

THE TAMPA TRIBUNE

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Republican Faye Culp has represented House District 57, which hugs Tampa Bay from Town 'N Country to south Tampa, off and on for many years. She has grown comfortable in the seat, which we feel has put her efforts on cruise control.

Incumbent Culp is being challenged by Brian Becker of the Green Party and Democrat Deborah Cope, who ran for the seat in 2004.

Becker follows his party's agenda and believes in "grass-roots democracy." He believes in an activist government and would like health care for all of Florida's residents, even if government is the last resort.

Cope, 45, has become well-informed on the issues since she first sought this office two years ago, seeming not yet ready for the job. Unlike Culp, who has never been a leader on growth problems, Cope has a good grasp of the need to invest in transportation, protect the environment and make sure new development doesn't create costly problems for a community. And while she may not have all the answers to the state's ever-increasing Medicaid expenditures, Cope believes Florida could cut costs by adopting the practices that have proved effective in other states.

Culp, 66, certainly has experience and a good reputation for constituent service. But she generally goes along with her party's leadership and has shown little initiative on the state's most pressing problems.

Cope, on the other hand, has the energy and commitment to make a difference in Tallahassee. In state House District 57, the Tribune endorses **Deborah Cope**.