

Dr. Heavenly makes bid for Congress

Jay Stahl
USA TODAY

Cosmetic dentist Dr. Heavenly Kimes has been throwing shade with a smile for over a decade on Bravo’s “Married to Medicine,” the healthcare industry’s answer to “The Real Housewives of Atlanta.” TV host and “Housewives” titan Andy Cohen once asked Kimes about castmate Toya Bush-Harris, “So why did you say she’s not the brightest in the group?” Kimes had a blunt reply: “Because she’s not.” Now, Kimes, 54, is running in a crowded Democratic primary as she seeks to unseat Rep. David Scott, the 80-year-old incumbent in Georgia’s 13th congressional

district, hoping that her reality TV bona fides will transfer to real results at the ballot box on May 19 next year. “People are sick of politics as usual,” Kimes told USA TODAY. “They need somebody real, somebody relatable that they can trust in office – somebody that’s not going to leave them once they get in a seat.” USA TODAY reached out to Scott’s office for comment. “I grew up in a room with no windows. Y’all saw that on TV, right?” Kimes said, listing healthcare and the economy as reasons for running. “I’ve been on both sides of the coin, I’ve actually had free lunches.” The race to replace Scott, who has long faced concerns about his health and age, has become its own made-for-TV moment, as some in both parties seek generational change. The incumbent has filed for reelection in the majority Black district, and ten other Democratic candidates have declared their candidacy for the safely blue seat, according to Federal Election Commission data. She enters the race with likely more name recognition than any other candidate, boasting 1.5 million social media followers following over a decade on “Medicine.”

A decade in reality TV

In April 2014, Kimes joined the Season 2 cast of “Medicine” which pairs fellow doctors, like her close friend Dr. Jackie Walters, a board certified OBGYN, with doctors’ wives – like frenemy Bush-Harris. A sharp tongue and sweet tooth for chaos made Kimes a controversial “Medicine” fan favorite. “I think Heavenly has this innate ability to start drama, to lean into drama, but then find her way out of a mess, to talk her way out of it,” pop culture commentator and “Gabbing with Gib” podcast host Gibson Johns told USA TODAY. “Medicine” is slightly more focused on family than the group dynamics of “Housewives of Atlanta,” once a standout in a franchise known for its heated table flips and unruly fights, although both center around the lives of affluent Black women in the metro.

Kimes opened an upscale dental practice on the series called Smiles by Dr. Heavenly in Duluth, Georgia, as she raised three kids Damon Jr., Zachary and Alaura with husband Dr. Damon Kimes. Regarded as an underrated part of Bravo’s programming slate by hardcore fans, “Medicine” remains one of the network’s longest running shows. Season 12 of the series premieres Nov. 30, a rare feat for any show on cable television. In the next season of her life, Kimes wants to reach a rare feat for reality TV stars. On a podcast Sept. 4, Kimes told pastor Jamal Bryant – the ex-husband of “Housewives of Potomac” star Gizelle Bryant – that she didn’t know there were “Medicine” contract restrictions preventing runs for public office. Kimes originally announced her intent to seek a Georgia state rep seat in a People magazine feature July 7. She later ditched the state-level race in September to launch a bid for U.S. House after the passage of President Donald Trump’s controversial mega tax and spending bill. “I noticed that our congressman wasn’t saying anything and a lot of people needed help,” Kimes said. “I’m not politics as usual, but I understand what’s going on,” Kimes said. “This is the greatest country we got. I mean, if other countries can have free medical, if they can have free colleges, if they can have free child-



Dr. Heavenly Kimes stars on Bravo’s “Married to Medicine.” Kimes is now running for Congress with the most recognized name in the crowded primary campaign. PROVIDED BY CLORISSA WRIGHT-THOMAS



Rep. David Scott has represented Georgia’s 13th congressional district since 2003. BILL O’LEARY, POOL/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

care, why can’t we?”

