

'I voted early' sticker leads to arrest, fraud charges

By **Linda Trischitta, Sun Sentinel**

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A **Pompano Beach** woman who is a convicted felon was accused of voting illegally in the November 2012 election.

Onakia Lanet Griffin, 33, was charged by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement with submitting false voter registration information, false swearing and fraud in casting a vote.

She was denied bond Friday and kept in jail on a U.S. Marshals hold after her first appearance in a **Broward County** court.

Griffin had previously been convicted of wire fraud, identification theft and use of someone else's identification, according to online federal court records.

She was sentenced for those offenses to time served and three years' supervised release, Assistant State Attorney Eric Linder said during her hearing.

The vote fraud probe began last year when Griffin met with her federal probation officer in **Hollywood** while wearing a sticker that said, "I voted early," an FDLE complaint affidavit states.

She admitted to the probation officer that she voted in the 2012 presidential election, **Broward County** Judge John "Jay" Hurley said while reading from the affidavit.

"The supervisor of elections confirmed that you did vote early, on Nov. 1, 2012, at the [E. Pat Larkins Community Center], I believe that's in [Pompano Beach]," Hurley said.

The investigation found that Griffin registered to vote on June 5, 2012, and that her application said she was not a convicted felon and that she was qualified to register, the affidavit states.

"Your ID was scanned into the system at the time you voted but nothing was flagged," Hurley said. A poll worker told an FDLE investigator that "thousands" of people voted early that Thursday at the center.

Florida election law prohibits a convicted felon from voting unless his or her voting rights have been restored, the FDLE website states. Until that happens, the person is ineligible to participate in elections.

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