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## Indictments Handed Down in Change-of-Government Case

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The Arlington County Commonwealth's Attorney's office on Dec. 20 announced the indictment of two individuals on charges related to the gathering of signatures during this year's change-of-government effort.

The documents charge Cheryl Simmons with voter fraud and William Cockerham with a false statement on a required state form.

The indictments were handed down by an Arlington grand jury. The charges are felonies, with a maximum penalty of up to 10 years in state prison and fines.

Simmons gathered signatures as part of the unsuccessful effort to get a change-of-government effort on the Nov. 2 ballot. The 2,200 signatures she allegedly gathered were rejected by the county elections office because Simmons was a convicted felon, and therefore prohibited under state law from verifying petition signatures.

Organizers of the petition drive fell short of the 14,350 signatures needed to get the measure on the ballot.