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As I speak around the county (as I often do), I frequently hear questions which testify that even in this information age, knowledge concerning voter registration is still somewhat supported by urban legend. For example, the jury pool is no longer drawn from the list of voters. Avoiding voter registration will not exempt someone from serving jury duty. The truth behind this popular belief is, if you have a driver license you are subject to being called for jury duty.

In another attempt to dispel the myths, I offer this “Jeopardy” style list of voter registration facts in the form of answers. You may, if you wish, refer to urban legend for the questions:

- A voter information card (formerly the voter identification card) is not necessary to vote. It serves as confirmation of your registration and is not to be used for identification purposes. On election day, you must produce a valid photo and signature ID, e.g. your driver license, in order to vote. A driver license is not the only acceptable form of identification. A complete list is available on our website www.pascovotes.com.
- When at the polls, the address on your driver license does not have to match your current voting address. The license must, however, be valid and from the State of Florida.

- Property ownership does not equate to residency. Voter registration requires a valid, physical address in which you reside, not just own. The physical address of a vacant lot deeded to you may not be used for voter registration nor can a Post Office Box.

- If you live in Florida and you intend for it to be your legal residence, you are a Florida resident. If you apply for voter registration at least 29 days prior to an election, and your application is valid, you are eligible to vote regardless of how long you have lived here.

- It is permissible to vote in Florida even though you live here only part of the year. You may not, however, vote or be registered in another state. You must choose one.

- You do not have to register before each election if you maintain your registration by keeping it current. If you move out of the state of Florida, establish residency elsewhere and then return, you must register again.

- Absentee ballots or Vote by Mail Ballots are the first ballots to be counted and are not put on reserve in the event of a close race. The same goes for provisional ballots that are always counted once the determination is made that the voter is eligible to vote in the precinct in which the provisional ballot was cast.

- You no longer have to be absent from your precinct on election day or have an excuse to vote by mail ballot. You

may request and vote a mail ballot at will.

- The Office of Executive Clemency can determine if your rights as they relate to voting have been restored after a felony conviction. Having a past felony conviction does not necessarily mean that you are ineligible to vote.

- Florida is a closed primary state. This means that primary elections are party nomination elections where the parties decide who their candidate will be in the General Election. If you are registered under any other party affiliation, in the primary elections you will be permitted to vote only for non-partisan candidates (e.g. judges) and issues. Unlike some states, registering as an “independent” does not mean you will have a party option in a primary election. Party affiliation must be declared 29 days prior to an election.

Whatever you call these misconceptions: legend, myth, or folklore, all continue to exist through communal sharing and oral interpretation. Unfortunately, all aim to cast Florida in the light of being “voter unfriendly.” Therefore, to dispel one more misinterpretation, I offer the services of the Supervisor of Elections’ Office for any questions or concerns you might have about your voter registration. We always stand ready to help!