

Detert announces candidacy for Harris' seat

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STAFF WRITER



State Rep. Nancy Detert

Florida House Rep. Nancy Detert announced to the Venice/Nokomis Federated Republican Women's Club on Friday that she would enter the 2006 race to replace Katherine Harris' spot for the 13th Congressional District.

Harris' decision last Tuesday inspired Detert and others to make their announcements.

"This week I was already scheduled to speak here and all of a sudden things kind of changed," Detert said. "Katherine Harris has announced that she will run for U.S. Senate. Today, I would like to announce that I am running for Congress for District 13."

Speaker Pro-Tempore Leslie Waters introduced Detert at the luncheon.

"She helped lead the charge on education issues," Waters said. "She's always been about jobs and paychecks for the working family."

Detert platforms

Detert addresses a number of issues she plans to use for her platform.

"Number one, we want to be safe in our homes," Detert said. "We talk a lot about health care, education and those kinds of issues normally and then after Florida hurricanes we went back to the basics."

Detert mentioned an award-winning bill she created regarding strengthening building codes in considera-

tion to wind storms because it was wind and debris that inflicted most of the damage during last year's hurricanes.

"Since we are a miracle state we not only overcame that, but we had a \$2 billion surplus," Detert said. "As the chair of tourism I was delighted to see that Florida is still open for business."

Another key issue Detert

Property rights

Detert also addressed private property rights of individuals, especially those in mobile home parks.

She said people who have invested in these properties are vulnerable to a loophole in the law that makes it possible for the property to be sold

out from under them. "You are basically walking away from your investment, which is sometimes your life savings," Detert said. "It's a very strange law. It's a hybrid of private property rights. You own the house, but you don't own the land that it sits on."

"It's shocking to people to find out that their park is going to be bulldozed over and maybe turned into condominiums. Their private property rights are being trampled. It's a flaw in the law and it needs to be fixed."

Detert also mentioned the issue of affordable housing in the area.

"Our workers do not have homes," she said. "It's a basic American principle that needs to be defended."

Detert will set up a treasury July 1 for her campaign.

Local resident

Detert has served Venice, Sarasota, Nokomis, Englewood and North Port since 1998 in the Florida House. A resident of Venice since 1978, Detert was born in Chicago, Ill.

and attended Senna Heights College in Adrian, Michigan.

She is a mortgage broker and owner of Osprey Mortgage Company. She was elected to the House in 1998 and defeated Libertarian Don Wallace for the State House District 70 position by a 58 percent margin in the 2004 election. She also serves on the Sarasota County School Board.

Detert's past positions includes being a board member of Enterprise Florida, the National Conference of State Legislators Financial Services

and the NCSL Women's Legislative Network. She was vice-president of the Venice-Nokomis FROW and legislative chair of the Florida Association of Mortgage Brokers in 1998.

In 1996 she was president of both the Republican Women's Club of Sarasota and the Suncoast Chapter of Florida Association of Mortgage Brokers. Detert has three sons named Mark, Bryan and Jamie and nine grandchildren.

"The issues are the same," Detert said. "Just on a grander scale."

CLARIFICATION

There is nothing wrong with the structural integrity of Venice Little Theatre's roof on its storage building, formerly the ABC Liquor store. A story and headline inside the June 10 edition of the *Venice Gondolier Sun* did not clearly state this.

City unsafe building code violations were for small holes around the fascia where

the old store sign was removed. This created a threat that the roof could be compromised during high winds, especially during hurricane season.

Once these holes are filled in, city inspectors verified Friday they have no other safety issues with Venice Little Theatre's storage building.

There were never any building code issues with VLT's main building.

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