

## **Jury recommends death penalty in 2001 murder**

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A jury on Thursday recommended that Willie Hodges be sentenced to death for the murder of a Pensacola woman.

Hodges was convicted earlier this month of first-degree murder in the 2001, death of Patricia Belanger.

The jury's vote for the **death penalty** was 10-2 following closing arguments by prosecutor John Molchan and defense attorney Jerry Allred. The other option was life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Circuit Judge Terry Terrell will hand down the sentence. A May 6 hearing to discuss legal issues is scheduled, and a sentencing date then will be scheduled.

Hodges, 47, of Epes, Ala., also is accused of slayings in Cincinnati and Sumter County, Ala.