

# Veteran Moffitt slides into 8th Oakland County term

BY LARRY O'CONNOR  
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When his 6-year-old son accidentally dropped a handful of Oreo cookies on the floor at Farmington Hills City Hall,

David Moffitt gingerly knelt down to pick them up crumbs and all.

It was probably the most the Republican incumbent had to exert himself during the general election campaign.

The 14-year commission veteran swept to victory Tuesday night, downing Democratic challenger Ryan Gesund in the 18th District race. The Farmington Hills attorney had 10,686 votes to Gesund's 6,768.

The 8,216 voters who cast a straight-GOP ticket helped. So, too, did the mass of conservative voters who came out to shoot down Proposal B, the assisted suicide measure.

"County commission districts were configured through a partisan process," said Moffitt, who was joined by his sons David, 8, and Drake, 6. "There is little doubt that the make up of a district is a reflection of that process."

However, Moffitt added, "The top of the ticket doesn't markedly affect the bottom of the ticket where the county commission is located."

Gov. Engler's overwhelming victory certainly didn't hurt.

Moffitt's biggest test came in August when he survived a tough GOP primary against Linda Jolicœur.

His not filing a campaign financial statement after the primary dogged him through the general election race. He also hasn't submitted his pre-general election statement to the Oakland County clerk yet.

He's already paid a \$500 fine for not turning in his post-primary statement. Voters still found him to be a fine choice, though.

"I've never been asked about campaign finance statements by constituents," Moffitt said. "The only people who are interested in those disclosures are politicians and newspaper people, which are important components in the process. ... We will comply with the law."

Gesund, making his first attempt at elected office, campaigned visibly and vigorously in the district that covers the north part of Farmington Hills. He went door-to-door and visited seven or so precincts Tuesday.

"I had two or three people say they were going to vote for me because I was waiting out in the cold," said Gesund before the first precincts were counted

■ **'He's been a gentleman. That's something less frequent in the political process these days.'**

*Commissioner David Moffitt  
—About his opponent Ryan Gesund*

"I'm waiting for Precinct 8; I did a lot of walking door-to-door there," he said.

His eagerness drew praise from his opponent. Gesund regularly attended county commission meetings and frequently peppered his opponent with questions.

"He's been a gentleman," Moffitt said. "That's something less frequent in the political process these days."

around 8:30 p.m.

Around midnight, long after everyone else had left, Gesund stood guard at the city clerk's

desk waiting for the five remaining precincts to come in. At that point, Moffitt was beating him by nearly a 2-to-1 margin.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BRISLEN

**Patience:** David Moffitt and son Drake wait for election results at Farmington Hills City Hall.

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