Late-filing primary candidates pile up election penalty fines

BY PAT MURPHY
STAFF WRITER

Oakland County commissioner David L. Moffitt, R-Farmington Hills, faces more than $400 in fines for missing the deadline for filing the post primary campaign finance report, according to the elections division of the county clerk's office.

As of Friday afternoon, Moffitt had not filed the required report, due Sept. 3, itemizing contributions and expenses for the August 4 primary election.

Moffitt was by no means the only candidate to be assessed the $25 per business day for missing a filing deadline. But his was the largest bill of the campaign cycle for county commission candidates, according to records.

And the meter is still running. Moffitt faces a $25 per business day fee up to a maximum of $500, which would run through Thursday.

"We're pretty tough on candidates who don't meet the reporting deadlines," said G. William Caddell, deputy county clerk. "If ... hospitalized or something like that, we might waive the penalty. But if they don't have a good excuse, we collect.

Caddell, who was a county commissioner for 13 years before becoming second-in-command behind Lynn D. Allen, knows how a candidate can miss a filing deadline. "In my first campaign, I missed the deadline by a couple of days," he said. "But it was a special election, and there was some confusion about the deadlines.

"But I paid the fine," Caddell said. "It should be a no-brainer."

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>
> *G. William Caddell*
> *deputy county clerk*

Moffitt, a lawyer, was unavailable for comment Friday. His secretary said he was in court and could not return calls.

Tough primary

He was in a tough primary campaign in the 18th District that includes the northern portion of Farmington Hills against Linda Jolicoeur, who was on time with her finance reports.

Democrat Ryan J. Gesund — who is running against Moffitt in the November election — filed both his preprimary and postprimary campaign finance reports on time.

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According to election records, other candidates fined for missing campaign finance report deadlines, and the amounts, include:

- **District 1** (Oxford, Brandon, Groveland, Rose and Holly townships): Republican Steve Tolliver, $25, and Democrat Tom Athans, $50.
- **District 3** (Orion, Oakland and Addison townships): Republican Lawrence A. Obrecht, $175.
- **District 4** (parts of Independence and Waterford townships): Republican Frank Millard, $25.
- **District 5** (Waterford and part of West Bloomfield): Republican Gene Seets, $100.
- **District 15** (Birmingham and Berkley): Republican Alan Kroll, $250.
- **District 19** (Farmington and south Farmington Hills): Republican Ben Marks, $125.

NEWS BRIEFS

■ SPECIAL ADVOCATES SOUGHT

Court Appointed Special Advocates is seeking concerned citizens who want to get involved in an extremely rewarding project in Oakland County.

Men and women volunteers are needed to work as CASAs, to help insure the right of children to safe homes with caring adults. Working in pairs, CASAs assist the Family Court of the 42nd District in making decisions as to the appropriateness of legal guardianship placements.

CASA is recognized as an outstanding advocacy for children and has been dubbed the "eyes and ears of the Court." The leadership and ongoing training for this worthwhile project is provided by the National Council of Jewish Women, Greater Detroit Section. Membership in NCJW is not a requirement of participation.

The next training session for new CASAs will be held Thursday, Oct. 8 and Friday, Oct. 9, at the NCJW office at 26400 Lahser Road, Suite 100, Southfield. Please contact Rosevelyn Lieberman at (248)355-3300 for further information.

■ SPIRITUALITY AWARDS

Sister Collaborative has announced it's interfaith list of 25 Spirited Victory Achievers for 1998. The women were honored at the fourth annual Women in Ministry and Spirituality Spirited Victory Convocation and Achievers Luncheon Saturday, Sept. 26 at the Michigan Inn in Southfield.

The 1998 Achievers are: Dr. Schavi Ali, Reichelle Anderson, Diane Courtney, Nancy Davis, Dr. Carole Dixon, Stella Dolm, Dollie Drew, Rev. Argentina Glasgow, Susan Hands-Redd, Leona Hunt, Patricia Harris Johnson, Lillian Johnson, Sallie Johnson, Pat Kolon, Nermina Kurtoonic, Rev. Dr. Iona Locke, Karen Love, Peggy Posa, Oonah Ryan, Rev. Opal Simmons, Dr. Mary Speed, Cassandra Spratling, Mary Sweeney, Rose Williams, Gwendolyn Winston, Rev. Londen Winters, Gloria Wise and Fannie Wright. The luncheon is co-sponsored by the Detroit Medical Center, Unity North and St. John Health System.

The convocation is held each year to celebrate and honor work of women in ministry and spirituality as well as men who support them. Rev. Linda Dominik of Unity North, the Convocation Weaver, created a tapestry of faiths to explore this year's theme "Spiritually Connected: Beyond Differences." The Convocation discussed where men stood today in support of women in ministry.

Rev. Robert E. Kennerly of SpiritLove Ministries International was facilitator.