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**HEADLINE:** Fowl play 'Jive Turkey Sr.' tops Cuyahoga's phony-voter list

**BYLINE:** Scott Hiaasen, Plain Dealer Reporter

**BODY:**

Among the tens of thousands of new voters who registered in Cuyahoga County, Jive Turkey Sr. wasn't hard to spot.

Turkey's registration (which included a colorful middle name) is among 1,284 suspicious voter applications that Cuyahoga County election officials plan to turn over to prosecutors to investigate for potential fraud.

In an election season marked by waves of new voters and heightened hysteria, officials around Ohio are finding an increasing number of voter registrations that are hard to believe.

"It's frustrating, to say the least," said Gwen Dillingham, Cuyahoga County's deputy election director. "I'd just like to catch the people that do this."

Earlier this week, Dick Tracy, Mary Poppins and Michael Jordan tried to make appearances on the voter rolls in Defiance County - recruited, police say, by a man who was paid in crack cocaine for his registration efforts. Last month, a dead man revived himself to try to register in Lake County.

Republicans have pointed to these instances as proof that Democrat-friendly groups, such as America Coming Together and Project Vote, which led massive voter-registration campaigns, tainted the political process.

Dillingham said the problem is not with the groups themselves, but with the people they hired. Some groups paid their workers \$1 or \$2 per registration, creating an incentive to be creative.

Still, the 1,284 registrations that were flagged were only a fraction of the more than 344,000 new forms that flooded the Cuyahoga County Board of Elections this year.

Most of the suspicious registrations featured fake addresses, not fake names. But for every registration, election workers had to go through the time-consuming chore of trying to verify the address against county and city property records before discarding the application.

Election workers also spotted about 40 registrations with the same signature and some cards signed with the last name first.

Mr. Turkey, who claimed he was 32, supplied a fake address to go with his nom de plume. It, too, was easy to detect.

"His address is so vulgar, I can't even say it to you," said election administrator Jane Platten.

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