

Response from elections supervisor

Editor:

I would like to respond to several inaccuracies and omissions in the recent article in which I was mentioned.

First, at the time of the interview, I was meeting with our new secretary of state regarding changes in election law. I was representing District 8, composed of Sarasota, Manatee, Hardee, DeSoto, Highlands, Glades and Charlotte counties. I was elected to that position by the other supervisors, an honor of which I am most proud, especially since I am a relative newcomer.

Second, my employee, Mr. Spacco, is a former U.S. Navy seaman with extensive electronics training who served his country honorably and with distinction. His addition to this office as director of communications, a job for which he is overqualified, has enabled me to cut staff from 16 to 10, and my expenditures every year since I was voted into this office. I couldn't have done it without him.

Finally, anyone who brags of having spent 16 years in government, during which \$150 million dollars was wasted on the grand social experiment known as Murdock Village, ever-increasing taxes and admits responsibility for the highest water rates in Florida is out of touch with reality.

To his desire to return because he "needed a new challenge," government should never be used as a refuge for those who cannot succeed in the private sector. I will leave it to others to respond to his attack on our "Great American Comeback" program.

Paul "Judge" Stamoulis
Charlotte County
Supervisor of Elections