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Candidate forum: Judicial hopeful Jack McDonald makes a point as opponent Marla Parker smiles during a candidate forum to be cablecast on MetroVision's Channel 12.

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Placing the county road commission, an autonomous body whose commissioners are appointed by the board of commissioners, under the jurisdiction of the board, would save money, Zolton says.

"There is going to be a revenue shortfall in Oakland County," Zolton predicted. "This means belt-tightening and part of that belt-tightening can be accomplished by getting rid of duplication."

Encouraging early retirement of county personnel at all levels would also save money, Zolton suggests.

Moffitt admits that placing the Road Commission under the auspices of the board would save money. But Farmington Hills resi-

dents have had a good relationship with the Commission, he says, and the district has "no immediate necessity or incentive for such a consolidation."

The real concern in the roads and development issue is "developing infrastructure in a controlled fashion while maintaining quality of life," Moffitt said.

Curbing crime is another issue. Zolton says that courts should hand "swift and sure" punishments to offenders because "the roots of crime run so deep."

But Moffitt, citing improvements such as adding law enforcement officers and increasing security in county courthouses, has a hard time believing that the County Board of Com-

missioners has been anything less than supportive of law enforcement.

"We've stood behind (law enforcement) and will continue to do so," he said.

The one point which the two candidates for District 18 county commissioner do agree upon is that such issues should not be approached along party lines.

"Local government is non-partisan, and since the legislative body uses a consensus process, it's not helpful to politicize issues," Moffitt said. And Zolton agrees.

He added, "There's nothing political about solid waste, transportation, parks and recreation. These are people issues and they need cooperation, not confrontation."

McDonald, a former Oakland County commissioner, former Oakland County assistant prosecutor, and a trial attorney since 1973 said he spends most of his time either preparing for trial or in the courtroom doing criminal, civil or personal injury work. Parker spends her time in court handling family practice or criminal matters, and also serves as one of three part-time magistrates for the 47th District Court, hearing traffic cases and other minor matters. Both are married and have families.

There was little controversy in the forum, although McDonald took Parker to task for saying she supported the court expansion before a meeting of two city councils in March, but now takes the position that "the voters made the decision that we will not expand our courthouse."

"I wish, Marla, you'd be consistent on this point," McDonald said. Both candidates believe the court needs a third judge, but admit the issue is out of their hands.

Both also deferred comment on a question about their personal views on abortion, saying that judicial ethics forbid a judge from discussing any issues which

might come before the court.

"This is the type of thing you have to stay away from," McDonald added, saying that judges are duty bound to follow the law. "Personal opinions have no bearing."

In the area of community activities, McDonald said he has "always been involved in civic matters" including chairing one of the largest studies undertaken in the city of Farmington Hills — its Year 2000 report. Parker noted that she has been involved with a number of legal groups including one called SAVE, Strategies Against Violent Encounters and also belongs to the local Optimist club.

When asked whether this job might be a stepping stone to other elective judicial posts, Parker would not be pinned down on what the future might hold, saying she is concentrating only on this judicial race.

"The district court is a court of the people — a place you can have a positive impact on the community," she said.

McDonald said he would absolutely not run for a higher office. "I have absolutely no desire or ambition to go beyond this," he added.



David Moffitt



Albert Zolton

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■ Urban sprawl — He believes this is a local issue more than state one. "I think state can do something to control or limit it. I think the economy will put the limits on it (urban sprawl)."

■ Term limitations — Jurezyk said: "The most effective term limit is the voter at the polls. The voter knows best."

■ Welfare — Jurezyk, who once lived in Hazel Park, said he saw that people would pass up jobs

because they would lose Medicaid. "I think someone on welfare should be on a job program or education program," he said. "I think we need to make sure some type of health care is available."

Jurezyk, who holds a juris doctor from Wayne State University, said he plans a campaign literature drop later this month. The county Democratic Party is also putting out literature, he said.

LOUIS FÉRAUD

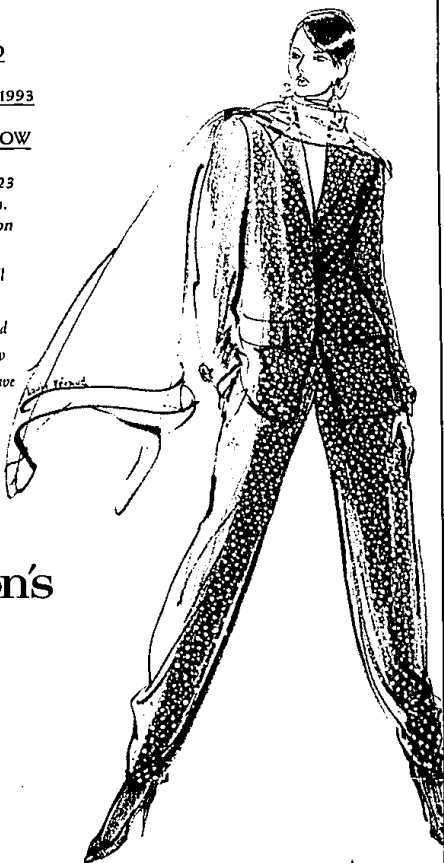
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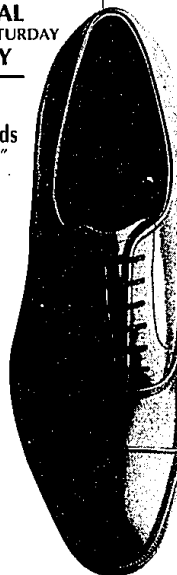
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