Rep. David Scott faces concerns

Last year, congressional colleagues booted Scott from the top Democratic post on the House Agriculture Committee. He lost his powerful perch on the panel despite breaking barriers as its first Black chairman. Scott has served in Congress since 2003. Kimes’ fellow primary opponent, Georgia State Rep. Jasmine Clark, chided Scott in recent weeks after a CBS News Atlanta report revealed that her campaign unearthed that the congressman has failed to vote since casting an absentee ballot in May last year. “He lost that ranking membership because he wasn’t able to show up,” Clark, 42, told CBS Atlanta. “Him not voting unfortunately feels like a part of that trend.” According to CBS and Fox 5 Atlanta, the missed votes include last year’s presidential contest between Trump and then-Vice President Kamala Harris. Another primary challenger, Everton Blair, the ex-chair of Gwinnett County Schools, told USA TODAY that the breadth of the field shows how unhappy people are with Scott. “It’s telling that so many candidates are following suit and entering this race after we launched,” Blair, 33, said in a statement. “People are clearly fed up with Rep. David Scott’s lack of leadership and are ready for change.” He also took aim at Kimes. “People are fed up with the mockery that’s been made of our government,” Blair added. “While I respect anyone’s interest in public service, voters deserve leaders with policy experience and proven credibility.” Kimes pushed back on criticism of her lack of political experience. “I built businesses from the ground up, I know what it’s like to get the red tape in small businesses,” she said. “I think that what the people need most, whether it be reality TV or such, is somebody with a reach and a voice and I just happen to have both, right?” Kimes continued.

Financial strain grows for Americans

Betty Lin-Fisher
USA TODAY

More American households are living paycheck to paycheck, according to a new study. Bank of America Institute examined internal data and found that in 2025, nearly a quarter of all households are estimated to live paycheck to paycheck. That is up from 23.5% in 2024. A household lives paycheck to paycheck if its necessity spending exceeds 95% of its income over a quarter, according to Bank of America Institute. There is a slight bright spot though, said Bank of America Institute economist Joe Wadford. While there has been an increase in the overall number of households who are living paycheck to paycheck, the pace of growth has slowed down nearly three times from 2024 levels. The pace of growth for 2025 was a 0.3% increase, while it was a 0.9% increase in 2024, Wadford told USA TODAY. The slowdown in growth of households living paycheck to paycheck can be attributed to the number of lower-income households, especially millennials and Gen X, who are living paycheck to paycheck, said Wadford. There has also been almost no increase in the number of higher- and middle-income households living paycheck to paycheck, the report said. In 2025, 29% of lower-income households live paycheck to paycheck, up from 28.6% in 2023 and 27.1% in 2023. There are also regional differences when it comes to households living paycheck to paycheck. The share of households living paycheck to paycheck increased in the Northeast, which includes New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania. Betty Lin-Fisher is a consumer reporter for USA TODAY.

**CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE
PLANNING AND ZONING DEPARTMENT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

A Public and Virtual Meeting will be conducted before the PLANNING AND ZONING BOARD of the City of Port St. Lucie on **Tuesday, December 2, 2025 at 6:00 pm**, on the following:

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

A. P25-145 CITY OF PSL – LUCA BAY – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN/SMALL SCALE
Property Location: The property is located approximately 1.5 miles south of W Midway Road and between NW East Torino Parkway and Florida’s Turnpike.
Legal Description: A Parcel of Land Lying In Section 13, Township 36 South, Range 39 East and Section 18, Township 36 South, Range 40 East.
This is a request to amend the Future Land Use Map to change the land use designation of approximately 41.73 acres of Low Density Residential (RL) and 4.29 acres of Utility (U) to 46.02 acres of Open Space Recreation (OSR)/ Institutional (I).

ORDINANCE 25-74

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE TO INCLUDE A SMALL-SCALE AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP TO CHANGE THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION OF APPROXIMATELY 46.02 ACRES OF LAND FROM 41.73 ACRES OF LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (RL) AND 4.29 ACRES OF UTILITY (U) TO OPEN SPACE RECREATION (OSR)/INSTITUTIONAL (I) FOR A PARCEL LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS A PARCEL OF LAND LYING IN SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 39 EAST AND SECTION 18, TOWNSHIP 36 SOUTH, RANGE 40 EAST, AND GENERALLY LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 1.5 MILES SOUTH OF W MIDWAY ROAD AND BETWEEN NW EAST TORINO PARKWAY AND FLORIDA’S TURNPIKE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.(P25-145).

