

***** MEDIA ALERT *****

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YATES, FIRST WOMAN, ANNOUNCES INTENT TO RUN IN DISTRICT 74

City Commissioner has served citizens in South Sarasota County area for nearly 8 years

North Port, FL—Linda Yates announced today that she intends to run for State House District 74 and submitted her papers to Tallahassee on Thursday. Yates currently serves as Vice Mayor of the City of North Port. She was elected to the North Port City Commission in 2010 and re-elected in 2014. After serving citizens in the south Sarasota County area for eight years, she is term-limited in her current City Commission role.

Yates, 54, a Republican, has governed with conservative principles, while embracing the fact that the City Commission position is non-partisan. Known for her tenacity in fiscal matters, public safety, smaller government and common sense policies, Yates has a proven track record of successful advocacy at the local and state level.

When asked about her accomplishments, Yates states her foresight and attention to detail has helped achieve better outcomes on a broad array of issues from projects to policies to union contracts. She recalled leading the battle to retain Bayflite in North Port as an important reflection of her time on the City Commission. “I knew having the helicopter in our area was critical to life-safety and my persistence on the issue was essential to ensuring retention of this vital service for the residents of the largest City in Sarasota County,” she said. Yates has been instrumental in identifying and eliminating wasteful spending of taxpayers’ funds.

Yates has served as the city’s representative on various regional committees including the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization, MPO Public Transportation Taskforce, Manasota League of Cities, Florida League of Cities and National League of Cities. She was honored in 2015 and again in 2017 as a “Home Rule Hero” by the Florida League of Cities for her advocacy work with State and Federal legislators. “Every legislative session, politicians in Tallahassee seek to override local control, and that trend is not in the public’s best interest. “Government at the local level is closest to the individual taxpayer, and their rights to local self-government must be protected,” said Yates.

Renowned for her passion, commitment, dedication and diligence in her public service, Yates asserted that she is uniquely qualified and prepared to step into the State House seat being vacated by Representative Julio Gonzales, who is running for U.S. Congress. Yates explained, “While I don’t have a dynasty to claim, I am an average citizen who has grown into an effective elected official and I am well-versed on the red-tape that stalls local economic development and infrastructure needs such as River Road, Venice Bypass, sewer and water facilities, bridges, trail ways, and medical services. As the only person in the race who has actually served fellow citizens as an elected official, I know first-hand what it takes to be the voice of the people and work toward getting things done.”

Once the State has processed Yates’ paperwork, she can begin collecting signatures to place her name on the ballot, raise funds, and kick off her campaign for District 74 State Representative.

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