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*Vote-by-Mail is an easy, safe and free way to vote from home, available to every registered voter: the ballot is mailed to your home, you fill in your vote, seal the envelope, sign it, and mail it back in the postage-paid envelope.*

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	<b>MYTH:</b> I've always voted in person and won't be able to if I request a Vote-by-Mail ballot.
	<b>FACT:</b> <u>You can still vote in person.</u> Your Vote-by-Mail ballot is like a free insurance policy against crowded polling places during COVID-19, a hurricane, accessibility or health challenges, or a family emergency. <u>You should bring your Vote-by-Mail ballot when you vote in person, although it is not required.</u> You will surrender that ballot, and be given a new ballot to use in person.
	<b>MYTH:</b> I don't trust the mail system will deliver my ballot.
	<b>FACT:</b> Important documents like government checks and tax returns are mailed all the time with few problems! <u>You can make sure your ballot was mailed to you, received by the Supervisor of Elections and if there is problem with your ballot that you need to "cure."</u> Track your ballot by going to the Lee Supervisor of Elections website at <a href="http://lee.vote">lee.vote</a> or call 239-533-8683. You can also drop off your completed Vote-by-Mail ballot in drop-off boxes at the Elections offices and during Early Voting [August 8 – 15, 2020 for Florida Primary] at Early Voting sites; <a href="http://lee.vote">lee.vote</a> , for hour and locations.
	<b>MYTH:</b> Vote-by-Mail ballots are not counted the same way as in-person ballots are counted, or are only counted if there is a tie.
	<b>FACT:</b> <u>All VBM ballots that are signed by the voter and arrive by 7 pm on Election Day are tabulated, the same as votes at polling sites.</u> In fact, mail ballots delivered before Election Day are the first ballots to be processed and tabulated. As soon as Vote-by-Mail ballots are delivered, they are processed for missing or mismatched signatures. If there are no signature problems, Vote-by-Mail ballot tabulation begins 2 weeks before Election Day. If there is a problem, the voter is notified, so they can "cure" their ballot in time for their vote to be tabulated and the ballot is set aside for the Canvassing Board review, which may begin 22 days before Election Day. Voters have 46 hours after 7 p.m. on Election Day to "cure" their Vote-by-Mail ballot.

	<p><b>MYTH:</b> My signature has changed so my vote won't count.</p>
	<p><b>FACT:</b> For many of us, our signature changes during our lifetime. <u>Your Vote-by-Mail ballot will not count if you do not sign it the same way you signed your Florida ID or a signature update form.</u> All the staff at the Supervisor of Elections are now trained in signature matching. If you are concerned that your signature has changed dramatically, go to <a href="#">lee.vote (English)</a>, <a href="#">lee.vote (Spanish)</a> and <u>request a signature update form.</u> Return the completed form to Supervisor of Elections, PO Box 2545, Ft Myers FL 33902.</p>
	<p><b>MYTH:</b> More Vote-by-Mail ballots are rejected than in-person voting.</p>
	<p><b>FACT:</b> While a few Vote-by-Mail ballots are rejected because of missing signatures, signature mismatches, or being delivered after Election Day, it is rare. <u>Remember to sign your ballot envelope carefully; do not print your name. Each voter must sign their own envelope.</u> In the 2020 Presidential Primary the rejection rate was .5% (427 of 80,100 ballots); most of those were signature problems! You can make sure your ballot was mailed out, that the completed ballot was received by the Supervisor of Elections and whether there was a problem with the ballot that you need to cure at <a href="#">lee.vote</a> or call 239-533-8683.</p>
	<p><b>MYTH:</b> My address has changed or I'm not at my Lee County address, so I won't get my ballot.</p>
	<p><b>FACT:</b> <u>The Vote-by-Mail ballot will not be forwarded by the U.S. Post Office.</u> Your Vote-by-Mail request form must list your current address or the address you want your ballot mailed to (including out of state addresses). The deadline to request your Vote-by-Mail ballot is 10 days prior to the election [August 8 for Florida Primary August 18, 2020]. <u>This form can also be used to update your voting address within Lee County.</u> You must complete a form for each address, if your address will change for each election. You can complete the form online at <a href="#">lee.vote</a> or by calling 239-533-8683.</p>
	<p><b>Myth:</b> I can sign the ballot envelope for a family member.</p>
	<p><b>Fact:</b> <u>Only the voter can sign their own Vote-by-Mail ballot envelope.</u> Even if a family member requested a Vote-by-Mail ballot for someone else, they cannot sign their envelope. For a list of qualifying family members who can request a ballot, go to <a href="#">lee.vote</a> or call 239-533-8683.</p>

	<p><b>MYTH:</b> If I sign the Vote-by-Mail ballot envelope and list my phone or email address, my information can be stolen.</p>
	<p><b>FACT:</b> The reason the Supervisor of Elections requests your phone number and/or email address is so if there are any problems with your signature, the staff can contact you immediately to “cure” the problem. <u>Your Vote-by-Mail ballot will not be tabulated if you do not sign it</u> the same way you signed your Florida ID or a signature update form. This signature matching helps prevent fraud. That will ensure your vote counts! You can make sure your ballot was mailed out, that the completed ballot was received by the Supervisor of Elections and whether there was a problem with the ballot that you need to “cure” at <a href="http://lee.vote">lee.vote</a> or 239-533-8683.</p>
	<p><b>MYTH:</b> My Vote-by-Mail ballot didn’t arrive so I won’t be allowed to vote.</p>
	<p><b>FACT:</b> The Vote-by-Mail ballots begin to be mailed by the Supervisor of Elections approximately 5 weeks prior to Election Day. <u>You can make sure your ballot was mailed to you</u>, at Lee Supervisor of Elections website, <a href="http://lee.vote">lee.vote</a> or call 239-533-8683. Another ballot can be sent to you if there was a problem. You can also Early Vote for 8 days, beginning 10 days prior to Election Day [August 8 – 15, 2020 for Florida Primary] and on Election Day [August 18, 2020]. For Early Voting times and locations go to <a href="http://lee.vote">lee.vote</a>.</p>
	<p><b>MYTH:</b> There is more cheating when you Vote-by-Mail.</p>
	<p><b>FACT:</b> <u>Lee County uses paper Vote-by-Mail ballots, which are more secure than electronic voting.</u> Because each voter signs their own envelope, your vote cannot be “stolen” by someone else. <u>All VBM ballots that are signed by the voter and arrive by 7 pm on Election Day are tabulated.</u> As soon as Vote-by-Mail ballots are delivered, they are processed for missing or mismatched signatures. Tabulation of Vote-by-Mail ballots with no problems begins 2 weeks before Election Day. If there is a problem, the voter is notified, so they can "cure" their ballot by 46 hours after 7 p.m. on Election Day. You can verify your ballot status <a href="http://lee.vote">lee.vote</a> or 239-533-8683.</p>
	<p><b>MYTH:</b> A Voter can return their Vote-by-Mail ballot to any polling location on Election Day.</p>
	<p><b>FACT:</b> On Election Day, <u>completed Vote-by-Mail ballots may only be surrendered at your precinct polling place.</u> You will then be given a ballot to cast your vote in person. <u>If you want to drop off your completed ballot on Election Day</u>, you may do so at the following Supervisor of Elections locations and hours: Cape Coral and Bonita Springs offices until 3pm, South Cleveland office until 5pm, Main Office on Thompson St until 7pm. Go to <a href="http://lee.vote">lee.vote</a>, for details.</p>

