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West Boynton man to be jailed in voter registration fraud case

By MARC FREEMAN
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Before the 2012 presidential election, William Hazard, of [West Boynton](#), took a job for a firm aiming to increase the number of Republican voters in Florida.

But authorities last year charged Hazard, 53, with eight voter registration fraud felonies, claiming he signed up folks without their knowledge and consent.

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The unusual case was resolved in [Palm Beach County](#) Circuit Court on Friday

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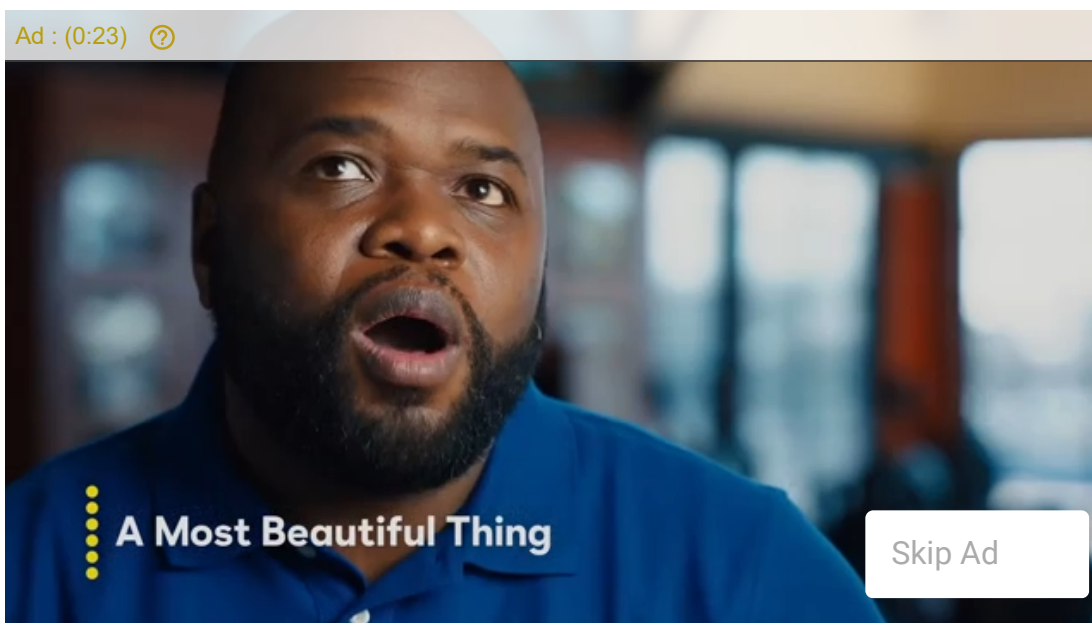
Circuit Judge Glenn Kelley sentenced Hazard to 10 days in [Palm Beach County Jail](#), with credit for one day served. He is ordered to surrender at 5 p.m. May 1.

Other punishments include 36 months probation, which he may seek to end after 18 months, and paying \$7,500 to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement to reimburse for some costs of its extensive investigation. The amount is due within the first 30 days of the start of the probation.

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Court records show an agent spent \$31,670, covering 1,002 hours and travel costs, for the case against Hazard.

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Defense attorney Douglas Duncan said if Hazard successfully completes the terms

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Assistant State Attorney Stephanie Dutko informed the court that her office dropped four of the felony charges. Hazard is also due to pay \$100 toward the cost of his prosecution and \$398 in court costs.

According to arrest records, Strategic Allied Consulting hired Hazard as a contractor, with the task of going to grocery stores, shopping centers and other similar places to ask people who they were voting for. If they were voting Republican, Hazard would help the person get registered.



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As part of his training, Hazard had watched a video and filled out forms acknowledging he knew the rules of his job, including not changing people's party affiliation, not filling in blank spaces or filling out the form himself, Special Agent Thomas Bacon wrote in the arrest report.

But the investigator learned that Hazard's uncle, of Des Moines, Iowa, had a registration submitted in his name in Florida. The uncle said he hadn't been to Florida in three or four years.

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Other allegations included the submission of voter forms for two people registered as Republican, even though both were Democrats.

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Elections officials in six Florida counties reported problems with voter registration forms collected by Strategic Allied Consulting in 2012,

according to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement.

The Republican Party of Florida, which had hired the firm, severed ties with it after the irregularities surfaced.

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Topics: [Trials and Arbitration](#), [Crime](#), [Politics and Government](#)

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Marc Freeman covers Palm Beach County criminal and civil courts for the Sun Sentinel. He previously wrote about K-12 education, local government, and consumer issues. Marc's work has also appeared in The Palm Beach Post, The Philadelphia Inquirer, and The Patriot-News.

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