

CRIME

Former Milwaukee County Supervisor Peggy West pleads guilty to election fraud

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Former Milwaukee County Supervisor Peggy West on Wednesday pleaded guilty to election fraud for falsifying signatures on petitions to qualify for the spring election.

West, 47, entered her plea during her arraignment before Circuit Judge Michelle Havas, who entered a judgment of conviction. Sentencing was scheduled for Aug. 28.

Prosecutors charged West last month. According to the complaint, several people whose names appear on West's nomination petition told a detective they never signed. Two even said the printed name next to their bogus signatures were not spelled correctly.

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Others admitted signing the petitions but said they had never met West, who is listed as having personally obtained the signatures.

West, former chair of the board's finance committee, lost her bid for a fifth term representing the south side District 12 in April to Sylvia Ortiz-Velez.

In February, Ortiz-Velez filed a complaint with the Milwaukee County Ethics Board that accused West of lying about personally circulating nomination papers.