



CRIME

Shorewood man sentenced to jail for multiple votes in several elections



Robert Monroe listens during a sentencing hearing Friday of Robert Monroe for illegal voting in 2011 and 2012 elections. Credit: Rick Wood

Proof and Hearsay - Latest blog posts

Crime, courts and legal issues in Milwaukee and throughout Wisconsin



Reelz
Network
airing show
Saturday on
Steven

By *Bruce Vielmetti* of the *Journal Sentinel*

Feb. 26, 2016

0

A Shorewood man convicted of voting multiple times in several heated elections in 2011 and 2012 was sentenced Friday to up to a year in jail as part of a more elaborate sentence involving five years of probation, 300 hours of



[Illinois man who drove drunk at WI Boy Scout camp loses appeal](#)

[Citing inappropriate Randa rant, 7th Circuit orders new sentencing in heroin case](#)

[More blog posts](#)

Robert D. Monroe, 52, must serve six months without work release, then another six months with release or on electronic monitoring. He has until April 11 to report to jail.

Monroe, who had an insurance business and earned a graduate business degree, pleaded no contest in January to six of the 13 counts [filed against him in 2014](#) but [claimed he was not legally responsible](#) because he suffered from a mental disease or defect.

Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Dennis Cimpl [rejected that defense](#) after hearing two days of testimony, including from Monroe, who described various "fugue states" he claimed left him with no memory of voting.

Assistant District Attorney Bruce Landgraf had requested 19 months in jail, noting that Monroe is the worst multiple voter in state history. While the others were convicted of casting two votes in a single election, Monroe did so in several elections, including five ballots during the Gov. Scott Walker recall.

Monroe's attorney, Franklyn Gimbel, suggested a \$3,000 fine, 180 hours of service and separate three-day stays in jail coinciding with the next five elections "to connect the punishment to the offense."

Monroe told Cimpl he still can't explain his prolific illegal voting. "It goes against everything I stand for," he said.

The judge told him, "I think you got caught up in" the most polarizing political atmosphere in memory. He also noted that while Monroe expressed shame for being in court, he never showed remorse for his crimes, just blamed emotional traumas from childhood.



supervision. Cimpl imposed, but suspended, three years of prison and three years of extended supervision on four of the counts.

Cimpl told Monroe he chose five years' probation so that he could not vote in the next two presidential elections.

"If it were in my power to order that you never vote again, I would," Cimpl said.

At Monroe's insanity defense trial, Cimpl said he didn't doubt Monroe's testimony that a string of events throughout his life — witnessing his father's heart attack as a boy, futile reports of priests engaged in sexual misconduct and surviving a bad car crash — were traumatic, or that he had had some amnesia-like episodes.

But the judge noted that none of the possible fugue state episodes was during the heated political years of 2011 and 2012 when the illegal votes were cast, and that Monroe apparently hadn't even told his own doctor and psychiatrist about them until after he learned in 2013 that he was under investigation.

Four mental health professionals testified during the responsibility phase. All agreed Monroe suffered from at least some mental illness, like depression and anxiety. But those for the state and the court found that the conditions, which were being controlled with medications and therapy, did not prevent Monroe from appreciating the wrongfulness of his votes or from conforming his actions to election laws.

Monroe cast two ballots in the April 2011 Supreme Court election, two in the August 2011 recall election of state Sen. Alberta Darling, five in the recall election of Gov. Scott Walker, one illegal ballot in an August 2012 primary and two ballots in the November 2012 presidential election.



Ind., where he showed his Indiana driver's license to vote in person on election day, Nov. 6.

Others convicted of double voting in Milwaukee County have received sentences of 90 days to a year in jail. One man who voted his parents' absentee ballots was fined \$1,000.



About Bruce Vielmetti

Bruce Vielmetti writes about legal affairs.

@ProofHearsay

bvielmetti@journalsentinel.com

414-224-2187

[Share](#)
[Tweet](#)
[Share](#)
[Email](#)
[Print](#)

Connect With Us

- Facebook
- Twitter
- Instagram
- YouTube
- RSS
- Mobile apps
- Newsletter
- Today's paper
- Subscribe
- Archives
- Historical archives

Contact Us

- Phone numbers
- Manage account
- Paid death notices
- Back copies
- Digital access
- FAQ
- Classifieds
- Display ads

About Us

JOURNAL SENTINEL



journalmediagroup

Job Openings

Partners

