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## Desert Hot Springs mayor race tightens

**Incumbent Yvonne Parks now leads challenger Adam Sanchez by only 27 votes**



*Yvonne Parks, left, and Adam Sanchez / Courtesy photos*

**DESERT HOT SPRINGS** — Mayor Yvonne Parks' election victory may not be so secure.

The latest results from the Riverside County registrar show Councilman Adam Sanchez has substantially closed the gap between them and now trails Parks by only 27 votes.

**[ELECTION RESULTS: Get the latest tallies at mydesert.com/election](http://mydesert.com/election)**

Another 700 ballots need to be counted countywide. About 140 of them are from Desert Hot Springs.

The latest tally shows Parks now has 1,003 votes, or 43.46 percent. Sanchez has 976 votes, or 42.29 percent.

Economist John-Paul Valdez, a third candidate in the mayoral campaign, has 329 votes, or 14.25 percent.

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The countywide results, released Thursday night, reflect the counting of about 3,000 vote-by-mail ballots that were not tallied before polls closed Tuesday.

Sanchez has continued to close the gap since the first round of results were released, which showed Parks leading by 11.5 percentage points.

**Additional results will be released Tuesday.**

Desert Hot Springs voters already ousted one incumbent in Tuesday's election.

Voters opted for challenger Joe McKee, a Democrat who serves on several city commissions, over Councilwoman Jan Pye. Mayor Pro Tem Scott Matas retained his seat.

Parks, Matas and Pye campaigned together in this election.

When a council seat is vacated within 90 days of an election, Desert Hot Springs municipal code says the seat would be filled by whoever received the next highest amount of votes.

Under that scenario, Pye would be back on council to fill Sanchez's council term, which runs through 2015.

