



MILWAUKEE NEWS

Milwaukee County prosecutors charge 10 with voter fraud

By Steve Schultze and Bruce Vielmetti of the Journal Sentinel

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Milwaukee County prosecutors Thursday filed voter fraud charges against 10 people, including two accused of double voting in 2012 elections and two felons ineligible to vote.

Also among the fraud cases: a Milwaukee woman who is accused of signing a recall petition against Republican Gov. Scott Walker three times; and the petition circulator who collected those signatures.

Leonard K. Brown, 55, is charged with voting more than once, providing false information to an election official and four counts of voting as a disqualified person for ballots cast April 5, 2011; and Feb. 21, April 2, June 5 and Nov. 6, 2012. The double voting and false information counts relate to the November election.

According to the criminal complaint, Brown voted in person in Milwaukee on Nov. 6, and by absentee ballot for that election in West Milwaukee, and his several prior votes in West Milwaukee occurred when he was not qualified to vote there because he lived in Milwaukee. He faces up to 24 1/2 years in prison and \$70,000 in fines, if convicted.



In addition,

- Chad Gigowski, 27, is charged with voting in the November election in Greenfield and in Milwaukee, providing false information to a Greenfield election official and registering in more than one place.

According to the criminal complaint, he told investigators he and a friend tried voting in at least two other spots before casting a vote in Greenfield. He said he first tried to vote in Milwaukee but lacked paperwork to show he was a resident. He ultimately used a driver's license that showed his old address in Greenfield to try to vote there. But records show he cast ballots in each city, according to the complaint. Gigowski faces up to 10 ½ years in prison and \$30,000 in fines.

- Andrew L. Shepherd, 32, is charged with a felony for falsely telling Milwaukee officials he had no felony record when applying to get hired as a special voter registration deputy in 2012. Shepherd has two felony drug convictions and a third conviction for recklessly endangering safety.

Shepherd told prosecutors he knew his prior convictions would disqualify him for the job, but he signed a document swearing he had a clean record "because he was just trying to get paid to be a campaign worker," a complaint said. He told prosecutors he never actually registered anyone to vote, but city election officials said Shepherd had registered six voters. He faces 3 ½ years in prison and a \$10,000 fine, if convicted.

- Brittany M. Rainey, 23, was charged with lying about her past as a felon to vote in last November's elections. She was convicted of child neglect in 2010 and now faces a felony voter fraud count. She faces up to seven years in a prison and \$20,000 in fines.

- Caitlin B. Haycock, 24, is charged with a misdemeanor for signing her name and both her parents' names to a Walker recall



were then out of the country, according to a complaint.

The circulator, Jenny Wanasek, 64, also was charged with a misdemeanor for accepting the signatures from Haycock. Wanasek said she would have to turn away while Haycock signed her parents' names, Haycock told investigators. Wanasek said she later had second thoughts but forgot to cross out the signatures before turning in the petitions.

Haycock's parents, Virginia Hirsch and Mitch Haycock, separately signed Walker recall petitions on their own, the complaint said.

- In another case linked to the Walker recall, Deborah A. Mehling is charged with a civil violation for signing a petition sheet as circulator even though her daughter had collected one of the signatures. Mehling faces a fine of up to \$200.
- Brian A. Uecker lived in Greenfield but in November voted in a ward in that city where he once resided but no longer lived.
- Fozia H. Nawaz of Milwaukee voted in November in Greenfield, telling investigators she did so because it was easier.
- Bill A. Di Giorgio of Germantown was charged with voting illegally in Milwaukee in November.

Uecker, Nawaz and Di Giorgio face \$100 fines, if convicted.

About Steve Schultze

Schultze joined the Milwaukee Journal staff in 1985, covering state government and politics from the paper's state capitol bureau in Madison. He also served as Madison bureau chief for five years. Following the Journal-Sentinel merger in 1995, Schultze shifted to the paper's investigative/enterprise team, where he co-authored series on abusive teachers in the Milwaukee Public Schools, influence peddling in the administration of Gov. Tommy Thompson and shortcomings of a \$3 billion regional sewer system upgrade. In 2007, he began covering Milwaukee County government. Schultze is a graduate of the University of Colorado School of Journalism.

sschultze@journalsentinel.com 414-278-0626

About Bruce Vielmetti

Bruce Vielmetti writes about legal affairs.



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