

Vote Early, but Vote Once Per Election . . .

We understand that people like to joke about voting, especially when they say “Vote early, vote often” but to see this remark in today’s paper (May 18, 2018, Section C., Page 3) along with voter information is very disturbing. County Clerks, election staff, and poll workers “hear this non-amusing comment frequently enough from voters. Do we really need the paper to add to this” conduct. “The comment is totally unnecessary and damaging to the integrity of our voting process.”

Actually, in New Mexico, “voting often” in an election is considered false voting. Here is the statute for further understanding of what constitutes *false voting* and the consequence when someone commits these act:

NMSA 1978,

1-20-8. False voting.

False voting consists of:

- A. voting or offering to vote with the knowledge of not being a qualified elector;
- B. voting or offering to vote in the name of any other person;
- C. voting or offering to vote more than once in the same election;
- D. falsifying any information on an absentee ballot official mailing envelope or affixing a signature or mark other than one's own on an absentee ballot official mailing envelope;
- E. inducing, abetting or procuring or attempting to induce, abet or procure a person known to not be a qualified elector to vote; or
- F. inducing, abetting or procuring or attempting to induce, abet or procure a person who, having voted once in any election, to vote or attempt to vote again at the same election.

Whoever commits false voting is guilty of a fourth degree felony.

**History: 1953 Comp., § 3-20-6, enacted by Laws
1969, ch. 240, § 432; 2011, ch. 137, § 103.**

1-20-8.1. Conduct of election; fraudulent and double voting.

Every person not entitled to vote who fraudulently votes, and every person who votes or offers to vote more than once at any one election, is guilty of a fourth degree felony.

As the Santa Fe County Clerk, I encourage eligible voters in Santa Fe County to participate in all Santa Fe County elections. Qualified citizens of the United States have the right to VOTE. Please participate in all upcoming elections and exercise your RIGHT TO VOTE!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Geraldine Salazar, Santa Fe County Clerk