

Who's Running for Florida Governor in the August Republican Primary?

By Sandy Parker | Sparker's Soapbox | Published 2026-07-20

Florida's governorship is an open seat in 2026: incumbent Republican Governor Ron DeSantis is term-limited under Florida's two-consecutive-term constitutional limit. Eleven Republicans and six Democrats qualified for the Aug. 18, 2026 primary ballot. Both parties will hold closed partisan primaries, open only to registered voters of the respective party. Twelve additional candidates, six with No Party Affiliation, five write-in, and one Libertarian Party of Florida candidate, also qualified outside the party primaries and advance directly to the Nov. 3, 2026, general election alongside the two party nominees.

Learn about the Executive Branch of Florida's government in my [Sparker's Civics primer post](#).

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Research and campaign finance data for this post were compiled with assistance from Claude (Anthropic AI), drawing on the Florida Division of Elections, candidate websites, and Florida news sources. All information was reviewed and verified by the author.

Jay Collins

Bio

Jarrid "Jay" Collins was born in Scobey, MT, and was raised and adopted by his grandparents on a small family farm. He served in the U.S. Army from 1995 to 2018, including more than 20 years as a Green Beret in Army Special Forces, with deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, and South America. During a 2007 deployment he was shot in the arm and later lost a leg to injuries sustained in his service; he requalified as a fully deployable Green Beret after the amputation and served five more years on active duty before

retiring after 23 years of total service. He holds a bachelor's degree in health sciences and pre-medicine from American Military University and a master's degree in organizational leadership from Norwich University ([campaign site](#); [Ballotpedia](#)).

After leaving the military, Collins worked in nonprofit leadership, including with an organization that distributed meals to veterans, first responders, and families in need. He was elected to the Florida Senate in 2022 and served until 2025. In August 2025, Governor Ron DeSantis appointed him Lieutenant Governor, succeeding Jeanette Núñez. Collins announced his campaign for Governor on Jan. 12, 2026. He is married to Layla Collins, a retired veteran with more than 20 years of service, and they have two children.

Platform

Collins's campaign website has a dedicated Issues page organized under twelve named headings ([campaign site](#)):

- Florida First
- Secure the Border, Stop Fentanyl
- Make Florida Affordable Again
- Jobs, Growth & the American Dream
- Veteran Care
- Infrastructure for Florida's Growth
- Stand with Farmers & Ranchers
- World-Class Schools That Put Kids First
- Protect Conservative Values
- Law and Order
- Protect Seniors
- Quality of Life & Environment

Endorsements

Collins's campaign website groups endorsements under several categories ([campaign site](#)):

- **First responders:** Sheriffs Mike Chitwood (Volusia), Vent Crawford (Hardee), Billy Woods (Marion), and Rick Wells (Manatee); Interim Sheriff Christopher Blackmon (Osceola); Hernando County Professional Firefighters, I.A.F.F. Local 3760; Florida PBA President John Kazanjian.
- **Veterans organizations:** Veterans for America First; FireWatch Magazine.
- **Elected officials:** Dundee Mayor Joe Garrison; former Kissimmee Mayor Olga Gonzalez; former Kissimmee Vice Mayor Olga Castaño; Coconut Creek Vice Mayor John Brodie; Coral Springs Commissioner Joseph McHugh.

Further Research

- Campaign website: jayforflorida.com
- Active social media: [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [TikTok](#)

In the News

- Jay Collins declares for Governor. ([Florida Politics](#), 1/12/26)
 - Outlier? Jay Collins internal poll shows LG at 20% support. ([Florida Politics](#), 7/9/26)
 - Jay Collins ‘frustrated’ by lack of grant process for fiscally-constrained counties in property tax amendment. ([Florida Politics](#), 7/18/26)
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Byron Donalds

Bio

Byron Donalds was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, in a single-parent household. He graduated from Florida State University in 2002 with a degree in finance and marketing and worked in the finance, insurance, and banking industries in Southwest Florida ([campaign site](#)).

