



## INDUSTRY NEWS

[August 18, 2010]

### Couple face charges of voter fraud

Aug 18, 2010 (The Lewiston Morning Tribune - McClatchy-Tribune Information Services via COMTEX) -- Voter fraud charges have been filed against a Nez Perce County couple accused of illegally casting ballots in last fall's city council election.

Richard A. Keane and Lisa C. Keane face the possibility of as many as 14 years in prison on perjury and illegal voting charges, both felonies, for allegedly furnishing outdated addresses in order to vote in the election.

Lisa Keane, 51, and Richard Keane, 47, are scheduled to appear in court at 1:15 p.m. today.

A message left on Richard Keane's cell phone was not returned Tuesday. The number listed for his business, Keane and Co., has been disconnected.

The charge is a rare one in Nez Perce County, where Clerk-Auditor Patty O. Weeks said similar charges were last filed in 2004.

The Keanes reportedly gave an address on the 1500 block of Powers Avenue, a home the couple sold in 2005, when they voted Nov. 3, according to documents filed in 2nd District Court.

Lewiston voters elected Bradley A. Cannon, Thyra Stevenson, Kevin Poole, and re-elected Dennis Ohrtman during last fall's election and in the process ousted Douglas Havens and James T. Kluss. The margin of victory separating the four who won from the others who ran was about 660 votes.

In 2006, the Keanes were granted a homeowner's exemption at their new home at 35309 Powell Road south of Lewiston in unincorporated Nez Perce County. Weeks wrote in an affidavit filed with the complaint that a homeowner's exemption may only be used at a person's primary residence.

A jury summons mailed to Lisa Keane at the Powers Avenue address was returned in July 2009 with the word "moved" written on it. A homeowner of the property later "confirmed that Keane does not reside at that address," Weeks wrote.

Court records indicate that in November 2009, Richard Keane also filed for an owner-occupied residential improvement exemption. That document reportedly stated Keane had lived at the Powell Drive address since December 2008.



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When he registered to vote in November, according to those records, he listed both the Powers Avenue address and his business address at 247 Thain Road. In a response to a letter sent to the Thain Road address requesting affirmation of his place of residence, Richard Keane told the county his permanent address is on Powell Road.

"I have been known to stay at my office under inclement conditions and am entitled to use a second residence," he wrote.

Charges were last filed in a voter fraud case in 2004, when a Lewiston woman was sentenced to at least six months in jail for submitting false signatures on a gambling petition.

Weeks said Idaho typically doesn't have a problem with voter or petition fraud.

"My job is to protect the integrity of the election system; same thing with the recording, to make sure people are honest," Weeks said. "When this was discovered, we immediately went to the prosecutors." Gary may be contacted at [bgary@lmtribune.com](mailto:bgary@lmtribune.com) or (208) 848-2262.

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