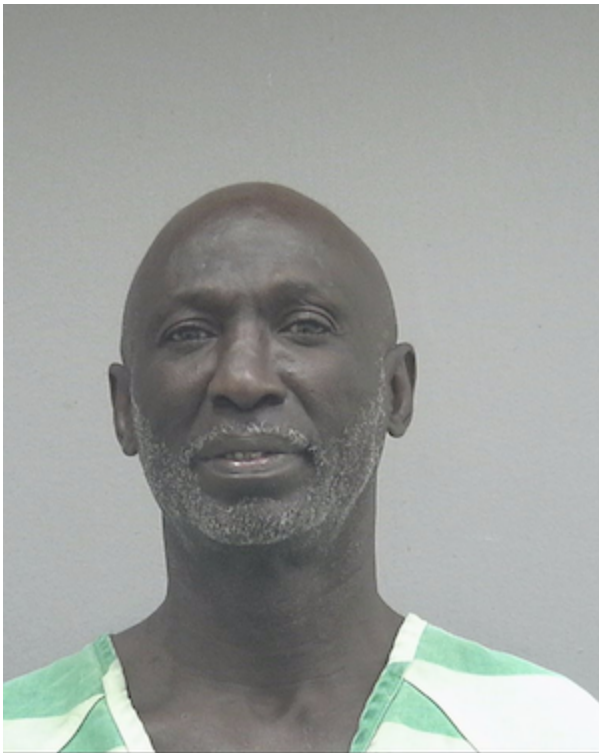


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Nine-time felon sentenced to probation after pleading to fraudulent voting charges

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BY JENNIFER CABRERA

GAINESVILLE, Fla. – Leroy James Ross, Jr., 64, has been sentenced to three years of probation, 50 hours of community service, and \$621 in court costs

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after entering a plea of nolo contendere to two counts of fraudulent voter registration and one count of willful voting by an unqualified elector. The maximum sentence for the charges is 15 years in prison.

Ross was released from prison in September 2021; he now has 12 felony convictions and 30 misdemeanor convictions.

Ross is the seventh to be sentenced of at least ten convicted felons who [registered to vote](#) or voted in 2020 at the Alachua County Jail but were unqualified to vote for various reasons; the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) investigation into the allegations found that Ross voted in the 2020 General Election from the jail by mail-in ballot after he was convicted in June 2020 for cocaine possession and tampering with evidence.

Dedrick Baldwin and Therris Conney were [sentenced to 364 days](#) in July 2022, Daniel Roberts was [sentenced](#) in June to three years in state prison, and Arthur Lang was [sentenced to 18 months in state prison](#) a few days later, all on similar charges. Henry Shuler was [sentenced to one year and seven days](#) in August 2022. Xavier Artis was [sentenced to 13 months in prison](#) on February 14, 2023. All of these defendants except Lang are serving the sentences concurrent with their previous sentences; Lang's sentence extended his release date by eight months.



Three defendants still have open cases:

- Kelvin Bolton is out on bail and is awaiting trial;
- John Boyd Rivers is out on bail and is scheduled for trial in April;
- Christopher T. Wiggins is in the Alachua County Jail awaiting trial.