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Joe McKee knocks Jan Pye off Desert Hot Springs council

DESERT HOT SPRINGS — Incumbent Mayor Pro Tem Scott Matas managed to keep his seat in Tuesday's election, but Councilwoman Jan Pye was knocked out of the race after a strong showing by challenger Joe McKee, according to unofficial final results.

"I'd given this race to God about a week and a half ago, and I'll wait to get the answer," Pye said earlier in the evening before the numbers put her well behind McKee.

PHOTOS: [Palm Springs voters visit the polls](#)

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"We stressed the economic situation and the need to improve the median income," he said. They also focused on the financial health of the city. "Presently, we are spending a lot more than we are bringing in, and that is an issue," said McKee, a retired corporate manager.

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Another factor that resonated with voters was the fact that "I have been able to work on things without getting into conflict over matters that you take personally," McKee added.

Despite having raised more money in the Desert Hot Springs mayoral race, Councilman Adam Sanchez was unable to oust incumbent Mayor Yvonne Parks.

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As of Oct. 19, Parks had raised \$18,740 in campaign contributions, spent \$27,136 and has \$3,396 in cash on hand. Sanchez raised \$19,057 in campaign contributions, spent \$17,992 and has \$1,065 cash in hand.

Parks was first elected to office in 2004 as a councilwoman before winning the mayoral seat in 2007. Sanchez, first elected to council in 2011, ran against Parks for mayor once before in 2007.

Parks said she was not completely confident heading into election night, citing Sanchez's aggressive campaigning. In Sanchez's last attempt at the mayoral seat, he gained the support of voters by capitalizing on the frustration of voters for what he called an apparent lack of accountability at City Hall.

Along with his political ally Councilman Russell Betts, Sanchez stuck to the same strategy this time around as he continued to critique the mayor during City Council meetings and on the internet.

"Hopefully, the voters can see the truth, and what this council has done for the community by moving the city forward," Parks said.



Desert Hot Springs Mayor-elect Yvonne Parks and incumbent Councilwoman Jan Pye react after Parks won her election Tuesday. Pye was defeated in her bid to retain her council seat. / Michael Snyder/The Desert Sun



From left, Desert Hot Springs council candidate Joe McKee, volunteer Gabe Suarez and mayoral candidate Adam Sanchez monitor early voting tallies Tuesday night. / Michael Snyder/The Desert Sun

Here are the unofficial results from the Riverside County Registrar of Voters as of 10:52 p.m.

DESERT HOT SPRINGS MAYOR

100 percent of precincts reporting

Yvonne Parks 45.15%

Adam Sanchez 40.37%

John-Paul Valdez 14.48%

DESERT HOT SPRINGS COUNCIL (2 seats)

100 percent of precincts reporting

Joe McKee 31.26%

Scott Matas 27.97%

Jan Pye 25.88%

Robert Bentley 15.81%