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Immigrant Pleads Guilty To Voter Fraud

[The Columbus Dispatch](#) ^ | October 5, 2007 | Bruce Cadwallader

Posted on **10/5/2007, 7:19:51 PM** by [buccaneer81](#)

Immigrant pleads guilty to voter fraud Friday, October 5, 2007 . 12:10 PM By Bruce Cadwallader THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH Claudel Gilbert, left, with his attorney, Eric J. Yavitch, in court today. Tom Dodge | Dispatch Claudel Gilbert, left, with his attorney, Eric J. Yavitch, in court today.

A man with two residences who thought he had to vote in two counties last fall pleaded guilty today to two counts of illegal voting.

Claudel Gilbert, 38, a citizen who moved from Haiti in 1994 with his family, said he had an apartment in Franklin County before he bought a house in Licking County in 2006. He registered to vote in both counties.

Boards of elections in both counties sent him voter verification cards, and Gilbert thought his vote would not count unless he voted twice, said defense attorney Eric Yavitch.

An investigation was launched after the Nov. 7, 2006, election when his name showed up on a statewide database of all those who voted, officials said.

He pleaded guilty to voting in Franklin County, where he does not live anymore, and to voting twice — both felonies. He will be able to vote in Licking County next month.

Gilbert works as a COTA bus driver.

Franklin County Common Pleas Court Judge Richard A. Frye sentenced Gilbert to probation for one year and fined him \$500. He suspended a six-month prison sentence.

“He did not have any illegal intent, but instead was trying to protect what he thought were his property rights,” Yavitch said. “He is embarrassed and humiliated to be standing before an American judge in front of the American flag, admitting to his mistake.”

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TOPICS: [Crime/Corruption](#); [Government](#); [US: Ohio](#)

KEYWORDS: [fraud](#); [immigrant](#); [voting](#)

He knew damn well what he was doing.

He pleaded guilty to voting in Franklin County, where he does not live anymore, and to voting twice — both felonies. He will be able to vote in Licking County next month.

Felons can vote?

1 posted on **10/5/2007, 7:19:52 PM** by [buccaneer81](#)

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To: [buccaneer81](#)

He knew damn well what he was doing.

Anyone want to guess which political party he voted for?

You get three guesses, and the first two don't count.

2 posted on 10/5/2007, 7:22:56 PM by **Jeff Chandler** ("A person's a person no matter how small." -Dr. Seuss)
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To: **buccaneer81**

WTHeck?

3 posted on 10/5/2007, 7:22:59 PM by **ansel12** (Proud father of a 10th Mountain veteran. Proud son of a WWII vet. Proud brother of vets.)
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To: **buccaneer81**

Depends on the state laws. Some states forbid it, some don't.

4 posted on 10/5/2007, 7:23:09 PM by **kingu** (No, I don't use sarcasm tags - it confuses people.)
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To: **buccaneer81**

"thought he had to vote in two counties"

If you're a Democrat, you usually think "why limit it to only TWO?"

This is far more common than ever is admitted, and is very seldom prosecuted OR reported. ACORN personnel make a living conjuring up voters (even levitating the DEAD, cartoon characters, etc.)

They did it in Ohio in 2004, and they will do it in 2008.

5 posted on 10/5/2007, 7:23:54 PM by **traditional1** (Fred Thompson-The ONLY electable Republican Candidate)
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To: **traditional1**

ACORN personnel

I had the pleasure off throwing one of them off my property just prior to the '04 election.

He called me a "white racist cracker." I laughed so hard I nearly fell over.

6 posted on 10/5/2007, 7:26:04 PM by **buccaneer81** (Bob Taft has soiled the family name for the next century.)
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To: **buccaneer81**; **fieldmarshaldj**; **EternalVigilance**; **T.L.Sink**; **wagglebee**; **2ndDivisionVet**

More proof that border security ranks right up there with the War on Terror and the Supreme Court as the most important issue of 2008.

7 posted on 10/5/2007, 7:26:07 PM by **Clintonfatigued** (You can't be serious about national security unless you're serious about border security)

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To: **buccaneer81**

Yep! Two Felonies will make a Hero with the Demo_rats! Does anyone know if he will be permitted to vote with these two felonies under his belt? Maybe there is hope that Philadelphia won't have 800,000 dead and/or fictitious voters in the next Election, afterall.

8 posted on 10/5/2007, 7:27:33 PM by **True Republican Patriot** (God Bless America and The Republicans)

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To: **buccaneer81**

"He called me a "white racist cracker." I laughed so hard I nearly fell over."

LOL

I can just hear them "we are here to ask you to support a true hero and candidate for President":



9 posted on 10/5/2007, 7:32:29 PM by **traditional1** (Fred Thompson-The ONLY electable Republican Candidate)

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To: **buccaneer81**

Boards of elections in both counties sent him voter verification cards, and Gilbert thought his vote would not count unless he voted twice, said defense attorney Eric Yavitch.

So why didn't he just vote in the second polling center?

10 posted on 10/5/2007, 7:41:28 PM by **weege** (NO THIRD TERM. America does not need another unconstitutional Clinton co-presidency.)

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To: **buccaneer81**

both felonies.

I thought that a new immigrant lost their citizenship when they commit a felony. Are does that only apply to ones that vote the wrong way.

11 posted on **10/5/2007, 8:12:22 PM** by **org.whodat** (What's the difference between a Democrat and a republican???)
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To: **buccaneer81**

He pled guilty.

He is described as a citizen, one presumes that means a legal one. Since it takes many years to qualify as a legal citizen, and lots of confusing paperwork...

I'm going to start off assuming he made an error, absent malicious or criminal intent.

Not one a lifelong citizen would make, but believable given his age upon arrival, his country of origin, and that he did in fact plead guilty.

If anyone has additional negative information regarding his legal citizenship status and voting experience, I would obviously be interested in hearing it.

Absent facts to the contrary, I would grant him just a little bit of leniency, just as the judge apparently did.

12 posted on **10/5/2007, 8:43:28 PM** by **sarasmom**
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To: **buccaneer81**

Where's my tiny wee violin when I need it?

13 posted on **10/5/2007, 11:57:52 PM** by **Tennessee Nana**
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