

STATE OF FLORIDA
CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMISSION

MARCH 13, 2018

1:03 p.m. - 11:31 p.m.

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: March 13, 2018

TIME: 1:03 p.m. - 11:31 p.m.

PLACE: University of South Florida
Student Center
200 6th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, FL 33701

REPORTED BY: RUTH A. CARNEY, Notary Public
State of Florida at large

Page 1 - 477

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APPEARANCES: CHAIRMAN CARLOS BERUFF
COMMISSIONER DARRYL ROUSON
COMMISSIONER WILLIAM SCHIFINO, JR.
COMMISSIONER ARTHENIA JOYNER
COMMISSIONER ROBERTO MARTINEZ
COMMISSIONER FRANK KRUPPENBACHER
COMMISSIONER HANK COXE
COMMISSIONER TIMOTHY CERIO
COMMISSIONER CAROLYN TIMMANN
COMMISSIONER JACQUI THURLOW-LIPPISCH
COMMISSIONER NICOLE T. WASHINGTON
COMMISSIONER LISA CARLTON
COMMISSIONER MARVA JOHNSON
COMMISSIONER EMERY GAINES
COMMISSIONER CHRIS SPROWLS
COMMISSIONER JOHN STEMBERGER
COMMISSIONER CHRIS SMITH
COMMISSIONER PAM STEWART
JUDGE JOHN STARGEL

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Good afternoon, everyone.
2 We're going to convene the final meeting of the CRC
3 roadshow. If everybody will silence or turn off your
4 cell phones so that we don't have those interruptions
5 as the public meeting progresses, I'm going to turn
6 over the microphone to the chancellor.

7 MR. TADLOCK: I appreciate it.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for having us.

9 MR. TADLOCK: Thank you.

10 Good afternoon. I'm Martin Tadlock. I'm the
11 interim chancellor here at USF St. Petersburg. I
12 want to welcome all of you to this final meeting of
13 the Constitution Revision Committee and thank the
14 Commissioners for being here with us to provide us
15 this opportunity to serve our community.

16 I do want to recognize some of our Pinellas
17 County delegation members that are here with us:
18 Senator Darryl Rouson, Representative Chris Sprowls.

19 Is Representative Ben Diamond here yet?

20 And our Mayor of St. Petersburg, Rick Reissman,
21 will also be joining us.

22 I do want to -- I do want to thank them for a
23 very, very specific reason. We wouldn't be in this
24 facility without their support, so you need to know
25 that these kind of events are because of the work

1 that they do for us here at USF St. Petersburg. It's
2 vitally important for us as a university.

3 We also really believe in being the host
4 institution for anything that we can do to promote
5 democracy and promote equality and justice here
6 within St. Pete and Pinellas County. This is the
7 site where we want to be that kind of institution.
8 And we're very, very proud of our students because we
9 focus on helping them develop those leadership skills
10 that they need to lead us into the future and to
11 become citizen scholars that we would want to live,
12 work and live next to throughout our lives.

13 I'm going to introduce one of those to you,
14 David Thompson, who is our student government
15 association president.

16 David, come on up.

17 MR. THOMPSON: All right. Thank you.

18 I apologize if I'm really loud, my ears haven't
19 popped yet, I just got off the plane, but, like he
20 said, my name is David Thompson and I am the student
21 body president here at USFSP, and on behalf of the
22 student body, I would like to thank all of you for
23 attending and welcome you all to our beautiful
24 campus.

25 It's very exciting to have you all here today as

1 part of your year-long journey as you work to improve
2 our constitution in the state of Florida, and I want
3 to express my appreciation to the Commission as a
4 whole for the significance of the work that you do.
5 So thank you all for what you do.

6 USFSP is a vital community and we pride
7 ourselves on civic engagement. I and the USFSP are
8 very proud to sponsor this event, so welcome again,
9 and as always, go Bulls.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'd like to personally thank
11 the University of South Florida for hosting this in
12 the St. Pete campus because it's only 35 minutes from
13 my office. It's the first time I haven't had to get
14 on an airplane in months.

15 My name is Carlos Beruff. I act as the chairman
16 of this Commission. I was appointed by the Governor,
17 Rick Scott, and it's been a pleasure to serve, and
18 it's been a huge learning experience for me across
19 the state because we actually talk to people that
20 care about what happens to Florida for the next 20
21 years, and this Commission has listened to hundreds
22 and hundreds and hundreds of personal testimony that
23 will set the agenda for this Commission as we go into
24 our final phase.

25 Today I am joined, starting on my far right,

1 Commissioner Keiser -- Commissioner Keiser is not
2 here. Commissioner Martinez, Commissioner
3 Washington, Commissioner Lee is not in attendance,
4 Commissioner Schifino, Senator and Commissioner
5 Joyner. To my left Commissioner Rouson, Commissioner
6 Sprowls, Commissioner Timmann, Commissioner
7 Thurlow-Lippisch. She's very popular at the end
8 there.

9 Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't see you. Commissioner
10 Stewart.

11 You were hiding back there.

12 Commissioner Stewart is better known as the head
13 of education.

14 Down in the front to the left is Judge Stargel,
15 Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Stemberger,
16 Commissioner Gainey, Commissioner Cerio. I know he's
17 here, but he's missing for a moment. Commissioner
18 Carlton, Commissioner Coxe, Commissioner
19 Kruppenbacher and Commissioner Smith.

20 So that rounds the table out for us.

21 We will -- if everybody will stand, Commissioner
22 Schifino will lead us in the invocation.

23 (Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'd like to recognize
25 Commissioner Rouson to make some comments since this

1 is part of his hometown.

2 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Good afternoon, and thank
3 you for being here. I welcome the Commissioners to
4 the St. Petersburg, Pinellas County portion of my
5 Senate district. You're sitting in Senate District
6 19, and an example of a beautiful jewel of the city
7 of St. Petersburg and its urban culture.

8 As chair of the Pinellas County Legislative
9 Delegation, I also welcome you to University of South
10 Florida St. Pete campus. Vice chair of the
11 delegation is Commissioner Chris Sprowls.

12 So I know that you're not here to give -- hear a
13 speech or talk about session. Let's get to what we
14 have to deal with today. Welcome.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Commissioner.

16 We will be calling people up in groups of three
17 to five, so when you hear your name, please step up.

18 There's two microphones. These are one -- these
19 are the two microphones we have?

20 Correct.

21 So on either side, if you can just line up
22 behind them and wait your turn, and everyone has two
23 minutes. We would like to not have applause or any
24 sign, except if you have a red or green card in
25 support or against a particular item that someone's

1 speaking to, because we want everybody to be heard,
2 and if there's applause and such, it's going to
3 interrupt their ability to be heard.

4 Thank you so much.

5 We're going to start with Fern Williams, Diane
6 Parker, John Brenzel, Ken Manalang, and Tony
7 Montalto. If you would, please come to the
8 microphones in that order.

9 Again, that's Fern Williams, Diane Parker, John
10 Brenzel, Ken Manalang, and Tony Montalto.

11 Thank you so much. Please introduce yourself,
12 and use your name because I'm sure that I don't
13 pronounce them perfectly.

14 MR. WILLIAMS: Hello. My name is Fern Williams.
15 I'm from Zephyrhills, Florida. Thank you all for
16 being here. I appreciate it.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: If you could, come closer to
18 the microphone so it can pick you up.

19 There you go.

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Thank you all for being here. I
21 appreciate it.

22 I'm calling -- I'm here to talk about sane gun
23 regulations.

24 I'm not asking people to take away guns, but I
25 do have some specific requests.

1 I'd like to ban assault-type rifles, AR-15s.
2 They're only for killing people quickly in a short
3 time. They're not for hunting.

4 I think all guns should be registered. People
5 need to be licensed to own guns. They should take a
6 written test and a practical test. We should ensure
7 each weapon and we should regulate and tax
8 ammunition. We do this for cars and I believe we
9 should do it for guns too.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

12 MS. PARKER: My name is Diane Parker. Thank you
13 for listening to us, and I know you've heard all this
14 stuff a hundred times over, you're probably so sick
15 of listening to it, but I really appreciate you being
16 here.

17 But I want to ask about Prop. 95. The state's
18 overruling local authority, that's something to think
19 about.

20 There's a couple of things I wanted to mention.
21 Prop. 94 is bad for our children and it's bad for
22 people's health, but it's good for the tobacco
23 industry, and then a ban on offshore drilling. Those
24 are really the only things I really care about.

25 There's many things I wanted to mention, but I

1 know you've all heard them before, but thank you
2 again for being here.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you.

4 MR. BRENZEL: Hi, I'd like to thank you for the
5 opportunity to speak today.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Could you speak a little
7 closer to the mic, please?

8 MR. BRENZEL: Sure.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

10 MR. BRENZEL: I'd like to thank you guys for the
11 opportunity to speak today.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: And you are?

13 MR. BRENZEL: My name is John Brenzel.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay.

15 MR. BRENZEL: I live in Crystal Beach, near Palm
16 Harbor in Florida, and I'm here to speak against
17 Proposal 22 and in favor of Proposal 11.

18 I urge -- I urge you to reject efforts to vote
19 again on Proposal 22, restricting privacy rights of
20 Floridians. I urge that this body not make any
21 attempts to circumvent Florida Supreme Court's
22 decision in order to pander to the interest of a few
23 vocal individuals that are trying to further their
24 ideological agenda at the expense of the woman's
25 ability to make these most personal and difficult

1 decisions for themselves.

2 I'd also like to stand in support of Proposal
3 11. We need to close the loophole that allows
4 write-in candidates to be considered as real
5 political contenders in primary races with only one
6 major party.

7 During the last CRC meeting 20 years ago the
8 Commission decided that everyone should be allowed to
9 vote in a primary election where there's only one
10 major political party that has candidates running for
11 office. This allows for all constituents to have an
12 option to have their voices heard in the selection
13 process, and despite the fact that we are in a
14 general -- a general closed primary state. However,
15 in races where there was only one political party
16 running, the write-in loophole can be used to close
17 these primaries.

18 This has led to write-in candidates who have no
19 intention to actually campaign for office being used
20 to close off the primaries so that the general
21 constituency does not have the ability to make their
22 voices heard.

23 I'd also like to say vote no on Proposal 94, and
24 during the morning there's been a lot of legislation
25 kicked around with assault weapons --

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Brenzel.

2 MR. BRENZEL: Yes?

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: We want to thank you for your
4 comments.

5 MR. BRENZEL: Okay. Thank you. All right.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Manalang, and I hope I
7 pronounced your name correct.

8 MR. MANALANG: Yes, you did.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

10 MR. MANALANG: Good afternoon. My name is Ken
11 Manalang, and I'm a resident of Hillsborough County
12 and a father, and I am adamantly opposed to
13 Proposition 94.

14 This is one of the worst ideas I've ever heard.
15 It makes no sense to divert money that funds
16 prevention and is saving lives on the frontline to
17 cancer research. I am, as most of us are, someone
18 who has been directly affected by the death caused by
19 cigarettes and secondhand smoke.

20 Tobacco remains the number one preventable cause
21 of death, disease and disability, and these are the
22 dollars that save lives. Why would anyone vote for
23 something so irresponsible when everyone, even the
24 American Cancer, is opposed.

25 Again, it makes no sense to me, and unless the

1 real purpose is not to save lives at all.

2 Tobacco Free Florida has been recognized for
3 success and yet Proposition 94 would reduce dollars
4 from prevention. Why?

5 This is a bad idea on many levels: Bad for our
6 youth, bad for our health, and bad for our
7 constitutional process.

8 Proposition 94 passed would jeopardize our
9 citizens' health and safety. Prevention has been
10 proven effective and it works. I urge anyone who
11 genuinely cares about saving lives to vote no on
12 Prop. 94.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

15 While Mr. Montalto comes to the microphone -- is
16 Mr. Montalto here? Tony?

17 We'll set that aside. We're going to come
18 forward with Luis Gamio, Angelina Colonesso -- I
19 should know that name -- and Major Harding, and
20 Angela Vick. In that order.

21 Who's up?

22 MR. GAMIO: Is that me?

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Your name is?

24 MR. GAMIO: Luis Gamio.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Luis. Go ahead, Luis.

1 MR. GAMIO: Yeah, hi.

2 Yeah, thank you for -- thank you for having me
3 here. I've lived in Florida since 1990 and I'm here
4 to speak against Proposal 94, and basically, I think
5 it's wrong to take funds away from prevention to go
6 to research. In my own family my dad/my aunt/my
7 grandfather all died of lung cancer, and my uncle
8 right now, he's dying from it, and I think it's
9 wrong.

10 My dad, just to give you an example, we got a
11 bill for 20/50 thousand dollars for a 10-day stay
12 only at the hospital. It just doesn't makes sense
13 dollar for dollar to take money away from prevention
14 towards research.

15 More money towards research, that's great, but
16 away from prevention, to me it doesn't make sense.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

19 Please proceed.

20 MS. COLONESSO: Good afternoon. My name is
21 Angelina Coloneesso and I'm the clerk of the circuit
22 court and comptroller for Manatee County, and I'm
23 here today to respectfully ask you to adopt Proposal
24 13.

25 As an attorney and veteran prosecutor for 25

1 years of public service to the community, I can
2 appreciate the cornerstone of our government based on
3 a system of checks and balances, a segregation of
4 duties, if you will.

5 As the clerk, one of our many duties, thousands
6 of statutory functions that we have is to take a look
7 at county spending and make sure each purchase is
8 documented and is a lawful public purpose. It
9 ensures the reliability and transparency to our
10 citizens, and only through the electoral process are
11 our citizens assured accountability to them for
12 transparency of government.

13 I urge you to adopt Proposal 13 to preserve the
14 people's right to vote for their constitutional
15 officers who provide crucial services to their
16 community.

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

19 MAJOR HARDING: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Good morning. Welcome.

21 MAJOR HARDING: Thank you.

22 Thank you for providing the opportunity to speak
23 and also for the work that you do. I am Major
24 Harding, and as a judge for 34 years, I had to deal
25 with many constitutional issues.

1 I am here on behalf of Keep our Constitution
2 Clean, a group of concerned businesses and Floridians
3 who are urging the Commission to exercise restraint
4 and reject proposals that detract from the basic
5 purpose of the constitution.

6 The white paper that has been distributed to
7 you, we have suggested in that specific proposals
8 that we believe should not be in the constitution,
9 not because of their underlying merits, but because
10 they do not govern state government. They do not
11 protect fundamental rights and they can be enacted by
12 the legislature.

13 The constitution is like the foundation of a
14 house, statutes are like the exterior and finishes
15 upon which the foundation is built and which can be
16 changed by statute if situations or needs changed.
17 Removing an item from the constitution is cumbersome
18 and is difficult.

19 In our world today culture changes are
20 increasing rapidly, and given the difficulty to amend
21 the constitution, I would urge that you not address
22 cultural issues. Things governed by the constitution
23 should not change with culture. They should be
24 foundational, applied as basic structure of
25 government like your proposals for an elected

1 secretary of state, redistricting and dealing with
2 judicial age requirements.

3 I urge you to look at each proposal before you
4 and ask if it governs the basic state government,
5 does it protect the fundamental right, and is there a
6 reason why the proposal cannot be enacted by the
7 legislature.

8 If the answer is no to those questions, I urge
9 you to vote against the proposal.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Harding.

12 Angela Vick.

13 Is Tony Montalto in the audience?

14 Angela Vick, Scott Smith, Terrance Power, Clint
15 Shouppe, and Joyce Carta, if you could come to the
16 podium to speak to the microphones, that would be
17 great.

18 Again, Angela Vick, Scott Smith, Terrance Power,
19 and Clint Shouppe and Joyce Carta, please come
20 forward.

21 Angela is not here. Doesn't appear to be here.

22 Then if Mr. Smith would proceed, it would be
23 great. Thank you.

24 MR. SMITH: Good afternoon, Commission. I am
25 Scott Smith. I serve as the president of St.

1 Anthony's Hospital here in St. Petersburg.

2 We are part of BayCare Health System. We have
3 been providing high-quality, compassionate care for
4 citizens of St. Pete for 87 years. I'm here today to
5 stress the importance of a health planning process
6 for our state. Florida established its
7 certificate-of-need process to ensure that limited
8 health care resources are spent effectively in order
9 to best serve our communities.

10 The current process is working. Four new
11 hospitals in Tampa Bay have opened since 2010, and
12 the City of St. Petersburg alone has six acute care
13 hospitals.

14 Moreover, preventing the state from utilizing a
15 health planning process will make an already
16 significant physician shortage problem even worse.
17 Florida faces the third largest physician shortage in
18 the nation, and repealing CON exacerbates that
19 problem by orienting clinical resources away from
20 community need. More hospital beds without more
21 clinicians will only dilute existing care and drive
22 up the cost for physician retention and recruitment.

23 Prior to coming to BayCare, I was part of both
24 for-profit and not-for-profit health systems and
25 spent time in other CON states. I have seen the

1 importance of CON laws and know from experience that
2 weakening CON impedes access to care rather than
3 strengthening it. I strongly oppose Proposal 54 and
4 I urge you to reject it.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

7 Please.

8 MR. POWER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 My name is Terry Power. I'm a Republican
10 candidate for Florida House District 64, and I'm
11 speaking in support of Proposal 43, the school board
12 term limits.

13 In 1992 Florida voters passed a constitutional
14 amendment that limited legislatures and members of
15 the executive branch to eight consecutive years in
16 office by a 76-to 24-percent margin.

17 For the same reasons why we limit terms for
18 legislatures, we should also do the same for other
19 elected officials. I urge the members of the
20 Commission to place this proposal on the ballot in
21 November.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

24 Please.

25 MR. SHOUPPE: I am the state governor relations

1 manager for BayCare and I share --

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Your name is?

3 MR. SHOUPPE: Clint Shouppe.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 MR. SHOUPPE: And I share the concerns expressed
6 by my colleague and oppose Proposal 54.

7 The certificate-of-need process is important to
8 ensure that limited health care resources are well
9 spent and that Florida's hospitals spread the
10 responsibility of caring for our state's most
11 vulnerable patients. These laws ensure the new
12 hospitals are built based on where they are needed,
13 not based on where they can generate the most profit.
14 Repealing CON will create a two-tiered health system
15 for patients, one for those with good insurance and
16 one for those without.

17 In states where certificate-of-need laws have
18 been repealed, such as Indiana, new hospitals are
19 being built in wealthier suburban areas to cherrypick
20 the most profitable patients rather than care for an
21 entire community.

22 And finally, I want to make two comments about
23 the drafting of CRC 54 and potential amendments that
24 have been offered.

25 First, you either think certificate-of-need laws

1 are important to health planning or you don't. To
2 suggest that hospices or nursing homes should remain
3 under CON while hospitals should be removed is not a
4 consistent public policy position. This is
5 especially true when hospitals are the only entity of
6 the three that must treat any patient that walks in
7 the door.

