & Archer, LLC in 2006 and upon the dissolution of that firm in 2011, Mr. Archer created the Law Offices of D. D. Archer, P.A. and also began operating under the umbrella of the Florida Biker Law Group. Mr. Archer is married to his wife of eight years, Danielle, and together they have worked together to raise five daughters and a son. Additionally, Mr. Archer is an Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America class of 1987.

Community organizations in which have you been active:

Mr. Archer is a 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason and a life member of the Tavares Masonic Lodge No. 234. He also is affiliated with the York Rite Masonic Order. Additionally, Mr. Archer is an ordained Deacon and has served in different aspects of youth ministry throughout the last twenty-two years. Mr. Archer is a life member of A.B.A.T.E. and an annual member of the American Legion.

Describe a particular quality or experience or ability that has prepared you for this office.

Having been an attorney for eight years and having been a father for more than half my life, I have learned to be very patient and to listen carefully and intently to what is being addressed to or before me. My service to my Country and as an Eagle Scout has instilled within me a desire to achieve excellence, an attention to detail, and a means of perseverance and dedication to duty beyond my current station in life. More importantly though each of my experiences have taught me to be ever mindful that every person is different, experiencing life differently, and that in co-existing we must all strive to show an ongoing attitude of respect and compassion toward one another. In short, I believe my experiences and abilities will allow me to be consistently fair, impartial, accountable and respectful toward all individuals who come before me whether they are attorneys or *pro se* litigants.

What do you see as the most important quality for a judge?

My personal belief is that above all other qualities, a judge/judicial officer should exhibit respectfulness. If a judge cannot manifest ongoing respect for the parties involved, the institution of the Court, and the rule of law, the judge will effectively render the judicial process ineffective and worthless. A judge must be accountable to herself/himself as well as to the Court and the populous over which she/he presides.