

## Campaigners fined for illegal '08 votes

Wednesday, April 29, 2009 3:02 AM

**BY BARBARA CARMEN**

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

A Franklin County judge told three out-of-state campaigners for Barack Obama who voted here illegally that they should have known better.

The three chose Ohio over their home states -- where Obama was likely to win -- because they wanted to swing the Electoral College vote toward their candidate, Common Pleas Judge Charles A. Schneider said.

He ordered a year's probation, a \$1,000 fine and a 60-day suspended jail sentence for Daniel "Tate" Hausman, 32, and Amy Little, 50, both of New York, and Yolanda Hippensteele, 30, of California.

All were paid staff members for Vote Today Ohio, an independent get-out-the-vote organization supporting the Democratic presidential candidate.

The three, who all pleaded guilty yesterday, said they had good intentions when they registered to vote and cast ballots the same day in early voting at Veterans Memorial. They pointed to instructions on the voter-registration form and on a county Web site stating a 30-day residency requirement.

"I was paying rent and living full time in Ohio," Hippensteele told the judge. "I didn't attempt to vote in another state. ... I think it's all a misunderstanding. I have a profound respect for the voting process."

However, Franklin County Prosecutor Ron O'Brien had warned visiting campaigners on Oct. 21 not to vote here if they didn't plan to stay after the election. The three said they saw the prosecutor's letter around Oct. 28 -- three days past a deadline to withdraw improper registrations and be forgiven.

"We felt the pits of our stomachs drop," Hausman said.

Because the three cast paper ballots, the county Board of Elections was able to find the ballots of the



FRED SQUILLANTE | DISPATCH

**Vote Today Ohio campaigners, from left, Yolanda Hippensteele, 30; Amy Little, 50; and Daniel "Tate" Hausman, 32, voted here instead of their home states to help Barack Obama in the fall election.**

two women, using identifying information on the envelopes that had not yet been separated from the ballots, and cancel their votes. But Hausman's could not be located and was counted.

Schneider told the three that "rescinding your request is like giving back the money once you've been caught."

"We all know the elections are driven by the Electoral College," he said, "and casting a vote in an unknown state instead of one where it is all but certain ... excuse me if I remain skeptical."

Even if they didn't know Ohio's residency requirements, he said the organizations they worked for "knew damn well."

Little is a former campaign manager for a New York congressman. Hausman is an organizational development consultant, and Hippensteele is an event planner.

Assistant County Prosecutor Brian Simms told the court that all three have families or other jobs or own homes in other states.

The charge of improper voting, though a misdemeanor, is life-changing, Hippensteele said. "As a person who wants to be involved in political campaigns in the future, I have some fear this will impact my reputation."

The elections board has sent the prosecutor the names of 55 other voters suspected of fraud in the November 2008 election. A Gahanna woman pleaded guilty in March to voting twice and was fined \$1,000 and put on probation.

bcarmen@dispatch.com

## **Ads by Yahoo!**

**university Columbus, Ohio**

university Columbus, Ohio. Admissions and academics.

(Ohio.StateUniversity.com)

**Columbus Auto Show**

Get Breaking Auto Show News.Find Free Columbus Auto Show Info.

(www.OutsideLine.com)

**Columbus Dispatch**

Case No.

09CR 04 2465

**INFORMATION FOR: General Penalty  
Under Title Thirty Five (35) (3599.40  
R.C.) (M-1) (1 Count); (Total: 1 Count)**

FILED  
COMMON PLEAS COURT  
FRANKLIN COUNTY OHIO  
2009 APR 28 AM 11:47  
CLERK OF COURTS  
State of Ohio,  
Franklin County, ss:

In the Court of Common Pleas, Franklin County, Ohio, of the Grand Jury term beginning January ninth in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Nine.

