

OPINION

The Palm Beach Post

REAL NEWS STARTS HERE

Executive Editor Rick Christie
Editorial Page Editor Tony Doris

THE PALM BEACH POST EDITORIAL BOARD mission is to articulate the issues of the day, advocate for policies for the betterment of the community and encourage a civil and robust exchange of ideas. The Board consists of Executive Editor Rick Christie, Editorial Page Editor Tony Doris and Editorial Writer Douglas C. Lyons.

EDITORIAL PALM BEACH POST

Jean Enright, Varisa Dass for port commission

Quite frankly we believe that voters should change out most of the board of directors of the Port of Palm Beach as soon as is practicable.

Not because they've done anything wrong but because the port would benefit from bringing new hands on board. That's impossible when a commissioner holds onto the job for decades. Commissioner Blair Ciklin has been there 47 years. Seriously? Wayne Richards has been on the board 23 years; and Jean Enright, 19 years. That said, the port appears to be doing well in attracting cruise and cargo business. So we thank them sincerely for their contributions but it's well past time for change.

Two of the board's five positions will be contested in the November general election. In Group 2, Democrat Varisa Dass is competing against Republican Ted Sarandis, who declined our invitation for an interview. In Group 3, Democrat Enright faces Republican Roderick Clarke, a U.S. Marines veteran, who doesn't grasp the role of the port commission, in our understanding of it.

The Post endorses incumbents Dass and Enright. Neither is a perfect candidate, and they barely get along.

However, they're enthusiastic about the job and are the two candidates best prepared for it.

Dass for Group 2, Port of Palm Beach

Dass is an attorney who works for property insurance customers. She was appointed to the board to fill an open seat in 2022. She troubled us as a candidate, when communications came to light in which she threatened a port business owner for insufficiently contributing to her campaign. Also, she told us she'd like to see a hotel built at the port, but that's unrealistic due to security requirements there, so it didn't seem like she'd done her homework on that issue.

In an interview with The Palm Beach Post Editorial Board, she expressed contrition about her threatening note to the business owner. She said she was shocked that he contributed to her opponent because she considered him a friend, but added that she didn't intend to strong-arm him for contributions and that she was extremely sorry and would never do anything like that again.

Dass is enthusiastic about working with the port director to build business there, and about working as the port's liaison to community members in Riviera Beach, which borders the site. Her priorities are to see port bonds paid off within two years, to save money that can be used for projects like widening berths and fortifying the port's roads and drainage system. She'd also support attracting another small passenger ship to offer more cruises.

Enright for Port of Palm Beach Group 3

Enright has devoted herself to port work for nearly two decades. Her opponent, Clarke spoke of the port job as a way to encourage housing construction, but that's not what this job is about. The port serves as an economic engine for the county, not by its directors serving as quasi county commissioners but by working toward efficient operations, and to steer traffic there and help businesses that use the port to grow and create jobs.

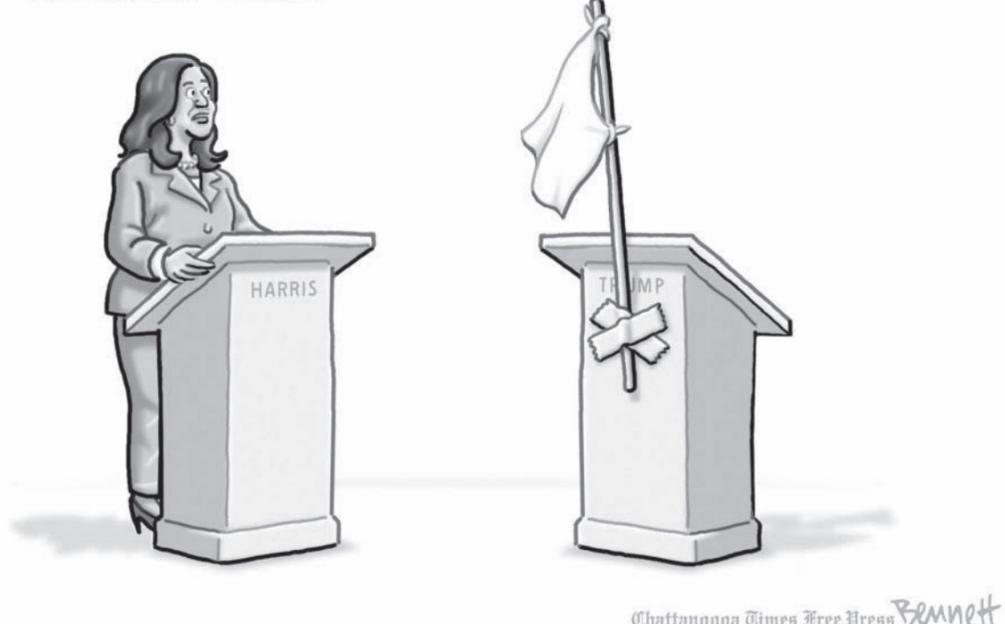
Enright, a former educator, brought to the job Bachelor of Science Degree from Tuskegee University, a master's

degree from Howard University and a doctorate from the Catholic University of America. Among her priorities for a new term are to continue working ensure the Port remains fiscally responsible, to press for infrastructure improvements and cultivate trade opportunities "to diversify and grow our regional manufacturing clusters, supply chains and logistical businesses." She also says she'd like to see another tenant that ships cargo to Haiti from the port, whose businesses are strongly focused on trade with the Caribbean.

