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Franklin County | 3 people indicted for felony vote fraud

By John Futt, The Columbus Dispatch

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Three Franklin County residents face felony charges of voter fraud after the Board of Elections reported that they had voted more than once in a past election.

Three Franklin County residents face felony charges of voter fraud after the Board of Elections reported that they had voted more than once in a past election.

Each was indicted yesterday by a Franklin County grand jury on one count of illegal voting. They are accused of voting twice by casting absentee ballots under slightly different names.

Those indicted are:

-*- Dominique Atkins, 38, of 1532 Barnes Drive E. on the Northeast Side, who is accused of casting a second ballot on Oct. 25, 2010, under the name Dominique Atkins.

-*- Debbie L. Tingler, 50, of 533 Hunt Valley Dr., Reynoldsburg, who is accused of casting a second ballot on Feb. 27, 2008, under the name Deborah L. Tingler.

-*- Marian Wilson, 47, of 1922 Kendall Place, Grove City, who is accused of casting a second ballot on Sept. 29, 2010, under the name Marian Toles.

Elections officials working to clean up the voter-registration rolls this summer uncovered the irregularities.

In each case, the voter requested, received and returned absentee ballots in both names, an official in the board's petitions and filings department said.

Illegal voting is a fourth-degree felony, which can result in up to 18 months in prison for a conviction. But under sentencing reforms that took effect last year, convictions for such offenses bring a sentence of probation if they are non-violent.

Elections officials said they last referred cases of suspected double voting to the prosecutor in 2007 and 2009, with both resulting in convictions.

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