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NEWS

# Minnesota woman pleads guilty in rare North Dakota double voting case

BISMARCK -- A Minnesota woman pleaded guilty to voting twice during the 2016 election in a Cass County (N.D.) court Tuesday, Sept. 25, marking a rare prosecution of such an offense in North Dakota.

Written By: John Hageman | 4:17 pm, Sep. 25, 2018

BISMARCK - A Minnesota woman pleaded guilty to voting twice during the 2016 election in a Cass County (N.D.) court Tuesday, Sept. 25, marking a rare prosecution of such an offense in North Dakota.

Hannan Yassin Aboubaker of Shakopee, Minn., entered an Alford plea on a Class A misdemeanor "election offense," meaning she didn't admit wrongdoing but acknowledged she may have been found guilty based on the evidence. Her sentence was deferred and she was placed on unsupervised probation for six months, two months after which the case would be dismissed and the file would be sealed.

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ballot before sending it in, but later believed that the ballot would be voided because her friend was not a U.S. citizen.

Aboubaker then voted at the Fargo Public Library "since she believed her absentee ballot for Minnesota was null and void," according to the incident report. She declined to comment when reached by phone.

The case came amid a protracted legal battle over North Dakota's voter ID laws. On Monday, a federal appeals court halted part of a lower court's ruling and cited the potential for voter fraud.



Last year, a western North Dakota man was charged with voter fraud for allegedly voting in two different counties during the 2016 election. Republican Secretary of State Al Jaeger said at the time that it may have been the first such case to be prosecuted since the 2000 election.

Democrats have criticized the state's voter ID laws and Jaeger for appealing the voter ID case, arguing there's no evidence of widespread voter fraud. Researchers last year estimated that at most about .02 percent of the votes cast nationally in 2012 were double votes.



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