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News Release

## **Voter's Who Renew or Seek Replacement Driver's Licenses Will Need to Notify the Supervisor of Elections of Their New License Number**

**Indian River County, FL** – On July 31, 2024, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV) began implementing a new law requiring driver license and state ID card numbers to include 4 randomly generated numbers, so as people replace their driver licenses, everyone will get a new number. The agency says the change was done “to improve security and safeguard individuals’ identities.” Florida driver license changes could affect your ability to vote by mail or have your signature on an initiative petition form be counted.

Unfortunately, when a voter’s license number changes, the DHSMV database does not automatically notify the Elections Office of the new license number. When people renew their licenses in-person, they are asked if they would like to update their voter registration record. Most people say “no” if they have not moved or do not want to change their political party affiliation. It never occurs to them that they will receive a new driver license number and that new number is important to the Elections Office.

If you have renewed your driver license within the past year, your driver license number can be updated with the Elections Office over the telephone. A voter may also update their voter record by completing a new voter registration application online at the Elections Office website or the state online registration system. The voter will check the “update” box at the top of the form and then indicate their new driver license number. The voter will be instructed to print out their completed application to deliver to the Elections Office. Applications are also available at the Elections Office or can be mailed to the voter.

When requesting a vote-by-mail ballot, voters are required to supply the identification number that the Elections Office has on the voter’s record. For most people, the identification number is their Florida driver license or Florida ID card number. A voter can also provide their last four digits of their social security number. If the voter provides their new license number, and it does not match the number on file with the Elections Office, the voter will encounter an error message when requesting a mail ballot.

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The same identifying information is now required when a voter signs an initiative petition form. If the petition signer indicates their new driver license number and has not updated their old number in their voter record, their petition form will be rejected.

The Indian River County Supervisor of Elections, Leslie Rossway Swan, is urging voters, "Any registered voters who have renewed or replaced their driver license in the last year should contact the Elections Office to update their registration record or make the update on the Supervisor of Elections website."

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