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Election fraud case nets fine

Tim Damos
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A convicted felon charged with election fraud reached a deal with Sauk County prosecutors Wednesday.

As part of the agreement, prosecutors amended the felony election fraud charge to a lesser offense: misdemeanor falsification of voter registry information. In exchange, 39-year-old Andrew R. Knox agreed to plead no contest to the reduced charge and pay \$379 in fines. He will serve no jail time.

The Wisconsin Government Accountability Board notified the Reedsburg Police Department in October that Knox had voted in the November 2010 general election. When contacted by investigators, Knox did not deny voting, but said he did not know he was breaking the law, according to the criminal complaint.

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Knox told officers he thought the law had been changed with regard to felons voting.

Knox's criminal record includes convictions for theft, second-degree reckless endangerment, failure to report to jail, and failure to pay child support. According to prosecutors, he signed papers stating that his voting rights were revoked.

A probation officer also told authorities that he and Knox had discussed the fact that he would no longer be allowed to vote. Documents showed Knox signed into the polling place in the basement of Reedsburg City Hall to vote on Nov. 2, 2010.

Knox did not take the opportunity to speak before the judge sentenced him Wednesday afternoon. He settled the case without the assistance of an attorney.

His case is one of several throughout the state that resulted from a felon voting audit that was conducted by the GAB in 2014. There were problems with statewide post-election felon audits conducted prior to 2010 due to the number of false positives produced by the state's computer system, according to GAB spokesman Reid Magney.

District attorneys in several counties asked the GAB to stop providing referrals because of the likelihood of false positives. But in early 2014, felon voting audits resumed after the state's new computer system went online, and the GAB began to look again at prior years.

The GAB reports that there have been 110 suspected cases of felon voting in the last 16 elections.

 1 comment

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