

**CANDIDATE STATEMENTS
PRIMARY ELECTION AUGUST 24, 2010
DUVAL COUNTY**

*Statements on this page were supplied by the candidates and have not been edited by the Supervisor of Elections for accuracy.
Each statement was voluntarily submitted by the candidate.*

SCHOOL BOARD DISTRICT FOUR

Irvin PeDro Cohen
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Irvin PeDro Cohen was born and raised in Jacksonville, FL and is a graduate of William M. Raines High School. He earned his BA degree from the University of North Florida and his MBA from Pfeiffer University in Charlotte, NC and is currently working on his Doctorate at Nova Southeastern University. He is currently the Project Director of the New Town Success Zone, a community development project where the primary goal is to lead young people to college, the military or the development of a functional trade. Irvin is committed to the ideas of school accountability through world class schools that include neighborhood schools, magnet/choice schools and public charter schools. He also believes in the idea of consistency of curriculum. A child's opportunity should not be limited to their address, but reflective of their ability. Finally, he supports the idea of community engagement. We must extend the walls of the school to include all of the community stakeholders. He serves on several community boards including the War on Poverty FL and he is a 2009 United Way Stein Fellow.

Alzic D. Upton
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Alzic Upton: lifelong resident of Jacksonville, Florida. *Education:* Diploma --Andrew Jackson HS, college preparatory tract, accepted to such prestigious schools as Radcliffe, UCLA, USC, and Florida Southern. *Earned:* AA degree, Florida State College at Jacksonville, BA in Psychology and Masters in Educational Leadership: Instructional Supervision, University of North Florida; MS in Mental Health Counseling from Nova Southeastern University, currently completed all coursework for Doctorate in Educational Leadership with a specialty in Conflict Resolution/Mediation (ABD). *Certified:* Education Leadership, Social Science, and Guidance Counseling from the Florida Department of Education. *Experience:* Chaired the SAC's at Hendricks Avenue Elementary, Darnell Cookman, and James Weldon Johnson College Preparatory schools, Co-chaired Prudential Financial outreach committee in awarding grants to non-profit agencies, helped organize the first open house for The Bridge of NE Florida, founder/facilitator of Youth Empowering Youth (YFY) conducting workshops and assisting students with college applications and financial aid process.

Paula D. Wright
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I humbly ask for your vote. As an educator with over 20 years experience, having served as an adjunct college instructor, an 8th grade teacher, a school-based reading coach, a district literacy coach, and currently as a district administrator, I am uniquely qualified and prepared to help improve our students' academic performance. *I am the only educator in this race, and, if elected, I will be FULL-TIME.* Education is what I do; it's not a past-time. If teachers can work full time for nearly the same salary, so can I. My experiences would guide me to make decisions that are based on direct knowledge of what is required to ensure that every student receives the best education possible. I pledge to: 1) increase students' reading proficiency; 2) equitable funding for our schools and support and professional development for our teachers and parents; 3) middle and high school programs that are diverse (in curriculum and career choices) and that helps to increase our graduation rate; and 4) ensure that parents, our business community, and stakeholders are invited, welcomed, and involved partners.