

Yuba supervisor candidate guilty of welfare fraud in 2010

Chris Kaufman/Appeal-Democrat

Yuba County Supervisor District 3 candidate Veronica Ramos



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Veronica Ramos, a Yuba County supervisor candidate, pleaded guilty nearly two years ago to a misdemeanor count of welfare fraud.

Ramos had to [pay](#) restitution and received summary probation, as well as a suspended jail sentence and 360 hours of community service.

"They did an audit and felt I was overpaid, and I disagreed with it," said Ramos, 33, who is running against Supervisor Mary Jane Griego in District 3. "We went back and forth about it for quite awhile, and I ultimately felt I wanted to deal with it and move on."

According to Yuba County Superior Court records, Ramos, an Olivehurst resident, was charged in September 2010 with a single count of fraud to obtain aid, and four counts of perjury related to accepting payments for child care services in her home and failing to report the income to the welfare office. All five counts were originally charged as felonies. Ramos received about \$950 in welfare payments from January 2008 to April 2009. During that period, on four separate occasions, Ramos received payments for child care provided, the largest of them \$1,385.48, according to court documents.

At the time, Ramos said, she had recently divorced her husband and went on public assistance on behalf of her children. She said the child care services she provided were paid by the state, but

because of budget cuts and other delays, she often went long periods without receiving any money.

"I just never knew how much I was going to get paid," she said.

Court records show Ramos agreed in December 2010 to plead guilty to a misdemeanor count of fraud to obtain aid, with the perjury charges dropped. Records show she had paid restitution in full at the time. A filing from last October said she completed the required community service hours.

She will remain on probation until December 2013, or nearly a year into the next supervisors term.

District Attorney Patrick McGrath said such a sentence is fairly standard for welfare fraud cases and usually includes time served when initially charged.

Records show Ramos' sentence included a one-year jail sentence, suspended except for a day she'd already served.

"My recollection is that she's paid back in full," he said.

Ramos said because the case was public record, she expected it to come out during the [campaign](#).

But the case shouldn't reflect on her ability to serve as a public official, she said. "I was grateful for public assistance, but it shouldn't be a lifestyle," she said. "I always do what's right."

Ramos said she had gotten off public assistance before the case arose, and she hasn't been on again since. She has run a small marketing and [events](#) promotion business in the last few years; RVR Enterprises stages such events as last weekend's Cinco de Mayo celebration.

McGrath said he wasn't aware of any other investigations or issues with Ramos since then and was not aware of any restrictions on Ramos' ability to run for or serve in public office.

Griego said she'd recently become aware of Ramos' case, but didn't want to make a campaign issue of it.

"There's an expectation of standards when you run for office, and usually when you run for office, you check that closet," she said. "It's too bad it's coming out at this time. Beyond that, I'm at a loss for words."

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