

WEST VIRGINIA

Thomas Ramey, Donald Whitten, and Jerry Bowman

CONVICTED: 2012

Fraudulent Use of Absentee Ballots

Former Lincoln County Commissioner Thomas Ramey pleaded guilty to lying to federal officers in the midst of their investigation of a massive voter fraud conspiracy. Sheriff Jerry Bowman and County Clerk Donald Whitten also pleaded guilty, admitting that they stuffed ballot boxes with fraudulent ballots and falsified absentee ballots in an effort to rig the 2010 Democratic primary. Whitten won the election, but a judge overturned the election after throwing out 300 fraudulent ballots. Ramey was sentenced to 21 months of imprisonment. Bowman was sentenced to one year and one day in federal prison, three years of supervised release and a \$5,000 fine. Whitten was sentenced to 18 months in prison and three years of supervised release, with a \$5,000 fine.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2f1Fle3

bit.ly/2fmqIAP

bit.ly/2elljqX

WEST VIRGINIA

James Surkamp

CONVICTED: 2010

Duplicate Voting

James Surkamp pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor charge of unauthorized presence in a polling place. Surkamp, while serving as Jefferson County Commissioner, voted twice in a 2009 referendum. He cast his first vote during the early voting period and then attempted to vote again on election day. Surkamp, who subsequently lost his re-election bid in the 2010 Democratic primary, was ordered to write a letter to the Secretary of State admitting his guilt, as well as pay a \$100 fine and court costs.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2tNWlJ8

bit.ly/2ttdFUg

bit.ly/2rRpTc7

WEST VIRGINIA

Perry French Harvey

CONVICTED: 2006
Buying Votes

Perry French Harvey pleaded guilty to a charge of scheming to buy votes in the 2004 Logan County Democratic primary. He was sentenced to three years' probation.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2f1xmOd

WEST VIRGINIA

Greg Stowers, Wandell “Rocky” Adkins, Clifford Odell “Groundhog” Vance, Toney “Zeke” Dingess, Ralph Dale Adkins, and Jackie Adkins

CONVICTED: 2006
Buying Votes

Six Lincoln County Democrats pleaded guilty to charges of participating in a conspiracy to buy votes dating back to 1990. The indictment charged that the six conspired to buy votes in elections held in 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, 2002, and 2004 “for the purpose of selecting and electing candidates to the U.S. House of Representatives and in some instances, for the presidency and vice presidency of the U.S.” The men paid for votes in liquor and cash, typically \$20 per vote, and handed out slates listing preferred candidates. The five also laid gravel on roads for supporters and fixed traffic tickets. Some of their sentences included the following: Vance was sentenced to 30 months of imprisonment, Stowers received six months of imprisonment, and Wandell Adkins received four months in a halfway house.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2eGUkqO

bit.ly/2elveN6

bit.ly/2fmw7Yo

WEST VIRGINIA

Mark Oliver Hrutkay

CONVICTED: 2005
Buying Votes

When his wife was running for the House of Delegates, Mark Oliver Hrutkay, a lawyer and his wife's campaign treasurer, paid \$10,000 to a political operative to secure support for his wife's candidacy. He pleaded guilty to mail fraud charges, stemming from his mailing a campaign disclosure form that failed to mention the \$10,000 payment. He was sentenced to one-year in prison, and fines amounting to \$45,000.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2elsgsa

WEST VIRGINIA

John Mendez

CONVICTED: 2005
Buying Votes

Johnny "Big John" Mendez, former Logan County Sheriff, pleaded guilty to charges of conspiracy to buy votes. Mendez bought votes for himself and a member of the state House of Delegates, making cash payments and offering more money to heads of households who could deliver the votes of all the eligible voters living at a given residence. He was sentenced to a year of home confinement and five years of probation.

SOURCES

fxn.ws/2tNUxQf

bit.ly/2sVltzB

USA v. Mendez (2005), US District Court Southern West Virginia, 2:04-cr-00101-1

WEST VIRGINIA

Jerry Weaver and Greg Stowers

CONVICTED: 2005
Buying Votes

Jerry Weaver and Greg Stowers, leaders of a political machine in Lincoln County, pleaded guilty to vote buying charges in connection with a 12-year-long vote fraud scheme. Both men were sentenced to a year in prison.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fCsIO8

WEST VIRGINIA

Johnny Mendez

CONVICTED: 2004
Buying Votes

In West Virginia, Johnny Mendez, the sheriff of Logan County, pleaded guilty to federal charges that he accepted \$10,000 in illegal contributions and used the money to buy votes in the 2000 and 2004 elections.

SOURCES

bit.ly/2fdC3CJ

WEST VIRGINIA

Alvin Ray Porter, Jr.

CONVICTED: 2004
Buying Votes

Alvin Ray Porter, Jr., the former police chief of Logan County, pleaded guilty to buying votes during the 2002 Democratic Primary. Porter was one of several Logan County officials who conspired to influence elections in 2002. Porter was sentenced to three years of probation and was ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine. He also was ordered to give speeches on his personal experiences with corruption to eighth grade civi classes and others.

SOURCES

fxn.ws/2tNUxQf

bit.ly/2rQHfWN

USA v. Mendez (2005), US District Court Southern West Virginia, 2:04-cr-00101-1

WISCONSIN

Troy Schiller

CONVICTED: 2017
Duplicate Voting

Troy Schiller pleaded guilty to voting twice in the 2016 primary election, once in his hometown of Dexter, and once in nearby Pittsville. He was sentenced to 30 days' incarceration and was fined \$500.

SOURCES

wrtnews.co/2lwgwZ4

bit.ly/2lweRmm

wrtnews.co/2m8EvQZ