



News Release

OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GENERAL ALAN WILSON
STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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Former State Senator Robert Ford Indicted
By Richland County Grand Jury
Charged with Misconduct in Office

(COLUMBIA, S.C.) South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson announced the Richland County Grand Jury returned indictments against former state Senator Robert Ford of Charleston on November 13, 2014. He was charged with a total of eight (8) counts, including: one (1) count of Misconduct in Office; one (1) count of Forgery Less than \$10,000; and six (6) counts under the Ethics Act, consisting of two (2) counts of Personal Use of Campaign Funds, two (2) counts of Depositing Campaign Contributions into personal bank accounts, and two (2) counts of False Reporting.

Collectively, these indictments accuse Ford of obtaining an improper personal benefit from his public office by depositing campaign funds into his personal bank accounts, using campaign funds to pay for personal expenses, and then filing false campaign reports and submitting forgeries to the Senate Ethics Committee.

Misconduct in Office is a misdemeanor offense punishable upon conviction by up to ten (10) years imprisonment. The Ethics Act violations are a misdemeanor offense, each punishable upon conviction by one (1) year imprisonment and/or a fine of not less than \$5,000. Forgery of Less than \$10,000 is a felony punishable upon conviction by five (5) years imprisonment and/or a fine at the discretion of court.

The case will be prosecuted by Assistant Deputy Attorney General Creighton Waters and Assistant Attorney General Jason Anders. The investigation was conducted by agents of the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division.

Attorney General Wilson stressed all defendants are presumed innocent unless and until they are proven guilty in a court of law.

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