B. P25-151 CITY OF PSL – TORINO PARK - COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AMENDMENT/SMALL SCALE
Property Location: The property is located on the northwest corner of NW Blanton Boulevard and NW East Torino Parkway.
Legal Description: Port St Lucie Section 46- First Replat, Tract “F”. This is a request to amend the Future Land Use Map to change the land use designation of approximately 28.81 acres of property from the Medium Density Residential (RM) to Open Space Recreation (OSR).

ORDINANCE 25-75

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE TO INCLUDE A SMALL-SCALE AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP TO CHANGE THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION OF APPROXIMATELY 28.81 ACRES OF LAND FROM MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL (RM) TO OPEN SPACE RECREATION (OSR) FOR A PARCEL LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS PORT ST. LUCIE SECTION 46- FIRST REPLAT, TRACT F, AND GENERALLY LOCATED AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF W BLANTON BOULEVARD AND NW EAST TORINO PARKWAY; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (P25-151).

C. P25-177 CITY OF PSL – NORTHPORT UTILITY SITE – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN/SMALL SCALE
Property Location: The property is located on the west side of NW St. James Drive.
Legal Description: Port St. Lucie Section 25, Block 325, Lots 7 - 10. This is a request to amend the Future Land Use Map to change the land use designation of four (4) parcels totaling approximately 0.92 acres from Residential, Office & Institutional (ROI) to Utility (U).

ORDINANCE 25-73

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE, FLORIDA, AMENDING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF THE CITY OF PORT ST. LUCIE TO INCLUDE A SMALL-SCALE AMENDMENT TO THE FUTURE LAND USE MAP TO CHANGE THE FUTURE LAND USE DESIGNATION OF APPROXIMATELY 0.92 ACRES OF LAND FROM RESIDENTIAL, OFFICE, & INSTITUTIONAL (ROI) TO UTILITY (U) FOR PARCELS OF LAND LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS PORT ST. LUCIE SECTION 25, BLOCK 325, LOTS 7 THROUGH 10, AND GENERALLY LOCATED ON THE WEST SIDE OF NW ST. JAMES DRIVE; PROVIDING FOR CONFLICT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE. (P25-177).

D. P25-172 CITY OF PSL – NORTHPORT UTILITY SITE – REZONING
Property Location: The property is located on the west side of NW St. James Drive.
Legal Description: Port St. Lucie Section 25, Block 325, Lots 7 - 10. This is a request to rezone four (4) parcels, totaling approximately 0.92 acres, from Limited Office & Institutional (LOI) to Utility (U).

E. P24-134 DECORATIVE CONCRETE SPECIALISTS OF SW FLORIDA – SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE
Property Location: The property is located at 2134 Atlantic Commerce Lakes Drive.
Legal Description: Go Team Industrial Park, Unit Three, Block 10, Lots 13 & 14.
This is a request for a Special Exception Use to allow high-density heavy industrial development (concrete plant) in the Industrial (IN) Zoning District. As per 158.136 C (8) – Special Exception Use requirements within Industrial Zoning District of the City Code the use(s) may be permitted following the review and specific approval of the City Council.

F. P25-091 TOWN PLACE – MASTER SIGN PROGRAM
Property Location: This property is located at the southeast corner of the intersection of US Highway 1 and Savannah Club Boulevard.
Legal Description: Parcel 1: That part of Lot 16, Block 3, St. Lucie Gardens, Section 26 and Parcel 2: That portion of Lot 15, Block 3 and Lots 9 and 10, Block 4 of the Plat of St. Lucie Gardens.
This is a request from PSL Town Place Partners, LLC to create a Master Sign Program for Town Place. The proposed sign program provides comprehensive regulations for all commercial and residential façade and monument signs within the Town Place development.

