



Thomas E. Brown, Sheriff

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

800+ DEKALB INMATES COMPLETE VOTER REGISTRATION OR ABSENTEE BALLOT APPLICATIONS

Employees Also Seize Convenient Opportunity to Register or Request Absentee Ballots at Job Site

DECATUR, GA – More than 800 DeKalb County Jail 'residents' this week completed applications for voter registration and absentee ballots as part of Sheriff Thomas Brown's efforts to ensure that eligible inmates have the opportunity to exercise their constitutional and civic rights.

"It's ironic that the jail sits directly across the street from the Voter Registration and Elections Office on Memorial Drive while eligible inmates, some of whom can view the building from their jail cells, are unable to exercise the freedom for which so many people have fought and even sacrificed their lives," Sheriff Brown said. "My staff and I decided to bring voter registration and absentee balloting to the jail."

Four hundred and forty-one inmates completed voter registration forms and an additional 376 who were already registered requested absentee ballots.

"In the state of Georgia inmates who have completed the terms of their felony convictions (parole, probation, fines, fees and restitution) can vote," Chief Deputy Jeffrey Mann said. "Their voting right is automatically restored. Inmates who are facing felony charges but have not been convicted retain this right, as well."

In addition to inmates, 60 employees reported early for duty or used break time to take advantage of the opportunity to complete registration forms.

Persons interested in more information regarding the voting rights of ex-felons in Georgia should visit www.acluga.org/ to access "Get Your Vote Back - A Guide to Help Ex-Felons in Georgia." Also, contact the Georgia Secretary of State Elections Division at 404-656-2871 or visit www.sos.state.ga.us.

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