



2026 District 2 School Board Candidate Written Questions

Candidate Name: Donna Westrich **Phone Number:** 435-881-7160

Email Address: westrichfordistrict2@gmail.com **Campaign Website:** donnawestrich.com

1. Why are you running?

As a career educator, I have been advocating for students, teachers, and schools from inside the classroom for over 25 years. I understand the implications of policy change and how decisions made at the District level directly impact teachers, classrooms, and schools. I truly believe that no matter who you are or where you come from, education is the path to a brighter future. According to the Florida Constitution, Florida is required to provide a uniform, safe, and high-quality system of free public schools to every child in the state. I will work with our communities and with the state to make sure that fully-funded public schools are a great choice for all families in Duval County. I will work hard to make sure that every student in Duval County has access to an equitable, safe, and high-quality education.

2. What are your qualifications?

My education includes a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison with a Certificate in Environmental Studies. Additionally, I earned my Educator's Degree from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado. I have 2 years of teaching experience at a private K-12 school in Albuquerque, NM. I have 5 years of teaching experience at a not-for-profit charter school in Jacksonville, Florida. Finally, I have 13 years of teaching experience in public schools, most recently at Fletcher High School in District 2. In total, I have spent 20 out of the past 25 years in the classroom working to make education better from the inside.

Personally, I am a mom of two children who attend public schools in Duval County, and I am a tax-paying property owner in District 2. I have a vested interest in the success of Duval County Public Schools.

As a community member, I have years of Volunteer Service. Most recently, I served as a sponsor of the Beaches Go Green Club at Fletcher High School. I spent countless hours hosting meetings, organizing and attending campus clean-ups, beach clean-ups, dune plantings, and in-house meetings. When I lived in Colorado, I was a volunteer Firefighter and EMT/Paramedic at Hermosa Cliff Fire Department. I also was a Red Cross Volunteer. I not only taught First Aid and CPR classes, I was a certified Instructor Trainer. I was in charge of training and certifying new volunteers.

I am confident that my experience, my passion, and my unwavering focus on student success and my extensive community involvement will allow me to serve as an effective and trusted member of the Duval County School Board.

3. What are your priorities?

The overarching theme of my campaign is Student Success. The way we will achieve student success is through my top three priorities:

1. Supporting teachers and strengthening schools. I will advocate for competitive pay, which includes supporting the 1-Mill referendum, and I will advocate for sustainable workloads to ensure quality teacher retention. Strong schools depend on quality teachers, and great schools are the foundation of great communities.
2. Strong public schools for every family. I will work hard to make Duval County Public Schools a great choice for families. I will work with local and state governments to fully fund public schools, increase community partnerships, and involve parents through open public workshops to encourage communication and support.
3. Transparency, accountability, and smart spending. I will protect public education funding through transparent budgeting, responsible oversight, and classroom-first priorities that taxpayers can trust. We need to fully fund public schools as a separate line item from the Family Empowerment Scholarship. All schools that receive public taxpayer money must be held to the same standards as public schools.