8 Second, in attempting to distinguish between
9 licensure and CON, this proposal is written in such a
10 way as to potentially do away with both. Florida
11 currently has licensure standards for adult
12 cardiovascular facilities and NICUs, for example,
13 that are a part of the CON exemption process. Those
14 licensure standards would immediately go away.

15 Moreover, CRC 54 is written to construe that any
16 licensure limitation based on need, such as the
17 minimum number of births needed as a precursor for
18 providing NICU services, is null and void. This
19 ignores the fact that in health care volume equals
20 volume.

21 These are the tip of the iceberg or the
22 unintended consequences of this proposal, which is
23 why it's critical that our lawmakers retain the
24 ability to decide how these laws should evolve moving
25 forward.

1 Thank you for your consideration.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

3 MS. CARTA: Hello again, Commissioners. I'm
4 Joyce Carta with Greyhound Adoptions of Florida and
5 I'm from Marion County.

6 I know you've heard stories and seen pictures of
7 Greyhounds that did not survive their racing careers.

8 What might have been for those animals? I can
9 partially answer that question.

10 Isn't this a sweet face?

11 You wouldn't guess the extent of the damage done
12 to him. Pushed and hit the wall in his final race,
13 he had cervical displacement, extensive brain damage,
14 a front and back end that couldn't coordinate, and
15 those clear compelling eyes, they could hardly see at
16 all. Why he wasn't euthanized was a true mystery,
17 but he went on to be a blood donor, from living in a
18 racing cage to living in a vet cage for two years.

19 This vet never tested his blood and he was
20 positive for a tick-borne disease. This is common in
21 racing dogs given their living conditions, and this
22 blood and the disease then got passed to his blood
23 recipients.

24 The techs felt so sorry for him that they got
25 him to my adoption group, and from there he went on

1 to me. I loved him for five and a half years and it
2 was mutual. But this is much more than a
3 my-Greyhound-was-so-lovable testimony. I want this
4 to be a story of potential wasted and of hope that
5 stories like his are ending.

6 You and ultimately Florida voters can make this
7 happen. Vote yes on Proposal 67, please. Vote yes
8 for the dogs.

9 Thank you.

10 HEARING OFFICER: Katie Cravor, Joanne Carnahan,
11 Scott Baldwin, Lindy Kennedy, and Alexander -- oh,
12 this is a tough one -- Snitker, Snitket, please come
13 forward.

14 Katie Cravor. Did I pronounce that right?

15 MS. CRAVON: Cravon.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Cravon?

17 MS. CRAVON: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay, it's an "n" instead of
19 an "r".

20 MS. CRAVON: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay.

22 MS. CRAVON: I'm going to be talking about
23 Proposition 67.

24 On a cool day in December of 2006, Greyhound
25 Oneko Calgon was led into a box about three foot by

1 one foot with a muzzle cinched to her nose. Thirty
2 seconds after the gate opened to release seven other
3 racing dogs, Calgon snapped her right leg bone in
4 half and kept on running, running so fast on a broken
5 leg that she placed third in the race.

6 Because Calgon placed, her owner and people
7 betting on this dog got paid. They won money on a
8 dog who was trained and brainwashed to run in a
9 natural gait and keep running no matter what.

10 This is the rod that was put into Calgon's leg
11 after extensive surgery, invasive surgery. Now 14
12 years old, Calgon, or Callie as I call her, still
13 struggles daily with pain and discomfort due to the
14 unnatural way these dogs are trained to run. Not
15 only is the way they're trained to run unnatural, but
16 dogs have tested positive for performance enhancing
17 drugs, along with drugs such as morphine and cocaine.

18 Please let that sink in. People are drugging
19 dogs for entertainment and to win money.

20 By the end of today, after listening to speeches
21 to end Greyhound racing, two dogs will have died on a
22 Florida derby track, and for what?

23 According to research done by a conservation and
24 environmental lawyer, Susan Berg, in the past 20
25 years or so money collected for fees and taxes have

1 declined by 98 percent. According to the Miami
2 Harold, more money is spent on regulating the races
3 than actually gaining money. Florida actually loses
4 millions of dollars on the industry.

5 You are the weak horse today. You can be a hero
6 to thousands of dogs like my Callie. Please end this
7 archaic and inhumane practice. Vote yes on Prop. 67.
8 Vote yes for the dogs.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

11 Miss Carnahan, Joanne.

12 MS. CARNAHAN: Hi, I'm Joan Carnahan. Good
13 afternoon. I live in Lake County.

14 I adopted my first Greyhound in Maine over 20
15 years ago and I have not looked back. Loving all of
16 them over the years, I knew I had a -- I knew they
17 had a hard life, but never realized how brutal until
18 adopting that first Greyhound 20 years ago.

19 Hours in a small cage, poisoned with cocaine,
20 steroids to prevent pregnancies and to improve
21 performance. This is no life for any dog, and yet
22 with love and affection by an adopter, their sweet
23 dispositions shine through.

24 It is time to stop the cruelty of this dying
25 industry. I am imploring you to vote yes on Proposal

1 67 to stop Greyhounds from literally running for
2 their lives. Vote yes for the dogs.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 Scott Baldwin.

6 MR. BALDWIN: My name is Scott Baldwin and I'm a
7 retired educator and a full-time resident of Citrus
8 County, Florida. Thank you for this opportunity.

9 As a citizen and Florida taxpayer, I am opposed
10 to eliminating the No-Aid Clause, which prevents the
11 state from directly funding religions. My conviction
12 is that religious matters should not be confounded
13 with the affairs of state, but there are many
14 practical reasons for retaining the No-Aid Clause.

15 As it now stands, the state of Florida has no
16 oversight with respect to the curriculum, teacher
17 credentials or facilities of private schools. A
18 private school could hire someone without any college
19 degree to conduct bible study and call it science.

20 I can understand, even agree with, the right of
21 a private school to have this broad discretion, but
22 not with my tax dollars.

23 Also, private schools are not required to
24 provide transportation or special education services.
25 Using tax money to support schools that can choose to

1 deny essential services to our children is a bad
2 idea.

3 While terminating the No-Aid Provision would
4 clearly support nonpublic K-12 schools, it would also
5 open the door to unlimited support -- state support
6 for any religious activity: Tuition to private
7 colleges, church building programs or evangelism.

8 Who will decide what religions are eligible and
9 with what limitations? Will religions considered
10 cults by some be eligible for state funding? Will
11 religions that receive state financing be entitled to
12 use the funds to support political candidates, and in
13 the end, if a predominantly Christian Florida
14 legislature should direct a preponderance of funding
15 to the Christian religion or a subset of its
16 denominations, we will run the risk of creating a de
17 facto state religion, the last thing Thomas Jefferson
18 and Benjamin Franklin ever wanted to see.

19 Terminating the No-Aid Clause is a pandora's box
20 and I urge you not to open it.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

22 Miss Lindy Kennedy, Angela Vick and Tony
23 Montalto could come forward in that order.

24 Please proceed.

25 MS. KENNEDY: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

1 My name is Lindy Kennedy. I'm executive vice
2 president of the Safety Net Hospital Alliance of
3 Florida. My hospitals are your hospitals. We are
4 asking you to vote no on Proposal 54.

5 The Safety Net Hospital Alliance is your state's
6 largest teaching, public and children's hospitals.
7 They provide the most highly advanced, specialized
8 care in the state, yet they're only 10 percent of the
9 state's hospitals. This includes your open heart
10 transplants, your liver transplants, your pediatric
11 specialized care, your Level 1 trauma burn care, but
12 more importantly, to the -- the mission of my
13 hospitals is training tomorrow's doctors, and that
14 speaks to the core of why the Safety Net Hospitals
15 oppose Proposal 54.

16 When you, your mother, your child, a loved one
17 are diagnosed with a rare disease, genetic disorder
18 or injured in a horrific accident, you want them at
19 one of my hospitals. You want them receiving the
20 most highly specialized care by the best physicians
21 not only in the state, but in some of the most
22 sought-after physicians in the nation, and you'll
23 recognize some of my members: University of Florida;
24 Shands, accepting patients from all across this state
25 and South -- North Georgia; Jackson Memorial in

1 Miami, where even the United States military sends
2 their trauma surgeons to train because they're the
3 best of the best; Memorial Health Care in Broward;
4 Sarasota Memorial in Sarasota County; and Tampa
5 General Hospital right here in Central Florida.

6 These are your hospitals training tomorrow's
7 physicians. Every penny is plowed back into your
8 state, into innovations, and even goes into
9 impoverished neighborhoods for prevention.

10 We are -- they are there for you and we are
11 asking you to be there for them and vote no on
12 Proposition 54.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

14 Miss Vick.

15 MS. VICK: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My
16 name is Angela Vick. I am the comptroller and the
17 clerk of the court for Citrus County, Florida, and
18 I'm here today to ask for your support on Proposal
19 55.

20 In 1998 Revision 7 to Article V of the
21 constitution was intended to change the funding
22 mechanism for the courts. That mechanism has failed
23 due to the fact that the vast amount of users of the
24 court system are either unwilling, unable, or not
25 required to pay for the services they receive from

1 the court system.

2 A prime example of that is an individual who
3 comes to the clerk of court's office and files a
4 domestic violence injunction. That individual is
5 given the right and has the right to file that
6 injunction, however, a fee is not collected from that
7 individual.

8 There are numerous members of the court system
9 that are involved in ensuring that that person
10 receives access to the system and receives a fair
11 treatment. That, along with other funding deficits
12 to the clerks, has created an issue for us, making it
13 difficult for us to continue to provide the services
14 that we are required to provide to our citizens.

15 There's 67 clerks of court and one comptroller
16 in Orange County across the state of Florida, and we
17 are your boots on the ground. We are the ones that
18 are serving the citizens across the counter day to
19 day when they come in and require the services of the
20 courts. I would appreciate your support of Proposal
21 55.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23 MS. VICK: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Montalto.

25 MR. SNITKER: Actually, Alexander Snitker. You

1 called my name earlier.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'm sorry. Go ahead.

3 MR. SNITKER: Okay, thank you.

4 My name is Alexander Snitker. I'm here in
5 support of Proposal 43, which is eight-year term
6 limits for school boards.

7 Term limits overall encourages independence of
8 the board and the term limits will regularly sever
9 the relationships that can grow between special
10 interests and incumbent school board members. We
11 already have term limits at the state legislature and
12 it's actually worked pretty well. It's not perfect;
13 like anything else, there's always challenges that
14 you can have, but overall it's been done very well
15 and it has overwhelming support from the public. So
16 I do ask that you add -- or support Proposal 43 and
17 add term limits to the ballot for the vote in
18 November.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

21 Mr. Montalto.

22 MR. MONTALTO: Good afternoon. My name is Tony
23 Montalto and my daughter was a victim in last month's
24 shooting at her school. Today I have a short
25 statement to read from the family.

1 We are the families of the victims killed in the
2 tragedy at Parkland, Florida on February 14th. We
3 strongly urge you to support passage of CS4 P3, bar
4 code 78332 put forth by Commissioner Martinez.

5 The Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public
6 Safety Act signed into law by the governor just last
7 week was an important first step in a long journey to
8 improve school safety. It was subjected to a
9 challenge by the National Rifle Association in short
10 order.

11 As CRC members, you can help defeat the NRA's
12 legal challenges to this historic legislation by
13 placing the provisions included in this proposal on
14 the ballot in November. Should the voters choose to
15 give their support to these safety measures, they
16 will then be included in the Florida constitution,
17 where these hard, fought-for provisions will be more
18 secured. Successfully challenging the constitution
19 of the state would be an extremely difficult legal
20 task.

21 Frankly, more needs to be done to prevent mass
22 murder from ever again occurring in any school. This
23 issue cannot wait. The moment to place these items
24 on the ballot is now. We must be the last families
25 to suffer the loss of a loved one during a mass

1 shooting at school. We demand more action to keep
2 school safe. This time must be different.

3 In closing, I will tell you that as we drove
4 into town today, my wife and I recalled our last trip
5 to St. Petersburg. It was to see the Marjory
6 Stoneman Douglas High School Eagle Regiment, the
7 marching band and color guard together perform in the
8 Florida State Championship.

9 Our kids won the top spot that night and we were
10 all happy and so proud of them. Here we are, less
11 than six months later, after a 19-year-old with an
12 assault-style weapon, which he was allowed to
13 purchase legally, walked into Gina's school. That
14 day he ended the life of our 14-year-old daughter, 3
15 teachers and 13 other children. I cannot help but
16 think how different life would be today for our
17 family had the changes in this proposed amendment
18 been enacted before now.

19 Please help make Florida a safer place. Put
20 this proposed change on the ballot this year.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23 Dana Moxley Cummings, Jennifer Stevens, Daryl
24 Rosenthal, Michael Liles and Conwell Hooper, please
25 come to the microphone. Thank you very much.

1 MS. CUMMINGS: Hi. My name is Dana Moxley
2 Cummings. I'm a third-generation Floridian, and I've
3 grown up here my whole life. I've been politically
4 active my whole life. I was raised that way.

5 I'm so thankful for all of you guys for being
6 here, taking part in this process. I'm thankful for
7 all these citizens that are here engaged in this
8 process.

9 I graduated from Florida State University with a
10 degree in political science. I've worked in
11 politics, been active in politics for many years. I
12 find it very frustrating and ironic now, as a mother
13 of two, who I'm homeschooling my children because I
14 find there's a lack of civic education, a lack of
15 civic involvement in our community, so I'm here to
16 support Proposal 43 by Erika Donalds, the term limits
17 for superintendents, because term limits to me are
18 the root of the culture change that we see in our
19 whole society. People today think there's a
20 political class, that there's a difference between
21 citizens and politicians. They don't run for office
22 if there's an incumbent. There's a huge advantage
23 there.

24 In the '90s we hear Floridians overwhelmingly
25 voted for eight years for our legis -- our

1 legislators and we're trying to get that going
2 further into the congressional level, but I think it
3 starts at the local level. We need to set the
4 example at the local level. We need term limits on
5 every elected office to keep check and balances on
6 everybody for corruption and to keep us -- to keep us
7 grounded so we can go back and work on the issues and
8 work with our community the way that it's meant to
9 be, not as elected officials with the power that
10 we've been given.

11 So please, I ask for you to consider putting
12 Proposal 43 on the ballot so we can have term limits
13 across the board so Florida can stay the term-limit
14 championship state of the nation and show everybody
15 else that we are for a less corrupt government and a
16 government, as we said earlier, of the people, for
17 the people and by the people.

18 Thank you so much.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

20 Is that -- who's the next speaker? Do we have
21 Jenny Stevens or Dana Cummings? Is that --

22 MS. STEVENS: That was me.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Was that Miss Cummings, right?

24 So we have Jennifer Stevens, Daryl Rosenthal.

25 Is Jennifer Stevens here?

1 MS. STEVENS: Yes.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: And then right -- Daryl
3 Rosenthal, Michael Liles, please come forward.

4 Go ahead, ma'am. Thank you.

5 MS. STEVENS: Okay. Hi. My name is Jennifer
6 Stevens -- pardon me, I'm just getting over a cold --
7 and I'm here to advocate for Proposal 91, which would
8 prohibit offshore drilling in Florida state waters.

9 A moratorium in offshore drilling in the
10 Atlantic was enacted in the wake of the Deep Water
11 Horizon oil spill. The oil spill cost the Florida
12 tourism industry billions of dollars and some coastal
13 communities are still feeling the impact of this
14 environmental disaster today.

15 Because shallow fossil fuel reserves have become
16 depleted, the oil and gas industry is now drilling at
17 increasingly deeper levels. The complexity of this
18 process greatly increases the chances of accidents,
19 spills and fires.

20 Florida's primary economic driver is tourism.
21 The tourism brings in approximately 67 billion in
22 revenue to the state. 1.4 million Floridians are
23 currently employed in the tourism industry.
24 Thousands of small businesses in Florida revolve
25 around and depend on the tourism industry. Another

1 spill will cripple the Florida tour -- pardon me --
2 tourism industry, the economy, job opportunities and
3 the environment.

4 Spills from offshore drilling accidents can
5 destroy delicate ecosystems and marine life. It can
6 wipe out between 60 and 80 percent of fish stocks,
7 which can take years to replenish.

8 Spills also expose people to unsafe seafood when
9 oil contaminates fish and shrimp. Any potential
10 economic benefits gleaned from offshore drilling can
11 be more than offset by investments in clean renewable
12 energy.

13 The sunshine state has a plentiful supply of
14 clean, renewable solar energy. The clean energy
15 industry is a frontrunner in creating new high paying
16 jobs. I urge you to put Proposal 91 on the 2018
17 ballot and give Floridians the opportunity to decide
18 if banning offshore drilling --

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

20 MS. STEVENS: -- is in the best interest of the
21 state, their families --

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.
23 Sorry.

24 MS. STEVENS: Okay. Can I say one more thing?

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: No.

1 MS. STEVENS: I just want to close by saying --
2 because this is most important -- we don't own this
3 planet. We borrow it from our children.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 Daryl Rosenthal.

7 MR. ROSENTHAL: Hi.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Michael Liles.

9 MR. ROSENTHAL: Hi. I'm Daryl Rosenthal from
10 Pasco County and I'm here to speak against Prop. 94.

11 I'd like to know, is there -- are there any of
12 you that don't think that cigarette smoking is the
13 number one preventable cause for developing cancer?

14 I just retired after working for the Social
15 Security Administration for 31 years and for most of
16 my career I served as a liaison, the office liaison
17 with Moffitt Cancer Center, for the purpose of
18 expediting disability claims, and it was so
19 disheartening to see that such a high percentage of
20 these cancer patients had a history of smoking, which
21 is so sad and so disheartening to see this.

22 Tobacco Free Florida does great work to help
23 prevent people from smoking in the first place, as
24 well as helping people to quit smoking. So Prop. 94
25 would cut their budget. So why would we want to cut

1 the budget of this agency that successfully helps
2 reduce the number one behavior that causes smoking?

3 So please vote against Prop. 94. Don't hurt
4 Tobacco Free Florida, which does such great work.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 MR. ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Next speaker, please.

8 MR. LILES: My name is Michael Liles.

9 On August 22nd, 1975 I married my childhood
10 sweetheart. I had known the girl since she -- since
11 I was in second grade. On March 23rd of last year, a
12 week from this Friday, will be the one-year
13 anniversary I found her beaten to death on the floor
14 of our kitchen.

15 I rise to support Constitution Revision
16 Commission Proposal 96, Marsy's Law, because we need
17 it.

18 We have been to -- to about 11 hearings so far.
19 I've never been noticed from the state on any of
20 these. I know when they are because I'm at each one
21 of them and I hear them when they're about to create
22 the next one.

