



COUNTY OF MONTEREY OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY

Press Releases

NEIL KITCHENS, FORMER CANDIDATE FOR THE 30TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT FOR THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, SENTENCED FOR COMMITTING FELONY ELECTION FRAUD

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Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni announced that today that Judge Carrie M. Panetta sentenced Prunedale resident Neil Kitchens, age 53, to felony probation after he entered a plea of no contest to one count of filing a false declaration of candidacy, a felony, in the 2018 election for the 30th Assembly District for the state of California. She also sentenced him on an unrelated misdemeanor DUI.

The state assembly is part of the California State Legislature. According to [Article IV](#) of the [California Constitution](#), a state assembly candidate must be a United States Citizen, a resident of California for three years, a resident of the legislative district for one year, and a registered voter in that district at the time nomination papers are filed. In 2018, the 30th Assembly District, which includes most of Monterey County, had an open seat. Kitchens, however, did not live in the district but instead lived in Prunedale, which is in the 29th District. Kitchens knowingly filed falsified candidacy papers and listed a Salinas address as his residence so that he would be eligible for the seat. By doing so, he perpetrated a fraud upon the approximately 460,000 voters in District 30.

This case arose out of a citizen complaint. The integrity of the election process serves as a bedrock of democracy in the United States of America. Those who seek to undermine the legitimacy of our democracy will be held accountable under the law.

Judge Panetta sentenced Kitchens to two years of formal probation for the election case, and five years of informal probation for the DUI. He was ordered to serve sixty days in jail which he can serve on home confinement.

These cases were investigated by Secretary of State Chief Investigator Martin Deffee, District Attorney Investigators Alicia Cox, Peter Austen, and Erik Morris, and the Monterey County Elections Office.

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