
NEWS RELEASE

**Louisiana
Department of State**



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CONVICTION MADE IN ELECTIONS VIOLATION IN WASHINGTON PARISH

Secretary of State Tom Schedler and the Elections Compliance Unit are announcing the conviction of Joel Miller Sr. after an investigation led by the Unit. Miller is charged with Injuring Public Records (Title 14), Giving False Statement of Fact (Title 18) and Giving a False Name in Qualifying (Title 18).

On July 18, our office received notification from Assistant District Attorney LeAnn Wall of the 22nd Judicial District Court that Miller had pled guilty to injuring public records and giving false statement of fact. The judge gave him three years probation and ordered him to pay the entire amount owed to Ethics as restitution.

Acting on a complaint from the Board of Ethics, the Compliance Unit initiated an investigation into the candidacy of Miller who filed a notice of candidacy affidavit in Washington Parish to run for Bogalusa Councilman, District 4. Investigators learned that he was the subject of an ethics investigation and judgment in the amount of \$12,000. Miller has tried in the past on more than one occasion to run for elective office in Washington Parish without paying off the judgment, but has been prevented from doing such by challenges filed to his candidacy by the Ethics administration.

In this case, Miller used an alias name and subterfuge to file a notice of candidacy and remained unnoticed until recently. He not only used an alias name on his notice of candidacy form, but signed an affidavit indicating that he did not have any outstanding fines, fees or penalties pursuant to the Campaign Finance Disclosure Act. This was an obvious false statement that investigators allege Miller knew to be false.

The Secretary of State's Elections Compliance Unit consists of law enforcement officers with statewide jurisdiction to investigate all election complaints, such as voter fraud, vote buying and voter intimidation. Secretary Schedler took an active role in revamping election fraud laws which were passed by the Legislature and became effective in January of 2011. The new laws increase penalties and fines in all election offenses and strengthen the ability of law enforcement to charge and prosecute election violations.

Complaints that may involve election violations may be reported to the Unit by calling 800.722.5305. For more information, contact the Elections Division at 225.922.0900 or visit www.GeauxVote.com.