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Probation for Starr County official in voter cases

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RIO GRANDE CITY, Texas (AP) - A county commissioner has pleaded no contest to two misdemeanor counts in a Texas voter fraud investigation. Starr County Commissioner Raul "Roy" Pena Jr. must serve six months of probation and pay a \$500 fine. The Monitor of McAllen reported Thursday that Pena pleaded no contest to illegally returning a marked ballot and to improperly mailing another voter's ballot. Pena, who wasn't up for re-election during the March primary, on Feb. 26 drew scrutiny when he arrived at a Rio Grande City post office with 56 mail-in ballots. Texas law requires anyone who provides assistance to a voter to sign the outside of the ballot's envelope. Pena did not immediately comment. Pena attorney Rene Montalvo said he was not authorized to speak on the commissioner's behalf. ___ Information from: The Monitor, <http://www.themonitor.com>