23 On August 22nd of last year, that would have
24 been my 42nd anniversary, I got to spend it in the
25 same room with the man who took her from me. When I

1 rose to try to stop the courts from scheduling that
2 hearing on that day, I was told by a bailiff to
3 either be quiet or leave. When it was later
4 determined that I should have been able to stop that
5 hearing from taking place, the response was not a
6 stat -- we violated a statute, it was, oops, we
7 goofed.

8 That's not acceptable to victims, to be told
9 somebody's just made a mistake when they've taken a
10 right from you.

11 I have heard people say that Marsy's Law is
12 nothing but a solution in search of a problem.

13 I'm the problem. I'm missing my bride. I have
14 been grieving for over a year, and I need some
15 support and Marsy's Law would provide it.

16 I commend Governor Scott for his support of this
17 amendment today.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

20 Conwell Hooper.

21 MR. HOOPER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and
22 members of the committee. My name is Conwell Hooper,
23 executive director of the American Senior Alliance.

24 Some of our Florida volunteers and I have
25 testified several times in opposition to Proposal 88

1 and Proposal 54. We think they would be an absolute
2 train wreck for those providing quality care for our
3 senior citizens. I want to speak to you today
4 against Proposal 88 and provide a personal story that
5 I would like for you to think about.

6 Back in 1993 Fortune Magazine called the state
7 of Alabama tort hell and a terrible place to do
8 business. Companies left the state of Alabama left
9 and right. With those companies were jobs and the
10 valuable services they provided. CEOs were scared to
11 death to step foot in Alabama.

12 My dad wanted the Supreme Court to simply
13 interpret the law and decided to run for chief
14 justice to bring balance back to the
15 plaintiff-controlled court. Thankfully, dad won that
16 election and since that time companies have moved
17 back to Alabama in record numbers: Mercedes,
18 ThyssenKrupp, Airbus, Toyota, Hyundai, Honda have
19 decided to build massive plants in Alabama. Publix,
20 who would never operate in Alabama because of the
21 litigious climate, decided to open stores throughout
22 the state.

23 I see the same clever trial lawyer tactic at
24 work in Florida with Proposal 88. Federal and state
25 law provide the rights for our seniors. Let's not

1 send the message to the long-term care community
2 don't you dare provide senior care. Please don't
3 make it easier to sue those who provide extraordinary
4 care for our seniors.

5 I challenge you to ask your physician tonight if
6 the trial lawyers have reduced the cost of medical
7 care. Think about our senior citizens and vote no on
8 Proposal 88 so we don't see the signs going up closed
9 for business.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

12 At this time I'm giving the gavel to
13 Commissioner Joyner, who will take care over for --

14 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- as long as she likes.

16 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: The next five are Erica
17 Rodriguez, Stephen Harris, Vince Perron, Juli
18 Cardamone, and you can make it right when you get to
19 the microphone, Pat Frank, and Pat Frank. Would you
20 please line up in that order?

21 Erica Rodriguez.

22 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Hi, and good afternoon. Can you
23 guys hear me?

24 Okay. I'm a student here, a junior at the
25 University in St. Petersburg, and I'm also a resident

1 of Pasco County. I'm here to speak out against
2 Proposal 22 and any efforts to bring it back to a
3 full vote.

4 At 17 I graduated a year earlier than my friends
5 from high school and I was venturing out into the
6 world as the perceived adult that I thought I was. I
7 had one problem. I was pregnant. I knew I could not
8 tackle this situation, but I had an obstacle, and
9 that was telling my parents.

10 I wanted to address the issue head-on, but I
11 could not. The state of Florida had placed
12 limitations on my situation. So without my parents'
13 strict notification, I could not make the decision to
14 terminate my pregnancy as an independent person.

15 By this time I was 22 weeks and I decided to
16 tell my parents, and we went to a clinic where I had
17 a second trimester abortion, and we were given
18 details and information to proceed. During my
19 initial visit there was a requirement to look at the
20 ultrasound and hear the baby's heartbeat. This was
21 by far the most invasive procedure and requirement of
22 my day. I was being forced to take into
23 consideration this life that I had not wanted. This
24 decision to have an abortion was difficult and -- was
25 difficult as it was, and the state of Florida was

1 adding insult to my injury.

2 I questioned myself many times as to why I was
3 being forced to go through this. I'm grateful for
4 the staff and doctor at the clinic for being the
5 kindest of people. The care I received was one that
6 will leave a lasting impact and memory. They
7 validated my personhood and autonomy.

8 I am now 32, finishing my education, married and
9 the mother of two beautiful boys. My life was made
10 possible because there were people who spoke up
11 before me and who used their platform in the world to
12 right a wrong.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Miss Rodriguez.

14 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Harris.

16 MR. HARRIS: Good afternoon. My name is Steve
17 Harris. I'm the vice president of Payor Affairs and
18 Government Affairs at Tampa General Hospital.

19 On behalf of Tampa General Hospital and the
20 thousands of patients and community we serve each
21 year, I'd like to thank you for allowing me to speak
22 today regarding the proposed deregulation of
23 Florida's vital certificate-of-need program. That's
24 a program that currently exist in some form currently
25 in 36 other states. The repeal of CON has the

1 potential to dramatically increase health care costs
2 while significantly decreasing access to quality
3 health care, making it harder to obtain necessary
4 services that are currently available in our
5 community.

6 At Tampa General Hospital we are passionate
7 about providing high-quality care for our community.
8 Each year we invest in many unprofitable services and
9 heavily subsidize others because they are essential
10 to our patients. These include services like
11 obstetrics, disease management, health education and
12 our TGH Healthpark. That is a center in Tampa that
13 primarily funds or services the low income and most
14 vulnerable patient with primary care and specialty
15 services.

16 Eliminating CON would result in a shift in
17 patient volume causing a decrease in patient revenue
18 across our state hospitals, like TGH, could no longer
19 afford to offer any of these critical services.

20 While some would say eliminating CON creates
21 more competition, which would drive down cost, the
22 opposite is more likely to happen. Hospitals don't
23 operate in a free market. Having competition in
24 health care doesn't drive quality and doesn't lower
25 cost. That's because the health care industry is one

1 of the most heavily regulated industries in the
2 nation by state and federal government. This is
3 something that Georgia Supreme Court just last year
4 recognized in a case.

5 I thank you for your time and ask that you would
6 not support a repeal of CON.

7 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Dr. Perron.

8 MR. PERRON: Good afternoon. My name is Vince
9 Perron. I'm the vice president of medical affairs at
10 Tampa General Hospital and I'm a practicing
11 physician, I'm a geriatrician and a hospice and
12 palliative care doctor.

13 As a physician my primary responsibility is to
14 manage the health of my patients by offering the best
15 possible care. I know from personal experience the
16 life-saving impact the world class health care has on
17 our community. This is the kind of care that is
18 currently being offered at Tampa General Hospital.

19 The repeal of the certificate of need has the
20 potential to significantly decrease the quality of
21 care that Tampa General and other hospitals across
22 Florida provide. There are clear benefits to
23 community members as a result of keeping the CON, the
24 most notable being the quality of patient care.

25 With the CON in place, hospitals are more likely

1 to perform greater numbers of specific procedures due
2 to increase volume spread among fewer hospitals.
3 Adding more hospitals as a result of deregulation
4 will mean that providers will be performing complex
5 procedures less often and maybe only a handful of
6 times. It is well documented through extensive
7 research that the more times a hospital or a
8 physician performs a surgery or other procedure, the
9 better the outcome.

10 For example, a study in the *Journal of*
11 *Perinatology* found the absence of CON programs that
12 oversaw NICUs resulted in an increase in infant
13 mortality rates. Another example is in the *Journal*
14 *of the American Medical Association* found that the
15 CON states have a 22 percent lower risk-adjusted
16 hospital mortality rate for open heart surgery.

17 The CON helps ensure that hospitals with a depth
18 and breadth of experience and various procedures are
19 available in the community.

20 In addition, Tampa General is an academic
21 teaching hospital training 300 future doctors each
22 year to practice in communities across Florida. It
23 is critical that they maintain access to observing
24 and participating in as many procedures as possible.
25 The repeal of the CON has the potential to dilute

1 their training and impact the quality of care and
2 their future.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

5 Juli Cardamone. And would you pronounce your
6 name correctly for us?

7 MS. CARDAMONE: Okay, yeah, you got it. It's
8 Juli Cardamone.

9 I'm a student at the University of Tampa and I'm
10 here strongly opposed to Proposal 22 and it being
11 brought back up and revoted on.

12 So the CRC is composed of 37 members, 22 of you
13 are men and 15 of you are women. That's 60 percent
14 men, 40 percent women, and on your website any
15 amendment placed on the ballot by the Commission
16 would have to secure 60 percent approval by the
17 voters to be added to the constitution.

18 Proposal 22 would impact our rights to privacy
19 and access to abortion, which specifically targets
20 women. How is this justifiable when the difference
21 in voting representation of men and women on the CRC
22 is disproportionate? I am so disappointed that men
23 and women are not equally represented in the
24 decision-making process to begin with.

25 Mr. Stemberger states: "No right is held more

1 sacred or more carefully guarded by the common law
2 than the right of every individual to the possession
3 and control of his own person, free from all
4 restraint or interference of others unless by clear
5 and unquestionable authority of law," under the
6 rights to refuse unwanted medical treatment section.

7 This statement is a complete contradiction to
8 his stance on abortion. It should also be noted that
9 the language he uses, the pronouns, excludes all
10 other groups of people who are not men.

11 Restricting a person's ability to access medical
12 treatment such as abortion is unjust. A man's belief
13 about abortion should not dictate whether or not a
14 person should have the right to access safe and
15 judgment-free health care.

16 Thank you, and I respect all of you and the work
17 that you do. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Next we'll have Pat
19 Frank, and following Miss Frank will be Dr. Tonjua
20 Williams, Rae Claire Johnson, Randal Agostini, Claire
21 Rowell, and Elizabeth Agostini.

22 Miss Frank.

23 MS. FRANK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Senator
24 Joyner and members of the Commission.

25 My name is Pat Frank and I'm the elected clerk

1 of the court in Hillsborough County. I'm here to
2 support proposition -- Proposal 55 on behalf of the
3 67 clerks throughout Florida. We're all experiencing
4 the same funding problems.

5 Since 2009 funding cuts have forced my office to
6 eliminate 173 jobs, a 29 percent cut. In comparable
7 dollars my court budget is \$5 million less than it
8 was when I was elected 14 years ago, yet Hillsborough
9 County's population grew by 300,000 more people who
10 require our services. This not only creates
11 unacceptable delays, it poses public safety dangers.

12 Our court system has many different parts:
13 Judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, law
14 enforcement and, most importantly, the public. The
15 clerk's office holds it all together. It is not an
16 overstatement to say that the system would fail
17 without us.

18 The Florida constitution is very clear that our
19 court operation shall be funded by fines, fees and
20 costs. Proposal 55 repairs a small part of our
21 funding problem by allowing the clerks to be funded
22 for duties they perform in cases involving people who
23 cannot afford to pay the cost.

24 I urge you to submit Proposal 55 to the voters
25 for their approval. Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

2 Dr. Williams.

3 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon. My name is
4 Tonjua Williams and I'm the president of St.
5 Petersburg College.

6 St. Petersburg College is one of the 28
7 institutions comprising the acclaimed Florida College
8 System. Thank you for the opportunity to provide you
9 with some remarks.

10 Today I come before you in support of
11 Commissioner Washington's Proposal No. 83, which
12 calls for the inclusion of the Florida College System
13 in our state constitution while reaffirming the state
14 board of education, and that they should provide the
15 oversight.

16 For close to 90 years Florida's communities and
17 state colleges have played a crucial role in
18 educating millions of Floridians and have helped
19 support our state's economic growth and its workforce
20 and development.

21 At St. Petersburg College, for example, we've
22 opened the door of opportunity to more than a million
23 students and counting. We are proud of the Florida
24 College System and are inspired daily by the success
25 stories of our more than 800,000 current students who

1 have entrusted their lives to our institution.

2 Today we lead the nation's percentage of
3 graduates from state and community colleges.
4 Currently 9 of our 10 graduates are either working or
5 continuing their education at St. Pete College.

6 Our students are our number one priority. They
7 are our next generation of world leaders and it's our
8 institutions where they require the skills and
9 knowledge that they need to succeed. By including
10 the Florida College System in our Florida
11 constitution, you will be letting the world know how
12 proud Floridians are of this topnotch system and the
13 education that we provide.

14 I thank Commissioner Washington for her proposal
15 and I ask for your continuous support. Please, today
16 let's make history. Include the Florida College
17 System in the Constitution.

18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

20 Rae Claire Johnson.

21 MS. JOHNSON: I'm Rae Claire Johnson. I live in
22 Belleair, Florida, which is here in Pinellas County,
23 and when Commissioner Schifino opened he said that we
24 are a democracy by and for the people, and when I was
25 reading over the proposals getting ready for today

1 and trying to understand what was coming, my first
2 reaction to many of these were that they undermined
3 our citizenship and our rights.

4 I couldn't understand why so many of these
5 things are being addressed by this Commission. And
6 the judge who spoke previously I think had a very
7 strong message, that you should only be dealing with
8 things that are the foundation of democracy.
9 Anything that undermines, that should be stopped and
10 rescinded from the proposals that are being put
11 forth.

12 The League of Women Voters held a press
13 conference which I happened to stop by outside.
14 There's no organization who's done more to protect
15 democracy than this group, and they have dictated or
16 suggested that 10 of the proposals are egregious and
17 should be voted out, and I would encourage you to
18 look at their 10 suggested recommendations and
19 consider them very strongly.

20 And specifically, I'd like to speak about
21 Proposal 95 and 97. People here spoke about term
22 limits, but the problem that we have in this state
23 and in this country is that good citizens cannot
24 afford to run for office because too many of our
25 elected officials are bought by big corporations and

1 it's just impossible to raise the money to be
2 competitive in a candidacy race. We need reasonable
3 campaign finance laws that eliminate the Super PACs
4 and corporate intervention into the elective process,
5 and I encourage you to reevaluate your proposals and
6 to add legislative controls over elections.

7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you, Miss Johnson.

9 Mr. Agostini, followed by --

10 MR. AGOSTINI: My name is Randal Agostini and I
11 wish to speak about the American Constitution, which
12 is unique.

13 The framers of our constitution realized that in
14 order to satisfy themselves and every other American
15 they had to find a solution that was beyond reproach.
16 There is only one entity who satisfies that
17 description, God.

18 Though nearly all Christians, they also realized
19 that to be free no single religion or organization
20 could be sponsored by the state. If any man was to
21 be free, then all had to be free.

22 You see, our rights are inalienable. They
23 cannot be taken away from us because they are
24 entrusted to us by God.

25 So why am I here? Because Senator Blaine is

1 responsible for taking away my inalienable rights.

2 To safe guard one religion, he alienated another.

3 When we put men in charge, we expose ourselves
4 to any eventuality, but when we are governed by God,
5 there is only one truth.

6 We have been down this road before. In
7 following the Equal Clause of the Constitution, we
8 said that blacks were not people, or that a person
9 was not eligible to vote unless they owned land, or
10 because they were female.

11 It is impossible to distort an inalienable
12 right. Any law that puts one person against another
13 is discriminatory and has no place in our
14 constitution. It is a mistake.

15 Such a law is the Blaine Amendment and exist in
16 our constitution as Article I, Section 3. It must be
17 recognized for what it is. A hate law based on
18 bigotry, designed by one man to hurt another. It
19 must be purged because it is the right thing to do.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Claire Rowell.

21 I'd like to announce that first is the
22 following: Miss Agostini, Frederick Walker, Dennis
23 Rick -- Rees, Rosemary Griffiee, Steven Schlactin and
24 Wade Matthews.

25 MS. AGOSTINI: Good afternoon. My name is

1 Elizabeth Agostini. I am a mother and grandmother.

2 What is the most important thing a child wants
3 at school? To belong.

4 So what sort of school does the government
5 provide for my child of faith? The two most
6 influential people in the establishment of the modern
7 American school system were Horace Mann and John
8 Dewey. Mann popularized the idea that American
9 schools should teach all students to be nonsectarian
10 and tax supported. Dewey proposed that obedience was
11 a negative virtue. Truth changes according to the
12 circumstance and that schools should be institutions
13 of the social -- of social reform.

14 In his book, *A Common Faith*, he predicted the
15 demise of traditional religion, favoring a sort of
16 sacral religion, which we could refer to as
17 socialism.

18 Our constitution guarantees us specific freedoms
19 with explicit ideas that Americans should be
20 individuals with a common interest in their
21 diversity. Freedom of school -- freedom of religion
22 guarantees this philosophy, yet over 50 years of
23 school system has waged war against religious
24 education.

25 You may not agree with what I believe in, but

1 allowing me that belief guarantees that I will allow
2 you to believe in what you want.

3 It is dishonest to use religion against itself,
4 to force me to pay taxes for your child's education
5 while I have to pay again for my child's education.
6 This is the result of believing that truth can be
7 manipulated, but the real truth is that our opponents
8 belief is in bigotry and discrimination.

9 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you, Miss Agostini.

10 MS. AGOSTINI: Please remove Blaine -- the
11 Blaine Amendment.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Is Claire Rowell here?

13 Frederick Walker? Dennis Rees?

14 Are you --

15 MR. REES: Rees, R-e-e-s.

16 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Okay.

17 MR. REES: Is that what you have?

18 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes. You -- yes.

19 MR. REES: Okay.

20 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: What's your name, sir?

21 MR. WALKER: Frederick Walker.

22 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Mr. Walker, you may
23 proceed.

24 MR. WALKER: My name is Frederick Walker. I'm
25 an employee at Derby Lanes. I've spoken with St.

1 Pete Kennel Club. I've been an employee there for
2 almost 40 years. I've enjoyed the job, enjoyed --
3 it's just like one big family. Everybody looks after
4 one another and it's a good place. The dogs love to
5 run and they like to, you know, exercise, and Derby
6 Lane is a track that's family owned and operated
7 for -- since 1925.

8 I have got familiar with the family. I've been
9 knowing them for over -- as long as I've been there,
10 the father that opened it and also now the people
11 that's renting it now.

12 Derby Lane is a sound place for employment, and
13 if -- you have to really get in trouble to get fired
14 once you start there and you work there and work as a
15 family, and that's the way it has been almost 40
16 years since I've been there.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: You're next, Mr. Rees.

19 MR. REES: Dennis Reese. I'm a resident of
20 Sarasota. I'm here today to speak out against
21 Proposal 22.

22 I appreciate that the proposal is not currently
23 being considered, but I understand that any rejected
24 proposal may be introduced with a vote by a simple
25 majority of the commissioners. I urge you not to

1 reconsider Proposal 22.

