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Department of Justice

U.S. Attorney's Office

District of Arizona

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 25, 2022

Surprise Man Sentenced for Illegal Voting

PHOENIX, Ariz. – Joseph John Marak, 62, of Surprise, Arizona, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge Susan M. Brnovich to 30 months of supervised probation and fined \$2,400. Marak previously pleaded guilty to one count of Submission of a Materially False Voter Registration Application, a felony offense.

Johnson pleaded guilty in January 2022 to submitting a voter registration application in which he falsely certified that "I am not a convicted felon." Marak's certification was false because in August 2011, he was convicted of 18 felony counts in the United States District Court of the Eastern District of North Carolina and was sentenced to 72 months in prison. Marak further admitted that based upon his fraudulent registration, he voted in six federal elections from 2016 to 2020.

"This is the second voter fraud case we've charged in the last year, and the first arising out of the 2020 election cycle," said United States Attorney Gary Restaino. "Voting is a crucial civil right, and exercising one's voice is a key part of a felon's reentry to society. But there are rules: If you wish to vote in Arizona following a felony conviction, please speak first with your local County Recorder to fully understand the process for restoring your voting rights."

The Federal Bureau of Investigation conducted the investigation in this case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Frank T. Galati handled the prosecution.

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