

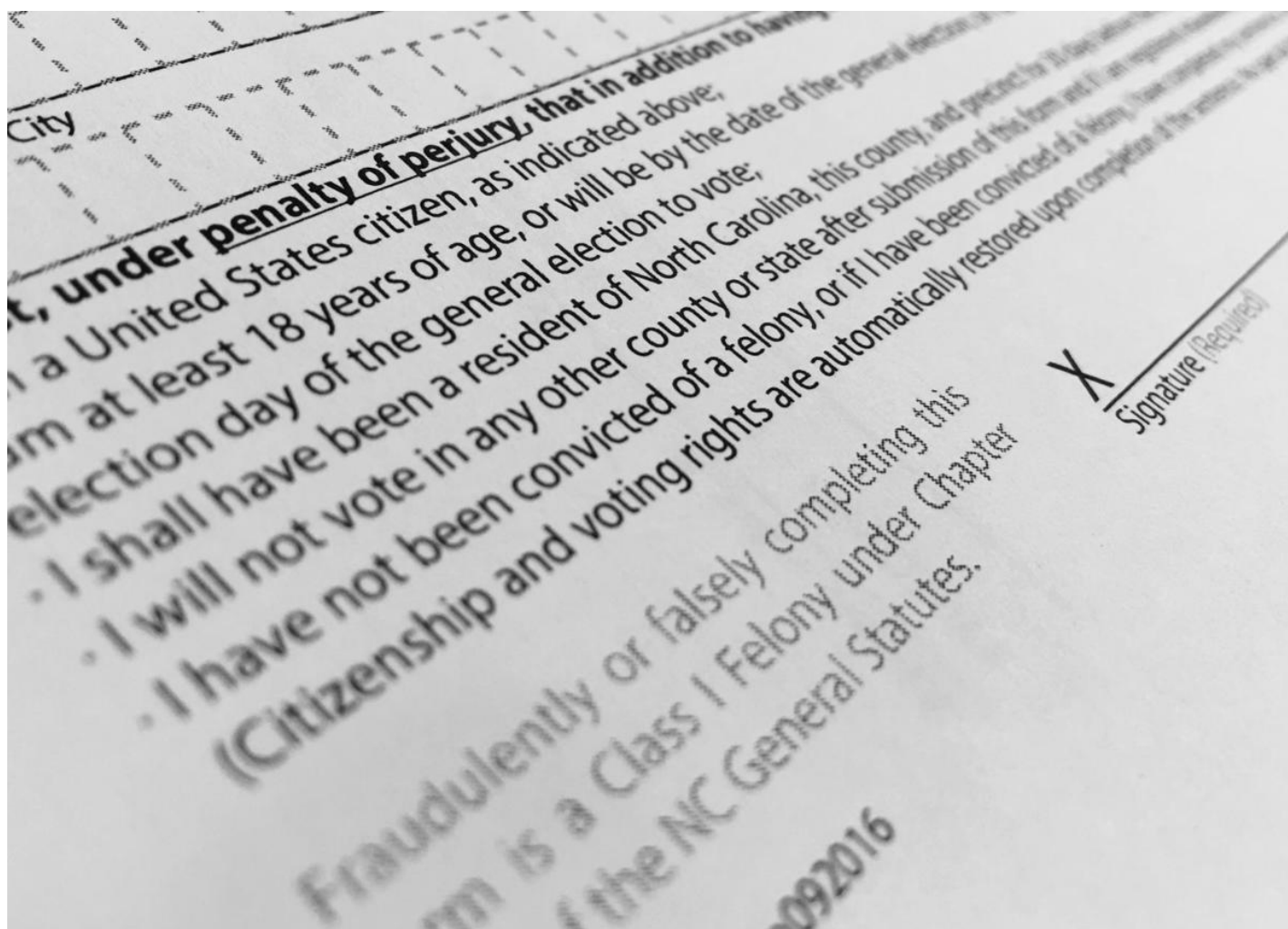
https://www.thepilot.com/news/two-convicted-of-felony-voter-fraud/article_988c8fe4-2c10-11e7-bb60-bba18edb960f.html

FEATURED

Two Convicted of Felony Voter Fraud

By Jaymie Baxley, Staff Writer

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Federal law prohibits felony offenders from voting while they are incarcerated, on parole or on probation.

Jaymie Baxley/The Pilot

District Attorney Maureen Krueger announced Wednesday that two men were found guilty of felony voter fraud in Moore County.

Edward Charles Green, a 58-year-old Southern Pines resident, was sentenced to a minimum of four months in jail and six months of supervised probation, which will run concurrent to a probation sentence from a previous offense.

Dalton Shane Smith, a 22-year-old Cameron resident, was given an active sentence of at least 30 months behind bars. Jennifer Cooper, an administrative assistant for the state Judicial Branch, said Smith's sentence includes time for unrelated charges.

The men were indicted by a grand jury in February after the District Attorney's Office conducted an investigation into illegal voting in the 2016 Presidential election. Ryan Wiggs, a 32-year-old Lakeview resident, was also indicted, but his case is still pending.

Glenda Clendenin, director of the Moore County Board of Elections, said the residents did not disclose they were on probation for felony offenses when they cast their ballots. Federal law prohibits felony offenders from voting while they are incarcerated, on parole or on probation.

Green was convicted in 2014 of promoting the prostitution of a minor with a mental disability and Smith was convicted last year of felony breaking and entering, according to court documents. Wiggs was convicted in 2015 for failing to register as a sex offender.

Online voter records show that Green is affiliated with the Democratic party, while Wiggs and Smith are affiliated with the Republican party.

The convictions of Green and Smith were announced a week after Democracy North Carolina, a voter-rights organization, cited Moore County in a report that accused the state Republican Party and the campaign to re-elect Gov. Pat McCrory of a "coordinated legal and publicity crusade to disrupt, and potentially corrupt, the elections process with (...) fraudulent charges of voter fraud."

The report said four local voters were challenged, three of which "are completely innocent." The challenges were later withdrawn.

Jaymie Baxley

Reporter

Jaymie Baxley is an award-winning reporter covering public health, social issues and general news for The Pilot. He previously worked at The Robesonian in Lumberton and The Daily Courier in Forest City.

