

Alabama woman guilty of 24 counts of felony voter fraud

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https://www.al.com/news/montgomery/2015/09/alabama_woman_guilty_of_24_cou.html



Olivia Reynolds

By [Erin Edgemon | eedgemon@al.com](#)

A Dothan woman was found guilty Wednesday afternoon of 24 counts of felony absentee ballot fraud.

A Houston County jury deliberated for less than an hour before finding Olivia Reynolds, 66, guilty of two dozen counts promoting illegal absentee voting, [according to a Dothan Eagle report](#) and court records.

Her sentencing is set for Sept. 15.

Reynolds worked on the 2013 campaign of District 2 City Commissioner Amos Newsome, who beat challenger Lamesa Danzey by 14 votes.

According to the Dothan Eagle, Newsome received 119 of the 124 absentee votes that were cast in the race. Danzey, however, received more votes than Newsome at the polls.

Some voters testified at trial that their absentee ballots were cast for Newsome, even though they didn't vote for him.

Reynolds is one of three woman charged and the last to go to trial.

Lesla Coleman, 50, was convicted in April of seven felony counts of absentee ballot fraud. She was ordered to serve 180 days in the Houston County jail followed by three years of probation.

Janice Hart, 65, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor absentee ballot fraud charges. She must serve two years of probation.

[WTVY is reporting](#), members of the commission will attempt to oust Newsome following Wednesday's verdict.

Reynolds is Newsome's long-time girlfriend, according to reports.

Updated with additional information at 2:11 p.m.

[Montgomery Real-Time News](#)

Appeals court upholds Dothan woman's voter fraud conviction

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By [Jonece Starr Dunigan | jdunigan@al.com](#)

The Alabama Court of Criminal Appeals upheld a conviction of a Dothan woman who was found guilty of 24 counts of absentee ballot fraud on Friday, Attorney General Luther Strange announced.

Olivia Lee Reynolds, 60, is one of three women [who were involved in a fraud during the 2013 Dothan municipal election](#). Reynolds was in a relationship with District 2 City Commissioner Amos Newsome, who beat challenger Lamesa Danzey by 14 votes. Reynolds also worked on Newsome's campaign.

During a trial in Houston County Circuit Court in 2015, residents who didn't vote for Newsome said their absentee ballots were cast for him. A jury deliberated for less than an hour and found Reynolds guilty. Reynolds then tried to get the conviction reversed in appeals court. The Attorney General's Criminal Appeals Section fought to have the convictions upheld during the process.

Reynolds was the last person to be convicted in the scheme. Lesla Coleman, 50, was sentenced to serve 180 days in Houston County Jail followed by three years of probation after she was found guilty of seven counts of absentee ballot fraud in April 2015.

Janice Hart, 65, was ordered to serve two years of probation after pleading guilty to misdemeanor fraud charges.