

Prominent Anti-Trumper Hired To Process Ballots In Oshkosh **By Mark Belling, WISN-AM**

A former Oshkosh City Council member who drew national attention for refusing to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance after Donald Trump's 2016 Presidential win has now been hired to process Oshkosh ballots in the ongoing 2024 election.

Caroline Panske refused to stand for the pledge in the first council meeting in Oshkosh after Trump's upset win over Hillary Clinton in 2016. She defended her action, saying she was engaging in free speech. Panske has been a politically activist leftist in Oshkosh and has twice run, and lost, bids for mayor.

She was convicted in 2017 of marijuana possession while driving with an open intoxicant in her car. She was defeated in her bid for reelection after the Pledge stunt and the drug charges.

Panske has been hired by Oshkosh City Clerk Diane Bartlett to serve as a ballot processor with other election duties. Bartlett has refused to answer my questions but Oshkosh City Manager Mark Rohloff, who supervises the clerk's office is defending the hiring of the anti-Trump activist as a ballot processor. Rohloff says Panske has done "exemplary" work and says Oshkosh does not discriminate on the basis of political viewpoints in its hiring.

This story has been ignored by the local media in Oshkosh.

Mark Belling
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