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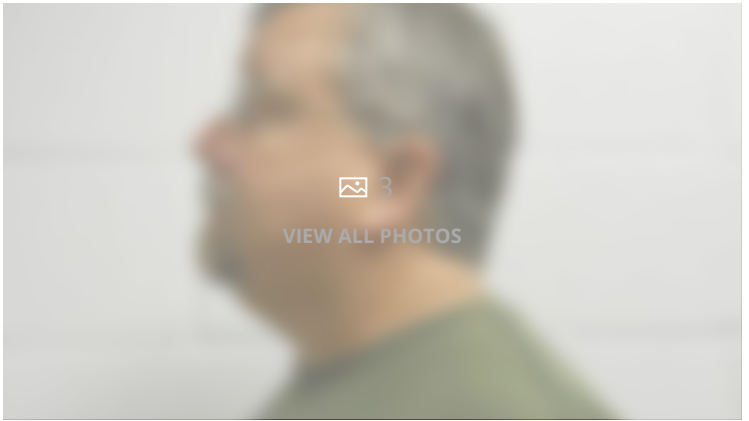
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Haywood County man found guilty of felony voter fraud

by Rex Hodge & WLOS Staff

Friday, February 10th 2017

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Dewey George Gidcumb was found guilty on Thursday of felony voter fraud for voting twice during the Republican primary last year. (Photo credit: Haywood County Sheriff's Office)

HAYWOOD COUNTY, N.C. (WLOS) — A Haywood County man was found guilty on Thursday of felony voter fraud for voting twice during the Republican primary last year.

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The district attorney's office said Dewey George Gidcumb, 52, voted once during One-Stop Early Voting on March 3, 2016, and a second time on March 15.

"One person, one vote," District Attorney Ashley Welch said in a release. "That's what this case is about."

The 2016 primary included choices for governor and president.

According to a press release, Gidcumb first claimed that he thought his second vote was in a different election, then later said he forgot that he voted the first time.

"However, prosecutors pointed out that Gidcumb was an experienced voter who had voted in each primary and general election since 1996 in Haywood County, and that he had even been a chairman of his local precinct," a press release said.

The offense was spotted by Haywood County's Board of Elections Director.

"Checks and balances...the system works. And I want the citizens to be confident in their elections processes," Robert Inman said.

Gidcumb's attorney said his client had no intent to vote twice and says he simply had forgotten.

"On a very personal level, I believe Mr. Gidcumb absolutely," Josh Nielson said.

According to the North Carolina State Board of Elections and Ethics Enforcement Office, Gidcumb received a suspended prison sentence of 5 to 15 months, 12 months of supervised probation, 24 hours of community service and a one hundred dollar fine, plus court costs.

"Regardless of political views or party affiliations, the very foundations of our democracy depend on fair voting practices," Welch said.

No word yet whether Gidcumb will appeal.

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