



CRIME - SACTO 911

Sacto 911

Mexican citizen who voted for Trump found guilty of voter fraud in 5 U.S. elections

BY SAM STANTON

AUGUST 23, 2019 10:34 AM, UPDATED AUGUST 23, 2019 11:43 AM



California Secretary of State Alex Padilla explains how counties will be given the option to eventually shift to a new way of voting under the Voter's Choice Act by 2020. It's said to improve voter turnout.

BY MICHELLE INEZ SIMON 



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A jury on Friday found a Sacramento man guilty on all counts in [a case](#) charging him with being a Mexican citizen who assumed an American's identity and voted in five federal elections.

Gustavo Araujo Lerma, who has insisted he is an American-born man named Hiram Enrique Velez, was found guilty on all seven counts by a jury in federal court in Sacramento.

Lerma showed no emotion as the verdict was read by U.S. District Judge John A. Mendez, and family members declined to comment afterward.

Mendez set sentencing for Nov. 26, and Lerma could face at least two years in prison for his conviction on a count of aggravated identity theft.

The defendant has been held in custody since his 2017 indictment by a federal grand jury and faced one count of aggravated identity theft, one count of making a false statement on a passport application and five counts of voting by an alien in federal elections from 2012 through 2016.

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The defense contended there is no proof that the defendant actually is Lerma – a Mexican citizen – and the defendant [testified Wednesday](#) that he didn't know where he was born or when because he was found as a 5-year-old on the streets of San Antonio.

Lerma testified that he was an ardent fan of President Trump and a Republican who sent money in to support the Republican party.

Prosecutors said he was born in Mexico in 1955, married his wife and had children there, then came to the United States and remarried his wife in Los Angeles so that, as a purported U.S. citizen, he could provide legal resident status for his wife and children.

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FILE - In this Aug. 2, 2019 file photo, President Donald Trump speaks to reporters before departing the White House in Washington. Trump is not letting up on his attacks on the Federal Reserve, calling for substantial Fed rate cuts to allow the dollar to fall in value against foreign currencies. In a series of tweets Thursday, Aug. 8, Trump says, "As your president, one would think that I would be thrilled with our very strong dollar. I am not!" (AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster, File) CAROLYN KASTER AP



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Sam Stanton has worked for The Bee since 1991 and has covered a variety of issues, including politics, criminal justice and breaking news.

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