

New Bedford plays strong role in outcome of Sheriff's race as Paul Heroux unseats Tom Hodgson

Bristol County has a new sheriff for the first time in a quarter century. Attleboro Mayor Paul Heroux defeated incumbent sheriff Thomas Hodgson with 51% of the vote in a close race.

Hodgson conceded the victory at 1:00am this morning in spite of the fact that votes were still being tallied. By this time Heroux had an unofficial lead of approximately 4,350 votes. A number that is especially pertinent considering that New Bedford residents cast 7,920 for Hodgson and 12,500 votes for Heroux – a difference of around 4,500 votes.

Both candidates had faced issues that certainly harmed their campaigns. Heroux was found by the Department of Labor Relations to have violated state law twice in 2020 when he made disparaging comments concerning the president of Attleboro's firefighter's union and when he "made coercive comments" to the wife of a firefighter. Hodgson faced considerable fire due to a lawsuit from past detainees over alleged civil rights violations and the suicide of a high-profile inmate.