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IOWA POLITICS

Muscatine woman pleads guilty in voter fraud case

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A Muscatine woman has pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor in connection fraudulent voting in the 2012 election.

Mayra Alejandra Lopez Morales initially was charged with felony election misconduct after registering and voting as a non-U.S. citizen.

In an agreement reached late last month with the Muscatine County Attorney, Lopez Morales pleaded guilty to fraudulent practices, an aggravated misdemeanor. She received a deferred judgment with two years of probation and a \$750 penalty. The initial felony charge could have resulted in five year in prison.

Her case was part of Iowa Secretary of State Matt Schultz's statewide investigation in voter fraud that concluded earlier this year.

The effort, conducted with investigators from the Iowa of Criminal Investigation, resulted in evidence of 117 illegally cast votes, charges filed in a few dozen cases and, to date, fewer than 10 criminal convictions. It cost \$250,000. n.

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