

The Columbus Dispatch

Woman fined for voting twice in 2010 election

By John Futtly, The Columbus Dispatch

Posted Feb 1, 2013 at 12:01 AM

Updated Feb 1, 2013 at 1:45 AM

A Northeast Side woman was fined \$500 today for voting twice in the 2010 general election.

A Northeast Side woman was fined \$500 today for voting twice in the 2010 general election.

Dominique Atkins, 38, of Barnes Drive E., pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count of attempted illegal voting. The charge was reduced from a felony count of illegal voting as part of a plea deal.

Franklin County Common Pleas Judge Richard A. Frye sentenced Atkins to 30 days in jail but suspended the jail time if she pays the fine and court costs by Nov. 1.

Atkins requested and received two absentee ballots from the Franklin County Board of Elections, completed both and returned them on Oct. 25, 2010, Assistant County Prosecutor Brian Simms said.

One of the ballots used a slightly different spelling of Atkins' first name -- Dominique -- he said.

Atkins told the judge that she thought she was "correcting my name issue" and "was not aware of ever voting twice. It's not something I'd ever want to do."

Atkins was one of three Franklin County voters who were indicted last year in unrelated cases for returning more than one absentee ballot in the 2008 or 2010 election. The other cases are pending.