

In 15th District county race

Candidates eye cuts in spending

Both candidates vying to represent the 15th county commissioner district want to rein in government spending.

Democrat Albert Keenan is challenging incumbent Republican Lillian Moffitt in the 15th District. The district includes southwest Bloomfield Township, Franklin, Bingham Farms, the eastern part of Farmington Hills and the northwest part of Southfield.

Keenan, 55, of 6750 Franklin Road, operates an insurance agency in Southfield.

He has not previously run for public office. Keenan has been vice-president of the Wing Lake Farms Homeowners Association and a board member of Boy Scouts of America.

Lillian Moffitt, 6238 Cathedral Drive, Bloomfield Township, has served on the Oakland County Board of Commissioners since 1972. She was elected to represent the 15th District in 1972, 1974 and 1976.

She was the first woman to serve as vice-chairman of the board in 1977-78.

Mrs. Moffitt has been on the board of directors of the Oakland County Volunteer Bureau from 1973-74; served as vice-president of the Republican Women's Federation of Michigan in 1972; served as president of the Bloomfield Republican Women's Club from 1968-70; and as vice-president of the Junior Women's Association for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, 1969-70.

She is a member of the American Association of University Women, Project Hope, the League of Women Voters, the Women's Association for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Friends of the Bloomfield Township Library and the Countryside Branch of Women's National Farm and Garden Association.

THE CANDIDATES were asked to respond in writing to the following questions:

1) If elected, would you support continued financing of the prosecutor's organized crime task force?

2) What do you see as major ramifications on county government of the passage of the Tish or Headlee amendments? If cutbacks are required, what services or programs could be reduced?

3) After four years under a "unified government" under an elected county executive, what is your assessment of Oakland County government? Should

the county continue under a county executive, opt for an appointed county manager or go back to traditional government?

4) What would be your chief priorities, if elected?

KEENAN
CRIME STRIKE FORCE: As county commissioner, I will support a crime task force. I feel that this should be a prime priority.

However, at present its function and its composition are not as complete as they could be. I feel the task force should be headed by a law enforcement agency, (my choice would be the sheriff's office), with teams made up of state, county and local police and the prosecutor's office as well, with these teams being trained to work together. Then they would have the expertise needed at all levels to be able to function as a unified body.

I strongly believe that the task force as well as the sheriff's department should be removed from the arena of partisan politics. A unified task force would eliminate the fragmentation of effort as well as the natural quest for credit sought by each individual agency.

We must recognize that crime is one of the most critical problems facing our county today, and more must be done now.

AMENDMENT RATIFICATION: I firmly believe tax reform is needed, but feel neither of the proposed plans, Tish or Headlee amendments, answers our needs.

I feel the Tish amendment would be too drastic to the average taxpayer since it would eliminate the property tax credit from the state income tax and would severely limit vital services (schools, hospitals, and law enforcement).

I don't feel the Headlee amendment is the answer, but at least it would have frozen taxes and the recent two-cent gas tax increase would not have been permitted. (Take notice—this tax passed a month before elections).

Whether or not the Tish or Headlee amendments pass, we must employ belt-tightening measures. To eliminate fiscal waste in county government, this means consolidating positions and jobs in certain areas and limiting bureaucracy.

In my opinion, with any tax cut, you can be sure the first departments to

suffer would be schools, law enforcement and hospitals. Rather than take this approach, we should work for a smaller and more efficient government.

COUNTY EXECUTIVE: I feel that the county should continue under an elected county executive. Here again, I feel to do the best possible job, both the county executive and the county commissioners should be elected on a non-partisan basis. Remember, they represent all the people, so we should eliminate partisan name tags.

CHIEF PRIORITIES: When elected my chief priorities will be:

- Law and order.
- Environmental control. I feel there should be a strong land use bill which would protect Oakland County's wooded lands, rivers, lakes and streams.

- Delinquency and jobless youngsters: let's get some problem youngsters off the street and on the road to becoming useful citizens. Oakland County, which has many lakes and wooded areas which pose an environmental problem, could put youngsters to work.

With federal or state funding, probationers and jobless young people could work to upgrade our environment through anti-pollution and conservation work programs. It would be better to combine these two problems now for a constructive solution than to predetermine that the only answer is to provide bigger jails later.

Remember the OCC's? That program resulted in projects of building and planning long ago which are still enjoyed today. A secondary answer for our youth is more and better trade schools funded by federal and state monies. Let's help these kids to develop an attitude of worth and responsibility.

MOFFITT
CRIME STRIKE FORCE: Yes. My evaluation of the recent task force report and discussions with law enforcement agencies at various levels, reaffirmed the fact that there is a need for the continuation of the Organized Crime Task Force.

The fact that we have an old line of organized crime in our county poses an insidious threat to our citizens. Organized crime is a serious problem.

(Continued on page 17C)

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Further information about classes and registration may be obtained from the community services department, 642-4010.

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