

Leon County School Board District 1: Candidate Fact Sheet

As of June 8, 2026

ALVA SWAFFORD SMITH (INCUMBENT)

Date Declared	April 29, 2026
Amount Raised	\$0.00 (monetary contributions), \$0.00 (in-kind contributions), \$0.00 (expenditures and distributions)
Campaign Website	Alva Striplin for School Board
Background <i>(pulled from publicly available information)</i>	After teaching math at Deerlake Middle School for five years, Alva was first elected to the Leon County School Board in 2014. She was re-elected in 2018 and 2022. Alva is also involved in higher education as the Executive Director for the Center for Law and Business at the FSU College of Law. She served on the board of the Council on Culture and Arts (COCA) and was appointed to the Children Services Council Planning Committee in 2019. Alva was selected as a member of Superintendent’s Leadership Academy in 2013 and is a graduate of Leadership Tallahassee, Class 34. Alva attended Kate Sullivan, Raa and Lincoln High School, and is a graduate of Florida State University where she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi. Alva is married to George Smith and together they have six children, all of whom attended and/or graduated from Leon County public schools.
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HNTB, <i>May 2024 - Present</i>: Public Engagement Director Leon County Schools, <i>September 2014 - Present</i>: Board Member, District 1; <i>August 2009 - October 2014</i>: Teacher at Deerlake Middle School; <i>August 2012 - June 2013</i>: Teacher at Leon County Virtual School Florida State University College of Law, <i>June 2021 - January 2024</i>: Executive Director, Stoops Center for Law & Business Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Big Bend, <i>March 2015 - June 2021</i>: CEO; <i>February 2015 - March 2015</i>: Director of Marketing & Donor Relations The Able Trust, <i>1995 - 1996</i>: Public Relations Manager Florida Bankers Association, <i>August 1992 - August 1995</i>: Meeting Planner
Education	Florida State University <i>Bachelor’s Degree, Marketing, 1988-1992</i>
Community Involvement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board of Council on Culture and Arts and appointed to Children Services Council Planning Committee 25 Women You Need to Know Superintendents Leadership Academy Leadership Tallahassee Class 34 Former Executive Director of the Tallahassee Bar Association

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JAMES RICHARD BILLINGSLEY

Date Declared	June 2, 2026
Amount Raised <small>(between 6/1/2026-6/12/2026)</small>	\$50.00 (monetary contributions), \$0.00 (in-kind contributions), 36.00 (expenditures and distributions)
Campaign Website	N/A
Background <small>(pulled from publicly available information)</small>	<p>Ran for Leon Soil and Water Conservation District 5 Supervisor: Leon Soil and Water Conservation District 5: A Voter's Guide</p> <p>“Profession: Government. Qualifications: Eighth generation, lifetime resident of Leon County. Avid sports and outdoors person. Former member of Canopy Roads Citizens Committee and employee of the Florida House and Senate.</p> <p>Q: What is the biggest issue in the race and how would you address it if elected? A: My primary goal is to promote conservation while ensuring a good working relationship between developers, conservation interests, private landowners and local government.”</p>
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leon County Soil & Water Conservation District 5 Florida House and Senate Employee
Education	N/A
Community Involvement	Canopy Roads Citizens Committee