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E.C. vote fraud case moves forward

VOTE FRAUD : Two sentenced, two plead guilty

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Mar 1, 2007

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E.C. vote fraud case moves forward

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CROWN POINT | Two pleaded guilty and two were sentenced Wednesday in connection with the ongoing East Chicago vote fraud investigation, the Lake County prosecutor's office reported.

So far, 13 people have been sentenced, and trial dates have been set for 20 defendants. A jury acquitted Robert "Bosko" Grkinich last year of 20 counts related to alleged vote fraud.

On Wednesday, Lake Criminal Court Judge Thomas P. Stefaniak sentenced Michael Harretos, 63, of Schererville, to one year on probation, 40 hours of community service and a $500 fine for voting in a precinct in which the defendant did not reside.

Judge Clarence Murray sentenced Ezequiel Godinez, 53, of Merrillville, to one year on probation and 100 hours of community service for the same offense.

Jose Arroyo, 39, of Hammond, and Mabel Komendat, 44, of Highland, both pleaded guilty to voting in other precincts. Each face maximum prison terms of thee years and are scheduled to be sentenced March 28 by Murray.

Arthur Vera, 65, and Armando Vera, 51, both of Hammond, are scheduled to be sentenced March 14 by Stefaniak. The Veras also pleaded guilty to voting in other precincts earlier this month.

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