She has sought unsuccessfully to oust the port director, Michael Meekins and continues to have problems with his leadership. She's also occasionally bumped heads with her fellow commissioners. We like a commissioner who stands up for what is right but we'd like to see her put her longtime port experience to use with a more collaborative approach. Our reservations aside, she's clearly the superior candidate for the job.

Up next: Supervisor of Elections and Clerk and Comptroller recommendations

THE SECOND DEBATE



Clay Bennett/COUNTERPOINT MEDIA

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Proven leader needed for world peace

On the front page of the Sept. 25 edition, President Joe Biden warns world leaders about turmoil around the world but never acknowledges that it all happened under his watch. What really scares me is that voters are now considering electing an even weaker leader, which could lead to total chaos. Prior to Biden taking office, there may have been hot spots around the world and terrorist activities but now there are several outright wars going on. If we're to have any hope of saving the world, then personalities have to be put aside and a leader with proven abilities put in the office of the president of the United States.

Jim Rich, Jupiter

Trump's no role model

I watch how Donald Trump treats veterans, women and just about everyone who does not support him. I listen to the name calling, insults, sexual references, and denigrating statements. He has shown himself to be a self-centered, narcissistic nasty person. That brings me to my point of politics creating strange bed-fellows. I am acquainted with people who I like and interact with on an ongoing basis who proudly say they will vote for Trump in November. These people who are educated, decent and good fellow citizens somehow see in Trump a man worthy of leading this great nation. Some will say that you do not have to like the person to like his policies. In my opinion that is a cop out.

I believe you want the leader of the country to share your values, ethics, morals and respect for all citizens. You cannot separate the person who Trump is from the policies he will put forth. I really do not want to believe that the people who are Trump supporters share the same cold heartedness that he does. I really do not want to believe that they feel he is a decent human being and one they feel the need to support. I really do not want to believe they would treat people the way he does. I would like to reach out to my Republican friends and neighbors and ask themselves if Trump is a man that they would want their children and grandchildren to hold up as a role model? I am hoping against hope that the answer is no.

Ed Brookes, Lake Worth

This political spark really burns

The accelerant is already there, all that is required is for someone to throw a match. U.S. Sen. JD Vance, Trump's pick for vice president, said, "I have to create stories to attract media attention." The residents of Springfield, Ohio, are experiencing attention by more than the media. All sorts of public services including schools and hospitals are disrupted by violent threats stemming from a fourth party rumor about a missing pet cat.

The "match" prior to the Civil War was if you free the slaves they will rape your women. In today's super-heated political atmosphere could the "match" be, "They are eating your pets?"

David Clendining, Loxahatchee

Commitment is needed to help homeless



Your Turn
 Karen Davidson
 Guest columnist

On Oct. 10 we observe World Homeless Day. It's a time to reflect on the challenges faced by those without stable shelter, recognize their daily struggles and renew our commitment to finding sustainable solutions.

As president and CEO of Gulfstream Goodwill Industries (GGI), I am reminded that homelessness is not an abstract issue; it is a harsh reality affecting far too many lives in our community. While this day offers a focused reminder, we cannot lose sight of the fact that homelessness is a 365-day challenge.

For those without a place to call home, every day brings new struggles and uncertainty. It's not just a number or a statistic — it's people, families and individuals who often have fallen into these circumstances through no fault of their own.

Our work must go beyond observation and recognition. As a community, we must come together to provide real support, meaningful solutions and, ultimately, hope for those living without a stable roof over their heads.

GGI, the largest homelessness provider in Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties, is changing lives through housing, training, education and employment. Our mission extends beyond a roof over one's head; it encompasses empowerment, dignity and a pathway to self-sufficiency. Every night, GGI has over 250 individuals in its shelters and affordable housing who would otherwise be on the streets.

Our homeless prevention services include temporary shelters and permanent supportive housing that is safe, comfortable and affordable for single adults and families who are homeless and/or at risk for homelessness. Last year, we served 1,973 homeless individuals, helping to get them off the streets and into a safe environment. We also provide wrap-around services for people experiencing homelessness, including counseling, mental health resources,

life skills development, peer support, case management, financial literacy education and psychiatric services. In addition, our workforce readiness services include career counseling information and referral, pre-employment training, career

camp, work readiness training and job placement. We are committed to equipping individuals with the skills and resources necessary to secure and maintain stable employment. We provide a hand up to people with any barrier to independence to become self-sufficient, working members of their communities.

Furthermore, addressing homelessness requires a collective effort. Nonprofits, government agencies, businesses and communities must come together to pool resources, share best practices and create a coordinated response.

Together, we can achieve what no single entity can do alone.

On this World Homeless Day, let us remember that compassion and action go hand in hand. Let us stand in solidarity with those experiencing homelessness and work tirelessly to ensure everyone has a place to call home. Our efforts today will shape the future for generations.

I call on all of us to embrace the spirit of World Homeless Day by committing ourselves to enacting meaningful change. Let us make a difference, one person, one family and one community at a time. Together, we can end homelessness, not just for a day but for a lifetime.

Karen Davidson is president and CEO of Gulfstream Goodwill Industries in West Palm Beach, an organization focused on homelessness in Palm Beach County. For more information on GGI, visit goggi.org or call 561-848-7200.