

INDIANA

Lowell “Ross” Colen

CONVICTED: 2016

Fraudulent Use of Absentee Ballots

Lowell “Ross” Colen, a 10-year veteran of the Rising Sun Police Department, was forced to resign after pleading guilty to four counts of felony voter fraud. Colen was accused of illegally trying to help his father win election to the Rising Sun City Council by completing absentee voter applications and filling out ballots for people who were not eligible to vote in the county, and in some cases forging signatures. Colen evidently conducted some of this illegal activity while in uniform and on duty. He pleaded guilty to four counts of felony vote fraud and was sentenced to concurrently serve one year in prison and 185 days’ probation.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2mlTkMI

bit.ly/2l07BNH

bit.ly/2lpehs4

INDIANA

Butch Morgan, Jr.

CONVICTED: 2013

Ballot Petition Fraud

Former St. Joseph County Democratic Chairman Butch Morgan, Jr. was sentenced to one year of prison after being convicted of felony charges stemming from a plot to forge signatures on the petition to place Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton on the Indiana Democratic Primary ballot in 2008. Morgan, along with multiple co-conspirators from the Board of Voter Registration, forged over 200 signatures. A Yale University junior, Ryan Nees, discovered the fraud, noting “page after page of signatures are all the same handwriting.” The forgery was overlooked during the primary process “because election workers in charge of verifying their validity were the same people faking the signatures.”

SOURCES

bit.ly/2eAtTmy

INDIANA

Pam Brunette, Beverly Shelton, Dustin Blythe

CONVICTED: 2013
Ballot Petition Fraud

Pam Brunette, Beverly Shelton, and Dustin Blythe worked with Butch Morgan (see prior entry) to forge over 200 signatures on the petition to enter Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton into the Indiana Democratic Primary. A Yale University junior, Ryan Nees, discovered the fraud, noting “page after page of signatures are all the same handwriting.” The forgery was overlooked during the primary process “because election workers in charge of verifying their validity were the same people faking the signatures.” Brunette, a board member on the St. Joseph County Board of Voter Registration Democratic, and Shelton, a board worker, both received two years of probation in exchange for their testimony against Morgan. The judge sentenced Dustin Blythe, a board worker and Democrat volunteer, to one year in Community Corrections and probation.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fw7r31

INDIANA

Doug Campbell

CONVICTED: 2013
Fraudulent Use of Absentee Ballots

Austin Mayor Doug Campbell faced voter fraud charges that he illegally accepted absentee ballots from voters and filled out a woman’s incomplete ballot. He pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor electioneering in exchange for prosecutors agreeing to dismiss the felony voter fraud and conspiracy charges, which enabled him to remain in office.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fitiWu

INDIANA

Paul Etheridge

CONVICTED: 2013

Fraudulent Use of Absentee Ballots

Paul Etheridge, former New Albany mayoral candidate in Democratic primary, was charged with voter fraud for endorsing a ballot of someone he knew to be ineligible in the May 2011 Democratic mayoral primary in New Albany, Indiana. He pleaded guilty to Forgery of Official Ballot Endorsement and received a suspended 18 month sentence.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fbTKEW

INDIANA

Michael Marshall

CONVICTED: 2013

Fraudulent Use of Absentee Ballots

Michael Marshall, a Jennings County Democratic Party worker, pleaded guilty to three counts of vote fraud relating to applications for absentee ballots for his son, brother, and former roommate. Marshall was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2e2KeEC

INDIANA

Charlie White

CONVICTED: 2012
False Registrations

Former Indiana Secretary of State Charlie White was removed from office following his 2012 felony conviction. White, who was serving as a councilman for the town of Fishers at the time, listed his ex-wife's home address as his primary residency so he could vote and be paid as a councilman in a district where he no longer resided. In addition to losing his office, White was sentenced to one year of house arrest, and was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine and complete 30 hours of community service.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fimyli
bit.ly/2f1zjHN
bit.ly/2ff3agR

INDIANA

Joshua Clemons

CONVICTED: 2012
Fraudulent Use of Absentee Ballots

Joshua Clemons was charged with voter fraud for completing two absentee ballots for people he knew to be ineligible in the May 2011 Democratic Primary. He pleaded guilty to Fraudulent Delivery of Ballots and received a suspended 18-month sentence.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fbTKEW

INDIANA

Monte Murphy

CONVICTED: 2011

Fraudulent Use of Absentee Ballots

Following a jury trial, Murphy, a former Muncie City Councilman, was convicted of 3 counts of illegally receiving absentee ballots. He provided the ballots to the individuals, told them how to vote for a straight democratic ticket, and then mailed in the ballots for them. The trial court reduced each conviction to a Class A misdemeanor and sentenced Monte to consecutive one-year terms, suspended to probation.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2eViSiK

INDIANA

Brian Berkman

CONVICTED: 2008

False Registrations

Former Schereville Town Court Bailiff Brian Berkman was convicted of voting in another precinct and perjury during the 2003 East Chicago Democratic mayoral primary. He was sentenced to one year of probation. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2eon35U

