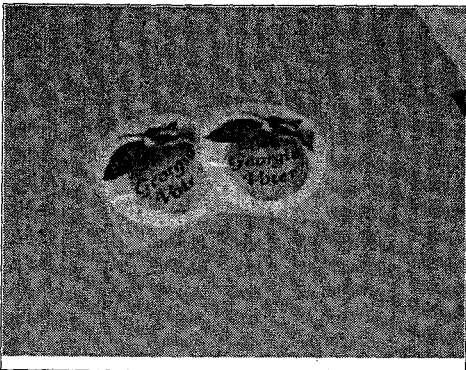


Voting Irregularities Lead To Ten Arrests In South Georgia

By Josephine Bennett

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Ten people have been arrested in South Georgia following a 5-month investigation into voter fraud. They're accused of illegally helping people vote by absentee ballot.

The arrested include members or newly-elected members of the Brooks County School Board in Quitman. State officials say 979 absentee ballots were cast in the July primary election, an unusually high number.

Secretary of State Brian Kemp says his office and the GBI conducted 350 interviews during the investigation. He says people need to be very careful handling absentee ballots.

"Once the voter receives their ballot in the mail they need to vote it and seal it up and mail it back unless they are physically unable to do that. There shouldn't be anyone else handling their ballot."

Those arrested face felony charges for illegally possessing ballots and violating voting procedure. GBI officials say more arrests could be made and more charges filed.

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