

Leon County School Board District 5: Candidate Fact Sheet

As of June 26, 2026

MARCUS BERNARD NICOLAS (INCUMBENT and CHAIR)

Date Declared	February 13, 2026
Amount Raised	\$14,018.09 (monetary contributions), \$0.00 (in-kind contributions), \$3,868.46 (expenditures and distributions)
Campaign Website	Re-Elect Marcus Nicolas, LCSB District 5
Background <i>(pulled from publicly available information)</i>	Focused on practical solutions that strengthen our school system and support the people who make it work. That includes recommending a comprehensive compensation analysis to review all employee salaries against the market and championing a plan to move our employees to at or above competitive market wages. Worked to improve budget transparency through variance reports — providing a clear, public view of where our budget shows surpluses and shortfalls — and recommended policy changes to support fair and consistent discipline practices across our schools.
Education	Harvard Kennedy School <i>MPA, eGovernment, Congress, Public Sector Leadership, 2000-2001</i> University of Florida <i>Bachelor of Science, Computer Science, Business Administration, 1986-1991</i> Leadership Tallahassee <i>Class 26</i>
Employment	- ESP Media, <i>April 2026 - Present</i>: President - Florida State University Alumni Association, <i>January 2024 - Present</i>: Executive Director of Alumni Engagement, Operations and Administration; <i>September 2020 - January 2024</i>: Director of Operations and Administration - Leon County Schools, <i>November 2022 - Present</i>: Leon County School Board Member, District 5 - Tallahassee Community College, <i>August 2016 - September 2020</i>: Associate Dean for Academic Affairs; <i>July 2013 - February 2016</i>: Assistant Professor of English - Amos P Godby High School, <i>August 2008 - May 2013</i>: English Teacher

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As of June 26, 2026

JAMES G. REILLY JR.

Date Declared	March 26, 2026
Amount Raised	\$2,841.00 (monetary contributions), \$0.00 (in-kind contributions), \$1,930.96 (expenditures and distributions)
Campaign Website	N/A
Background <i>(pulled from publicly available information)</i>	Born in New York, Reilly moved a lot as a kid since his father was in the Navy. He settled in Tallahassee during his sixth-grade year and enrolled in the former Belle Vue Middle School. He graduated from Amos P. Godby High School in 1988. Reilly currently works in hospitality around town, serving as regional manager for Waffle House. He said even though he doesn't have a robust background in education, he doesn't think that would hold him back from serving effectively on the Board. Reilly's primary connection to the district is his wife, Tameka White-Reilly, who works in the district's human resource department. He occasionally visits Godby High to attend sporting events and sometimes tunes into school board meetings online.
Employment	Waffle House, <i>Present</i>: Regional Manager
Education	P. Godby High School <i>High School Diploma, 1988</i>