

SEMINOLE BEACON

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Waters files for state Senate seat

Former speaker pro-tempore seeks District 12 slot held by Dennis Jones

By BOB McCLURE

SEMINOLE - As expected, Seminole City Councilor Leslie Waters filed last week with the Florida Division of Elections to run for the Florida Senate in 2012.

Waters, R-Seminole, is seeking the seat held by State Sen. Dennis Jones, R-Seminole, who is stepping down due to term limits. She will join State Rep. Jim Frishe (R-St. Petersburg) on the



Leslie Waters

ballot.

Waters, who serves as the city's vice mayor, said she plans to complete her three-year term on the City Council, which ends in March 2012.

"The voters expect that," she said, in reference to completing her term. "I enjoy very much dealing with city issues so important to us all. My service and knowledge gained while on council will only positively benefit the citizens of Seminole when elected to The Florida Senate. I look forward to receiving input from citizens of Seminole on state issues important to them and their families."

Waters is not new to state government. She served in the Florida House of Representatives for eight years before leaving in 2006 due to term limits. Waters also served as speaker pro-tempore for the House of Representatives before vacating her seat.

While in the House she served as chair of the House Insurance Committee, Hurricane Preparedness Workgroup and the Transportation and Economic Development Appropriations Committee. She was also co-chair of the Joint Select Committee on Hurricane Insurance.

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a member of the Governor's Commission on the Future of Space and Aeronautics in Florida, the Governor's Commission on Workers Compensation Reform, and the Select Committee on the Oversight of Florida's Department of Children and Families.

Among key legislation sponsored by Waters was Workers Compensation reform, fighting PIP/automobile insurance fraud, fighting identity theft, child safety issues (focus on shaken baby syndrome awareness), and space and aeronautics in Florida.

"I am very excited and energized with my candidacy," said Waters. "It is a big challenge! I welcome it. I really appreciate the enthusiastic support I have

been receiving from the community over this announcement."

Prior to entering public life, Waters had a 29-year career with Allstate Insurance Co., working in human resources, corporate and government relations management.

She currently operates Leslie Waters Government Relations, instructs a local government class at the University of South Florida-St. Petersburg and serves as an international democracy-training consultant.

Waters is a native of Gulfport, graduated from Boca Ciega High School, attended St. Petersburg Junior College and earned bachelor's and master's degrees from Florida State University.