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Moffitt campaigns on record, experience, goals

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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-

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

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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

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



David Moffitt

during his tenure.

Moffitt also battled to provide 90 additional seats in the county courthouse.

As to his opponent, Moffitt said he's been frustrated in attempts to debate her on issues.

"One friend called her 'no show

Sally O,' " he said.

Osann has been something of a no show at the polls as well, casting votes in only four elections since 1986.

In fact, Moffitt said he hasn't figured out why he's facing a primary challenge, but thinks it might have something to do with his public questioning of the need for a trip to the Netherlands by six Oakland County Parks Commissioners last summer at taxpayer expense.

"This primary may be the price I have to pay for that," he said.

Moffitt has been endorsed by many area Republicans including Congressman Joe Knollenberg, county Executive L. Brooks Patterson, state Rep. Jan Dolan, Farmington Hills Mayor Larry Lichtman and Hills Councilman Terry Sever.

Moffitt lives in Farmington Hills with his wife Kathleen and their two children.