2 How many of you believe that the Second
3 Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the right to bear
4 arms, extends to assault weapons? If you do, you
5 agree that the frame is more intelligent people, who
6 having lived through times of technological and
7 societal evolution, drafted languaging -- the
8 language encompassing in -- innovations that they
9 could not themselves envision.

10 If, on the other hand, you believe in
11 interpreting the amendment in accordance with the
12 original intent, something that Commissioner
13 Stemberger suggested we should do with the Florida
14 privacy amendment in defense of Proposal 22, then you
15 would have to agree that the right to bear arms
16 refers to muskets and single-shot rifles.

17 In arguing Proposal 22 Commissioner Stemberger
18 would have you believe that Florida's privacy
19 amendment was, and I quote, intended for
20 informational purpose, the privacy, and not for
21 abortion.

22 He supports this by saying, quote, he could find
23 no record that drafters of Florida's privacy
24 amendment had intended it to apply to abortion or
25 other personal issues.

1 Of course, he could not find the record that the
2 drafters didn't intend it to apply to abortion or any
3 number of personal issues that he and his Florida
4 family policy council aren't in favor of.

5 The language of the amendment is very clear:
6 "Every natural person has the right to be left alone
7 and free from governmental intrusion into their
8 private lives."

9 This provides protection of personal autonomy
10 and liberty, as well as protection against intrusion
11 of personal information. Proposal 22 is nothing more
12 than an attack on personal autonomy protections.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

15 Rosemary Griffiee. Steven -- Steve Schlachtin
16 (sic).

17 MR. SCHLACHTER: I'm him.

18 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Rosemary?

19 MS. GRIFFEE: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Please proceed.

21 MS. GRIFFEE: Okay.

22 Good afternoon. My name is Rosemary Griffiee and
23 I'm a resident of Sarasota, Florida, and I'd like to
24 thank you for allowing me to speak in support of
25 Proposal 67, banning Greyhound racing.

1 We have heard a significant amount of opposition
2 to Proposal 67, much of which comes from the breeders
3 who claim to love their dogs and treat them very
4 well. I would not dispute this, as I am not in a
5 position to observe their operation firsthand,
6 however, once these much-loved dogs are sold, the
7 breeders no longer have any jurisdiction over their
8 future. Their future is in the hands of those folks
9 who are totally unaware that their gambling on
10 Greyhounds commits these kind animals to a grim
11 future of two small cages 23 hours a day, and
12 although I am not here to argue whether the dogs are
13 drugged, fed inferior food, or who's injuries and
14 ultimate death occur far too frequently than is
15 acceptable, I am here to ask that you allow the
16 voters of this great state of Florida, with
17 information from both sides of this controversy, to
18 be allowed to vote on the future of the Greyhounds.

19 I believe that if you research the attendance
20 for Greyhound racing, you will find that it has
21 dropped significantly, as it is no longer profitable,
22 and if there was not a coupling law, Greyhounds would
23 no longer be racing.

24 This decision has been held up far too long and
25 failed legislation. It has cost the citizens of

1 Florida a tremendous amount of money to debate
2 coupling, decoupling, outlawing, et cetera. It's
3 time to bring this state into the 21st Century of
4 animal cruelty and allow the people to be heard on
5 this most important issue.

6 Please consider placing Proposal 67 on the
7 November ballot and let the people of Florida
8 determine the destiny of the Greyhounds.

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

11 Mr. Steve Schlachtin (sic).

12 MR. SCHLACHTER: My name's Steve Schlachter.
13 I've been a Greyhound owner for 41 years. I'd like
14 to address the issue of overbreeding that was brought
15 up in Cape Coral by the animal rights activists
16 saying that two of our sires produced 23,000 first
17 offspring, 11,500 pups each.

18 To put it in perspective, the offspring of these
19 two sires they named, Dodgem By Design and Gable
20 Dodge, spans over 14 to 18 years. Respectively,
21 between 1998 and 2016. So doing some simple math,
22 that's 785 pups a year on one sire, 611 pups on the
23 other sire for those 18 years.

24 Through the wonders of medical science, the vast
25 majority of breeding is accomplished through

1 artificial insemination by using frozen semen. One
2 natural collection of a Greyhound sire can produce as
3 much as 10 to 15 pellets that could breed 10 to 15
4 females surgically implanted and shipped anywhere in
5 the USA, Australia or Ireland.

6 Our -- the pedigree lives on for years. It's
7 mind boggling that the same people who accuse the
8 industry of overbreeding are also the ones who
9 testified in Tallahassee to eliminate female birth
10 control.

11 As you know, in the state of Florida over
12 200,000 Greyhounds have been euthanized. Our
13 industry adopts 95 percent.

14 Another myth projected by the out-of-state
15 animal right activists is that we are a dying
16 industry. On the Senate floor March 2nd a senator
17 stated that during SP 647 that we generate
18 \$227 million of revenue. The Miami Heat generates
19 210 million; Florida Marlins 199 million; Orlando
20 Magic 166 million.

21 Why are we getting eliminated? How does
22 \$227 million of revenue from the Greyhounds get
23 replaced in the budget?

24 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you, Mr. Schlachtin.
25 Thank you.

1 MR. SCHLACHTER: Okay. Thank you. Vote on
2 Proposal 67.

3 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

4 Mr. Lee -- Wade Matthews, before you come --
5 Millicent Puleo, David Tilki, J. Donald Lynne, Peggy
6 Tucker and Debbie Lundberg, would you please line up
7 in that order.

8 Mr. Matthews.

9 MR. MATTHEWS: Thank you, Madam Commissioner and
10 Commissioners. My name is Wade Matthews and for the
11 last 30 -- 27 years I've been a resident of Sarasota,
12 Florida. I'm going to try to address two issues, two
13 of the items here.

14 I would like to say, first of all, I hope you
15 will place Proposal 29, employment eligibility
16 verification requirements, better known as E-Verify,
17 on the ballot. On the other hand, I recommend that
18 you keep Proposal 4, misnamed religious freedom, and
19 more appropriately called abolishing the no sectarian
20 provision of the Florida constitution from the
21 ballot.

22 First, Proposal 29. E-Verify enables
23 perspective employers to know whether an applicant
24 for a job has a legal right to work in the United
25 States and in Florida. It would protect the honest

1 employer from being disadvantaged by his dishonest
2 employer who will hire anyone, eligible or
3 ineligibility -- or ineligible, at a lower price.
4 This would -- this would enable the E-Verify -- which
5 I understand you've already passed twice to move on,
6 and I hope you pass it again to move on. It will
7 enable that to be voted on by the Florida citizens.

8 The second item I would like to address is very
9 briefly, the item 4, which would politicize the --
10 our churches and Synagogues and mosques and in turn
11 make them in effect tax exempt PACs, Political Action
12 Committees, in other words. It is contrary to
13 Article I of the U.S. Constitution. The attempt to
14 repeal the No-Aid Provision, the same thing, Article
15 I, Section 3 of the Florida constitution, was made in
16 2012 in the form of Amendment 8.

17 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Matthews.

18 MR. MATTHEWS: It was soundly rejected --

19 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you.

20 MR. MATTHEWS: -- and I urge that you give the
21 voters the opportunity to reject it again.

22 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

23 Millicent Puleo.

24 MR. MATTHEWS: I mean to withdraw it.

25 MS. PULEO: Good afternoon, Chairman Beruff and

1 Commissioners. My name is Millicent Puleo. I'm a
2 resident of Sarasota, Florida. I am simply a mother
3 of three daughters and a small business owner.

4 I would like to thank you for providing me the
5 opportunity to come before you. In reviewing the
6 proposals which are under active consideration, I
7 found eight relating to education. It isn't logical
8 to think that all eight proposals will seriously
9 receive the necessary votes to be approved, so I
10 prioritize the educational proposals in order of
11 personal interest.

12 After doing so it was very clear for me to
13 decide on advocating in support of Proposal 43,
14 sponsored by Erika of the Rules and Administration
15 Committee.

16 While Miss Donalds has a few other bold
17 educational proposals of interest, I would like to
18 primarily focus on term limits for school board
19 members.

20 The topic of term limit ignites heated arguments
21 for -- for and against and we need to acknowledge
22 that both sides have validity. I strongly suggest
23 that the members of the Commission vote in support of
24 Proposal 43 because it would primarily create a level
25 playing field between the school board and Florida's

1 other political offices which almost all have an
2 eight-year term limit. It makes no sense to me how
3 some great leaders who have served our state had to
4 honor term limits and school board members had an
5 advantage over them and were privileged with no terms
6 to be reelected over and over and over again.

7 To the opponents that state valuable historical
8 knowledge would be lost, they are wrong. I don't
9 believe that statement because Florida's school board
10 association can educate new board members and bring
11 forth past issues to light.

12 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

13 MS. PULEO: Thank you for the opportunity.

14 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: David Tilki.

15 MR. TILKI: Thank you, Commissioners. My name
16 is David Tilki and I'm from Oldsmar. I'm here today
17 to speak in opposition to Proposal 94 and in support
18 of Proposal 65.

19 I'm a long-time volunteer with the American
20 Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. I've advocated
21 for increases in cancer research at both the state
22 and federal levels every single year over the 15
23 years I've been involved with this group. I've asked
24 our state legislatures to provide funding for the
25 King and Bankhead-Coley Biomedical Research Programs

1 and I've asked my congressman to support funding for
2 the National Institutes of Health.

3 I do believe cancer research is the key to
4 finding a cure for this deadly disease, however, I
5 strongly oppose Proposal 94, because diverting money
6 from cancer prevention to cancer research will not
7 lead to a world with less cancer. It would instead
8 increase the already heavy burden this disease has on
9 our state.

10 I have a 21-year-old daughter who I just got to
11 spend a week with while she was home on spring break
12 from Florida Gulf Coast University. She does not
13 smoke. In fact her attitude regarding the dangers of
14 smoking and her disdain for smokers amazes me. I
15 believe this comes from the prevention education
16 processes that are in place here in the state of
17 Florida, education and prevention programs that are
18 working.

19 As a safety professional, I look at hazards
20 every day, and the number one thing we do when we
21 identify a hazard isn't to try to find a cure for
22 that hazard. We look for a way to eliminate it.

23 Let's keep the horse in front of the cart.
24 Prevention is our best defense until we find a cure.
25 I ask you to please help save lives and protect the

1 citizens of our state from this insidious disease.

2 Oppose Proposition 94.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

5 J. Donald Lynne.

6 MR. LYNNE: My name is J. Donald Lynn. I'm the
7 vice president of the Sarasota Manatee Chapter of
8 Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

9 Americans United is committed to defending the
10 religious freedom section of our First Amendment to
11 the U.S. Constitution, which, if it means anything,
12 means citizens should not have to support with their
13 tax dollars other people's religious beliefs.

14 For 33 years I had the privilege of teaching
15 eleventh graders American Literature. I got my love
16 of great writing from my mother who was a technical
17 writer and instructor at the Rochester Institute of
18 Technology. Although she was frequently critical of
19 the writing in government documents, she would have
20 loved the clarity and precision of the sentence in
21 our Florida constitution that declares: No revenue
22 of the state shall ever be taken from the public
23 treasury directly or indirectly in the aid of any
24 church, sect, or religious institution.

25 Anyone who wants to remove that sentence from

1 our state document makes it clear that their real
2 intention is to make it easier for the state to do
3 exactly the opposite, to indirectly fund and favor
4 certain churches and religious institutions over
5 others.

6 I strongly urge the Commission not to place this
7 proposal on the fall ballot. It is a poisoned pill
8 that would contaminate the favorable votes on
9 otherwise well-intentioned revisions. For more
10 information on current threats to our religious
11 freedom, visit the Americans United website AU.org.

12 Thank you for your attention.

13 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

14 Peggy Tucker.

15 MS. TUCKER: Hello. My name's Peggy Tucker.
16 I'm from Largo and I'm speaking today against
17 Proposal 4, which seeks to remove the prohibition
18 against using public revenues in aid of any church or
19 sectarian institution. I'm speaking as a strong
20 Christian, a private citizen, and a faithful voter.

21 The Constitution of the United States has been
22 held to maintain that citizens are free to embrace or
23 reject a faith, and that any support for religion,
24 whether financial or physical, must be voluntary.

25 Proposal 4 would open the door to my tax dollars

1 potentially funding religious indoctrination that I
2 do not support. It would potentially place students
3 into situations where they could face discrimination
4 based on their beliefs.

5 Also, if this proposal should pass, it almost
6 certainly would cost the state of Florida millions of
7 dollars fighting lawsuits that it cannot win because,
8 clearly, this proposal violates the U.S.
9 Constitution.

10 I urge you to leave Proposal 4 off of the
11 ballot. I thank you and I thank all of you for
12 serving on this Commission.

13 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

14 Debbie Lundberg.

15 After Miss Lundberg we'll have Patrick Chan,
16 Judge Anthony Rondolino, Robert Goldstein, Jennifer
17 Hobgood, and Violet Carr.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. LUNDBERG: Hello, Chairman and
20 Commissioners. Thank you for serving.

21 I'm Debbie Lundberg, and as a business owner and
22 national speaker, I choose to have my business in
23 Florida because I love Florida, so much like all of
24 you. I'm sure you feel something similar.

25 There's a catch with Florida, though. I first

1 voted when I was at the University of Michigan in Ann
2 Arbor when I was an undergrad, and while I wanted to
3 declare at that time, things have changed. In the
4 two times I've lived in the state of Florida, as an
5 Independent I wasn't able to vote in the primaries,
6 so I'm asking you to support Proposal 62.

7 I felt forced this time to declare, and while I
8 don't relate consistently to the Democrats or the
9 Republicans, I did want to vote in the primaries.

10 As a mentor at University of Tampa, USF and at
11 the Greater Tampa Center of Commerce, I work with a
12 lot of millennials mentoring them, and over half of
13 them are declaring as Independents. And aren't these
14 the people we want voting and being active? And if
15 they're not allowed to vote in the primaries, we run
16 the risk of voter apathy increasing and, therefore,
17 them not voting when it really does make a big
18 difference.

19 So please support Proposal 62, and thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

21 Patrick Chan.

22 Judge -- Judge Rondolino. I stand corrected by
23 Senator Rouson.

24 JUDGE RONDOLINO: Thank you very much. Thank
25 you very much. I'm Tony Rondolino, I'm the chief

1 judge of the Sixth Judicial Circuit, which
2 encompasses Pinellas and Pasco County. I'm here
3 really speaking on behalf of all of the chief judges
4 throughout the state. I have at my side here Chief
5 Judge Ron Figueroa from the Thirteenth Judicial
6 Circuit, our sister circuit across the Bay in Tampa.

7 Very briefly and targeted, I want to address
8 Proposal 26, which contains within it a small
9 provision that the courts view as not appropriate for
10 being in the constitution. It deals with who and how
11 security is going to be provided in the court system
12 and the court buildings, which are primarily owned by
13 counties. So the County has a stake in this, the
14 sheriffs are generally in charge of providing
15 whatever security is determined, and of course the
16 chief judges are interested in protecting the rights
17 of the citizens and those who come to court.

18 We have formulated what we believed was a
19 legislative solution for this. The session bogged
20 down a little bit and so it didn't get through the
21 session, so I will just say to you, please do not
22 pass 26 with the provision dealing with courthouse
23 security.

24 I'm being cutoff.

25 With the provision providing for courthouse

1 security. It can best be done through legislation
2 and I think we're very, very close to having an
3 agreement with the sheriff. So Commissioner Nocco I
4 understand is proposing an amendment that will be to
5 take that provision out of 26. We urge you to go
6 along with the amendment and remove it.

7 Thank you very much.

8 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

9 Robert Goldstein.

10 MR. CHAN: Hello, I'm actually Patrick Chan. I
11 was called --

12 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Oh, Patrick, okay.

13 MR. CHAN: Yeah. I was just called.

14 Okay. Good afternoon. I'd like to thank all of
15 you for your service to this Commission. I'm a
16 student here at USF and I'm here today in opposition
17 of Proposition 94, which would reallocate funds from
18 tobacco prevention programs towards cancer research.

19 I understand both the importance of cancer
20 research and prevention. I have been involved in
21 multiple research studies at Moffitt Cancer Center
22 and at USF, but as someone who spends many hours
23 working in a lab to contribute to cancer research, I
24 still recognize that the best treatment is
25 prevention.

1 Throughout my work experience I have come across
2 countless patients who have tried to quit smoking,
3 but failed and told me that their lives would have
4 been so much better if they never started. Seeing
5 their pain, I wanted to help outside of my research
6 so I started a Tobacco Free Committee at St.
7 Petersburg College.

8 At first there was little I could do to help my
9 fellow students, but after reaching out to Tobacco
10 Free Florida, who provided us with valuable
11 resources, we were able to make St. Pete College
12 tobacco free within six months, while making
13 cessation programs available to all 33,000 students.

14 My proudest moment of this initiative was our
15 student government president announcing that after
16 years of battling she had finally quit smoking.
17 There's absolutely no way that this would have been
18 possible without the help of Tobacco Free Florida.

19 159,000 people, like my student government
20 president, have been able to successfully quit
21 smoking with the help of Tobacco Free Florida since
22 2007. Adults and youths smoking rates is at its
23 lowest that it's ever been. The program has saved
24 over \$18 billion in smoking-related health costs
25 since 2007. Why stop now?

1 Cancer is a horrible disease and we're all in
2 this fight together, but Proposition 94 is not the
3 way. Prevention is just as important as research.

4 Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

6 Robert Goldstein, followed by Jennifer Hobgood.

7 MR. GOLDSTEIN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, fellow
8 Commissioners.

9 Good afternoon. My name's Rob Goldstein and I'm
10 the chief executive officer at Menorah Manor here in
11 St. Petersburg. I have been employed by Menorah
12 Manor for over 21 years. I'm here today to voice
13 opposition to Proposal 88 to nursing home and
14 assisted living facility residents' bill of rights.

15 Menorah Manor has served seniors on Florida's
16 Gulf Coast for 33 years and is comprised of 180-bed
17 nursing center, 24-bed assisted living facility.
18 We're a mission-driven, charitable, not-for-profit,
19 faith-based organization that strives to provide the
20 highest standards of care. Our doors are open to
21 people of all faiths and we provide care regardless
22 of ability to pay. Our bottom line is taking care of
23 residents.

24 Pure and simple, Proposal 88 is not necessary.
25 Nursing home resident rights are already fully

1 embedded in federal and state law. Similarly,
2 assisted living rights are spelled out in state law
3 as well. In fact it is well known that our industry
4 is one of the most highly regulated in the United
5 States.

