

As local election season winds down, IT implications are clear

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Unlike state governments, some city and county governments have runoff elections that can carry on well past the November general election date. Here's the rundown on the IT implications of some elections that have recently concluded.

Seattle, Washington

Challenger Mike McGinn won a closely contested race with another Democrat to become mayor of Seattle. McGinn campaigned on one of the nation's most [technology-intensive platforms](#), including a pledge to answer the call of U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, for mayors take over failing school districts like Seattle's. He promised to blow the dust off Seattle's plan for a publicly-owned fiber-optic broadband network, providing "Internet for all." He also called for intelligent enhancements to the city's mass transit system. He will use technology to make crime reporting easier along with public access to crime data. On the administrative side, he alluded to consolidating the city's major agency-based IT staff with the 200 employees in the city's central IT department and to open up all contracts to public bidding via the Internet. Zoning and permitting processes will be simplified.

Nassau County, New York

This county comprises a populous part of Long Island just outside of New York City. It has seen competitive elections between Democrats and Republicans for many decades. However, the incumbent Democratic county executive was upset by Republican challenger Ed Mangano, who won after an extended recount. Mangano's [campaign platform](#) featured his desire to fix the county's tax assessment system. He criticized his predecessor's investment of \$50 million in "new technology" and "over 300 new employees" with no reduction in the annual \$100 million assessment loss. He also promised to crack down on the county's "disgraceful" and "unforgiveable" tendency to hire out-of-state contractors. He plans to create an Office of Local Opportunity to increase the competition in the county's bidding process.

Atlanta is still conducting a recount in its mayoral race. Check back for the latest on that one (hopefully) later this week.

The findings in these races reflect national trends identified by GovWin. For more insight on IT implications of the 2009 city and county elections, see GovWin's recent national [overview report](#) on the topic.