Donalds served in the Florida House of Representatives, District 80, from 2016 to 2020, where he led the effort to enact Hope Scholarships, chaired the House Insurance and Banking Subcommittee, and was appointed by Governor Rick Scott to the Board of Trustees for Florida SouthWestern State College. Since January 2021 he has represented Florida’s 19th Congressional District in the U.S. House, succeeding Francis Rooney, and served as a surrogate for the 2024 Trump presidential campaign. He announced his campaign for Governor on Feb. 25, 2025, becoming the first major Republican candidate to enter the race, after President Trump had already endorsed him. He lives in Naples with his wife, Erika, and their three sons ([campaign site](#); [WUSF](#), 2/26/25)

Platform

Donalds’s campaign website has a main “On the Issues” page with seven named priorities ([campaign site](#)):

- Enact the Trump Agenda
- Fight Illegal Immigration
- Make Florida More Affordable
- Expand Economic Opportunity
- Protect Our Conservative Values
- Improve Our Infrastructure
- Preserve Our Environment

There are also eight additional named policy pages: LaunchPad; Most Transparent Government in America; Insurer Scorecard; Zero Tolerance, Zero Dollars; Your Doctor, Your Price; Florida Means Business; Student Success Plans; and Read to Succeed ([campaign site](#)).

Endorsements

Donalds's campaign website lists an extensive endorsement roster ([campaign site](#)):

- **National figures:** President Donald Trump, Donald Trump Jr., Charlie Kirk, Elon Musk, Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry, and Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders.
- **National and state organizations:** The Club for Growth; Associated Industries of Florida; Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association.
- **Members of Congress:** House Speaker Mike Johnson and Republican leadership, plus Senators Rick Scott, Ted Cruz, and Ashley Moody ([WESH](#), 7/10/26), and U.S. Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, whose district includes part of Collier County, along with 18 other Florida U.S. House members.
- **Florida Legislature:** Nine state senators and dozens of state representatives, including Collier County's Yvette Benarroch, Adam Botana, and Lauren Melo, plus House Speaker Danny Perez.
- **Sheriffs:** More than 30 Florida sheriffs, including Grady Judd, Chris Nocco, Lee County's Carmine Marceno, and Collier County's Kevin Rambosk.

Legal Matters

In a civil lawsuit filed in Collier County Circuit Court, Kelly Mason, a Collier County School Board member and founder of Mason Classical Academy, alleges Donalds confronted and threatened her at a Naples grocery store in August 2022, after learning she was involved in litigation against his wife, Erika Donalds, over the charter school Mason founded. The suit alleges Donalds told her he could "crush" or "finish" her, and cites video reportedly showing him telling her to "stop the lawsuits." Mason is seeking a jury trial and damages. Donalds's campaign has called the suit "a baseless, politically motivated attack and shameful publicity stunt," saying Mason "has a long history of unsuccessful litigation against the Donalds family." As of this writing, the case remains pending in civil court, with no trial date set ([Florida Phoenix](#), 7/8/26).

Further Research

- Campaign website: byrondonalds.com
- Active social media: [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#)

In the News

- Rep. Byron Donalds announces candidacy for Florida governor. ([WUSE](#), 2/26/25)
- Firms belonging to wife of Rep. Donalds grabbed millions in charter school contracts. ([Florida Bulldog](#), 6/29/25)
- Florida charter school company run by GOP rising star left parents scrambling. ([CBS News](#), 12/2/25)

- ‘Profit is not going to be a bad word’: Byron Donalds wants to reshape education. ([Miami Herald](#), 3/24/26)
 - DeSantis allies break away, endorse Byron Donalds for Florida governor. ([Tampa Bay Times](#), 7/6/26)
 - Byron Donalds shatters fundraising records, raises more than \$90 million for governor bid. ([Florida’s Voice](#), 7/1/26)
 - Byron Donalds surpasses \$90M in total fundraising for Governor’s race. ([Florida Politics](#), 7/7/26)
 - Lawsuit alleges Byron Donalds threatened Collier County school board member in 2022. ([Florida Phoenix](#), 7/8/26)
 - Byron Donalds: Fiscally constrained counties shouldn’t ‘sing for supper’ if Amendment 3 passes. ([Florida Politics](#), 7/17/26)
 - The data center and AI donors powering Donalds’ bid for Florida governor. ([Politico](#), 7/20/26)
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James Fishback