INDIANA

Natividad Hernandez

CONVICTED: 2008
Misc. Voter Fraud

Natividad Hernandez pleaded guilty to unauthorized entry at the polls during the 2003 East Chicago Democratic mayoral primary election. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fjWDUs

INDIANA

Christopher and Michael Lopez

CONVICTED: 2008
False Registrations

Christopher and Michael Lopez pleaded guilty to unauthorized entry into the polls. The brothers voted in a precinct where they did not live during the 2003 East Chicago mayoral Democratic primary. Each man received a suspended 60-day jail sentence. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2eAzbyw

INDIANA

Joseph Pedraza and Constance D. Simmons-Pedraza

CONVICTED: 2008
False Registrations

Joseph Pedraza and his wife, Constance D. Simmons-Pedraza, pleaded guilty to voting in a precinct where they did not live for the 2003 East Chicago mayoral Democratic primary election. They falsely claimed residence in East Chicago so that they could vote there, but city employment records revealed that they actually lived in the town of St. John. Both were sentenced to one year in prison, a sentence which will be suspended if they each satisfactorily complete one year on probation. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2eAzbyw

INDIANA

Ponciano Herrera

CONVICTED: 2008
Fradulent Use of Absentee Ballots

Ponciano Herrera, a Lake County police officer, pleaded guilty to handling a forged absentee ballot in the 2003 East Chicago Democratic mayoral primary election. Herrera was sentenced to 90 days of probation. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2ff15l6

INDIANA

Ronald DeCastro

CONVICTED: 2008

Fraudulent Use of Absentee Ballots

Ronald DeCastro, an East Chicago police officer, pleaded guilty to a charge of voter fraud in connection with his misconduct during the 2003 East Chicago Democratic mayoral primary election. He did not live in East Chicago, so he used the address of his uncle in order to cast an absentee ballot in the election. DeCastro received a 60-day suspended jail sentence and was sentenced to 60 days of probation. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fw3jAf

bit.ly/2fdllhq

bit.ly/2fF0gVx

INDIANA

Terrance Lay

CONVICTED: 2008

Fraudulent Use of Absentee Ballots

Terrance Lay, a city council candidate in the 2003 East Chicago Democratic primary, pleaded guilty to procuring and handling an absentee ballot for his brother-in-law in violation of state law that forbids anyone other than the voter or a close relative from handling absentee ballots. Lay was the last of the 46 people convicted by the Joint Vote Fraud Task Force formed in the wake of the 2003 East Chicago Democratic primary. Fraud in this 2003 primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election for the mayoral primary that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fEWTxE

INDIANA

Ashley Dunlop

CONVICTED: 2007
False Registrations

Mr. Ashley Dunlop pleaded guilty to Aiding Fraudulent Application of a Ballot in connection to misconduct surrounding the 2003 East Chicago Democratic mayoral primary election. He was sentenced to one year probation. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2eACgP4

INDIANA

Ricardo Alamillo

CONVICTED: 2007
False Registrations

Ricardo Alamillo, a former East Chicago assistant chief bailiff, was convicted of voting in another precinct for the 2003 East Chicago Democratic mayoral primary and received a one-and-a-half year suspended sentence and another one-and-a-half years of probation. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fEZuYI

INDIANA

Alicia Dunbar and Ivan Dunbar

CONVICTED: 2007
False Registrations

Alicia and Ivan Dunbar pleaded guilty to voting in another precinct for the 2003 East Chicago Democratic mayoral primary and were given one year of probation. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fEZuYI

INDIANA

Mark Orosco

CONVICTED: 2007
False Registrations

Mark Orosco pleaded guilty to voting in another precinct for the 2003 East Chicago Democratic mayoral primary and received a one year suspended sentence, one year of probation, and 100 hours of community service. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fEZuYI

INDIANA

Mario Del Valle

CONVICTED: 2007
False Registrations

Mario Del Valle pleaded guilty to voting in another precinct for the 2003 East Chicago elections. He was sentenced to one year of probation and 30 hours of community service. Fraud in the 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election for the mayoral race that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2eAzcCt

INDIANA

Michael Harretos and Ezequiel Godinez

CONVICTED: 2007
False Registrations

Michael Harretos and Ezequiel Godinez were sentenced to one year of probation, community service, and fines for voting in another precinct in the 2003 East Chicago election. Fraud in the 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election for the mayoral race that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fbPDIY

INDIANA

Arthur Vera, Elvia Vera, Armando Vera, Pedro Moro, and Yolanda Ramirez

CONVICTED: 2007
False Registrations

Arthur, Elvia, and Armando Vera, Pedro Moro, Yolanda Ramirez, pleaded guilty to voting in another precinct during the 2003 East Chicago Democratic primary. Fraud in this 2003 primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election for the mayoral race that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fbPDIY

INDIANA

Jose Arroyo and Mabel Komendat

CONVICTED: 2007
False Registrations

Jose Arroyo and Mabel Komendat were convicted of voting in another precinct after voting in an East Chicago election despite living in Hammond and Highland, respectively. They were both sentenced to one year probation and 50 hours of community service. Fraud in the 2003 East Chicago mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election for the mayoral race that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fbPDIY

