

# Court docs: James City man indicted on voter fraud charges



Voters from across Greater Williamsburg and the nation made their way to the polls this morning to cast ballots and let their voices be heard.

By **Steve Roberts Jr**

Staff writer

APRIL 9, 2019, 4:20 PM | JAMES CITY COUNTY

**A**fter he tried to cast ballots for himself and his dead wife in the 2018 elections, a U.S. Army veteran has been indicted on charges of voter fraud in James City County.

Richard Douglas Dohmen, 68, of James City, was indicted by a grand jury in the Williamsburg-James City County Circuit Court on March 20 on charges of forging public records with the intent to defraud and making a false statement, according to the indictments.

Dohmen, a helicopter pilot and Army veteran, was charged in October with voter fraud after he tried to cast two ballots, according to filings in Williamsburg-James City County Circuit Court.

At 2:23 p.m. Oct. 24, the James City County Voter Registrar's office called the James City County Police Department to request an investigation into an allegedly fraudulent absentee voter application, according to

court documents.

An officer visited Dohmen's home, court documents said, and Dohmen told the officer he didn't know about the absentee voting application.

The officer received Dohmen's deceased wife's voter registration card and the absentee voting application filled in her name from the general registrar's office, according to court documents. The signatures on the two pieces of paper were dissimilar.

The officer then compared Dohmen's absentee voting application's signature to that of his dead wife's and noticed they were substantially similar, court documents said.

When the officer returned to Dohmen's home, Dohmen told him he had filled out the absentee ballot in his dead wife's name to cast a second vote during the election, according to court documents.

Dohmen was charged and turned himself into the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail on Nov. 1, according to James City County Police Department spokeswoman Stephanie Williams.

In the intervening months, Dohmen hired an attorney and had his \$5,000 unsecured bond amended so that he could leave the state to work in Pennsylvania, the filings said.

On Jan. 25, the case was certified to the circuit court and two months later a grand jury indicted Dohmen, according to the court documents. General Registrar Dianna Moorman and the responding police officer have been subpoenaed in the case.

Dohmen is scheduled to go to trial at 1 p.m. June 6, according to online court records.

If he is convicted, Dohmen faces as much as 20 years in jail and \$102,500 in fines, according to the Virginia Code. [He'd also lose the right to vote.](#)

**Roberts can be reached at 757-604-1329, by email at [srobertsjr@v Gazette.com](mailto:srobertsjr@v Gazette.com) and on Twitter [@SPRobertsJr](https://twitter.com/SPRobertsJr).**

Copyright © 2019, The Virginia Gazette

**This article is related to:** [Crime](#)