

Leon County School Board District 5: Candidate Fact Sheet

As of June 8, 2026

MARCUS BERNARD NICOLAS (INCUMBENT and CHAIR)

Date Declared	February 13, 2026
Amount Raised <small>(between 1/1/2026-6/12/2026)</small>	\$11,130.16 (monetary contributions), \$0.00 (in-kind contributions), \$2,296.70 (expenditures and distributions)
Campaign Website	Re-Elect Marcus Nicolas, LCSB District 5
Background <small>(pulled from publicly available information)</small>	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Education	<p>Harvard Kennedy School <i>MPA, eGovernment, Congress, Public Sector Leadership, 2000-2001</i></p> <p>University of Florida <i>Bachelor of Science, Computer Science, Business Administration, 1986-1991</i></p> <p>Leadership Tallahassee <i>Class 26</i></p>
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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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JAMES G. REILLY JR.

Date Declared	March 26, 2026
Amount Raised <small>(between 1/1/2026-6/12/2026)</small>	\$2,160.00 (monetary contributions), \$0.00 (in-kind contributions), \$1,930.96 (expenditures and distributions)
Campaign Website	N/A
Background <small>(pulled from publicly available information)</small>	<p>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.</p> <p>He graduated from Amos P. Godby High School in 1988.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waffle House, <i>Present</i>: Regional Manager
Education	P. Godby High School <i>High School Diploma, 1988</i>