



VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF LIFE

William Wrigley Jr., the chewing gum magnate, in 1931 criticized “yes-men” who often agreed, saying: *“When two [people] always agree, one of them is unnecessary.”*

He warned that lockstep thinking signals inefficiency and lack of independent thinking. True progress on the Lee County School Board will come from differing viewpoints. **Currently, 6 of the 7 board members are simply echoing each other’s views without adding value, yet taking a salary.** There’s no healthy debate or challenge to ideas because they lack diversity of thought, which stifles innovation and problem-solving. *Their allegiance has been to Tallahassee, not the voters of Lee County.*

This August, Lee County voters have a chance to correct the imbalance on the school board and return the focus to local public-school issues. Three current board members, Sam Fisher, Armor Persons, and Jada Langford Fleming, say the same things, list the same goals, avoid debate, and vote in lock step. Newcomer hopeful Tony Beougher is no different, being another candidate of Terry Miller's. In fact, if you visit [Lee.Vote](#) and access the candidates tab on the left side of the page, you will notice the same email addresses associated with all of them.

Lee County voters can elect independent thinkers, Jenn McDaigle, Carline Saintilus, and India Palencia, along with incumbent Debbie Jordan. These standouts hail from different backgrounds, bring varied perspectives, and unique skills to an otherwise uniform school board. They are not beholden to a campaign manager or corporate donors. Instead, they are true professionals willing to parlay their expertise toward the benefit of our school system with grassroots campaigns.

[Jenn McDaigle](#) is running to replace Sam Fisher in District 1, for Cape Coral and the islands. She brings a background in technology and management as well as a decade of experience working with young people. Her goal is to

build an education system that is future-ready with deeply human values.

[Debbie Jordan](#) is running for the benefit of students in Lee County, not the politicians in Tallahassee. While Tony Bouegher, Gigi Gentile, and Carl Baxter are running against her in District 4. That is part of Cape Coral, all of North Fort Myers, and downtown Ft. Myers. Only she brings legacy knowledge and experience. Teachers, students, and support staff all know she consistently shows up to listen and support, no matter the time of year.

[Carline Saintilus](#) is running to replace Armor Persons in District 5 for Lehigh Acres, Alva, and Buckingham and restore community-focused commitment to safety, raising academic achievement, and equipping students for the workforce. She is bilingual in Haitian Creole and English.

[India Palencia](#) is running to be fully present for the community at internal and public board meetings and replace Jada Langford Fleming in District 6, which is all of Lee County. She speaks Spanish and brings a keen sense of financial accountability, focused on improving educational outcomes, safety, and empowering the staff.

Voters approved nonpartisan school boards some 20 years ago. They also opted to maintain nonpartisan school board elections by rejecting a proposed state constitutional amendment less than 2 years ago. This is the one issue that unites McDaigle, Jordan, Saintilus, and Palencia. They honor their constituents' wishes to keep politics out of schools. They truly understand civics and already model what a representative republic looks and acts like. Voters can count on them to offer and invite diverse perspectives that will strengthen the board for the betterment of Lee County.

Vote early, August 8-15, 10-6 PM [Early Voting Information | Lee County Elections, FL](#)

or

Vote August 18th 7 am - 7 pm. Check your registration status and find out where you vote on Election Day: [Check My Voter Registration Status | Lee County Elections, FL](#)

Click [HERE](#) for the link to the School Board Forum.

MEET THE CANDIDATES AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD IN THE UPCOMING SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION



SCHOOL BOARD FORUM



6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

at the FGCU,
Water School

HEAR FROM CANDIDATES
ON CRITICAL TOPICS:

• District Budget, Student Achievement, Future Goals



<https://www.wgcu.org/event/lee-county-school-board-forum-22-06-2026-10-03-15>

RSVP & MORE INFO

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