

 Click to Print[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

# Man convicted of double voting

## 'I forgot' doesn't get Tosa resident off hook

By [Derrick Nunnally](#) of the Journal Sentinel

Aug. 23, 2007

Sure, Michael Zore told police, he'd voted twice in last November's election, using the city hall polling stations of two different Milwaukee County suburbs in the space of six hours.

The evidence against him included him signing up to vote using a false address in West Allis, after he'd already voted in Wauwatosa.

But Zore, 44, told a jury Wednesday there was a good reason he shouldn't be convicted of felony counts of double voting and giving a poll worker false information:

He forgot.

"It is hard to believe, I don't discount that at all," Zore's lawyer, Raymond M. Clark, told the jury. "But it did happen."

Clark's "stress defense" claimed Zore was so tense - from his sister's death a week before, from the garnishment of his wages to pay back taxes, from his divorce a year before, and from the cancellation of a master's degree class on election day - that when he found himself, after an errand, in West Allis across the street from City Hall, he forgot he'd already voted.

Jurors needed just an hour of deliberation, and a lunch break, to reject this claim and find Zore guilty Wednesday.

He now could face a prison sentence of up to seven years and a fine of \$20,000 when Milwaukee County Circuit Judge William W. Brash III sentences him Sept. 27.

After the verdict came in, Brash ordered Zore, who had been free on a signature bond, held on a \$300 bail. Zore had not posted bail by Wednesday evening, according to jail records.

Although several of Zore's friends testified during the three-day trial that Zore was a forgetful man, in his closing argument Assistant District Attorney Bruce Landgraf pilloried the idea that Zore had unintentionally voted twice.

"He says he's forgetful about the little things in life," Landgraf said. "Voting is not a little thing in life."

## Stress defense

Landgraf derided both a psychological assessment that indicated Zore was liable to forget things - a tendency stress can exacerbate - and what Landgraf said was an ever-growing set of reasons Zore claimed he was stressed.

"Like a fine wine, Mr. Zore's stress defense is getting better as time goes on," Landgraf said. "... He had four months to think about what was stressing him in his life."

Landgraf said Zore would have had to be "in something of a fugue state ... with his own personal reality" to forget that he'd voted in the space of a few hours.

A psychologist's assessment, done as part of Zore's defense efforts, hadn't noted that Zore was disassociated with reality, Landgraf said.

"He's as sane as you or I," the prosecutor said.

In Zore's defense, Clark tried to convince the jury they couldn't read intent into the actions of a man whom friends called forgetful and who was stressed by both his life's woes and a \$22,000 income, which, Clark said, was low enough that "it generates stress" for Zore.

## Running errands

He said Zore had simply been in West Allis that election day on errands when he spotted traffic coming out of City Hall when it occurred to him what to do.

"He says to himself, 'OK, I haven't voted yet,' " Clark said. "The rest is history."

### Find this article at:

<http://www.jsonline.com/news/milwaukee/29425314.html>

 [Click to Print](#)

[SAVE THIS](#) | [EMAIL THIS](#) | [Close](#)

Check the box to include the list of links referenced in the article.