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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Clackamas election worker gets jail time for election fraud



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By Andy Giegerich
Managing Editor, Portland Business Journal
Apr 25, 2013, 5:52pm EDT

The former Clackamas County elections employee who was caught marking at least two ballots cast in last fall's election will spend 90 days in jail after pleading guilty to official misconduct and unlawfully altering a cast ballot.

Deanna Swenson, a temporary, part-time elections employee, had marked ballots that voters had left partially blank, according to Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum and Secretary of State Kate Brown. Swenson's actions did not affect any races.

“Department of Justice investigators and prosecutors took this case from the initial tip through investigation to indictment and guilty plea in less than six months,” said Rosenblum in a release. “Anyone attempting to subvert Oregon’s elections should know from this quick and successful prosecution that such conduct is unacceptable.”

“This prosecution sends a strong message: voter fraud will not be tolerated in Oregon,” added Brown. “We are holding Ms. Swenson accountable for violating the public trust.”

A co-worker saw Swenson altering a ballot last Oct. 31. A Clackamas County grand jury indicted her in December on two counts each of unlawfully altering a cast ballot, unlawfully voting more than once and first degree official misconduct.

Swenson is the 13th person to be prosecuted for voter fraud since Oregon went to all vote-by-mail elections in 2000. During that time frame, 23.8 million ballots were cast in statewide elections in Oregon.

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