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Politics

Ex-state rep Stephen 'Stat' Smith gets 4 months in prison for voter fraud

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By **State House News Service**

By ANDY METZGER

BOSTON — Former Rep. Stephen "Stat" Smith has been sentenced to four months in federal prison for two misdemeanor counts of voter fraud.



Stephen Smith

The Everett pol pleaded guilty earlier this year with an agreement from U.S. Attorney Carmen Ortiz that prosecutors would recommend a six-month sentence.

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According to Ortiz spokeswoman Christina Dilorio-Sterling, Smith made a brief statement in court to apologize to his family and constituents.

Magistrate Judge Leo Sorokin sentenced Smith on Tuesday to four months in prison, followed by a year of supervised release and a \$20,000 fine.

Dilorio-Sterling said the location of Smith's incarceration would be determined by the Bureau of Prisons, and said Sorokin had recommended a "nearby prison camp."

In both municipal and state elections, Smith ran a scheme where he obtained absentee ballots for ineligible voters and in some cases cast ballots for voters without them knowing it.

The April 9 sentencing triggers a five-year period during which Smith agreed not to seek elective office.

Prosecutors had recommended a \$40,000 fine. Smith is scheduled to report for his sentence on May 21.

"We can never know whether this crime has altered the outcome of an election," prosecutors wrote in a sentencing memorandum. "Nevertheless, the public's confidence in the electoral process has been adversely affected by the defendant's actions."

Everett voters last week elected Wayne Matewsky, a member of the Bricklayers and Allied Crafts Local 3 and Everett city official for three decades, to fill the seat formerly held by Smith. A former aide to Smith, Matewsky won 1,258 votes, easily besting two unenrolled candidates but narrowly edging John Hanlon, the former mayor who lost in the primary but received 1,209 votes last week as a write-in candidate.

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