



For Immediate Release

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Court Ends Mason Case Without Reaching Merits

Fort Worth, TX – The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals on Thursday dismissed the State's appeal in the Crystal Mason illegal voting case, leaving the reversal of her conviction in place without deciding the merits of the State's arguments.

"Illegal voting remains a crime in Texas," said Tarrant County District Attorney Phil Sorrells. "If there is evidence that someone knowingly violates our election laws in Tarrant County, we will investigate it and, when the evidence supports it, prosecute it."

"A lawful vote should never be canceled out by an unlawful one. Voters deserve confidence that our elections are fair and that the law will be enforced. Our responsibility has not changed: enforce the law fairly, protect the integrity of our elections, and pursue justice without fear or favor."

Mason was convicted in 2018 after casting a provisional ballot in the 2016 election while on federal supervised release following a felony conviction. Her ballot was never counted.

In March 2024, the Second Court of Appeals reversed her conviction, finding the evidence insufficient to prove Mason knew she was ineligible to vote. The State appealed, arguing the court applied the wrong legal standard in evaluating the evidence.

The Court of Criminal Appeals agreed to review the case but on Thursday dismissed the State's petition as "improvidently granted." The Court did not decide whether the lower court correctly evaluated the evidence.

The decision was 5-4. Four judges dissented, arguing the Court should have reached the merits. Multiple dissenting judges concluded the evidence was legally sufficient to support Mason's conviction.

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