Ron O'Brien, the duly elected and qualified Prosecuting Attorney of Franklin County, Ohio, in the name of and by the authority of the State of Ohio, says that prior to this information, Amy Little was duly advised by the Court of the nature of the charge against her and of her rights under the Constitution, and she stated that she understood the nature of said charge against her and her constitutional, statutory, and procedural rights, and that she had fully discussed all aspects of her case with her attorney, A. Adele Shank, and she was completely satisfied with the legal representation and advice and waived in writing and in open Court prosecution of the offense by indictment,

Count 1

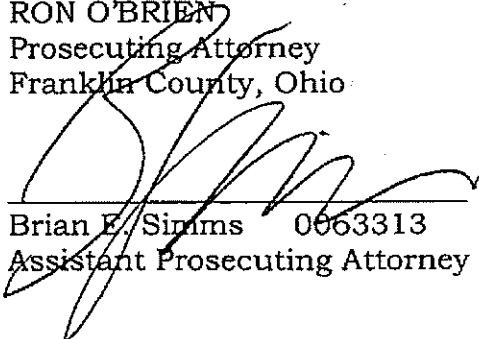
By way of information, Amy Little late of said County, from on or about September 1, 2008 to October 8, 2008, within the County of Franklin aforesaid; in violation of section 3599.40 of the Ohio Revised Code, did violate a provision under title 35 of the Ohio Revised Code, to wit: Amy Little did cast an absentee ballot in the 2008 Ohio General Election when she did not meet the residency requirement for an eligible voter in the county of Franklin,

ON COMPUTER

57230 - T48

State of Ohio, contrary to the statute in such cases made and provided and against the peace and dignity of the State of Ohio.

RON O'BRIEN  
Prosecuting Attorney  
Franklin County, Ohio



Brian E. Simms 0063313  
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

57230 - T49

**The following is Information for the Clerk of Courts Only.**

State of Ohio v. Amy Little

Address: 1979 N. 4th St., Columbus, Ohio 43201

DOB: 4-15-59

Sex/Race: female white

Date of Arrest: -----

SSN: ~~██████████~~

Date of Offense: September 1, 2008 to October 30, 2008

**\*\* PLEASE MAKE THIS CASE A CO-DEFENDANT OF:**

**Defendant's Name: Yolanda Hippensteele**

**Case No.**

**\*\* PLEASE MAKE THIS CASE A CO-DEFENDANT OF:**

**Defendant's Name: Daniel Hausman**

**Case No.**

IN THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS, FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO  
CRIMINAL DIVISION

State of Ohio,  
Plaintiff,

v.  
Amy Little,  
Defendant.

Case No.

09CR 04 2465  
Judge

FILED  
COMMON PLEAS COURT  
FRANKLIN CO., OHIO

2009 APR 28 AM 11:47

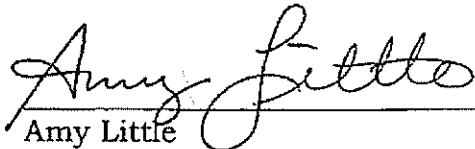
CLERK OF COURTS

WAIVER OF INDICTMENT

I, Amy Little, the defendant herein, accused of violating section 3599.40 of the Ohio Revised Code, charging the offense of General Penalty Under Title Thirty Five (35), a criminal offense which is not punishable by death or life imprisonment, having been advised by the Court of the nature of the charge against me, and of my rights under the Constitution, and being represented by counsel, hereby waive, in writing and in open Court, prosecution by Indictment and request and consent that the charge proceed by Bill of Information instead of Indictment. I also hereby waive the time of service of said Bill of Information, inasmuch as I wish to be arraigned immediately, and I also waive the reading of the Bill of Information.

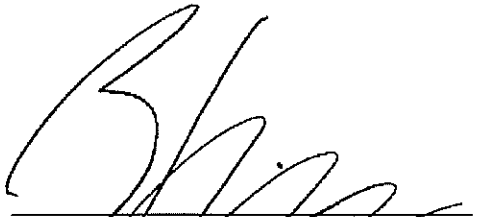
ON COMPUTER

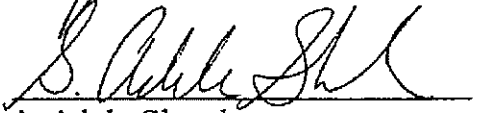
A copy of the proposed Bill of Information has been furnished to me.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Little  
Defendant



\_\_\_\_\_  
Judge

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian E. Simms 0062313  
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
A. Adele Shank  
Attorney for Defendant