

NEWS > TRANSPORTATION

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Maribel Gomez Cordero, Michael Scott win Orange County Commission seats in runoff

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Orange County District 4 Commissioner Maribel Gomez Cordero won re-election in Tuesday's runoff elections while Michael "Mike" Scott won the open seat in District 6.

With nearly all precincts accounted for, Gomez Cordero won more than 57% of votes in District 4, defeating Mercedes Fonseca, who gathered around 42% of the votes, according to the Orange County Supervisor of Elections.

In a tight race in District 6, Scott received more than 51.2% of votes, beating opponent Lawanna Gelzer, who collected 48.8% of ballots cast.

Both races were decided in runoffs because no candidate for either seat won at least 50% of the vote on August's primary ballot.

District 4

Gomez Cordero and Fonseca competed in District 4, which stretches across southern Orange County from Hunters Creek to the Brevard County line. The district includes Lake Nona and Avalon Park, Eastwood and Waterford Lakes.



Orange County Commission District 4 candidates, from left to right, challenger Mercedes Fonseca and incumbent Maribel Gomez-Cordero.

Both candidates had placed affordable housing as a top priority during their campaigns.

Gomez Cordero wanted to push for affordable and low-income housing. She voted in August to advance a proposed one-year rent cap to the ballot for voter approval, which Fonseca criticized.

Fonseca also disagreed with Cordero's vote to ban retail sales of puppies and kittens and a proposed 1% sales tax increase for transportation.

Gomez Cordero is a mental health therapist who led in the Aug. 23 primary, gathering 47% of the votes.

First-time candidate Fonseca previously worked as an aide for Gomez Cordero. She finished second in the primary race, claiming 26% of the votes.

District 6

Gelzer and Scott competed in District 6, which encompasses most of Pine Hills and International Drive.



Orange County Commission District 6, from left to right, Lawanna Gelzer and Michael Scott.

Scott is an Orlando native and U.S. Air Force veteran, according to his [campaign](#) site. Scott has collaborated with Public Defender's Office to develop mentorship programs in the Juvenile Division.

Scott's platform focused on "safety, community and housing." He was endorsed by Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings and Orlando Buddy Dyer.

Gelzer is the president and CEO of a fiscal management consultant company, according to her [campaign](#) site. Gelzer's platform called for climate and environmental justice, affordable housing and liveable wage and transportation in the 6th district.

Neither candidate has held public office before. Gelzer received about 19% of the ballots cast in the August election. Scott received about 17.66% of the vote.

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2022 > November > 8