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Villarreal to serve 90 days in jail for election fraud

Refugio County commissioner gets jail, 5 years probation and fine

Associated Press

Oct. 9, 2007, 4:33PM

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REFUGIO — A Refugio County commissioner pleaded guilty today to felony election fraud charges and will be jailed for three months, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott said.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Raymond Villarreal, 57, will also plead to an associated misdemeanor charge next week, according to a written statement from Abbott.

Under the plea agreement reached today, Villarreal will serve 90 days in jail, be placed on five years' probation, resign from the Commissioners Court and pay a \$1,500 fine.

Villarreal pleaded guilty to one count of tampering with a governmental record, a state jail felony, and will also plead guilty to possessing the ballot of another person, a Class B misdemeanor. He will pay an additional \$1,000 fine on the misdemeanor charge.

Villarreal, who was indicted in February, was accused of developing a complicated scheme involving mail-in ballots to influence the Democratic Party primary while a Commissioners Court candidate last year.

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