

November 11th, 2013 | by [Erica Felci](#) | [4 Comments](#)

What happens if DHS Mayor Yvonne Parks seeks a recount?

After Desert Hot Springs Councilman Adam Sanchez pulled off a come-from-behind election victory over Mayor Yvonne Parks, a big question looms:

Will Parks invest in a recount?

There are no automatic recounts, no matter how narrow a victory might be.



So if Parks — or anyone else, for that matter — wants to challenge the election results, a formal request must be made within five days of the official certification.

That certification is expected Tuesday, when the Riverside County Registrar of Voters reopens following the holiday weekend.

Let's assume, for this blog's sake, that Parks does push for a recount.

The registrar's office will provide her with a daily cost estimate based on the number of staffers they think are needed to sort through the 2,412 votes cast in Tuesday's mayoral race.

The recount will last as long as Parks pays for the recount. If the recount is called off at any point, the certified election results will stand.

The unofficial, final tally, released Saturday, showed Sanchez received 1,042 votes, or 43.2 percent, to Parks' 1,030 votes, or 42.7 percent.

Economist John-Paul Valdez got 340 votes.

The last local recount happened last year, when Cathedral City mayoral challenger Chip Yarborough lost to Mayor Kathy DeRosa.

Preliminary vote tallies had Yarborough leading, at one point by as much as 201 votes. But final results put DeRosa over the top by just 13 votes.

Yarborough opted to pay \$2,800 a day for the pricier manual recount instead of relying on the election machines. After one day, and no significant changes in the tally, he called off the recount and urged his supporters to “support the council as we move forward.”

A similar situation happened in April 2010, after now-Councilman Scott Hines beat planning commission Ira Laufer by 11 votes.

Laufer called off the recount after just seven hours, paying about \$400, The Desert Sun reported at the time.

Parks told The Desert Sun this weekend that she had talked to an attorney and DeRosa about the idea of a recount.

Last week, she also seemed committed to the recount.

“I will challenge them. If the final vote comes, on Tuesday and he overtakes me, there will be a challenge,” Parks said Friday. “I want them to check the signatures. ... I don’t trust him. There’s just something fishy.”

Sanchez, who had trailed Parks in the initial election night tallies, has expressed confidence in the results.

“The votes will be legit,” he said last week.

The looming recount comes as Desert Hot Springs leaders are discussing a projected \$3.37 million budget shortfall and a potential bankruptcy.

Council members are expected to discuss the fiscal crisis at a special public meeting Tuesday. It starts at 4 p.m. at the council chambers at the Carl May Community Center, 11711 West Drive.