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The Desert Sun

Nov. 9, 2013 12:10 PM | [12 Comments](#)

## **Adam Sanchez moves ahead of Yvonne Parks in Desert Hot Springs mayoral race**



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

**DESERT HOT SPRINGS** — Councilman Adam Sanchez eked out a 12-vote upset of incumbent Mayor Yvonne Parks to wrest the office, the Riverside County Registrar confirmed at 11:49 a.m. Saturday with unofficial final vote totals.

Sanchez received 1,042 votes, or 43.2 percent, to Parks' 1,030 votes, or 42.7 percent.

Economist John-Paul Valdez, a third candidate in the mayoral race, received 340 votes — 14.1 percent.

Sanchez trailed Parks by a mere 27 votes as of Saturday morning with 700 ballots left to be counted countywide. Of those, about 140 were from Desert Hot Springs.

About 3,000 vote-by-mail ballots across the county remained untallied as polls closed Tuesday.

Parks led by 11.5 percentage points following the initial count, but Sanchez narrowed the gap with every update.

Desert Hot Springs voters ousted their first incumbent Tuesday, when Democrat Joe McKee — a familiar face on several city commissions — defeated Councilwoman Jan Pye. Mayor Pro Tem Scott Matas retained his seat.

Parks, Matas and Pye campaigned together 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.