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Hobart couple charged with voting in E.C

First returns are in for vote fraud probe in Lake County

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CROWN POINT -- A special Lake County grand jury has indicted an East Chicago parks employee and his wife in the first of what may be a number of vote fraud indictments.

Lake County Prosecutor Bernard Carter and Indiana Attorney General Steve Carter are holding a news conference today to announce this and other charges filed as a result of their 2-month-old joint investigation of what has been termed pervasive fraud in the May 6 East Chicago and Schererville municipal primaries.

The indictments charge Robert V. Croy, 73, and Dolores A. Croy, 67, with voting outside their home precinct and lying under oath about the votes. Both violations are Class D felonies carrying a maximum penalty of three years in prison.





The indictments, dated Thursday, allege the Croys reside in a single-family house at 2620 W. 39th Ave. (Old Ridge Road), Hobart.

Lawyers for East Chicago City Councilman George Pabey, who uncovered violations in his challenge of the spring primary's results, said last July the Croys cast absentee ballots in East Chicago, but refused to answer subpoenas to appear and to answer questions under oath about their votes.

A source with ties to East Chicago politics indicated the East Chicago Parks Department hired Robert Croy a few months before the primary and Croy listed his residence as Charley Tuna's Tap, 3802 Parrish Ave., in East Chicago's Harbor section.



A woman, who identified herself as Dolores Croy, answered the phone at the Croy's Hobart residence Monday evening and said she knew nothing about the indictment and she had no comment. A man answering the phone at Charley Tuna's Tap said Robert Croy had just left for the evening.

Robert and Dolores Croy appeared Nov. 7 before the grand jury where they also would have been questioned under oath. Robert was wearing a jacket with the insignia of Charley Tuna's Tap. He said he lived in East Chicago and worked part-time at the bar as a merchandise stocker.

He said his wife used to work at the bar before her health deteriorated. He brought her out of the grand jury room on a wheelchair.

A story in 1994 about the Croys winning a \$100,000 lottery stated Dolores was working as a cook for Charley Tuna's Tap at the time.

A source close to the investigation said more charges, filed by affidavit rather than by indictment, will be announced in Tuesday's news conference.

East Chicago Mayor Robert Pastrick needed a wave of absentee ballots last spring to win the primary by 278 votes over Pabey, who promptly demanded a recount.

Pabey's supporters uncovered a large number of absentee ballots for Pastrick improperly cast from addresses that were empty lots or vacant homes, by people living outside the city or who received improper assistance from Pastrick's campaign workers.

Special Lake Superior Court Judge Steven King, who presided over a three-week recount trial issued a 104-page opinion that the East Chicago Democratic mayoral primary may have been a textbook example of chicanery and threw out 155 votes.

That still left Pastrick with a 123-vote majority. He won the general election this month by a wide margin over Republican candidate A. Santos.

Pabey's allegations sparked the joint investigation by the prosecutor and attorney general.

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