Bio

James Thomas Fishback was born Jan. 1, 1995, in Davie, Florida, and describes himself as a fourth-generation Floridian. He attended Georgetown University to study international economics but left after his sophomore year without completing a degree. In 2019 he founded Incubate Debate, a debate league for middle and high school students. He worked as a research analyst at the hedge fund Greenlight Capital from 2021 to 2023, then founded the investment firm Azoria Partners in 2023; an exchange-traded fund it launched was later shut down by the firm’s independent trustees over legal concerns ([campaign site](#); [Wikipedia](#); [Reuters](#), 10/16/25)

Fishback declared his campaign for Governor in November 2025. He now lives in Madison, FL, and describes himself on his campaign site as married; his spouse’s name and marriage date have not been independently confirmed.

Platform

Fishback’s campaign website presents his platform under ten named categories:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Stop Data Centers | • Fight for Small Businesses |
| • Home Ownership | • Fight for Election Integrity |
| • Law & Order | • K-12 Education |
| • Protect Florida Workers | • Paying for Our Platform |
| • Pro-Life | • Defend the Constitution |

In addition, it includes a notarized pledge document called “Contract with Florida,” signed Jun. 12, 2026, stating that “if he breaks any promise, he cannot run for re-election” because “Fishback believes in accountability” ([campaign site](#)).

Endorsements

No dedicated endorsements page was found on Fishback’s campaign website. Endorsements cited in news coverage include media commentator Tucker Carlson ([Tampa Bay Times](#), 2/17/26) and Florida State Board of Education member Daniel Foganholi ([The Floridian](#), 12/1/25).

Legal Matters

Two pending legal matters have drawn coverage. On June 29, 2026, Lt. Gov. Jay Collins, Fishback’s rival for the Republican nomination, filed suit arguing Fishback does not meet Florida’s seven-year residency requirement for governor, citing a Washington, D.C. voter registration and homestead exemption Fishback held in the early 2020s. A two-day hearing was set for Jul. 21–22, 2026, and Fishback remained on the qualified candidate list as of this writing ([Florida Politics](#), 6/29/26; [Florida Politics](#), 7/7/26).

Separately, in January 2025 a former employee of Fishback’s nonprofit filed a petition alleging he began a relationship with her before she turned 18; a judge denied the petition in June 2025, ruling on the narrower stalking-injunction question before the court. Fishback has said the ruling fully vindicated him; the petitioner maintains her account is accurate, and Fishback has denied her allegations ([Miami Times](#), 12/8/25).

Further Research

- Campaign website: [fishback2026.com](#)
- Active social media: [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#)

In the News

- Tucker Carlson likes him. So does Nick Fuentes. But can he beat Byron Donalds? ([Tampa Bay Times](#), 2/17/26)
- Running on Rage Bait. ([New York Times](#), 3/11/26)
- Republican Party of Florida rescinds James Fishback’s invitation to Sunshine State Showdown. ([Florida GOP](#), 6/12/26)
- James Fishback announces running mate in Florida gubernatorial race. ([WCTV](#), 6/25/26)
- Jay Collins sues to kick James Fishback off ballot in Governor’s race. ([Florida Politics](#), 6/29/26)

Jim Holcomb

Bio

James “Jim” Holcomb served as an Orlando firefighter from 1974 to 2004. He holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Central Florida and a master’s degree from National Louis University. After firefighting, he worked as an Exceptional Student Education teacher in Mt. Dora and separately as a home builder for decades ([campaign site](#); [Ballotpedia](#)).

