

Waltz pleads no contest to single charge

May 20, 2022



Former Del Norte County Sheriff Randy Waltz pleaded no contest to a misdemeanor charge of false declaration of a candidacy, bringing an end to the saga that cost Waltz his job as sheriff.

By agreeing to plead to the single misdemeanor, the district attorney's office dropped several felony charges, all related to allegations Waltz filed to run for sheriff from an address he was not residing at.

In the no contest plea, Waltz did not admit guilt, but he accepted the fact there was evidence supporting the charge. Waltz was fined \$1,000 but will serve no time in jail and was not placed on probation.

Waltz was originally charged with three felonies: perjury by declaration on a voter registration application, false voter registration, and false declaration of candidacy. The first two charges were dropped and the third was reduced from a felony to a misdemeanor.

Waltz was appointed sheriff in September 2021 and moved to Del Norte County at the time. He announced earlier this year he was going to run for a four-year term. When he filed paperwork to run, he listed an address in Smith River where he had signed a lease but had not yet moved into due to a delay in the room opening up.

He was charged with the felony charges in March and shortly afterward resigned as sheriff and withdrew from the race.

When Waltz withdrew, it left only former Crescent City Lt. Garrett Scott in the election. Lt. Daniel Schneck has been leading the sheriff's office since March.