G. P25-135 VRE PSL LANDCO, LLC – FUELING STATION CANOPY – VARIANCE
Property Location: The property is located on the northwest corner of SW Becker Road and SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard.
Legal Description: Parcels A and B of NAU Ranch together with Lot 29, Block 2284 and Tract M of Port St. Lucie Section 33.
This is a request to grant a variance to the Becker Road Overlay District Design Standards Section 3.4 General Requirements - 4. 1. d. which require a fueling station canopy length to not exceed 120 linear feet. The property owner seeks a variance of 34 feet to allow for a fueling station canopy length of 154 linear feet.

H. P25-137 VRE PSL LANDCO, LLC – FUEL & CONVENIENCE STORE – SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE
Property Location: The property is located on the northwest corner of SW Becker Road and SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard.
Legal Description: Parcels A and B of NAU Ranch together with Lot 29, Block 2284 and Tract M of Port St. Lucie Section 33.
This is a request for a Special Exception Use to allow a retail convenience store and automobile fuel sales for a fuel service station within the General Commercial (CG) zoning district per Section 158.124(C)(10) and (12) of the City Code.

I. P25-138 VRE PSL LANDCO, LLC – McDONALDS – SPECIAL EXCEPTION USE
Property Location: The property is located at the northwest corner of SW Becker Road and SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard.
Legal Description: Parcels A and B of NAU Ranch together with Lot 29, Block 2284 and Tract M of Port St. Lucie Section 33.
This is a request for a Special Exception Use to allow a drive-through service within the General Commercial (CG) zoning district per Section 158.124(C)(14) of the City Code.

J. P25-143 VRE PSL LANDCO, LLC – McDONALDS – VARIANCE
Property Location: The property is located at the northwest corner of SW Becker Road and SW Port St. Lucie Boulevard.
Legal Description: Parcels A and B of NAU Ranch together with Lot 29, Block 2284 and Tract M of Port St. Lucie Section 33.
This is a request to grant a variance to the Becker Road Overlay District Design Standards Section 3.4 General Requirements - 2.1.a, which requires a setback or “Build-To Zone” of 30-40 feet. The property owner seeks a variance of 13.3 feet to allow for a setback for the McDonalds building of 53.3 feet.

K. P25-181 BARRACUDA STATIONS, LLC (MARATHON) – VARIANCE
Property Location: The property is located at 10453 S US Highway 1.
Legal Description: A portion of Block 1, St. Lucie Gardens Plat lying in Township 37 South, Range 40 East, Section 12.
This is a request to grant a variance of 4 feet to allow an existing monument sign to remain in its current location of 6 feet from the side property line, where a setback of 10 feet is required per the City Code.

L. P25-199 CITY OF PSL – CHAPTER 158.110 (G) INSTITUTIONAL – ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT
This is a request to amend Chapter 158.110 (G) of the Zoning Code to provide for a maximum building height of 65 feet for publicly owned or operated buildings or uses in an Institutional Zoning District.

- You may attend the meeting in person and express your views. If you do not wish to attend you may file any comments you desire in writing or via mail. The Planning and Zoning Board and the City Council will consider your comments.
- If you would like to speak on the item at the meeting and do not desire to attend in person, please contact the Clerk’s Office at 772-871-5157 and TDD Number 772-873-6340 by 11:00 a.m. on the day of the meeting and a staff member will provide you with the required call-in information.

NOTICE: No stenographic record by a certified court reporter will be made of the foregoing meeting. Accordingly, if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the City Council, board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. (F.S. 286.0105)

NOTICE: Public and Press are invited to review all the backup for meetings. Copies are available in the City Clerk’s Office.

NOTICE: In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, persons needing special accommodation to participate in this proceeding should contact the City Clerk’s Office at 772-871-5157.

AS A COURTESY TO THE PEOPLE RECORDING THE MEETING, PLEASE TURN ALL CELL PHONES TO SILENT.

TR-42930719