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Trio sentenced for role in vote-buying scheme

Sep 25, 2007



Three people who pleaded guilty to conspiracy to buy votes during the May 2006 Democratic primary in eastern Kentucky were sentenced on Monday.

Steven and Belinda Crouch, who are married, and Anthony "Buck" White were sentenced by U.S. District Judge Joseph Hood for their role in widespread voter fraud in Bath County.

Steven Crouch, 37, was sentenced to five months in prison and five months of home incarceration. Belinda Crouch, 30, received three years of probation, but must spend five weekends in the Montgomery County jail. White, 54, was sentenced to three years of probation.

The three said Walter Shrout, at the time the Bath County judge-executive, and local businessmen Roosevelt "Sonny" Swartz, gave them money to pay some of the county's poorest residents to vote for Shrout. Shrout ended up winning the election.

The trio are among more than a dozen people charged in connection to voter fraud in the county.

Swartz previously pleaded guilty to one count of vote-buying and sentenced to two years of probation, including six months of home incarceration. Shrout is appealing a 27-month sentence.

Former County attorney Donald "Champ" Maze pleaded guilty to several charges in February and is serving a 21-month sentence.

Bath Sheriff Randy Armitage is scheduled to stand trial on Oct. 2.



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