Las Vegas-Area Woman Pleads Guilty to Voter Registration Fraud Secretary of State Ross Miller says aggressive enforcement is key in maintaining public confidence in the system

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(Las Vegas, NV; September 9, 2014) - In a case investigated by the Nevada Secretary of State's office and prosecuted by the Nevada Attorney General's office, Biqui Parra-Rodriguez yesterday pleaded guilty to two counts of Category "E" felonies, including voter registration fraud and identity theft.

Investigators from Secretary of State Ross Miller's office arrested the Las Vegas-area woman in July for allegedly registering to vote twice under a false name. Parra-Rodriguez pleaded guilty to possession or sale of document or personal identifying information to establish false status or identity, and violating voter registration laws.

Miller says the case should serve as a reminder to would-be perpetrators of fraud that Nevada is proactive in its enforcement of election laws, and also sends a message to legitimate voters that their votes will not be diluted by attempts to defraud the elections system.

"Nevadans, and all Americans should feel confident that their vote counts, and that attempts to vote by those who aren't qualified will not be tolerated," said Miller. "Voter registration fraud is not widespread, in part because we have safeguards to catch the few who attempt it. I created the multi-jurisdictional Elections Integrity Task Force so that cases like this wouldn't slip through the cracks. This particular case demonstrates the quick actions of several highly alert agencies. Our valuable relationships with other governmental and law enforcement offices are vital to preserving the integrity of Nevada's election system."

"Voter registration fraud is a serious crime," said Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto. "We appreciate the hard work of Secretary of State Ross Miller's office to protect the integrity of our elections process and will continue to vigorously prosecute these cases."

According to a criminal complaint filed by the Attorney General's office, Biqui Parra-Rodriguez obtained personal identifying information of another person, Mary Lou Aguirre, and unlawfully and fraudulently registered to vote twice under a false name. On or about October 18, 2011, Rodriguez used the personal identifying information to register to vote at or near the East Sahara location of the Nevada Department of Motor Vehicles. Furthermore, on or about August 16, 2012, Rodriguez willfully and falsely gave her name as Mary Lou Aguirre on a voter registration application in Clark County.

Parra-Rodriguez awaits sentencing on January 14, 2015, from the Eighth Judicial District Court. <u>Click here</u> to download the criminal complaint.