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YATES, FIRST WOMAN, ANNOUNCES RUN FOR STATE DISTRICT 74

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

North Port, FL— Linda Yates, announced today that she is a candidate for State Representative in District 74. 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 taxpayers in the South Sarasota County area for nearly 8 years, Yates is term-limited in her current City Commission role. She and her husband, Mark, have lived in District 74 for over 12 years.

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 on behalf of her constituents.

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 has been instrumental in identifying and eliminating wasteful spending of taxpayers' funds. Yates led the battle to retain Bayflite in North Port during 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 securing retention of this vital service for the residents of the largest City in Sarasota County," she said. Most recently, Yates' efforts resulted in the Nation's and the State's motto "In God We Trust" being displayed in North Port's City Hall. Yates also supported amending the City's Human Rights Ordinance to add protections for veterans and pregnant women.

Yates has served as the City's representative on various regional committees including the Sarasota/Manatee Metropolitan Planning Organization, MPO Public Transportation Task Force, 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 our 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 to step into the State Representative shoes being vacated by Dr. Julio Gonzales, who is running for US 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 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 listen to the voice of the people and work toward getting things done."

Yates' campaign is collecting voters' signatures to place her name on the ballot, raising funds for signs, literature and advertising, and a kick-off event is being planned at the end of April. Anyone willing to help is encouraged to contact Linda Yates at (941) 888-4088.