Holcomb ran for the Orange County Commission roughly 33 years ago and for the Florida House, District 32, in 2022, but did not qualify for the general election either time. In retirement, his campaign site says he helped renovate a home for a family in need through St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and drives a veteran to the VA and to get groceries every Saturday ([campaign site](#))

Platform

Holcomb’s [campaign website](#) does not have a conventional issues page; it centers instead on a personal legal grievance against Florida’s court system, framed around a specific Lake County Circuit Court case he says involved an illegally garnished firefighter pension, a claim not independently verified. A “Mission” lists:

- Stop FL Sanctuary Courts
- No Judicial Immunity for Malpractice
- Broken and Ignored Florida Laws
- Stop Building Dept Extortion & Unlawful Search & Seizure
- Change Building Department funding to a property-tax model He also pledges to return all Governor pay ([campaign website](#)).

Endorsements

No endorsements were found on Holcomb’s campaign website or in public sources as of Jul. 13, 2026.

Further Research

- Campaign website: jimholcomb4governor.com
- Active social media: none found as of Jul. 13, 2026.

In the News

No news coverage specific to Holcomb's 2026 campaign was found as of Jul. 13, 2026.

Arthur Joseph McCaffrey

Bio

Arthur Joseph McCaffrey was born April 12, 1967 ([Sarasota County Clerk of Court records](#)), and lists a Venice, Florida address on his Florida Division of Elections filing. He is an officer of Posterity Investments, Inc., a Florida corporation registered in 2023. No campaign website, Ballotpedia biography, or other source with detail on his hometown, education, or employment history was found as of Jul. 13, 2026. ([FL DOS](#))

Platform

No campaign website or public platform statements were found as of Jul. 13, 2026.

Endorsements

No endorsements were found on any campaign materials or in public sources as of Jul. 13, 2026.

Legal Matters

Court records show McCaffrey faced nine criminal cases in Sarasota County between 2002 and 2024. The most recent arose from a July 2, 2024, arrest following an investigation into a domestic disturbance and led to charges of five counts of child neglect, sexual battery, false imprisonment, and unlawful possession of another person's identification ([Tampa Bay Times](#), 7/8/26).

Sarasota County Clerk of Court records confirm every charge in both 2024 cases was dropped by the State Attorney's Office before arraignment, in late July and early August 2024; neither case proceeded to a plea or conviction. A dropped charge means the state chose not to pursue prosecution, not that the allegations were found false, and the record does not state a reason for the decision ([Sarasota County Clerk of Court records](#)).

Further Research

- Campaign website: none found as of Jul. 13, 2026.
- Active social media: none found as of Jul. 13, 2026.

In the News

- Florida candidate for governor previously arrested on charges of battery, child neglect. ([Tampa Bay Times](#), 7/8/26)
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Daniel Nokovich

Bio

Daniel Nokovich describes himself as a Christian, a husband, and a father of six, and frames his campaign around a message of religious “repentance” and returning Florida to its people and to God. No conventional biographical detail (age, hometown, education, career) was found on his campaign site or elsewhere as of Jul. 13, 2026 ([campaign site](#)). Nokovich’s website describes him inconsistently on party status: some pages call him independent, while his official filing and other site pages identify him as Republican.

Platform

Nokovich’s campaign website has a Platform page organized under six named categories:

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| • Faith & Values | • Law Enforcement & Public Safety |
| • Education & Families | • Economy, Housing & Cost of Living |
| • Healthcare | • Government Reform & Constitutional Accountability |

His homepage also names three specific proposals: a Pure Water Act for clean drinking water standards, a Statewide Total Person Healthcare plan at \$100 a month, and a Decentralized Electrical Grid aimed at ending utility monopolies ([campaign site](#)).

Endorsements

No endorsements were listed on Nokovich’s campaign website or found in other public sources as of Jul. 13, 2026.

Further Research

- Campaign website: [nokovichforgovernor.com](#)
- Active social media: [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [TikTok](#), [YouTube](#)

In the News

No news coverage specific to Nokovich’s 2026 campaign was found in reputable outlets as of Jul. 13, 2026.

