

THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
EASTERN DISTRICT *of* NORTH CAROLINA

[U.S. Attorneys](#) » [Eastern District of North Carolina](#) » [News](#)

**Department of Justice**

U.S. Attorney's Office

Eastern District of North Carolina

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday, August 9, 2018

## **Nash County Man Sentenced for Voting by an Alien**

**GREENVILLE** – Robert J. Higdon, Jr., the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, announces the sentencing of **ROBERTO HERNANDEZ-CUARENTA**, age 57, of Zebulon, North Carolina, for two counts of Voting by Alien. **HERNANDEZ-CUARENTA** was sentenced to time served on both counts which is four months of imprisonment.

On November 6, 2012 and November 8, 2016, **HERNANDEZ-CUARENTA**, knowing he was not a United States Citizen, did knowingly vote in two elections held in part for the purpose of electing a candidate for the Office of President, Vice President, and Member of the House of Representative.

The evidence presented at sentencing showed that the defendant was granted a Special Agricultural Worker application in June of 1992. He was subsequently given legal and permanent resident status as a seasonal agricultural worker. However, **HERNANDEZ-CUARENTA** was never naturalized as a United States Citizen and there are no pending applications or petitions on behalf of the defendant for United States Citizenship. **HERNANDEZ-CUARENTA** is a citizen of Mexico.

Mr. Higdon commented: "The right to vote is a precious privilege available only to citizens of the United States. When a non-citizen votes in a federal election it serves to dilute and devalue the vote of American citizens and places the decision making authority of the American electorate in the hands of those who have no right to make those choices. My office will do its part to protect the rights of every American citizen to cast their vote freely and to have it counted fairly." There are no pending applications or petitions on behalf of the defendant for United States citizenship.

The case was investigated by the North Carolina Board of Elections and the Homeland Security Investigation Raleigh Office. Assistant United States Attorney Ethan Ontjes is handling the case for the government.

---

**Component(s):**

USAO - North Carolina, Eastern