

Black ordered to pay \$1 million fine

Written by

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Former state House Speaker Jim Black was sentenced today for a political corruption charge.

Black was ordered to pay a \$1 million fine and to serve 10 months in prison, the term to run concurrently with a federal five-year sentence Black began serving Monday. Prosecutors allege Black gave former Representative Michael Decker as much as \$58,000 in cash and campaign contributions to switch political parties in 2003. The move helped Black remain co-speaker. While he has consistently denied bribing Decker, Black admitted yesterday to giving \$10,000 to Decker. He said it was a gift to an impoverished man living in a van.