

Sheriff Victor Moore, whom he credits with instilling his belief in public service, died in June. The challenge from Roberts ensured that he had to continue campaigning until November while helping mend the rift in the local Republican Party that developed during the primary campaigns.

"I think a great deal of the unifying of the party has taken place," Moore said. "A lot of the Republicans that did not vote for me in the primary voted for me in November and that is a strong statement (of party unity) that I feel good about. It's great going into the holiday season and to have a tough year in the rear-view mirror."

He welcomes the challenge of leading an increasingly diverse community and said he will continue with the leadership style that has served him well.

"We have an opportunity to really mold this community each day into what it is going to become," Moore said. "In many other places the struggle is just to maintain population or not lose what you have. That's not the case in Boone County."

He thinks the county will have to become more aggressive in partnering with the private sector to fuel economic growth.

Incentives that do not require a financial contribution from the county, he said, such as tax increment financing and more liberal zoning regulations, can help pave the way for development.

He is a board member and past president of the Ohio Kentucky Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI) and is on the board of the Tri-County Economic Development Corporation.

He said the working rapport he has established with those agencies helps stimulate the ongoing economic expansion and infrastructure development in Boone County.

"An example is South Airfield Road, which we will be bidding and begin construction on over the next 18 months," Moore said. "That \$18 million project will be completed without the use of state funds." A key piece of that project will be funded through an OKI grant.

Moore has not been afraid to take a stance on controversial issues, as evidenced by his support of the ill-fated parks tax initiative in 2008.

"I believe the judge-executive should drive the agenda and offer new ideas," Moore said. "Just because you float an idea, it doesn't mean it will be supported by the county commissioners or by the community."

He respects the opinions of his constituents and said those voices strongly influence his decisions regarding the direction of the county.

"I believe it is healthy to offer the vision and respond according to the community input," Moore said. "The parks tax is a good example. That won't be back on the ballot."

Other issues that Moore expects will draw a lot of attention during the next term include revamping the Public Safety Communications Center, which oversees 911 calls; keeping a tight rein on county spending; and the focus on a regional approach to providing some essential services.

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