

Moffitt campaigns on record, experience, goals

BY BILL COUTANT
STAFF WRITER

County Commissioner David Moffitt said he isn't campaigning against his opponent, but rather for what he believes.

And so far in the 18th District Republican primary race, Moffitt hasn't seen much opposition from his "stealth" rival, Farmington Hills resident Sally Osann.

Efforts by the Observer to interview Osann have failed, but Moffitt, who is seeking his sixth term, said he's not taking anything for granted.

"I'm campaigning on my record, my goals for the county and my experience," the attorney said.

Moffitt, 41, said he sees his role on the commission as a facilitator, often using his legal skills in fashioning county policies and programs.

"The challenge has been to hold down taxes while maintain-

COUNTY COMMISSION

ing a high quality of life in the county," he said. "And that's not easy when you've already made spending reductions of 25 percent in every department."

Moffitt said coupled with the county's belt tightening is the problem of a smaller increase in tax revenue.

"The strong SEV increases of the '80s are a thing of the past," he said. "We cannot depend on revenue growth and yet we continue to have population growth."

And with that growth comes the inevitable problems of more demand for services and, in particular, more traffic on the county's roads.

"It would take us 55 years to adequately repair our county roads," he said, adding that that doesn't even account for future

road problems and repairs. "Our economic development will not outstrip the demand for services," Moffitt, who is on the executive council of the Southeastern Michigan Council of Governments, said regional planning will play an increasingly important role, especially in the areas of transportation, air quality assurance and waste management.

But he wants to make sure the seven-county body remains answerable to voters. Moffitt wants to increase Oakland County's role in SEMCOG commensurate with its financial contribution to the body.

"We have only three votes out of 60 on SEMCOG," he said. "And yet we contribute 20-25 percent of the money."

Moffitt, who was elected to his



David Moffitt

seat in 1984 after his mother Lillian retired, said OCOMS, the county's emergency medical services communication network, has been another troublesome area for the commission. Because the county was not legally mandated to provide the service, it became a "gray area" and subject to being cut from the budget, Moffitt said.

But because of the need for the system, which coordinates the services of 91 EMS services in Oakland County, five in Macomb County and 12 emergency rooms, the county and hospitals are working on a way to keep it in place.

Moffitt said that and other services will be needed to cover the large increase in medical runs.

He also said a new jail, addition to the courthouse, a prisoner boot camp, expanded deputy services and special countywide drug and auto theft units have been added

Recall from page 1A

Lichtman, who was informed of the recall filing by the Oakland County clerk's office Tuesday, was not expecting the move.

"I was surprised that Mrs. Stein filed. Especially after we had committed to negotiations in good faith. This sounds like intimidation to me."

Stein and more than 100 other residents had been vocal in their opposition to the project since last summer, when it first came

before the city's planning commission.

At the June 29 city council meeting, Lichtman, council members Joanne Smith, Jon Grant and Nancy Bates voted to approve the project. But the council reversed itself July 11, voting 6-1 (with Lichtman opposing) to reconsider the issue.

The council directed city manager Bill Costick to meet with citizens and the developer, Gary Jon-

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Hills Mayor Larry Lichtman

na, to resolve problems.

Lichtman said he had thought that once the issue was reconsid-

ered there would not be a recall.

"I think it sends all the wrong messages," Lichtman said. "I haven't talked to other council members, but I have to believe that they will see this as negative. It sounds like they are trying to intimidate the other council members who voted for it. But I'm not going to let it change how I behave. I still think we can settle this amicably."

Stein said if council members felt intimidated by the prospect of a recall, so much the better.

"We are an educated consti-

tuency that really resents being ignored," she said.

Stein said another reason she would have preferred a referendum to a recall is that it takes about 2,000 signatures to put a referendum on the ballot, but more than 6,000, which represents one-third of the votes cast in the most recent gubernatorial election, to place a recall on the ballot. In addition, those circulating the recall petitions have only 90 days from the date of the first signature until the petitions must be filed.

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