6 Proposal 88 does nothing to improve the health,
7 safety or a quality of life for any resident in my --
8 that my community cares for. Proposal 88 is broadly
9 worded and opens the door for chaos and uncertainty
10 in terms of its interpretation. The Florida
11 legislature has worked diligently for years and been
12 steadfast in its support of protecting the rights of
13 nursing home and assisted living residents. As a
14 result, Florida statutes are clear and unambiguous in
15 the protection of this vulnerable population.

16 The Florida constitution is not the place where
17 this should be debated. If there are concerns about
18 the care and treatment of residents in nursing homes
19 and assisted living facilities, let's have our
20 elected leaders, the Florida legislature, take up
21 this cause. Proposal 88 does not belong in the
22 Florida Constitution.

23 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

24 MR. GOLDSTEIN: I urge you to vote against
25 Proposal 88, and thank you for hearing my comments.

1 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: And Jennifer Hobgood.

2 MS. HOBGOOD: With your permission, could the
3 next speaker, Violet Carr, my daughter, speak first,
4 and then I could speak the rest of her time if that's
5 okay.

6 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Two minutes.

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes.

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Go ahead.

10 MS. CARR: Hi, I'm Violet Carr. I am nine years
11 old and I think that it would be horrible if my dog
12 had a life like a racing Greyhound. Please support
13 Prop. 67 and support Prop. 91 to protect sea turtles
14 and Greyhounds.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. HOBGOOD: She was the next speaker so -- she
17 was listed as -- she put in a card as the next
18 speaker.

19 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Go ahead.

20 MS. HOBGOOD: You called her name up.

21 So, yeah, my name is Jennifer Hobgood. I am the
22 state legislative director for ASPCA's southeastern
23 region for government relations. I have worked on
24 this issue for over a decade, on Greyhound racing,
25 and I'm here to speak to you about Prop. 67, in

1 strong support for that proposal.

2 As -- you know, as an employee of the ASPCA,
3 recently we've seen how the legislature has had
4 difficulty dealing with this issue, whether it's the
5 Seminole Compact or the various gaming interests, and
6 over the past decade, as I've -- more than a decade,
7 as I've followed this issue, we've seen the
8 legislature time and time again fail to address the
9 issues, commonsense reforms like injury reporting,
10 doping of Greyhounds in the industry, you know, the
11 intensive confinement that they suffer, and so today
12 I'd just like to take this short amount of time to
13 provide a few facts to those of you who may not have
14 had the long tenure that some of you who are or have
15 been in the legislative process as a lawmaker have
16 had. Just a few facts about the industry, because
17 you'll hear a lot about emotion, and that's important
18 too, but some of these facts are that since 1990 the
19 amount wagered on Greyhound racing in the Sunshine
20 State has declined by 74 percent, and tax revenue
21 from dog racing has dropped by 98 percent, and all
22 these facts come from state documents: Investigative
23 reports, DVPR reports, agency reports, so these are
24 facts from our own state agencies.

25 And yet, you know, a state dog-racing mandate

1 that's been in state law for decades requires
2 parimutuels to offer these live races even though
3 almost no one is in the grandstands watching because
4 our -- and so what's happened now is that our state
5 is spending more to regulate the activity than it
6 takes in in revenue.

7 We've seen cocaine positives, more than 400 drug
8 positives over the past decade, including almost 70
9 cocaine positives. This is an unacceptable, inhumane
10 industry and we ask you to support Prop. 67.

11 Thank you for your time.

12 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: I'd like to read into the
13 record Violet Carr, that's your daughter, and I did
14 have a card for her. Thank you, Violet.

15 MS. HOBGOOD: Thank you, ma'am.

16 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Now next five: Jeff
17 Sonksen, Jenifer Gerae, Alex Barrow, Kathleen
18 Beckman, and Richard Hornsby, would you please
19 proceed to the microphone.

20 You may proceed since you're here.

21 MR. SONKSEN: Sorry. When I heard my name, I
22 ran up here as fast as I could.

23 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay.

24 MR. SONKSEN: I forgot my notes.

25 ASPCA --

1 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Would you give your name?

2 MR. SONKSEN: My name is Jeff Sonksen.

3 I believe that organization raised \$150 million
4 and gave under 4 percent to any animals, just to get
5 that out of the way.

6 No Greyhound has ever been drugged. That's
7 ridiculous.

8 I wonder who really knows how the Greyhounds are
9 treated. I wonder if it's the trainers and the
10 people that have raised these animals, the people
11 that know these dogs by name, or if it's the
12 activists who've never ever stepped foot in a kennel.
13 I'm curious.

14 GREY2K sitting behind me here, they have raised
15 \$6 million, spent zero money on any Greyhounds. Most
16 of it is kept for themselves and paid to lobbyists.
17 That's a fact. All you have to do is look at their
18 tax returns.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Jenifer Gerae. Alex
21 Barrow.

22 MR. BARROW: Yeah, okay.

23 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Proceed to the mic,
24 please.

25 MR. BARROW: Hi, I'm Alex Barrow and I'm a

1 student at Hillsborough High School and I'm a part of
2 the March For our Lives Movement.

3 A provision of the gun control bill that the
4 Florida legislature passed on Wednesday will allow
5 certain school personnel to be armed. The reason
6 behind this is that these teachers could possibly
7 help stop a shooting, and our president's reasoning
8 is that cowards won't go there, problems solved.

9 He is saying that these people who commit these
10 evil acts would not go to a school and murder their
11 fellow classmates because of the knowledge that the
12 people in the school are armed. This statement, this
13 reasoning is so flawed it astonishes me. The kids
14 that commit these evil acts do not care for their
15 wellbeing. Their one goal and one goal alone is to
16 take life, to take innocent life. They, A, are not
17 planning to make it out alive, or, B, they simply do
18 not care about the consequences of their actions.

19 Having teachers armed will not prevent students
20 from committing these tragedies; having teachers
21 armed will not help, but rather it will lead to many
22 deadly mistakes.

23 Do you want them to have a shootout in the
24 hallway with hundreds of students running between
25 them and the shooter? Damn, that would turn out

1 well, wouldn't it?

2 Giving these teachers guns would make the
3 learning environment worse and make the school an
4 unsafe place, more so than it is now.

5 The solution is to not add more guns; the
6 solution is to introduce proper gun reform.
7 Reinstate the ban of 1994. Ban these weapons of war,
8 these guns that are made for one purpose and one
9 purpose alone, to kill a large amount of people in a
10 short amount of time.

11 No civilian should have access to them; no
12 civilian needs access to them. The time to change is
13 now. We mustn't allow for another Sandy Hill,
14 another Columbine, another Stoneman Douglas to happen
15 again.

16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Kathleen Beckman,
18 Richard -- Kathleen Beckman, Richard Hornsby.

19 Is Kathleen Beckman here? Richard Hornsby?

20 After Richard Hornsby we have John Sowinski,
21 Anthony Nieblas, Susan Glickman and Mary Wilkerson.

22 MR. HORNSBY: Good afternoon. My name is
23 Richard Hornsby. I'm a criminal lawyer in Orlando,
24 Florida. I'm here to ask you to reject Proposition
25 96, or at least to rework it.

1 As you know, Proposition 96, known as Marsy's
2 Law, is intended to give victims a number of rights.
3 Most of these rights are already procedural rights,
4 they're provided for them, or they're statutory
5 rights that the legislature has enacted for them.
6 What you're doing is you're taking a current
7 amendment that -- or a section of the constitution
8 that has 25 lines and you're adding 140 lines to it,
9 all in favor of what -- the accusers or the victims.

10 One of the primary dangers of this proposition
11 is the one section that allows a victim to refuse to
12 participate in a discovery deposition during criminal
13 cases. I can tell you that from my personal
14 experience that there's probably no better tool for
15 resolving cases, for obtaining pleas for victims and
16 ensuring that there are no wrongful convictions in a
17 discovery deposition.

18 Discovery depositions do several things that are
19 very important, and if a victim refused to
20 participate in it, it would create problems. One, it
21 causes defendants to plea because they know that a
22 victim is willing to participate, is credible and can
23 be believed. Two, they avoid trials, trials are
24 costly endeavors, and, three, and most importantly,
25 avoid wrongful convictions.

1 In my own personal experiences I can give you
2 several examples where depositions have avoided
3 wrongful convictions and prevented needless trials.

4 I represented a husband who was accused by his
5 ex-wife of rape. During the deposition she gave me a
6 very specific time of when he allegedly raped her.
7 It turned out that he had been in jail during the
8 exact time, but he didn't show up on the jail website
9 because he was being transported to the home
10 confinement center.

11 I had another case, I had a witness ID case.
12 When I deposed the victim in a robbery, he said that
13 he never actually IDed the guy, but the cop told him
14 to identify the person. And finally, I had another
15 case that involved a young lady who accused a family
16 member of rape. When I deposed her, it was almost
17 one of the last questions I asked, she revealed that
18 she heard voices and it was the voices that told her
19 that her family member did it.

20 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you, Mr. Hornsby.
21 John Sowinski.

22 MR. SOWINSKI: Thank you, Commissioners, for
23 your service to the people of Florida.

24 Article I, Section 1 of Florida's constitution
25 says that all political power is inherent in the

1 people, but some folks don't support that idea. They
2 want all political power to reside in Tallahassee.

3 The purpose of Proposal 97 is to stop citizen
4 initiatives. That's not what interest groups who
5 support it say, but it's what they want.

6 Proposal 97 is a bad solution to a nonexistent
7 problem, and ironically, proposals of future CRCs,
8 Tax and Budget Reform Commissions and legislatures
9 will fail more often than citizen initiatives if it
10 were to pass. That's because the vast majority of
11 proposed amendments aren't proposed by citizen
12 initiative, and because citizens' initiatives tend to
13 attract more voter interest, more media coverage and
14 more voter participation.

15 Had Proposal 97 been the law in 1998, the entire
16 body of work of that year's Tax and Budget Reform
17 Commission would have been laid to waste and wiped
18 out. Voters approved three of that commission's four
19 proposals, but under Proposal 97 all four would have
20 failed.

21 The last CRC put eight amendments on the ballot,
22 7 of which passed, but if 97 were the law of the land
23 at that time, only half would have passed, half would
24 have failed. Imagine all the time and tireless
25 effort that you've put in for the past year with zero

1 accomplishments, and I think that that is something
2 that Proposal 97 would be as a sentence on future
3 CRC's and Tax and Budget Reform Commissions.

4 Florida's Constitution is already the hardest in
5 America to amend, requiring 60 percent super
6 majority. The legislature recently cut in half the
7 amount of time that citizen groups have to circulate
8 petitions and the number of signatures required
9 automatically increases every four years.

10 Please defend Article I, Section 1 by
11 rejecting --

12 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

13 MR. SOWINSKI: -- Proposal 97.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Mary Wilkerson. Anthony
16 Nieblas.

17 MR. NIEBLAS: Good afternoon. My name is
18 Anthony Nieblas and I'm here to speak on Proposition
19 65 and share my experience with vaping and e-cigs.

20 I started smoking cigarettes at the age of 13
21 and smoked cigarettes for 15 years, until I was 28
22 years old. I tried everything I could to stop
23 smoking: Cold Turkey and simple abstinence, the
24 patch, Nicorette gum, and I even considered Chantix
25 until I saw a good friend who was Baker Acted from

1 the side effects of the drug.

2 I felt despaired and I was hopeless. I felt
3 like I was a failure and would have the chain and
4 ball combustible tobacco around my ankle forever.

5 I have seen too many family members and friends
6 suffer and die at the hands of health risks involved
7 with combustible tobacco. I figured I shared the
8 faith until 2014 I was introduced to vaping and I
9 received a shot of hope. Maybe the old ball and
10 chain of combustible tobacco will finally break free.

11 I haven't picked up a cigarette since 2014 and
12 my quality of life has been forever changed. I feel
13 great and have taken an active role in my health by
14 eating cleaner and working out all since I started
15 vaping. I soon after started an e-liquid company
16 that sells clean e-liquid manufactured in a lab. We
17 adhere to all FDA guidelines, ensuring the safest and
18 highest quality of product.

19 I do not view vaping as cool or the trendy thing
20 to do. I would never market the children, rather I
21 view vaping as the healthier alternative to
22 combustible tobacco.

23 It is my experience that vaping is the Gateway
24 to freedom from combustible tobacco. Since I started
25 my company, I've helped 20-plus friends and family

1 members stop smoking with vaping. Their health and
2 quality of lives have improved dramatically. One
3 example is my soon-to-be mother-in-law. She smoked
4 for 30-plus years. After she started vaping, she is
5 now, after 30 years, not only tobacco free --

6 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

7 MR. NIEBLAS: All right. And based on my
8 experience --

9 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Now Miss Glickman.

10 Please, sir, your time is up. Thank you.

11 MR. NIEBLAS: -- you'd be sending a dangerous
12 and blurred message with Proposition 65.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Is Kathleen Beckman here?

15 Okay. I'll get you next. Thank you.

16 MS. GLICKMAN: Senator, thank you. I'm Susan
17 Glickman. I'm the Florida Director of Southern
18 Alliance for Clean Energy and I'm here in support of
19 Proposal 91, which would constitutionally banned
20 drilling in nearshore Florida waters, so that is 3 to
21 10 miles, and the reason it's important to put in the
22 constitution is because I think everyone here knows
23 that that's currently in state statute, but in 2009,
24 with 8 days left of the Florida legislative session,
25 there was an effort to substitute an innocuous

1 memorial to Congress, House memorial 1219, with a
2 bill to lift the ban on nearshore drilling. And on
3 April 27, 2009 the Florida House of Representatives
4 voted 70 to 43 to lift that ban, and it was only
5 because wisdom prevailed in the Florida Senate at
6 that time, but the fact of the matter remains that
7 drilling in Florida waters is a bad idea.

8 We saw what the Deep Water Horizon did obviously
9 to the coast, and we value that as Floridians. Our
10 economy is tourist based, that's why people come to
11 the state of Florida, so to put a banned on the
12 ballot in -- to put in the state constitution is
13 exactly why the Constitution Revision Commission
14 exist, to do something that needs further protection
15 that the Florida legislature may or may not be
16 willing to protect.

17 So we respectfully ask and appreciate your
18 service. I know how much time is involved in this
19 and hearings all over the state, but this is an
20 important one, and our entire economy depends on you
21 all doing this because we never know when the whims
22 of the Florida House or the Florida Senate are going
23 to prevail, so we ask for your support for that
24 proposal and we thank the Commissioner for sponsoring
25 and many of you that have already cosponsored this

1 proposition. So please vote yes on 91.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

4 Miss Kathleen Beckman.

5 Before you begin, Miss Beckman: Mary Wilkerson,
6 Eric Godet, Kim Fudge, Dory Larsen, and Lee Day will
7 follow her.

8 MS. BECKMAN: Hello. My name is Kathleen
9 Beckman and I'm here from Clearwater, Florida. I am
10 here to state my vehement opposition to Proposal 22.

11 Simply put, Proposal 22 is a backdoor means of
12 restricting a women's right to a legal abortion. The
13 explicit privacy clause in the constitution protects
14 all Floridians: Male, female, transgender, gay,
15 everyone, from government intrusion into many aspects
16 of our private lives. These include end-of-life
17 decisions, how we raise our children, what we do in
18 the privacy of our homes, and our medical decisions
19 and choices.

20 Our constitution is meant to empower our
21 citizens, not to limit their rights, and in this age
22 of the me-to movement, you better believe the women
23 in this state, over half the population, as well as
24 our many supporters, will not allow you to use
25 Proposal 22 to limit a woman's right to choose. To

1 restrict the rights of women is holy unacceptable.

2 As a young woman I was faced with a
3 heart-wrenching decision on pregnancy. What I
4 decided and how I made my decision is clearly none of
5 your business, but I can assure you -- but I can
6 assure you I made the right decision for me. I can
7 tell you I am the proud mother of three
8 college-educated children, I am a retired public
9 school teacher, and I am a life-long volunteer and
10 community activist. My life was changed for the
11 better by the decision I made many years ago. Every
12 woman deserves the right to decide what is best for
13 her. You must protect the privacy clause in our
14 constitution. Do not put forward Proposal 22.

15 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

16 Mary Wilkerson.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Please. Please, folks.

18 MS. WILKERSON: Hello. My name is Mary
19 Wilkerson. I reside in Indian Rocks Beach, Florida,
20 and I too would like to thank you all for your
21 services.

22 I'm here to speak on behalf of Proposal 91, to
23 restrict oil drilling within our Florida waters.
24 I -- there's few things that I'm more passionate
25 about.

1 I have been in this business -- vacation rental
2 business for over 30 years, part of a
3 third-generation business. In those 30 years I have
4 sat on several boards, both local, state, and I'm
5 very familiar with what drives our tourist industry,
6 and that's our pristine white sandy beaches. Make no
7 mistake, there is nothing else that comes close to a
8 driver of our economic engine in the state of
9 Florida.

10 To put not -- put too fine a point on that, for
11 those of you who are familiar with TripAdvisor, it is
12 the largest, the largest travel company on the
13 planet. This year it voted Clearwater as the number
14 one beach in the United States.

15 It didn't stop there. It -- it added six more
16 beaches. So the top six -- five more beaches. The
17 top six beaches in the United States voted by the
18 number one travel company on the planet are here in
19 the Clearwater -- or, excuse me, in the state of
20 Florida.

21 What could be more important than protecting
22 that vital resource?

23 I think there's -- again, few things people come
24 here but for the pristine white sandy beaches. If
25 you're not believing in them for the environmental

1 reasons, think about this: We spend millions of
2 dollars a year in Florida to protect our brand, our
3 brand, our pristine white sandy beaches. Anything,
4 anything that is going to in any way contribute to
5 injuring that brand is bad for Florida.

6 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you very much.

7 MS. WILKERSON: Please. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Ladies and gentlemen, may
9 I have your attention, please?

10 We recognize and understand your appreciation
11 for the proposals for or against them, but do
12 understand that we have about 350 more persons who
13 would like to be heard, and each time you applaud you
14 take up valuable time. So if you would just use
15 those red and green cards that we gave you, we'd
16 appreciate it.

17 Now, Mr. Eric Godet, please, followed by Kim
18 Fudge and Dory Larsen.

19 MR. GODET: Thank you, Commissioners. My name
20 is Eric Godet. I'm vice president of Haven Hospice.
21 I've been involved in the hospice industry for 15
22 years now and my focus is on Proposal 54.

23 I just want to share, and I will be very brief
24 because I know you guys are extremely committed to
25 this process and you want to make sure all of the

1 fellow folks are heard, but I just want to say there
2 are a lot of positives to making sure we do not
3 eliminate our certificate-of-need process for
4 hospices, and I just want to take this time to
5 respectfully ask the CRC to amend Proposal 54 to
6 remove Hospice.

