



Voters elect Cathedral City woman to Desert Healthcare District Board of Directors

The Desert Healthcare District will soon welcome a new Director to its Board. Evett PerezGil of Cathedral City joins the District, after winning a majority of votes in the November 6, 2018, general election.

PerezGil faced outgoing Cathedral City Councilman Shelley Kaplan in a tight race in the District's Zone 4 (Cathedral City). Certified election results posted Friday, December 7, by the Riverside County Registrar's office show:

Evett PerezGil — 3,842 votes, 50.76 percent

Shelley Kaplan — 3,727 votes, 49.24 percent

"I am very excited to serve on the Board of Directors for the Desert Healthcare District," PerezGil said when reached for comment. "I want to thank everyone who made this possible. I look forward to representing the community."

Dr. Les Zendle, District Board president, congratulated PerezGil on her victory. "Her experience as a community health worker will help the District Board focus more clearly on the healthcare disparities that exist across the Coachella Valley," he added.

PerezGil's election comes at a time of significant change for the District and its Board. While Director Carole Rogers of Desert Hot Springs ran unopposed in November and retains her seat, Kay Hazen of Palm Springs ends 18 years of service on the Board. And as a result of Measure BB, which voters overwhelmingly approved in November to expand the District boundaries east of Cook Street, two new Directors from the newly annexed area will be appointed in January. The Board will increase from five to seven Directors.

“We welcome Evett PerezGil to the Board of Directors,” interim District CEO Chris Christensen said. “This is an exciting time to join the Board to provide access to programs and services for the residents of the newly expanded healthcare district.”



Evett PerezGil. Submitted Photo

PerezGil is expected to be sworn in as a Director at the December 18 Board meeting. Her fellow Board Directors will be Mark Matthews; Jennifer Wortham, DrPH; Rogers, RN; and Zendle, MD.