



CRIME

Milwaukee man pleads guilty to five counts of voter fraud

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By [Bruce Vielmetti](#) of the *Journal Sentinel*

Oct. 14, 2013

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A Milwaukee man pleaded guilty Monday to illegally voting five times last year in West Milwaukee, when in fact he did not have residency there.

Leonard K. Brown, 56, still faces a charge of voting twice in the November presidential election and making a false statement to an election official on election day. Those cases have been rescheduled for trial in January. His sentencing on the five convictions resulting from Monday's pleas will be scheduled sometime after that trial.

Brown was among [10 people charged in March](#) with a variety of charges related to voter fraud. He is charged with voting twice in the Nov. 6 election — in person in

Milwaukee on that date and by absentee ballot in West Milwaukee four days earlier.

The guilty pleas involved votes in West Milwaukee in five prior elections. Brown was convicted of five felonies and now is prohibited from voting until his civil rights are restored.



Initially, Brown intended to also plead guilty Monday to a count of making a false statement to an election official related to the absentee vote, but Assistant District Attorney Bruce Landgraf questioned the legality of that plea when Brown claims that he only registered on Nov. 6 and didn't vote. As a result, that count moved to the trial date.

The cases against the other nine defendants have all been resolved. Another man who was charged with voting twice in the presidential election, Chad Gigowski, 28, pleaded guilty last month and is scheduled for sentencing Thursday before Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Timothy Witkowiak.

Andrew L. Shepherd pleaded guilty to lying to election officials about his past felony record so he could get hired as a special voter registration worker. He was sentenced in July to 30 days in the House of Correction.

Brittany M. Rainey, 23, pleaded guilty to voting as a felon and was sentenced to 45 days in the House of Correction.

Caitlin B. Haycock, 25, pleaded guilty to signing her parents' names, and her own, to a petition seeking a recall election for Gov. Scott Walker. Her parents also signed separately. Haycock was sentenced to 40 hours of community service and fined \$500 as conditions of probation.

The petition circulator who let Haycock sign her parents' names, Jenny Wanasek, 56, also pleaded guilty to the same misdemeanor election fraud charge and received the same sentence.

Four cases, for voting in the wrong locations and for a recall signature violation, were prosecuted as civil forfeitures in small claims court and resulted in \$100 fines.

About Bruce Vielmetti

Bruce Vielmetti writes about legal affairs.



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