
https://dailyprogress.com/news/louisa-woman-pleads-guilty-to-election-fraud-forgery/article_98e10fa8-c78b-5824-a4a1-63888cf2ac3a.html

Louisa woman pleads guilty to election fraud, forgery

Tasha Kates
Jan 22, 2010

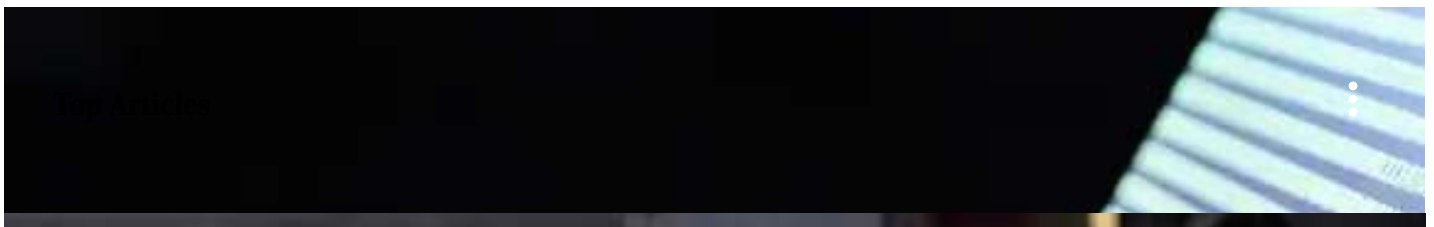
A Louisa County woman will serve probation after lying about her felon status on voter registration forms, allowing her to cast a vote in the 2008 election.

Bonnie Nicholson, 57, pleaded guilty Thursday to election fraud and forgery, according to court records.

She was sentenced to five years in prison on each charge, all of which was suspended, and one year of probation on each charge in Louisa Circuit Court.

A third charge of unlawful voting was not prosecuted, court records showed.

Rusty McGuire, deputy commonwealth's attorney, said an organization solicited some people to register to vote, including Nicholson.





“The part that becomes illegal is when you sign a registration form,” McGuire said. “She checked a box that said she was not a registered felon. When you have to sign it, you say [that you’re not] a convicted felon ... under penalty of law.”

Felons are supposed to be purged from voter rolls, which are crosschecked with state databases. McGuire said the local registrar’s office contacted the county’s prosecutors when they realized two people might have violated the voting laws.

Virginia State Police are investigating similar reports of organizations soliciting people to vote for the 2008 election across the state, said Tom Garrett, commonwealth’s attorney.

“We take allegations of voting fraud very seriously,” Garrett said in a news release. “We hope this case sends a message — commit voter fraud and you will be punished. We look forward to hearing from the Virginia State Police to see if they have discovered a pattern of a group or groups that solicited felons to vote illegally.”

McGuire said his office didn’t ask for Nicholson to be jailed.

“We were more interested in the people that solicited them than her,” he said.

Bernard Pace, the other person on Louisa’s rolls who authorities believe shouldn’t have been, is scheduled to be arraigned Feb. 22.

 0 comments

Be the first to know

Get local news delivered to your inbox!

Email Address

Sign up!

* I understand and agree that registration on or use of this site constitutes agreement to its user agreement and [privacy_policy](#).

Most Popular

Patient's positive COVID test puts some UVa hospital staff in quarantine

Oct 30, 2020



Too many votes out to call 5th District race between Good and Webb

Nov 3, 2020



Pedestrian struck crossing U.S. 29 near Fashion Square

Nov 3, 2020

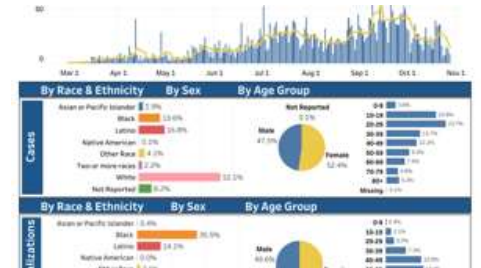
In 7th District, Spanberger, Freitas await absentee vote count

Nov 3, 2020



Winter is coming to Central Virginia, causing concerns of COVID resurgence

Oct 30, 2020



Bob Good felt 'burden' to keep 5th District red for 'true conservatism'

Nov 4, 2020



City Council to receive report on possible slave graves at Pen Park

Oct 31, 2020



Warner fends off GOP challenger Gade, wins third term

Nov 3, 2020



Trump suggests he'll fire Fauci after election; Barrett to hear first case; 'American Idol' star dies

Updated Nov 2, 2020



Charlottesville lawsuit asks court to reduce age limit for handgun sales

22 hrs ago



