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ELECTIONS

Democratic challenger takes lead in Marion County commissioner race



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Sara Duncan has taken the lead in the race for Marion County Commissioner Position 1 against incumbent Kevin Cameron in the latest round of results released on Nov. 18.

Duncan, a Democrat, has taken a 92-vote lead from Cameron, a Republican, out of the 138,879 votes received as of Nov. 18 in the Nov. 3 election.

In the race for commissioner Position 2, Democrat challenger Maria Hinojos Pressey extended her lead against incumbent Republican Colm Willis to 334 votes as of the Nov. 18 results.

A Democrat hasn't been elected to one of the three Marion County commissioner positions since 1976.

Both races have gone back and forth since election night.

The Position 1 race is within the .2 percent necessary for an automatic recount. The Position 2 race is now over that threshold.

Cameron, a former state representative, was appointed to the commissioner position in 2014 and won election for the position in 2014, 2018 and 2022.

Duncan, who has been on the Cherriots board since 2021, works as development manager for Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, which advocates for Oregon farmworkers and working Latinx families.

Willis, an attorney and former political director for Oregon Right to Life, has held the position since being elected in 2018. He was reelected in 2022.

Hinojos Pressey, the board president of Cherriots, works as deputy director of PICUN.

Marion County Clerk Bill Burgess said the next release of results is expected on Nov. 20. All of the challenged ballots in the election have to be resolved by Nov. 24, and the county is required to submit final votes to the state by Nov. 30.

Republican Danielle Bethell is the third Marion County commissioner. Her term runs through 2028.

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