Paul Renner

Bio

Paul Marvin Renner was born March 21, 1967, in Atlanta, Georgia, and was raised in Northeast Florida ([campaign site](#); [Wikipedia](#)). He earned a bachelor’s degree in history at Davidson College in 1989, then served as a Surface Warfare Officer in the U.S. Navy during Operation Desert Storm. He later earned his law degree at the University of Florida in 1994, and as a Navy reservist was mobilized to active duty in Afghanistan in 2011.

Renner began his career as an Assistant State Attorney before becoming a partner in commercial and corporate law. He was elected to the Florida House in a 2015 special election, representing Flagler County, and was term-limited out in November 2024. As Speaker of the Florida House for the 2022–2024 term, he helped pass a ban on gender-affirming care for minors, a six-week abortion ban, the elimination of DEI programs in state schools, expanded school vouchers, limits on lawsuits against insurance companies, and a law restricting social media accounts for minors under 16 (later blocked by a federal judge, with an appeal pending) ([Florida Phoenix](#), 10/22/25).

After leaving the House, Renner held academic fellowships and was appointed by Governor DeSantis to the Florida Board of Governors in April 2025. He announced his campaign for Governor on Sept. 3, 2025, becoming the first high-profile candidate to challenge Trump-endorsed Byron Donalds in the primary ([WLRN](#), 9/3/25). He lives in Palm Coast with his wife, Adriana, and their two children.

Platform

Renner’s campaign website has an Issues page organized under six named categories:

- Health Freedom
- Affordability
- Gun Rights
- Renner Rollback
- Public Safety
- Trafficking

There is also a standalone “My Contract with Florida” page outlining his first-100-days agenda ([campaign site](#)).

Endorsements

Renner's campaign has announced endorsements through news coverage, including Stand for Health Freedom, a national health-freedom advocacy group ([Florida Phoenix](#), 10/22/25); former U.S. Rep. Ted Yoho ([The Floridian](#), 4/11/26); and the Florida Fraternal Order of Police ([Miami Times](#), 6/12/26).

Further Research

- Campaign website: voterenner.com
- Active social media: [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#)

In the News

- Former House Speaker Paul Renner enters race for Florida governor. ([WLRN](#), 9/3/25)
 - Former Florida Congressman Ted Yoho Endorses Paul Renner for Governor. ([The Floridian](#), 4/11/26)
 - Police union backs Paul Renner, while gun owners go for Byron Donalds in Governor's race. ([Miami Times](#), 6/12/26)
 - Paul Renner pitches himself as DeSantis' successor. ([The Floridian](#), 7/6/26)
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Rachel Rodriguez

Bio

Rachel Rodriguez is the daughter of a mother who fled Cuba and a father raised on a small family dairy farm ([campaign site](#); [Ballotpedia](#)). She earned a bachelor's degree from Wheaton College in 1999 and a law degree from Rutgers University at Camden in 2004, and has practiced as an attorney for more than 20 years. She represented several former Walt Disney Company employees fired in 2021 for refusing the company's COVID-19 vaccine mandate on religious grounds, serving as lead counsel in religious-discrimination lawsuits later petitioned to the U.S. Supreme Court ([KESQ/CNN](#), 1/10/23). Her Florida filing lists a West Palm Beach address; she describes herself as a wife and mother of three.

Platform

Rodriguez's campaign presents "The 5 R's" as five named priorities: Restore Health Freedom; Relieve Working Families; Reform the Courts; Reclaim Parental Rights; and Reserve Florida's Land ([campaign site](#)).

Endorsements

Rodriguez’s campaign has announced endorsements including pulmonologist Dr. Marivic Villa; civil rights attorney Leigh Dundas; constitutional law attorney Todd Callender; ENT specialist Dr. Mary Talley Bowden; and actress Roseanne Barr ([campaign site](#), various 2026 posts).

Further Research

- Campaign website: [rachelforgov.com](#)
- Active social media: [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [LinkedIn](#)

In the News

No independent news coverage of Rodriguez’s 2026 campaign beyond a field-set roundup was found as of Jul. 13, 2026 ([Tampa Bay Times](#), 6/12/26).