7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

9 Miss Fudge.

10 MS. FUDGE: Good afternoon. My name is Kim
11 Fudge and I'm here to urge you to not put Proposition
12 22 on the ballot this fall. The late Supreme Court
13 Justice Louis Brandies once stated: "Embedded in the
14 American Constitution was the right to privacy. The
15 greatest dangers to liberty lurk in insidious
16 encroachment by men of zeal, well meaning but without
17 understanding."

18 There is nothing more fundamental to a women's
19 private life than the right to decide the most
20 intimate, personal and difficult decision of whether
21 or not to carry a pregnancy to term.

22 It was the right of my mother, who in 1962, six
23 weeks after the birth of my brother, underwent
24 emergency surgery to remove her kidney. The
25 seriousness of her condition was so bad that she was

1 told never to get pregnant again, because if she did,
2 she would die. Her doctor refused to perform a tubal
3 ligation, and for the next 20 or so years she was on
4 the birth control pill, however, in order to go
5 through menopause, she had to go off the pill in her
6 40s. Her first missed period resulted in a pregnancy
7 scare. My parents were faced with the decision at
8 the time to abort a possible pregnancy.

9 It was my right in 1998, five years after the
10 birth of my second child, to opt for a tubal
11 ligation, however, the clinic that I was supposed to
12 go to was the scene of a deadly rampage in 1994, and
13 continued intimidation by protesters. I refused to
14 go there. I felt both afraid and angry at that
15 situation because it was made to seem that my choice
16 was both sorted and illegal.

17 It is still the right of women in 2018 not to be
18 intimidated by and legislated out of their
19 fundamental rights. Women's rights to privacy begins
20 and ends with her body.

21 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you. Thank you.

22 Dory Larsen, followed by Lee Day, Kathleen Clark
23 Knight, Elaine Galbraith and Diane Desenberg.

24 MS. LARSEN: Hi. My name is Dory Larsen. I'm
25 the electric vehicle program associate with the

1 Southern Alliance for Clean Energy and I'm speaking
2 today to encourage you to vote yes on Proposal 1 --
3 or, I'm sorry, 91.

4 Looking at the economics, social and
5 environmental threats that coastline drilling pose to
6 the citizens and businesses of Florida, the evidence
7 points to the conclusion that the drilling off of our
8 coast would cause much more harm than benefit to our
9 state and citizens.

10 There's overwhelming citizen opposition to
11 offshore drilling. There are weak prospects for oil
12 and gas production having significant measurable
13 effects on reducing domestic fuel prices or
14 increasing energy security and independence.

15 There is a severe risk that offshore drilling
16 would impose on our currently thriving coastal
17 tourism economy and coastal quality of life.
18 Additionally, oil and gas demand may already be in
19 decline by the time any oral drill could come into
20 production. Royal Dutch Shell, a major oil and
21 natural gas development company, estimates that
22 global oil demand may peak in the late 2020s or early
23 2030s and decline thereafter.

24 This is largely in part to the technological
25 advancements in light-duty vehicle electrification

1 over the past decades and require a reassessment of
2 our future oil demands. More and more drivers in
3 Florida are making the switch to drive electric
4 because EVs are convenient and save consumers money.
5 The cost of fueling and maintaining an electric
6 vehicle is significantly lower than a traditional
7 car. Major automakers have announced production of
8 125 new electric vehicles within the next five years.
9 They're also cleaner than traditional cars with
10 lifetime emissions less than 50 percent of those of a
11 traditional car.

12 The future of the transportation sector is
13 widely seen as electric. So as we see the
14 projections for EVs growing and the decreased need
15 for oil, it makes sense that we amend the
16 constitution to ensure a permanent solution.

17 You're in a unique position of having the
18 opportunity to see that the ban for drilling in
19 coastal Florida waters is permanent and I encourage
20 you to do so.

21 I also encourage everyone in the room to take
22 the next car pledge to learn more about driving
23 electric and the role it plays in ending our
24 dependence on offshore drilling.

25 Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

2 Lee Day.

3 MR. DAY: I'm Lee Day from Oviedo, Florida. I'm
4 asking you to vote yes on Proposal 67 to ban the
5 cruel Greyhound racing industry.

6 I'm a former track employee at the Seminole
7 Greyhound park from 1997, and the track closed years
8 ago to consolidate into the Sanford-Orlando Kennel
9 Club.

10 Now, I was a dog handler called a lead out, and
11 our job was to lead dogs from the cages and the track
12 kennel to the race box, retrieve the dogs at the end
13 of the race and return them to their kennel cages,
14 take their muzzles on and off, as well as their
15 jackets. And I can tell you that the same problems
16 that existed 21 years ago exist now. The people they
17 hired as lead outs were nothing more than street
18 thugs. They're not your average teenager or
19 20-year-old. That was the demographic; they were
20 angry, violent young men who had no business handling
21 dogs. They would hustle drugs between the events and
22 many of them had done jail time. They would yank
23 dogs down from the second-level kennels roughly and
24 the dogs would fall to the ground sometimes. The
25 dogs were roughly forced into the race boxes before

1 the race and the dogs would often resist. The dogs
2 would panic, cry; they would bounce off the walls of
3 the box in panic. Sometimes the tails were slammed
4 by the sliding box door, pinched.

5 I've seen fistfights between a lead supervisor
6 and lead outs right before the race. Again, they
7 would rough handle; they would kick or punch the dogs
8 when no one was watching. They would tell them put
9 your best behavior when you walk those dogs out
10 there.

11 They have little or no compassion, and it's very
12 easy to take a little pocket pill with a drug and
13 give it to a dog right before a race and alter the
14 results.

15 I've seen dogs with broken legs after the races
16 that were separated; they were taken to be euthanized
17 by the track veterinarian. They're in those cages 22
18 hours a day. I've actually been inside at the kennel
19 compounds where the guy said no one's ever been
20 there. I can tell you they're overcrowded; it's
21 constant barking; it stinks; they're over bleached;
22 the ammonia is stagnate; you can't breathe.

23 The dogs are lonely, they're scared, they're
24 dismal. It's inhumane. This is sponsored by the
25 state. I derived a check from the state of Florida

1 to do this, to participate in this.

2 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you, Mr. Day.

3 MR. DAY: Please support Proposal 67.

4 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Kathleen Clark Knight.

5 Kathleen Clark Knight.

6 MS. KNIGHT: Yes, ma'am.

7 Thank you, Senator, Commissioners. I'm Kathleen
8 Knight. I live here locally and I work here locally
9 as well. I represent people who are elderly and
10 infirmed, and I've heard said to you time and again
11 actually, Why do with need Proposal 88? We have
12 statutes that protect our elderly and infirmed, so we
13 don't need a constitutional amendment.

14 And the answer is both legal and practical.
15 Legally speaking, when the elderly and infirmed, our
16 grandparents, our parents, our spouses, sign
17 documents waiving their constitutional rights, their
18 rights at all, their legislative rights, right now
19 it's considered a contractual issue. If you waive
20 rights contractually, you do not have to make a
21 showing that that waiver was knowing and voluntary.

22 If a person is charged with a crime, if a person
23 is being asked to give up their homestead protection,
24 those advocating that waiver of rights have to show
25 that it was knowing and voluntary.

1 There are nearly 200 cases interpreting what
2 that means, and it's very stringent. When our
3 elderly enter a nursing home or an assisted living
4 facility, or their family member signs them in,
5 they're given an enormous packet of documents to
6 sign, an admission packet. It's always at least
7 20-plus pages long. It can often exceed 40.

8 They can be 90 years old -- I want to read to
9 you what a court said. At the time this lady signed
10 the document she was 92 years old and had a fourth
11 grade education. She couldn't spell well and often
12 had to sound out words while reading. She had memory
13 problems and was increasingly confused. The second
14 district court of appeals found that that was
15 sufficient for her to sign a contract giving up her
16 rights. Ninety-two, fourth grade education, had to
17 sound out words, and she was -- it was determined
18 that by signing a document that was 40-pages long she
19 gave up her rights to access through the courts.

20 This is why we need Proposal 88. Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

22 Miss Galbraith, Elaine, followed by Diane
23 Desenberg, Barbara Logan and Greg Matthews, and Kelly
24 Noland. Those.

25 MS. GALBRAITH: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

1 I'm not here to speak about the profits or --
2 not even the profits or what have you as far as the
3 Greyhound racing goes. I am here to speak for the
4 Greyhounds, the dogs themself.

5 I speak on behalf of the Greyhounds, as they are
6 unable to speak words as we can, to be understood by
7 humans, though they do speak their own language,
8 which many humans choose to ignore.

9 Greyhounds have been exploited and are
10 incarcerated 20-plus hours a day due to the gambling
11 industry. Neither exploitation or confinement should
12 ever take place for these animals.

13 Too many have died due to this cruel industry.
14 These animals never had a choice in the matter, but
15 now with Proposal 67 their voices will be heard loud
16 and clear.

17 Please vote yes on Proposal 67. Thank you for
18 listening to the Greyhounds.

19 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

20 Diane Desenberg.

21 MS. DESENBERG: Hi. Thank you, Commission, for
22 letting me speak. I'm Diane Desenberg and I'm here
23 to talk in support of Proposal 91 to ban offshore
24 drilling.

25 Our constitution currently calls out our natural

1 resources and scenic beauty for protection. In my
2 mind, this includes our outstanding coast, the Gulf
3 of Mexico, the Atlantic Ocean, our sandy shorelines
4 and all the wildlife in it. And it's also
5 fundamental to what drives Florida's economic engine
6 of tourism, and clearly, our constitution already
7 protects this, and yet despite this, in 1994 Florida
8 sold, and I quote, everything hugging the shore out
9 to 10.36 miles from Apalachicola to Naples on the
10 Gulf Coast to an oil company. About
11 3.6 million acres. That's despite constitutional
12 protection.

13 Thankfully, after some money exchanged hands and
14 some environmental pushback, the legislature stepped
15 up and they passed legislation to ban costal oil and
16 gas drilling.

17 So it sounds like a happy ending, but you heard
18 a little earlier that back in 2009 there was talk of
19 a bill that would allow drilling within five miles of
20 the coast. So clearly, the constitutional provision
21 as it currently stands is not sufficient to protect
22 our natural resources and hasn't stopped the oil and
23 gas industry from taking aim at Florida's waters,
24 however, Proposal 91 would do just that. So I would
25 ask you to please move to ban your shore oil drilling

1 in Florida by moving Proposal 91 onto the ballot.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

4 Barbara Logan. Kelly Noland.

5 Are you Miss Logan?

6 MS. LOGAN: I am.

7 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: You're on.

8 MS. LOGAN: Yes.

9 Barbara Logan, Osprey, Florida. I'm speaking
10 today in opposition to Proposal No. 4.

11 This is one of seven amendments that affect K
12 through 12 education. In my opinion, six of the
13 amendments are designed to promote the expansion of
14 privatization of our state schools, and I don't like
15 that. I, as a retired public school teacher, who is
16 old enough to have taught in lily white schools and
17 also in integrated schools, I am an enthusiastic
18 supporter of public schools which bring children of
19 all races, nationalities, and religions and get them
20 working together and playing together. In other
21 words, preparing them to become good citizens in our
22 country made up of many people from diverse
23 backgrounds.

24 I am very much opposed to Proposal 4. It would
25 eliminate the Blaine Amendment that guarantees a

1 separation of church and state.

2 The separation between church and state was one
3 of the principles that our founding fathers
4 established. I have a great, great, great
5 grandfather that was General Knox, who George
6 Washington said was one of two generals that fought
7 beside him and he could not have won the
8 Revolutionary War without General Knox. He made him
9 first secretary of war.

10 I can't turn my back on my blood line. They
11 fought for separation of church and state.

12 I'm opposed to public financial support to
13 private and religious schools. These institutions
14 should be supported by private interest and religious
15 groups, as has been done in the past. Our state at
16 this time does not need to resegment our children.
17 It's our public schools, our young people learn to
18 get -- in our public schools our young people learn
19 how to get along with their peers no matter what
20 race --

21 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you.

22 MS. LOGAN: -- what religion, nationality and
23 exceptionality.

24 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

25 Miss Noland, Kelly Noland, followed by Greg

1 Matthews, after which time we will take a five-minute
2 break, after Mr. Matthews.

3 MS. NOLAND: Hi. My name is Kelly Noland. I'm
4 a registered nurse currently working in long-term
5 care as the assistant director of nursing at the
6 Manor at Carpenters in Lakeland, Florida.

7 I'm here regarding Proposition 88. I've been in
8 long-term care for 25 years. I started as a CNA,
9 became an LPN and then worked my way through to an
10 RN.

11 Person-centered care has been very big in what
12 I've become and part of what I do. Patient advocacy
13 is a huge part of who I am as a nurse and a person
14 overall. Skilled nursing facilities are regulated
15 rather stringently in an effort to ensure the safety
16 of those that are entrusted in our care. There is
17 nothing in the proposal that will enhance the rights
18 of the elderly and the patients that we care for.
19 What is proposed will put a burden on those that care
20 for the elderly.

21 I urge you to decline this proposed amendment,
22 as its only intention is to increase the lawsuits and
23 do nothing to improve the care for the elderly.

24 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

25 Mr. Matthews.

1 MR. MATTHEWS: Hi there. My name is Greg
2 Matthews and I'm here to oppose Proposal 88.

3 Proposal 88 is being disguised as a resident
4 care issue. Understand that resident care, as
5 governed by the state of Florida, is already written
6 into the laws of the state of Florida.

7 Proposal 88 allows the power that be a virtually
8 unlimited ability to sue long-term care facilities,
9 staff and even shareholders. This increased cost
10 will only hurt residents of long-term care
11 facilities.

12 Please understand Proposal 88 will only harm the
13 elderly, which have been picked on enough. Please
14 vote accordingly.

15 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you, and now we'll
16 have a five-minute break.

17 (Recess taken from 3:17 to 3:32 p.m.)

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: We'll reconvene this meeting.

19 Now we're going to reconvene this meeting. If
20 everybody will silence their cell phones, and
21 Mr. Schifino, who is from the Tampa Bay Area, will be
22 taking testimony next.

23 Thank you so much. The meeting is reconvened.

24 Bill, she's all yours.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, Chair.

1 What I'd like to remind everyone, if you would,
2 and most of you are doing this, but that is when you
3 approach the podium, please, one, tell us your name,
4 a court reporter is taking that down, and then
5 secondly, lead with right upfront what proposal
6 you're for or against. Some of you are getting
7 three-quarters of the way through and we're trying to
8 guess, okay, which one are we talking about. So
9 let's do that.

10 We have about 360 proposals. We probably made
11 it through about 50 or 60 so far, so we've got a lot
12 of work left, but we can get it done.

13 Now -- and we absolutely will hear from
14 everyone, but I want to give you a little hint that
15 may help expedite it, your call, and that is you can
16 waive in support or against a particular proposal.
17 Your choice, but we will get through all of these, I
18 promise you that, but I just wanted you to know that
19 is an option that you do have.

20 Now, here's -- I'm going to call the next five:
21 Matthew Thompson, Richard Suetterlin, Thomas Austin,
22 George Tragos, and Dennis deVlaming.

23 Mr. Thompson?

24 And if any of you are up here, you can jump to
25 the podium.

1 Mr. Suetterlin?

2 And we have Mr. Thompson. Go ahead.

3 MR. SUETTERLIN: I'm Richard Suetterlin and I am
4 here to speak against the prospect or the Proposal
5 No. 88.

6 My wife and I have lived in the Estates of
7 Carpenter since 2007. The Estates is a
8 not-for-profit continuing care community that is
9 consist of a resident -- independent resident living,
10 assisted living, and a skilled nursing home. Our
11 award-winning community is a reciprocate of such
12 honors as the bronze and silver American Health Care
13 National Quality Awards, three times recipient of the
14 Governor's Gold Seal Award. The community has been
15 voted as the best place to work in Polk County for
16 seven straight years.

17 Three years ago my wife was diagnosed with
18 cancer -- or, I'm sorry, Alzheimer's disease and it
19 was recommended that she enter the assisted living
20 facility at the Estates. I go up to see her every
21 morning at breakfast. I also take her out for lunch
22 and so on.

23 About two weeks ago the lady eating at her
24 table, she is 103 years old, wasn't eating her
25 oatmeal. When I asked her why, she responded that

1 she did not like the bowl -- the small bowl.

2 I stopped one of the servers and asked her for a
3 larger bowl. Her response was, They didn't bring us
4 up any this morning.

5 Just a few minutes later I saw her heading down
6 the aisle, and she went down the hall, down the
7 elevator to the first floor and picked up a group of
8 large bowls, brought it back and the friend started
9 eating.

10 This is an example of the caring attitude and
11 service I see on a regular daily basis. I have never
12 had a complaint of any kind about any of my wife's
13 care. This gives me a wonderful, careful feeling and
14 I have no concern whatsoever for her care if
15 something should happen to me.

16 Thank you very much.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

18 Mr. Thompson.

19 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Commissioner.

20 My name is Matthew Thompson. I'm speaking
21 against Proposal 88.

22 I am the administrator of the community that the
23 previous gentleman was just speaking about, and I'd
24 like to speak today about the unintentional
25 consequences that Proposal 88 can have.

1 I understand that this proposal came in response
2 to what happened in Hollywood Hills and is trying to
3 address situations where quality may not be at the
4 highest level, but this proposal will have a negative
5 effect on every long-term care community in Florida,
6 including ours.

7 This proposal is attempting to increase the
8 quality of care provided to our elderly by adding a
9 select number of resident rights into the Florida
10 constitution. Unfortunately, this will have no
11 positive effect on the elderly, how facilities
12 operate, or will it affect how we are regulated.

13 This is because all of the rights being added to
14 this proposal already exist in either state or
15 federal law, and when facilities operate, and when we
16 are regulated by AHCA or other agencies, no attention
17 is paid to if a law comes from statute, code or the
18 constitution. A law is a law and no distinction is
19 made between the various types.

20 By eliminating the use of arbitration
21 agreements, increasing the minimum insurance
22 requirements and by expanding who can sue and who can
23 be sued to include passive investors, only one
24 logical conclusion will result. More lawsuits. And
25 even the potential for more lawsuits will result in

1 higher liability insurance costs for more providers.
2 This proposal could potentially double or even triple
3 this already sizable expense.

4 Even if, for whatever reason, you think this is
5 all good things, I would propose that our state
6 constitution is not the forum to dictate what levels
7 of insurance coverage any organization should carry
8 or to detail what individuals can be sued in a
9 particular field.

10 While I understand the intentions of Proposal
11 88, the reality is this proposal is not a solution to
12 improve the care and safety of residents, it will
13 have the opposite effect, and I ask you to vote
14 against it.

15 Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

17 Mr. Austin.

18 MR. AUSTIN: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My
19 name is Thomas Austin and I'm a resident at the
20 Estates at Carpenters in Lakeland, Florida. I'm here
21 today to speak against Proposal 88.

