

KRIS W. KOBACH
Secretary of State



Memorial Hall, First Floor
120 S.W. 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612-1594
(785) 296-4564

STATE OF KANSAS

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact Information
Desiree Taliaferro, Public Affairs Director
Kansas Secretary of State
785-296-2034 | media@sos.ks.gov

KOBACH ANNOUNCES FIRST NON-CITIZEN VOTING CONVICTION

Topeka (April 12, 2017) – Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach today announced the securing of a guilty plea in the voter fraud case of Victor David Garcia Bebek. This is Secretary Kobach’s eighth conviction that he has obtained since gaining the authority to prosecute voter fraud in July 2015, and the first for the crime of a non-citizen voting.

As a non-citizen, Mr. Bebek voted on three separate occasions, including a 2012 special election, the 2012 general election, and the 2014 general election. On April 7, 2017, Mr. Bebek plead guilty to three counts of voting without being qualified, a class A misdemeanor. Under the plea agreement Mr. Bebek was placed on unsupervised probation for a period of up to three years and must pay a \$5,000 fine. Probation will terminate upon payment of the fine. The case was brought in Sedgwick County District Court.

Secretary Kobach was first elected in 2010 on a platform of securing the integrity of elections. In 2011, he introduced, and the Kansas legislature adopted, the Secure and Fair Elections (SAFE) Act, which requires proof of citizenship at the time of registration and photo identification at the time of voting.

Secretary Kobach stated: “The problem of non-citizens voting is a serious one, both in Kansas and nationally. Every time a non-citizen votes, it cancels out the vote of a United States citizen.”

Secretary Kobach has secured \$29,000 in fines so far for election related crimes.

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