



OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY
TWENTIETH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Michael T. Dougherty, District Attorney

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Contact: Shannon Carbone
Phone: 303-441-3804
scarbone@bouldercounty.gov

**Press Release – Defendant Tracey Bennett Pleads Guilty
to Top Charge and Sentenced**

As a result of the thorough investigation by the District Attorney's Office, former State Representative Tracey Bennett had been criminally charged for falsely representing her primary residence over a one-year period. The investigation revealed that Ms. Bennett rented an apartment in Louisville to qualify for reelection in House District 12, but the rented apartment was not Ms. Bennett's residence. Ms. Bennett did not reside at the rented apartment during the twelve months preceding the November 2022 general election. The investigation revealed that Ms. Bennett falsely registered her motor vehicle at the Louisville apartment and changed her voter registration record to reflect residence at the Louisville apartment shortly after the completion of the re-districting process.

It is important to note that then-Representative Bennett, also, filed false sworn documents with the Secretary of State's Office in connection with her criminal acts. After changing her voter registration record to reflect the false address, Ms. Bennett also voted in a primary election in a district in which she did not reside.

The charges filed in this case were: Count 1: 18-8-306: Attempt to Influence a Public Servant (Class 4 Felony), Count 2: 18-5-102 Forgery (Class 5 Felony), Count 3: 1-13-709.5: Residence--false information (Class 5 Felony), Count 4: 1-13-104: Perjury (Class 1 Misdemeanor), and Count 5: 1-13-203: Procuring False Registration (an unclassified Misdemeanor).

Today, at her arraignment, Ms. Bennett took accountability for her criminal acts by entering guilty pleas to original Counts 1 and 4.

On Count 1, Attempt to Influence a Public Servant (Class 4 Felony), Ms. Bennett was sentenced to a two-year deferred judgment and sentence which includes a condition of 150 hours of useful public service work. The Court has deferred entry of a felony conviction on this count pending Ms. Bennett's successful completion of the deferred judgment and sentence.

On Count 4, Perjury (Class 1 Misdemeanor), Ms. Bennett has been sentenced to probation. The probationary sentence is also two years in length, with the same 150 hours of useful public service as a condition. This sentence will run concurrent to the sentence on Count 1. The misdemeanor conviction will enter on count 4 and will remain on her record.

As in every criminal case, the community service component will be overseen by Community Justice Services.

As part of these guilty pleas, Ms. Bennett also acknowledged that the relinquishment of her legislative seat was a key factor in the resolution of the case. Additionally, as part of today's plea, she admitted that she was ineligible to serve as Representative for House District 12 in the term after the November 2022 general election because she was not a resident of that District at that time.

As a result of Ms. Bennett's actions, she lost her seat in the Legislature, has a criminal record, and will need to perform community service as a condition of probation.

District Attorney Michael Dougherty stated, "These criminal acts, including the filing of false sworn documents, violated the public trust and the integrity of our election process. I want to acknowledge and thank the District Attorney Investigators and Chief Deputy District Attorney Adrian Van Nice for their hard work in developing the evidence and making this outcome possible. It is wholly unacceptable when public servants violate the law and the public's trust in connection with their duties."