

Coleman must act aggressively in State House

July 25, 2010

When Vincent Gregory decided to run for the state Senate, that left vacant his position as state representative in the 35th House District, which includes Southfield and Lathrup Village.

Hoping to fill that void are two Democrats who both have served on the Southfield school board, and who claim they have the experience to perform well in office. Rudy Hobbs has made youth an issue, pointing to having young children. Opponent Eric Coleman, who has served as an Oakland County commissioner and has an adult son, is banking on his experience.

If experience alone were a criterion, it would be a toss up, because it is what you do with that experience that counts. Coleman has demonstrated the ability to transform experience into action, and that's just what the district needs.

What was disturbing about Hobbs, despite his enthusiasm, was his almost sole focus on education. One of the first things that he said at a candidate night was that, if elected, he would work on getting tutoring for children. As important as that is, the state has more serious crises facing it.

Coleman understands the need for structural change in the state, but he isn't about to abandon existing businesses as the state seeks to diversify itself. If voters tap him Aug. 3, he will face off in November against the sole Republican to file, Michael Weinenger.

Hopefully, Eric Coleman will aggressively pursue those changes as a member of the state House.