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Unopposed Moffitt seeks more county efficiencies

BY WILLIAM COUTANT
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Oakland County commissioner David Moffitt looks at his political career philosophically.

That may not be surprising for a former philosophy major from the University of Michigan who went to the University of Detroit Law School and is a practicing attorney.

But Moffitt, 43, is running unopposed in the 18th District, which he has served for 12 years.

"I sometimes get frustrated with government too," he said. "But my hope is to find a viable way to achieve an equitable allotment of resources and services to the citizens."

Moffitt and his wife Kathleen have two sons, David, 6, and Drake, 4. The attorney has political tradition in his family as the successor in the 18th to his mother Lillian.

He says the county has changed, becoming more efficient with the limitations of finances and the desire of citizens to curb big government. Still, county government has a quite, but needed role in people's lives.

"Because I'm running unopposed, this has been more of an informational campaign," he said. "I want people to know that I've voted for tax cuts, even though on some occasions I've voted with the minority."

As he becomes more adept at mixing work with politics, Moffitt said he has both spend more time working as a commissioner



David Moffitt

and becoming more accessible, and knowing his personal and professional priorities.

"That's one thing about this job," he said. "You have to be accessible. I mostly don't directly solve individual problems, but when someone calls, I make sure I direct them to the right person or find out what the problem is and see if there is a solution."

Another lesson Moffitt has learned: "Anytime you can find time for your family, you take it," he said. "with my schedule, it's not always possible to spend as much time as you'd like at home."

Moffitt said he is comfortable with the commission's present

role and isn't looking for more authority.

"We're the sixth largest employer in Oakland County, with some 4,500 employees and a \$500 million budget," Moffitt said. "And we've just gotten a \$100 million community mental health delivery system."

Those and other reasons make it necessary for professional management and staffing, something a 25-member commission can not directly oversee on a daily basis, he said.

County government can influence, but on its own, can't solve all problems, he said.

Roads funding is mostly a function of state government. Even though Oakland County has become the state's economic engine with the most economic growth, it had no direct control or additional source of road money for new and old roads.

"The demographics of travel have changed, with more people working at home," he said. "Unfortunately, that will not help us enough in the short run."

Holding down taxes while making services more efficient and keeping the county's far flung law enforcement operations in top condition are two of Moffitt's priorities.

Despite the county's many complex problems, Moffitt said he is optimistic about its future thanks to the quiet group of commissioners.

"But it's much more than a part-time job," he said.

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