Barbara Stewart, of Avon Park, was a member of the Highlands County Board of County Commissioners from 2004 to 2012 and served as Board Chairman for 2 terms. While on the Commission, she was a member of the Policy Committee of the Avon Park Air Force Range Joint Land Use Study. Previously, she was vice president/planning director of a Florida based engineering consulting firm and owner of a retail establishment in Sebring.

Barbara currently manages, with her husband, Trippensee & Company, Inc. and Yellow Bluff Creek Ranch, Inc. In addition, she serves on the Board of Trustees of Archbold Expeditions (Arcbold Biological Station) and on the Board of Directors of Cornerstone Christian Academy.

Barbara has a B.A. degree from Elmira College and a Master of Public Administration degree from the Maxwell School, Syracuse University.