22 All of the patient rights mentioned in the
23 beginning of this proposal are already on the books
24 and protected by state laws and regulations. What I
25 do see in what is proposed allows lawyers the ability

1 to cast a wider net when filing a lawsuit to include
2 persons and entities that have absolutely nothing to
3 do with the running, administration or providing of
4 care to the patients of nursing homes and ALFs.

5 What this will do is increase the cost of
6 liability insurance and lawyers' fees, which gets
7 passed on to the residents of these facilities, and
8 will cause financial harm to elderly citizens who
9 cannot afford these increased costs. I urge you in
10 the strongest terms to see this proposal for what it
11 is and vote no on including it on the November
12 ballot.

13 Thank you for your time.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, sir.

15 Mr. Tragos, followed by Mr. deVlaming.

16 MR. TRAGOS: Good afternoon, and thank you for
17 the opportunity. My name is George Tragos and I'm
18 here on behalf of the Florida Bar Criminal Law
19 Section, and we are here to speak against Proposition
20 96.

21 The Criminal Law Section is made up of
22 prosecutors, defense lawyers, judges and law
23 professors, and our -- we are ruled by an executive
24 council elected by the membership, and our vote
25 against Proposition 96 in that executive council was

1 29 to 3.

2 There are many reasons why people voted against
3 this proposition in the executive council, and they
4 all revolve around the fact that you're getting into
5 the weeds and not really dealing with broad
6 principles. The fact that you're actually getting
7 into the rules of criminal procedure.

8 An example, depositions. I was chief of the
9 felony division of the State Attorney's Office, I was
10 chief of the criminal division for the United States
11 Attorney's Office, and I was lead trial counsel for
12 the Department of Justice Organized Crime Drug
13 Enforcement Task Force. I have done federal
14 discovery and I do state discovery. The state
15 discovery is far better in resolving cases.

16 In the federal system you don't have the
17 depositions, but what you do have is preliminary
18 hearings and grand jury. Everybody who is charged in
19 federal court, the prosecutor has to go before 18
20 citizens and be indicted by a grand jury. Everybody
21 charged in federal court has the right to a
22 preliminary hearing.

23 What's a preliminary hearing? That victim is
24 going to be brought into a courtroom within a week of
25 the arrest, going to be cross-examined. The

1 defendant is going to be sitting right there facing
2 them. It's going to be in a courtroom maybe the size
3 of this, a far more intimidating and uncomfortable
4 situation than a deposition.

5 In Florida right now state attorneys protect
6 victims. I know you're going to hear anecdotes, but
7 I guarantee you every state attorney wants to protect
8 the victims.

9 At the depositions a state attorney is present.
10 No victim has to speak to a lawyer --

11 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, Mr. Tragos.

12 MR. TRAGOS: My two minutes are up?

13 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: That's your two minutes.

14 MR. TRAGOS: -- speak to a lawyer without a
15 prosecutor present. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: I'm very sorry.

17 Mr. deVlaming, and following Mr. deVlaming we're
18 going to have Lauren Bobek, Robyn Linenberg, Shelbie
19 Seys, Alison Yurko, John Willis and Kevin Quinn.
20 Please be ready to go.

21 Thank you, Mr. deVlaming.

22 MR. DEVLAMING: Thank you, Mr. Schifino.

23 My name is Dennis deVlaming, d-e-V-l-a-m-i-n-g.
24 I'm here to speak in opposition of Proposition 96.

25 I've been practicing criminal law for 46 years.

1 I'm 70 years old. I've been a prosecutor; I've been
2 a criminal defense lawyer. I've done both jobs.

3 I have found that at times when I was a
4 prosecutor there would be depositions taken of
5 victims in cases where I have learned things that I
6 would have never have learned. Questions were asked
7 by defense lawyers that I did not know the answers
8 to. Then I would later talk to the victim and say,
9 Why didn't you tell me that? Why didn't I know that?

10 If you pass this -- or suggest the passage of
11 this amendment, what's going to happen is that will
12 be taken away. We already have Article X, Section
13 21. We have a victim's right amendment. It allows
14 for our victims to have input into the system, it
15 allows for victims to be notified and to -- to know
16 of the proceedings already. So we already have that.
17 To amend it, in my opinion, would be wrong.

18 I would like to say that nobody games -- games
19 the system. I would love to be able to say that, but
20 it's not true. I've seen men that have had their
21 girlfriends set up because the girls have left them
22 for another man; I have seen spouses heading into a
23 divorce where they gamed the system by having one
24 charged with a battery which results in somebody
25 being charged and somebody having access to the home.

1 I'd like to say that doesn't happen, it does, and
2 it's happening more and more.

3 Take away the ability to have these depositions,
4 to ferret those out, and we'll have a tremendous
5 mistake being made, because it'll take away the
6 ability to learn all the facts of the case, and I
7 would hope that the Article 10, Section 21 that's
8 already in existence now would be enough.

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

11 And I'll also ask everyone to let's remember to
12 be courteous. We may disagree on certain issues, but
13 we can do so professionally and without being
14 disagreeable.

15 Lauren Bobek.

16 MS. BOBEK: Lauren Bobek.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Bobek, I'm sorry.

18 MS. BOBEK: That's okay.

19 Hello. I'm here against Proposal 96. I'm from
20 Orlando, Florida. I'm a board certified criminal
21 defense attorney.

22 The reasons that I'm against Proposal 96 is
23 primarily because of the limitations it places on
24 constitutional rights of the accused.

25 The criminal justice system is designed to

1 punish perpetrators. It cannot, unfortunately, make
2 victims hole. Nothing can right that wrong.

3 And to make sure the accused is the perpetrator
4 we have constitutional and statutory protections for
5 the accused. Why?

6 Not because their constitutional rights take
7 away from victims' rights, but because constitutional
8 rights ensure that the correct person is held
9 responsible, because if an innocent person is
10 wrongfully convicted, the real perpetrator remains at
11 large.

12 Florida's constitution currently has strong
13 victims' rights/protections in place and ensures that
14 such rights do not interfere with the rights of the
15 accused. Both of my predecessors in speaking
16 addressed these constitutional rights.

17 We need to spend time and energy enforcing the
18 current victims' rights, protections, and not muddy
19 the waters with provisions that could potentially
20 lead to extended litigation, not only from a
21 constitutional perspective, but also in terms of the
22 time it takes for us to litigate these cases.

23 If we have victims refusing to attend
24 depositions, we have additional litigation that could
25 spring from that, including challenges to the ability

1 of the client, the accused, to satisfy their Sixth
2 Amendment Rights to confrontation.

3 Proposal 96 is especially troubling because it
4 deletes the requirement ensuring that nothing
5 interferes with the constitutional rights of the
6 accused. Florida has explicit constitutional
7 protection for the victims: Chapter 960, which
8 ensures compensation, restitution, victim services,
9 the rights for the victim to be present at
10 sentencing, to make impact statements, to be notified
11 of offender release, and having specific evidentiary
12 and confidentiality protections for the victims, and,
13 therefore, I'm opposed --

14 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you very much.

15 MS. BOBEK: -- to Proposition 96.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Robyn Linenberg.

17 MR. WILLIS: I'm John Willis. I think you
18 called my name. Miss Linenberg had asked that --

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I did.

20 MR. WILLIS: My name is John Willis. I am from
21 Parkland. I am here with a group of Parkland
22 parents. I rise in support of Proposal 3 as amended
23 this morning by Commissioner Joyner, Commissioner
24 Coxe, and the two other commissioners.

25 Thank you for letting us speak. I know we have

1 a short amount of time. I'll be brief.

2 On February 11th I was sitting on a basketball
3 court in Parkland with my eight-year-old,
4 eighth-grade son who was playing basketball with two
5 ninth graders. One of them was a boy named Luke
6 Hoyer, one of them on the other team. They both were
7 killed a couple of days later by a young man using an
8 AR-15.

9 We'd been to Tallahassee last week. We are
10 representing the children who you've heard all over
11 the TV from Douglas who are articulate. They are our
12 children; they are our community. We are rising and
13 you'll hear from everybody here who have come,
14 including Mr. Montalto, who spoke to you. This is a
15 national movement, not just Florida. This is all
16 over the country.

17 There are certain constitutional rights, and we
18 recognize those, and we do not want to take away the
19 Second Amendment Right to bear arms for the people in
20 this state or this country, but just like you can't
21 go into a theater under the First Amendment and call
22 fire because it's a risk to everyone else, in this
23 state carrying around an assault rifle that causes
24 the death of our children is violating the rest of
25 our rights.

1 The Florida Constitution is where this belongs.
2 The amendments that were filed this morning are the
3 appropriate response. Even the definition of an
4 assault weapon under that amendment only says a
5 high-capacity magazine, so there's not much to fight
6 about.

7 Please take the political football out of this.
8 Protect the rest of the people in this state from the
9 assault weapons. Please.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, sir.

11 Miss Linenberg.

12 MS. LINENBERG: Thank you for letting me speak
13 today. My name is Robyn Linenberg and I'm a proud
14 Parkland parent.

15 I've read your bios. You all have families.
16 Most of you have children, even grandchildren. So
17 let me take you back to a favorite childhood game of
18 truth or dare.

19 Truth. You're about to hear some deeply
20 heartfelt speeches today about what happened in
21 Parkland, but no words can truly describe our
22 community's experiences over the past month. So I
23 dare you to look at us, hear us and not want to do
24 whatever you possibly can to help us, because the
25 truth is, you have the ability to do something to

1 help all of Florida.

2 The truth is, in less than two years Florida's
3 lost 66 lives in the AR -- with two AR-15 mass
4 shootings. I dare you to say that that is okay.

5 The truth is, this weapon is capable of shooting
6 100 to 200 bullets per minute. I dare you to use the
7 words bullets and not rounds, because bullets are
8 what are deadly.

9 The truth is, before 1994 there weren't assault
10 rifles on the streets and we didn't have mass
11 shootings. I dare you to convince people that this
12 is just a mere coincidence.

13 Floridians don't want assault weapons on the
14 streets. I dare you to put a ban on assault weapons,
15 amendments on the ballot, and let Floridians decide
16 the issue.

17 There are already federal courts and other
18 states who upheld that assault rifles aren't
19 protected under the second amendment, so I dare you
20 to ignore the NRA and not let one organization have
21 so much power over politics.

22 A few weeks ago a few of us were in Tallahassee
23 and we asked the legislatures if they owned any
24 AR-15s, and one said yes, because he can. I ask you
25 now to help all Floridians because you can.

1 Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

3 Shelbie Seys.

4 MS. SEYS: Close enough.

5 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: And the last thing in
6 the world I want to do is cut anyone short, I really
7 don't, but let's try to stay within the two. We've
8 got a lot of ground to cover, but we do really
9 appreciate hearing from everybody.

10 Thank you.

11 MS. SEYS: Thank you so much. My name is
12 Shelbie Seys. I'm a proud Parkland parent of three
13 children in the Parkland school system. Next year
14 I'll have three kids in three separate schools, and
15 we're not safe. No school is.

16 As a mom, and as you all are parents, we -- we
17 try to teach our kids to decide what's right and
18 what's wrong, and despite peer pressure and the
19 situations we're in, we're always in a situation
20 where we have to decide what is best and what is
21 right, and what is right is letting our people decide
22 the rest of the constitution for Florida.

23 And I just really ask and encourage you all to
24 consider the latest amendment, and I want to thank
25 the Commission for putting that forward and for

1 hearing our voices and for -- I just ask that you
2 continue to let us move forward and let us decide.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

5 Allison Yurko. Allison Yurko. Kevin -- I'm
6 going to call the next five, please: Kevin Quinn, S.
7 Diamond, Pam Scopino, Devin Alexander.

8 MS. YURKO: Thank you.

9 My name is Allison Yurko. I presented to the
10 committee earlier. I'm a local government lawyer
11 with 30 years experience, board certified in city,
12 county, local government law, tendering to you all
13 today an amendment -- a proposed amendment to Section
14 8(a), right to bear arms: "The right of the people
15 to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves and of
16 the lawful authority of the state shall not be
17 infringed, except that the manner of bearing arms may
18 be regulated by law."

19 And I would propose adding the following text:
20 And except for licensed law enforcement officers or
21 active military personnel. The sale or transfer of
22 any weapon which will or is designed to or made
23 readily be converted to expel a projectile by the
24 action of explosion which shoots or is designed to
25 shoot automatically more than five shots without

1 manually reloading by the single function of a
2 trigger shall be prohibited.

3 The legislature shall enact legislation
4 implementing this subsection (a)(2) no later than
5 December 31st 2019. This is an reasonable balanced
6 approach. It is something you can do under your
7 rules. I gave a detailed presentation this afternoon
8 to your rules committee.

9 The deadline of October for new proposals that
10 you have imposed can easily be undone by this
11 Commission. These are extraordinary times that call
12 for extraordinary measures.

13 With all due respect, you have the legal right
14 to implement this proposal, and in my opinion you
15 have the legal obligation, or moral obligation at
16 least, to take this to the voters and let them
17 decide.

18 This is a reasonable measure. I got the
19 definition right out of the Chapter 790 and I talked
20 to hunters about what's a reasonable approach to
21 this. I will leave this with Alexis and Roberta, and
22 let's get it done.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

25 Kevin Quinn. Sandra Diamond.

1 MR. QUINN: Hi. Thank you very much for this
2 opportunity to speak to you. My name is Kevin Quinn.
3 I'm a Parkland resident. I have two kids who attend
4 the school that is directly next to Marjory Stoneman
5 Douglas. I live in the community that's adjacent to
6 the school, so I technically live in the closest
7 community to the school itself.

8 Moments after the massacre my wife and I were
9 there to basically operate triage. Afterwards we
10 were visibly shaken. My children, one of them who's
11 eight, I got down on my knees, I tried to explain to
12 him he's going to be safe in school. He asked me
13 that question directly, and after I gave him the
14 normal fatherly comforting words, he said to me, You
15 can't tell me that. So my eight-year-old saw through
16 my veiled expression of safety.

17 At this moment I realized I had outsourced my
18 fatherly -- sacred fatherly duty to protect my kids
19 and to be more active in that. So as a result of
20 that, we went to Tallahassee. But more needs to be
21 done. I think this is the right opportunity.

22 I stand in support of Proposal No. 3 as it was
23 amended this morning.

24 I've been a gun owner since I was 12 years old.
25 I'm legitimately part of the gun culture, as it was

1 said, but it was a tool. Some things happened
2 somewhere along the way and the message has gotten
3 terribly toxic and it's getting hijacked.

4 I stand -- I want you to stand with Parkland,
5 let the majority decide instead of the minority
6 that's currently got access and control of that
7 message.

8 Eighteen to 21 universal background checks,
9 assault rifles, limitations based on magazine size,
10 these are commonsense reforms that do not infringe
11 upon me or other responsible gun owners.

12 Thank you very much.

13 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

14 Again, we're going to hear from S. Diamond, Pam
15 Scopino, Devin Alexander, Donny Frastai.

16 MS. DIAMOND: I'm Sandra Diamond. I'm an
17 attorney here in St. Petersburg. I rise in support
18 of Proposal 41 and 47, which both address the
19 eligibility requirement for judges.

20 They recognize the importance of experience in
21 our judiciary. These succinct and simple proposals
22 contribute to the quality of our judges, and thus
23 protect the independence of the judiciary.

24 I ask you to support Proposals 41 and 47.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. SCOPINO: Good afternoon. I'm Pam Scopino.
2 I'm here in support for Proposal No. 3 and the
3 amendments made this morning.

4 I am a Parkland resident. I have two children
5 in the Parkland schools. My son is a sophomore at
6 Marjory Stoneman Douglas school and he was there on
7 the day of the shooting on Valentine's Day.

8 My personal experience is that what he heard
9 when he was there and what he saw and he experienced
10 and he now knows, no child should have to go through
11 that. He's 15 years old and he's been forced to grow
12 up way sooner than he ever had to.

13 When I got that call from him, the one that said
14 that he was scared for his life, he was in science
15 class that was directly across from the 1200
16 building. They heard what they thought was
17 firecrackers. They didn't know.

18 There was a fire alarm. They were told to go to
19 the evacuation area where they heard more gunshots,
20 and their teacher told them they had to run, they had
21 to run away, and as they did, they past a child that
22 was shot in the foot screaming and crying for help,
23 and he had to decide whether he was going to run for
24 his life or help save a student.

25 He was running across the field when the shooter

1 was up on the third floor trying to get bullets and
2 pick off people in the parking lot and across the
3 field.

4 He lost his cross country coach. He was told by
5 his best friend that was in that classroom that how
6 he shot -- saw his teacher being shot and was killed
7 right in front of him.

8 He jumps when he hears a gunshot at his track
9 meets; he has nightmares at night; he doesn't want to
10 go to school; he's scared, and he asked me if there
11 are going to be police at school or if a shooter can
12 come back in. If somebody with an AR-15 can come
13 back in and shoot.

14 And so I support the amendments for Proposal No.
15 3. We need to do better and keep our kids safe in
16 school.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, ma'am.

18 MS. SCOPINO: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Miss Alexander, Devin
20 Alexander, Danny Frastai. I may not have done a very
21 good job with that last name, but you'll help me out.

22 Followed by Corey Theil, Shirley Arcuri, Robert
23 Lovett, and Amanda Savastano.

24 MR. FRASTAI: Good afternoon. You did pretty
25 good. It's Danny Frastai, like you said.

1 I'm a parent from Broward County. I have two
2 daughters and I'm here -- we came this morning. We
3 got on a bus at 7 a.m. from Parkland, and we've been
4 hearing stories, you're going to hear a few more, and
5 I just wanted to say a couple things.

6 Years from now I think we're all going to look
7 back on this day, and my question to you is, when you
8 look back on this great opportunity that you have,
9 that you were selected to sit here once every 20
10 years, many of you may not even be here -- be
11 selected again. When you look back, when we look
12 back, when your kids or your grandkids look back on
13 this day, on the work that you all did here, and they
14 ask you, hey, I heard you were selected on the
15 Constitution Revision Commission, what a great --
16 what a great honor, what a great task, what are you
17 going to tell them that you did?

18 A few weeks ago there was a mass shooting at
19 Marjory Stoneman Douglas. Within the last few years
20 there's been shootings in Florida, in other parts of
21 the country. That's not going away. The shadow of
22 Sandy Hook, of those 26 first graders and their 6
23 teachers that died shielding them from bullets.
24 That's a shadow that looms over all the work that I
25 think you guys are doing right here. So I ask you,

1 when we ask you years from now, or when you look back
2 years from now, what will you say you did; you raised
3 the retirement age of judges, or did you do something
4 more significant than that?

5 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Corey Theil. Corey
6 Theil.