James W. Shaw

Bio

James W. Shaw describes himself as a “12th generation American citizen” ([campaign site](#)). He earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology/anthropology from Colgate University in 1983, where he was an honorable-mention All-American football player. He has 20 years of experience in the transportation industry, including managing a 600-person unionized facility and owning a trucking company, and has also owned pretzel franchises, real estate holdings, and a composting farm. He ran unsuccessfully for Florida Commissioner of Agriculture in 2022. In 2026, he and other residents opposed a proposed AI data center project in Okeechobee County, after which the DeSantis administration withdrew state funding from the project. He has been married to his wife, Patricia, for 44 years; they have eight children and 27 grandchildren.

Platform

Shaw’s campaign does not have a dedicated issues page. His platform themes come through in homepage messaging and his endorsements page: opposition to AI-driven job displacement and AI data center development, gun rights, homeschooling, faith, protecting Florida land from overdevelopment, public safety, and a repeated framing of himself as independent of lobbyist influence ([campaign site](#)).

Endorsements

Shaw's campaign lists individual testimonials rather than officeholder endorsements, including a trucking-industry road team captain, an author and Vietnam veteran, and a former Army servicemember and private investigator ([campaign site](#)).

Further Research

- Campaign website: shawforgovernor.com
- Active social media: [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#)

In the News

No independent news coverage specific to Shaw's 2026 campaign was found as of Jul. 13, 2026.

Caneste Succe

Bio

Caneste Succe was born in Haiti and moved to Lantana, Florida, at age 18 ([campaign site](#); [Town-Crier](#), 7/2012). He holds a bachelor's degree in political science from American Intercontinental University. He worked 13 years as an aircraft mechanic at Palm Beach International Airport, seven years in the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office corrections department, and four years at the county's Supervisor of Elections office. He founded Good Shepherd Humanitarian Corp., a nonprofit combating gang violence and counseling at-risk youth. He has run unsuccessfully for office several times, including Lantana mayor, Palm Beach County Supervisor of Elections, and Florida Commissioner of Agriculture in 2022.

Platform

Succe's campaign presents "The Florida First Agenda" as six named priorities: strengthening Florida's economy, improving education, lowering insurance costs, protecting natural resources, enhancing public safety, and restoring agriculture ([campaign site](#)).

Endorsements

No endorsements were listed on Succe's campaign website or found in other public sources as of Jul. 13, 2026.

Further Research

- Campaign website: succeforflorida.com
- Active social media: none confirmed active as of Jul. 13, 2026.

In the News

No independent news coverage of Succe's 2026 campaign beyond a field-set roundup was found as of Jul. 13, 2026 ([Tampa Bay Times](#), 6/12/26).

Bobby Williams

Bio

Robert Edward "Bobby" Williams Jr. is a third-generation Florida native who grew up in Winter Haven ([campaign site](#); [Highlands News-Sun](#), 4/16/26). He is pastor of Freedom Church in Winter Haven and, since 2016, has led the Freedom Tour, a disaster- and food-relief ministry that his campaign says has distributed more than 20 million pounds of relief statewide, including after Hurricanes Ian and Milton ([Winter Haven Sun](#), 10/7/25). Polk County Sheriff Grady Judd has supported the Freedom Tour's work but has endorsed Byron Donalds rather than Williams for Governor. Williams has been married for 25 years and has a daughter.

Platform

Williams's campaign presents his platform under six named headings on a "Bobby's Stance" page: God First; Preserve Florida: Protect Waterways and Land; Education; Housing; Agriculture; and Disaster Relief. The same page frames his candidacy around opposition to data centers, illegal immigration, punitive property taxes, overdevelopment, and government corruption ([campaign site](#)).

Endorsements

No endorsements were listed on Williams's campaign website or found in other public sources as of Jul. 13, 2026.

