

Hattiesburg American

NEWS

Fifth of 7 charged with voter fraud pleads guilty

From special reports

Published 3:03 p.m. CT Apr. 1, 2015

Another of the seven people indicted on misdemeanor illegal voting charges from the 2013 Hattiesburg mayoral election pleaded guilty last month.

Mack Charles West Jr., 40, officially pleaded to misdemeanor voting out of district of legal domicile, according to a sentencing order filed March 12 in Forrest County Circuit Court.

West was arrested by the Mississippi Department of Corrections and booked Jan. 28 into Forrest County Regional Jail because the voting fraud charge violated his probation on a felony shoplifting charge.

Like four others, West received a suspended sentence of six months, was fined \$200 and ordered to pay \$220.84 court costs. He remains incarcerated while finishing his sentence for shoplifting.

Alethea Shaw Milton, Joseph Lee Anderson, Carmon Yvette Anderson and Mamie Johnson pleaded guilty last year to the voting out of district of legal domicile.

Charges still are pending against two others, Vaughn A. Gray and Takhara L. Smith.

The charges were connected to alleged voting irregularities in the 2013 Hattiesburg mayoral race between incumbent Mayor Johnny DuPree and former City Councilman Dave Ware.

DuPree won a fourth consecutive term after defeating Ware in a pair of elections that were marred by alleged voting irregularities, particularly with absentee and affidavit ballots.

After a year-long investigation, two Forrest County grand juries handed down seven misdemeanor indictments in October 2014.