

JOHN S. KNIGHT (1894-1981)

The Miami Herald | EDITORIALS

# The Miami Herald recommends

## FOR DAVIE MAYOR

Mayor Tom Truex ran unopposed for his second term in 2006, but this year has drawn a challenge from former Town Council member Judith "Judy" Paul.

Ms. Paul, 68, retired from the council and her job as a high-school civics teacher in 2007. She focused on fiscal matters on the council, going through the annual budget line by line to cut costs. She promises to do the same if elected mayor.

Mr. Truex, 51, is that rarity in Broward County, an elected Republican. He brings an independence to the council that enlivens debates and keeps the administration on its toes. Mr. Truex has earned a third term.

Mr. Truex is a pragmatist, and he can be flexible. Take his view of Town Manager Gary Shimun, who, says Mr. Truex, has "greatly improved over my initial reviews. Judging by the results of his team, I believe he is doing well."

Davie may face a budget shortfall of \$3 million to \$5

million in the next fiscal year. Mr. Truex says the city has a healthy reserve of \$28 million, socked away during the housing-boom years. In the short term, Mr. Truex believes the reserve funds will bridge the budget gap. However, the "benefits paid



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under existing union contracts aren't sustainable," he says, and will have to be reduced, "particularly in long-term benefits, possibly by joining the state pension fund." Many Broward cities face soaring pension costs.

The most controversial issue in Davie today is the proposed Davie Commons project. Mr. Truex says he will support it only if it will put more traffic on Interstate 75 than on Davie streets. He also points out that it would bring \$3 million in net tax revenue to the town and would have less impact on parks, schools and police and fire than the 100-plus homes once slated for the site.

For Davie mayor, The Miami Herald recommends **TOM TRUEX.**