Further Research

- Campaign website: bwflgov.com
- Active social media: [Facebook](#), [TikTok](#), [YouTube](#)

In the News

- Winter Haven's Williams leans on faith, Sheriff Judd in gubernatorial race. ([Winter Haven Sun](#), 10/7/25)
 - Williams hopes his network will carry him to governor's mansion. ([Highlands News-Sun](#), 4/16/26)
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Republican Campaign Finances

The chart's last column shows available funds reported by an affiliated political committee: a separate state-registered account that may accept contributions of unlimited size and spend without limit in support of the candidate, though it may give no more than \$3,000 per election directly to the candidate's own campaign ([§ 106.08, Fla. Stat.](#)). Committee funds carry over from prior races; Collins's committee, which he chairs himself, dates to his 2022 state Senate campaign, while the committees supporting Donalds, Renner, and Fishback are chaired by others. For more on how to read these figures and learn what this information does and does not tell us, see Sparker's Civics primer, [Understanding Campaign Finance Data](#).

Of note:

- **Collins:** received \$830,050 from five political committees, including \$824,050 in in-kind consulting and research support from the Republican Party of Florida. Of the rest, 90 percent came from Florida donors; 10 percent came from out of state. His 866 individual donors gave an average of \$364 each. Separately, Quiet Professionals FL, the political committee he chairs, has raised \$9,941,694 since its formation in Jun. 2022. ([Florida Division of Elections](#))
- **Donalds:** received \$1,196,094 from 82 political committees, most notably \$960,594 in in-kind consulting and research support from the Republican Party of Florida. Of the rest, 69 percent came from Florida donors; 31 percent came from out of state. His 37,357 individual donors gave an average of \$272 each. Separately, Friends of Byron Donalds PAC, the political committee supporting his campaign, has raised \$92,774,275 since its formation in Feb. 2025. ([Florida Division of Elections](#)) Leading the Future, a super PAC funded by artificial intelligence industry leaders, has also pledged \$5 million in support of his candidacy; it is an independent federal-level committee, and its finances are not included in these figures. ([Florida Politics](#))
- **Fishback:** 68 percent of contributions came from Florida donors; 31 percent came from out of state. His 4,899 individual donors gave an average of \$113 each. Separately, Florida First PAC, the political committee supporting his campaign, has raised \$1,069,026 since its formation in Nov. 2025. ([Florida Politics](#); [Florida Division of Elections](#))
- **Holcomb:** raised no contributions from outside donors; his \$20,000 in total funds is entirely a personal loan he has not repaid.
- **McCaffrey:** has reported no campaign finance activity of any kind: no contributions, loans, or expenditures.

- **Nokovich:** his \$20,050 in total funds is almost entirely a personal loan; he received just \$50 from a single outside donor.
- **Renner:** received \$512,793 from two political committees, including \$511,793, or 54 percent of his total funds, in in-kind campaign staff support from the Republican Party of Florida. He also contributed \$3,000 to his own campaign; of the rest, 95 percent came from Florida donors and four percent from out of state. His 475 individual donors gave an average of \$917 each. Separately, Friends of Paul Renner, the political committee supporting his campaign, has raised \$6,055,412 since its formation in Aug. 2025. ([Florida Division of Elections](#))
- **Rodriguez:** made \$700 in direct contributions to her own campaign. Of the rest, 55 percent came from out of state; she is the only Republican in this field where a majority of contributions came from outside Florida.
- **Shaw:** his entire \$96,060 in total funds came from his own direct contributions; he raised no money from outside donors.
- **Succe:** his entire \$10,000 in total funds also came from his own pocket. His reported expenditures exceed his contributions, leaving him with a reported deficit rather than available funds.
- **Williams:** personally provided \$11,753 of his \$73,317 in total funds: a \$6,000 loan, \$5,162 in direct contributions, and \$591 in in-kind support. He is the only Republican candidate to combine all three forms of self-funding in the same filing. Of the remaining \$61,564 from 324 outside donors, 96 percent came from Florida.

Summary

Eleven Republicans have qualified for Florida's Aug. 18, 2026 gubernatorial primary, an open-seat race following term-limited Gov. Ron DeSantis. Only registered Republicans may vote in this closed primary, and the winner advances to the Nov. 3, 2026 general election. This is a living post and maybe updated as new information, including campaign finance data, becomes available. For more on how Florida's executive branch works, see the primer linked above.