

# Letter: Don't settle for politics as usual in race for Port St. Lucie mayor

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Gregory Oravec, Port St. Lucie

Letter: Don't settle for politics as usual in race for Port St. Lucie mayor

As we near Election Day, I'd like to thank the many residents who have written letters supporting my candidacy. I'm grateful for your trust in me and, especially, your belief in what we can do as a team to build a better Port St. Lucie.

I'd also like to address the few letters written in opposition. In response to many untruths, please know that: I'm an experienced professional who served as the city's CEO from 2012-2013. When the City Council chose to end my service, they paid me severance as per my employment contract, as is typical for an at-will executive responsible for a \$500 million budget and 1,000 employees.

The fact that they paid my severance proves that I didn't quit. At my request, the separation occurred pursuant to an agreement that included language to discourage mudslinging and lobbying on behalf of for-profit clients. It doesn't stop me from seeking office or serving as your mayor. I've never sued the city.

Despite the opposition's attempts to make me single-handedly responsible for all of the city's financial woes, in my one year as your city manager, I drafted a budget which: lowered your tax rate; increased financial reserves; hired police officers; and made capital projects like the Southbend roundabout and Fairgreen Road extension come to life.

Rather than playing the blame game, let's focus our time and effort on solutions. You want to saddle me with everything that needs to be fixed in our community? Put it on me. Isn't that what a mayor is supposed to do? It's time for us to make Port St. Lucie something to be proud of, to live up to our potential. On Aug. 26, don't settle for politics as usual. Vote for professionalism, experience, integrity and ability. Please vote Oravec for mayor.

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