INDIANA

Levones Tolbert

CONVICTED: 2007
Misc. Voter Fraud

East Chicago Councilman Levones Tolbert was charged with offering money in exchange for votes, among other offenses. Tolbert pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of unauthorized polling place entry and was sentenced to 30 days' probation. Fraud in the 2003 East Chicago primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election for the mayoral race that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fw71K2

INDIANA

Allan “Twig” Simmons

CONVICTED: 2007
Absentee Ballot Fraud

Allan “Twig” Simmons, an operative for the Chicago mayor's campaign, was charged with three counts of attempted obstruction of justice and six counts of ballot fraud after persuading individuals to let him fill out their absentee ballots in exchange for jobs. He pleaded guilty to three counts of fraudulent application, showing, examination, receipt or delivery of ballots. He was sentenced to 3 years' probation and 100 hours of community service. Fraud in the 2003 East Chicago mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election for the mayoral race that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2feWMXg

INDIANA

Raymond Carillo

CONVICTED: 2007
False Registrations

Raymond Carillo pleaded guilty to one count of voting in a precinct in which he did not live for the 2003 East Chicago mayoral Democratic primary election. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2eACgP4

INDIANA

John Carlyle and Ronald Komendat

CONVICTED: 2007
False Registrations

John Carlyle and Ronald Komendat, a former police officer, both pleaded guilty to voting in precincts where they did not reside in the 2003 East Chicago mayoral Democratic primary election. Both received six-month suspended sentences and were ordered to perform 40 hours of community service. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fittRT

INDIANA

Tonya Griffin-Bronaugh

CONVICTED: 2007

Fraudulent Use of Absentee Ballots

Tonya Griffin-Bronaugh, the sister of Terrance Lay, pleaded guilty to filling out and signing an application for an absentee ballot in the name of her former husband without his knowledge in connection with the 2003 East Chicago Democratic primary. Her brother was a city council candidate in that election. Griffin-Bronaugh was sentenced to 18 months of probation. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election for the mayoral race that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2eernRT

INDIANA

Antonio and Alycia Mendiola

CONVICTED: 2006

False Registrations

Antonio and Alycia Mendiola pleaded guilty to voting in a precinct where they did not live during the 2003 East Chicago Democratic mayoral primary. Both were sentenced to 18 months of probation. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2eepvJb

bit.ly/2fw9MLt

INDIANA

Eduardo Perez, Sr.

CONVICTED: 2006

Fraudulent Use of Absentee Ballots

Eduardo Perez, Sr., pleaded guilty to fraudulently receiving an absentee ballot in connection to the 2003 East Chicago mayoral Democratic primary. He was sentenced to 18 months of probation. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2eepvJb

INDIANA

Larry Battle

CONVICTED: 2006

False Registrations

Larry Battle was convicted of voting in a precinct in which he did not live for the 2003 East Chicago mayoral Democratic primary election. Battle had a history of “crimes of dishonesty,” prompting the judge - unpersuaded by Battle’s “everybody was doing it” defense - to sentence him to two years in prison. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fF02xx

INDIANA

Tamika Lay

CONVICTED: 2006
False Registrations

Tamika Lay pleaded guilty to voting in a precinct in which she did not live for the 2003 East Chicago Democratic primary. Though she initially called the errant vote a mistake, Lay eventually admitted that she wanted to cast a vote for her brother, Terrance Lay, who was a city council candidate for a different precinct. Lay was sentenced to one year of probation. At her sentencing hearing, she expressed frustration to the judge at being held accountable for her fraudulent act. She said, “People have been doing [fraudulently voting] for years, and all of a sudden they want to do something about it.” Fraud in this 2003 primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election for the mayoral primary that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2f1H5I2

INDIANA

Demetrios Hasapis

CONVICTED: 2006
False Registrations

Demetrios Hasapis, an East Chicago Fire Department captain, was convicted of voting outside the precinct in which he lived for the 2003 East Chicago Democratic primary. Fraud in this 2003 primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election for the mayoral race that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2eojg8W

bit.ly/2feYwj0

INDIANA

Michelle Chandler

CONVICTED: 2003

Ineligible Voting and Fraudulent Use of Absentee Ballots

Michelle Chandler, a worker in the city controller's office, was charged with a fraudulent receipt of ballot, voting outside of her district, and perjury in connection to misconduct during the 2003 East Chicago Democratic mayoral primary. She was found guilty of one count of perjury in a jury trial, a felony, and given one year of probation. Fraud in this 2003 mayoral primary was widespread, and the Indiana Supreme Court ultimately overturned the election results and ordered a special election that resulted in a different winner.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fEZuYI

INDIANA

Florentino Guillen

CONVICTED: 2003

False Registration

In 2003, Florentino Guillen admitted to using the address of his cousin in order to vote in the East Chicago mayoral primary and pleaded guilty to voting in a precinct in which he did not live.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2tt1F5c