

Oliver wins court clerk position in Craig Co.

She ran for the job in 2007, but lost by just 26 votes to a woman who retired last year.

By [Neil Harvey](#)

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Voters and candidates alike in Craig County waited late into Tuesday night for the results of their elections -- particularly the outcome of the race for circuit court clerk.

About 11 p.m., they learned that Sharon Oliver, a factory supervisor who lives in Craig but commutes to Tyco Electronics in Greensboro, N.C., was the apparent winner by about 61 votes. Oliver, who ran unsuccessfully for the office three years ago, was followed by Virginia State Trooper Trevor Craddock and acting clerk Sharon Braden.

There was discrepancy late Tuesday in the vote tallies compiled by the state board of elections and those by the Craig County registrar's office. County Registrar Betty Williams said the totals for the clerk's race were final and that Oliver won. She said difficulties caused delays in results being posted until about 10:15.

Over the next 40 minutes, individual totals were added to the state board's website, one candidate at a time. The state board is used as a clearinghouse for election results across Virginia.

In all, eight independent candidates ran for the office, which pays an annual salary of \$73,300 and has a term -- eight years -- that runs twice the length of most constitutional offices in the state.

The previous court clerk, Peggy Bostic, retired last year with five years left on her term. Bostic won the term in 2007, beating Oliver by just 26 out 2,146 votes. Oliver will complete the five years remaining on that term.

Braden, a deputy circuit court clerk, has been acting clerk since the beginning of the year.

The clerk, charged with more than 700 duties, handles the circuit court's administrative matters and is caretaker of court records. The office also issues marriage licenses and records deeds. The clerk also appoints guardians, grants administration of estates and probates wills.