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Franklin County Sheriff's Office Arrests Pasco Woman for Multiple Counts of Identity Theft and Illegally Voting in 2024 General Election.

January 8, 2026

Franklin County, WA —

On October 14, 2025 detectives were advised by the prosecuting attorney of an irregular Franklin County ballot that was counted in the 2024 General Election.

Through an extensive investigation, detectives learned an individual moved from Pasco to Oregon and properly registered to vote there, however a Washington ballot was sent to her previous address. The ballot sent to her previous Pasco address was also filled out, sent to the Auditor's Office, and counted in the election. Detectives also discovered three additional ballots sent to the same apartment building had suspicious characteristics.

Apartment manager Esperanza Contreras, 52, of Pasco was identified as a suspect in taking possession of these four ballots, which were sent to former tenants. She then completed the ballots, signed the envelopes fraudulently and submitted them to the Auditor's Office. Three of the four ballots were confirmed to have been counted in the election with the fourth being rejected due to a mismatched signature.

Contreras was interviewed by detectives at which time she admitted to voting all four ballots and forging the signatures. She was placed under arrest and booked into the Franklin County Jail for 12 felony charges related to voter fraud and identify theft.

Voter fraud undermines the integrity of the electoral process and erodes public confidence in the fairness of elections. The Franklin County Sheriff's Office takes violations of election law seriously and remains committed to thoroughly investigating and pursuing election-related violations.

Anyone with information regarding this case, or who believes the suspect may be involved in additional voter fraud activity, is encouraged to contact Detective Gardner at 509-545-3501 and reference case number 25-15088.

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** Honor * Integrity * Trust*