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(Neb.)-State Senator Pleads Guilty To Two Misdemeanors



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 09/19/2012 10:09 AM

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) - State Sen. Brenda Council pleaded guilty Tuesday to filing false campaign finance reports that prosecutors say concealed her misuse of more than \$60,000 in campaign donations at casinos.

Council has apologized for making an error in judgment, but she plans to continue running for re-election in northeast Omaha. Council says she's getting treatment for a gambling addiction.

A judge sentenced Council to pay a \$500 fine and court costs.

Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning says bank records and casino security videos show that Council withdrew a total of \$63,052 at casinos on several occasions and then deposited \$36,166 in cash back into the campaign fund. Council has agreed to repay the \$27,000 shortfall.

Council is running against her predecessor, Ernie Chambers, who was the longest-serving member of the Nebraska Legislature.