7 MR. THEIL: Hi, Commissioners. Carey Theil with
8 Greyhound Protection Group, GREY2K USA.

9 I want to thank you. It's been an incredible
10 honor to speak before this Commission, to work with
11 several of you on Proposal 67.

12 In thinking about what I wanted to leave with
13 you as you go into Tallahassee and make these final
14 votes. A quote by Einstein actually came to mind.
15 He said: "Our task must be to free ourselves by
16 widening our circle of compassion to embrace all
17 living creatures."

18 Well, I found that powerful because he put that
19 in the context of compassion not only benefiting
20 others, but benefiting ourselves, and I would say to
21 every advocate today for Proposal 67, our compassion
22 should also extend to the individuals who will be
23 affected by this proposal, and we are committed to
24 this being a responsible, successful transition, and
25 their interest should be taken into consideration.

1 But compassion and a commitment to the better angels
2 of our nature also means rejecting cynicism,
3 rejecting rationalizations of cruelty, rejecting
4 false equivalencies and rejecting personal attacks.

5 Proposal 67 isn't only about the dogs. It is
6 about them, it's about poor, poor pitiful me, and DMS
7 Orion, and all the dogs that have died, but it's also
8 about who we are.

9 So I urge you. We are ready to fight for this
10 proposal at the ballot box. Please join us and
11 Congressman Matt Gaetz, and the Sun Centennial, and
12 the Naples Daily News, and the Fort Myers News Press,
13 and the Florida Federation of Republican Women, and
14 thousands of volunteers across this state who care
15 about this issue. Join with us and let's vote yes
16 together for the dogs.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

19 Hold -- Miss Arcuri?

20 MS. SAVASTANO: Amanda Savastano.

21 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Okay. Amanda. Hold on
22 for one moment.

23 Commissioner Kruppenbacher.

24 All right. I think they've just got me working
25 right now.

1 COMMISSIONER KRUPPENBACHER: Members of the
2 Commission, with all due respect, I've sat here today
3 and -- I've spent my life around children and
4 families. To the Parkland people that have come
5 here, I want you to know, even though we're not
6 commenting, in my heart I know the majority of this
7 Commission stands with you and we will do what's
8 right.

9 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Your turn.

10 MS. SAVASTANO: Okay. My name's Amanda
11 Savastano and I am a Parkland parent. My kids are in
12 elementary school. They will one day walk the halls
13 as a student at Stoneman Douglas.

14 Our friends and family and community have been
15 changed forever. Our children's innocence was stolen
16 on February 14th. I am pleading with you to change
17 the gun laws. I am here for the Proposal 3, to ban
18 assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

21 Shirley Arcuri, Robert Lovett, Ben Wurtzel,
22 Frank McDermott, Susan Malove, Michelle Davis, and
23 Jessica Travis.

24 MR. WURTZEL: Good afternoon. My name is
25 Benjamin Wurtzel. I'm a board certified criminal

1 trial lawyer from Orlando. I'm here today to speak
2 in opposition to Proposal 96.

3 And that's not because I disagree with the
4 spirit of Proposal 96, nor with most of the
5 provisions of Proposal 96, almost all of which are
6 already present in state law. The issue is with
7 their funding and their implementation.

8 What Proposal 96 also seeks to do is add certain
9 provisions that are squarely within the province of
10 the Florida Supreme Court, particularly with our
11 rules of procedure.

12 Having handled thousands of criminal cases, I
13 can tell this Board that the discovery deposition
14 process in Florida is key to our criminal justice
15 system. Not just to the accused, but to everybody
16 involved.

17 Discovery depositions enable the attorneys to
18 truly figure out a better sense of what happened. It
19 also, as has been mentioned, leads to the resolution
20 of many cases. I'd remind this Board that generally
21 discovery depositions take place in a private room
22 where the victim of a crime is with a victim
23 advocate, the state attorney. It is not in a public
24 setting in front of strangers, with a judge, whether
25 there be members of the media or other public.

1 That the unintended consequence that, based on
2 my experience, is sure to happen if discovery
3 depositions are no longer part of the process, or if
4 a victim has the right to refuse, is that there's
5 going to be an increase in trials that put a victim
6 in a position to testify then in front of the accused
7 in a much more difficult situation, and that the
8 process is --

9 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Sir, thank you very much
10 for your time.

11 MR. WURTZEL: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Your two minutes are up.

13 What I'd like to make sure of -- we have two
14 microphones. Let's have someone at a microphone.

15 So Mr. McDermott, and then we're going to follow
16 with Susan Malove.

17 MR. MCDERMOTT: Thank you, everyone.

18 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: So next come up over
19 here to my right so we can keep this moving along
20 quickly.

21 Go ahead, sir.

22 MR. MCDERMOTT: Good afternoon, everyone. My
23 name is Frank McDermott. I'm a board certified
24 criminal defense attorney, trial lawyer. I've been
25 practicing for close to 20 years. I'm very active in

1 the community and with our statewide organization,
2 Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

3 Folks, you cannot -- and I'm here in opposition,
4 not into the spirit of proposition -- Proposal 96,
5 but to the unintended consequences of it.

6 Marsy's Law -- a victim's rights are very, very
7 important, but you can't give equal rights to people
8 that have different needs. Victims already have a
9 lot of rights, as has been explained by my
10 predecessors that have spoken in opposition of the
11 bill, or to the proposal, to the amended constitution
12 as written.

13 Victims have victims advocates, they have an
14 opportunity to have an attorney, and I've never been
15 in a situation where the victim's rights have not
16 been observed and have not been protected.

17 The war story of Miss Books' case where a
18 defense attorney harassed her I think is a very rare
19 situation and I've never seen that happen in my
20 almost 20 years of practicing.

21 I think it's going to amount to an unfunded
22 mandate. There's no direction on who will pay for
23 all the notices for every single hearing to victims
24 who may not be a victim of a serious crime. It might
25 be a theft or it might be some other smaller type of

1 crime where victims don't really need to be noticed,
2 and that might be a form of harassment.

3 And the definition of victim is basically
4 someone who's an accuser, and you do have situations
5 where someone does falsely accuse someone of a crime,
6 and taken away the deposition and the ability to
7 subpoena phone records and other records such as that
8 is gonna lead to basically an abuse of the system.
9 And right now we have a situation in place that is
10 very protected of victims' rights, so I ask you to
11 vote no for Proposal 96.

12 Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Susan Malove, then
14 Michelle Davis, Jessica Travis, Judge Thomas Minkoff,
15 and Amanda Sampano.

16 MS. MALOVE: My name is Susan Malove. I'm a
17 board certified criminal trial attorney from Orlando,
18 Florida and I'm speaking against Proposition 96.

19 This proposal contains several victims' rights
20 promises that raise constitutional concerns and are
21 overly broad, internally inconsistent, and unworkable
22 in practice for the state of Florida. Some of these
23 things, including the right to refuse the interview
24 or deposition process, and the right to a speedy
25 trial within 15 days when demanded by the victim, as

1 well as releasing private information in presentence
2 reports, that could include confidential information
3 of defendants, including mental health history,
4 medical information, and personal family history,
5 which does nothing to advance the victim's rights.

6 Further, these specific rights are an expansion
7 of Florida's protections which already exist in
8 statutes and rules and raise serious constitutional
9 concerns in the expansions. It threatens guarantees
10 by giving victims the right to refuse these
11 interviews and depositions, which conflicts with the
12 federal constitution's confrontation clause for the
13 defendants.

14 Allowing victims to refuse these interviews and
15 depositions would actually increase public hearings
16 in which the victims would be required to testify.
17 Many Defendants decide to go to trial or accept a
18 plea deal based upon the victim's testimony at a
19 deposition. Further, at the depositions victims are
20 entitled under Florida law to have the state
21 attorney, their victim advocate, and their own
22 attorney present in a private setting and the
23 defendant is not present at that time. Without these
24 depositions, which provide great insight, there would
25 be more trials where the victim would tell their

1 story in front of a full courtroom while facing their
2 accuser directly.

3 This could be avoided the majority of the time
4 by conducting a deposition, and there are -- the
5 defense attorney can convey the information to the
6 victim resulting in a guilty plea to the charge
7 without the victim having to come to court.

8 Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

10 Miss Davis.

11 MS. DAVIS: Good afternoon. I'm Michelle Davis.
12 I've worked in the conservation and wildlife industry
13 for over 25 years, and I'm currently on staff with
14 the Humane Society of the United States, and I'm here
15 today in support of the Proposal 67 for the
16 Greyhounds.

17 Florida's one of the last states yet to ban
18 Greyhound racing. It's cruel, barbaric and outdated
19 practice. Greyhounds, like all dogs, deserve humane
20 treatment and a life free of cruelty. It's time to
21 end this horrific cycle by placing Proposal 67 on the
22 ballot and allowing Floridians to vote to end this
23 practice for good.

24 Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

1 We'll hear now from Miss Travis, then Judge
2 Minkoff, Amanda Sampato, Jim Skuthan, Steve Riddle
3 and Randal Russell.

4 Remember, please, I've got an empty mic up here
5 to my left. Let's fill it.

6 MS. TRAVIS: Good afternoon. My name is Jessica
7 Travis and I'm speaking in opposition of Proposal 96.
8 I'm a board certified criminal trial attorney and I'm
9 also a former prosecutor.

10 As a prosecutor I handled cases involving
11 robberies, burglaries, sexual assault, domestic
12 violence and along with other violent crimes.

13 There are two provisions in the proposal I want
14 to address today. First as to the victims having the
15 right to not attend a deposition.

16 Based on my experience, I know that depositions
17 are a necessary tool used in negotiations. If that
18 is taken away from prosecutors, I fear that more
19 cases will go to trial, and at that point the victims
20 would have to testify at trial, and testifying at
21 trial is a much more difficult experience for victims
22 than testifying in a deposition.

23 The second provision is the requirement that the
24 victim can demand a speedy trial. By allowing a
25 victim the right to demand a speedy trial, it takes

1 away from the discretion of the prosecutor as to when
2 the case should go to trial or whether it should be
3 continued.

4 The prosecutor has an objective, unbiased view
5 of the case and they're the ones that determine
6 strategy. For example, if a prosecutor is waiting on
7 forensic evidence to strengthen the case but the
8 victim wants to go to trial right away because
9 they're distraught and they want it over quickly,
10 it's right now up to the prosecutor to wait to have
11 that forensic evidence to strengthen the case. It's
12 not up to the victim to have it go quickly when that
13 might not be in its best interest.

14 Because of this, taking the discretion away from
15 the prosecutor and that trial strategy, I believe
16 would ultimately harm the victim, and for those
17 reasons I do request that the Proposal 96 not go
18 through.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

21 Judge Minkoff.

22 JUDGE MINKOFF: Thank you, Commissioner
23 Schifino. Chairman Beruff, thank you. I'd also like
24 to thank my Senator, Commissioner Rouson, who's
25 always accessible for every matter that comes before

1 the people in our county.

2 I rise to speak a favor of Proposal 41 and thank
3 Commissioner Schifino, Commissioner Martinez and
4 Commissioner Stemberger for bringing it forward.

5 When that -- when the constitutional restriction
6 for judges to mandatory retire at age 70 was put in
7 the constitution some 40 years ago, since that time
8 life expectancies have risen more than five years.
9 The -- one of the things that I would like to point
10 out to the Commission, I'm sure that you know, but
11 the people as well, is that under the constitution
12 today, if a judge can go one more day than half of
13 his term, that judge can finish out their term by the
14 time they're 70. So they can go right up to almost
15 73. This stops the age at 75, so it's an increase of
16 2 to 3 years.

17 What we get in our circuit -- I'm a state
18 circuit court judge right here in Pinellas County,
19 the Sixth Judicial Circuit. What we get in our
20 county, in our circuit is a 2-year expansion of
21 experience on the bench is 134 years of experience.
22 And it comes at no cost to the taxpayers because
23 judges make the last day they work the same as the
24 first day they work.

25 So I want to thank you for bringing this forward

1 and I urge that it passes.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

4 We'll hear from Amanda -- and I hope I'm
5 pronouncing this right -- Sampalo.

6 MS. SAMPALO: Close enough. Sampalo.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Sampalo.

8 And then Jim Skuthan, Steve Riddle and Randall
9 Russell.

10 Please.

11 MS. SAMPALO: Good afternoon. Thank you for
12 hearing me out today. My name is Amanda Sampalo.
13 I'm here in opposition of Proposition 96.

14 Today victims of violent crime are deposed in
15 state court -- in state attorney's offices in special
16 environments designed to put them at ease with victim
17 advocates present. The defendant is not allowed to
18 be present at those depositions. More often than not
19 the deposition testimony results in the resolution of
20 the most serious cases.

21 I've had to take a deposition of a five-year-old
22 child in a very serious case. She was surrounded by
23 her family members outside the room. She was sitting
24 next to a victim advocate, there was toys there for
25 her to play with, and I knew how to talk to her in a

1 way that would not make her feel intimidated. It is
2 much different inside of a courtroom where they don't
3 have those things. If we do away with depositions,
4 many more cases will go to trial, where they will not
5 have those protections.

6 I've also been the defense attorney on cases
7 where the victim is not the true victim. I had a
8 road rage incident where my client had to take a gun
9 away from someone who had motioned him over to the
10 vehicle, pulled the gun and put it in his face. The
11 cops arrested my client, but after -- and he, the
12 alleged victim, did not show up to the deposition.

13 Not showing up to a deposition prevented him
14 from -- or allowed him to not have to testify, but we
15 found out through the other witnesses that did come
16 to deposition that my client was the true victim in
17 that case.

18 I would urge you to seriously consider voting no
19 on 96. Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

21 MR. SKUTHAN: Good afternoon. My name is Jim
22 Skuthan. I'm from Longwood, Florida. I'm an
23 attorney. I'm board certified in criminal trial
24 practice and criminal appeals.

25 If there's one thing the last 20 years have

1 taught us is that there are wrongful convictions.
2 There's been many wrongful convictions in Florida.
3 If there's one thing DNA has taught us, there's been
4 a lot more wrongful convictions than we all would
5 have thought.

6 I believe if Proposition 96 is passed, there
7 will be more wrongful convictions because you will
8 take away the right to a deposition, you'll take away
9 the right to interview a victim, and you'll advance
10 the speedy trial claim where a defendant who may not
11 be ready for trial is forced to go to trial.

12 I'm going to tell you a short story in the time
13 that I have left about a former client of mine named
14 Mike. On the day that Michael was arrested, he
15 became a defendant, he became an inmate, and he
16 became a victim.

17 You might say, how could that happen?

18 Well, Michael was wrongfully convicted. Michael
19 went to trial. Before the trial the victim, who was
20 horribly brutalized, and was truly a victim, she told
21 the prosecutor she could not identify her assailant.
22 That was never disclosed to the defense.

23 Michael went to prison for life, and subsequent
24 to that there was a public records request done and a
25 police report was found showing that the police had

1 interviewed somebody who fit the description of the
2 assailant given by the victim.

3 The eleventh circuit court of appeals granted a
4 habeas, which is very rare, ordered a new trial, and
5 after 12 years in prison, Michael was acquitted. He
6 was acquitted at 11 o'clock at night. It was pouring
7 rain in Pasco County. They said, Do you want to go
8 back to the jail?

9 He said, No, I'm going to be released right
10 here, and he walked out into the rain, just like a
11 Humphrey Bogart movie. But it wasn't a movie, it was
12 real.

13 Many of you are parents, you have children.
14 Think about what 12 years missing from your kid's
15 life would be. That's 12 birthdays, 12 Hanukkahs, 12
16 Christmases.

17 Please vote no against Prop. 96.

18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Mr. Riddle.

20 And hold with me for a second before you begin.

21 Is a Shirley Arcuri here or a Robert Lovett?

22 We'll then hear from Nick Tomboulides, Sebastian
23 Suarez, Linsey Grove, and Jen Underhill. Please get
24 ready to address us.

25 Thank you.

1 MR. RIDDLE: Thank you, Commissioner Schifino,
2 Chairman Beruff. My name is Steve Riddle. I
3 represent the American Lung Association as their
4 executive director out of Tampa, Florida. I'm here
5 to oppose Proposition 94 and also support Proposition
6 65.

7 Proposition 94 seeks to strip language from the
8 constitution that ensures money is spent based on the
9 published CDC guidelines. Further, it attempts to
10 divert funding from the Tobacco Free Florida to
11 cancer research, rendering the program less effective
12 and driving down smoking rates.

13 The public health community joined together in
14 20 -- 2006 to pass a citizens initiative after
15 Florida legislation virtually eliminated program
16 funding. Tobacco Free Florida has been incredibly
17 successful, as demonstrated by the reduction and
18 smoking rates and cost savings to the state.

19 In 2006 the adult smoking rate was 21 percent,
20 in 2016 was down to 15.5 percent, the lowest it has
21 been ever. New smoking rates has decreased to
22 10.6 percent in 2006 to 3.8 percent in 2015, an
23 astounding 70 percent decrease.

24 I'm also here to represent as a son. My father
25 passed away from lung cancer. He smoked for 35

1 years. There are many days that I could not enjoy
2 playing or having fun with him because he had trouble
3 breathing, and I wish Tobacco Free Florida was
4 available when I was a youth to give me more time
5 with my father.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

8 MR. RUSSELL: Good afternoon. My name is Randy
9 Russell. I'm the president and CEO of the foundation
10 for Healthy St. Petersburg and I'm here to urge you
11 to reject Proposal 94.

12 Proposal 94 seeks to strip resources from the
13 comprehensive statewide tobacco education prevention
14 program that the voters approved in 2006.

15 As a career social worker and now leader of an
16 organization dedicated to improving health equity, it
17 is obvious that this change would undermine the
18 strides this state has made when it comes to reducing
19 adult smoking, but also keeping children from
20 starting. It is well known that reduction of
21 prevention education dollars leads to rising rates.
22 So you remove the money, you gain more rates. Sadly,
23 you also gain these additional smokers
24 disproportionately in communities of color and in
25 younger generation.

1 So far the only tangible critique offered for
2 why this change has been needed is the bleak
3 references to accountability, particularly in
4 reference to the roughly 23 million the Tobacco Free
5 Florida campaign spends on advertising, as mandated
6 in the constitution.

7 Social change or behavioral change or inciting
8 folks to behave in a way that leads to health does
9 require communication. This is a standard of any
10 measure of persuasion or social-change movements. As
11 any politicians, I guess everybody knows, media costs
12 are a necessary and primary instrument for building
13 any successful campaign.

14 What's more, the amount spent is approximately
15 one dollar for every Florida child, woman and man.
16 The spending still falls far below the recommended
17 level from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and
18 Prevention and yet has been wildly successful across
19 the state.

20 This is not to say that cancer research is not
21 important, but not at the expense of an efficient and
22 effective public health campaign that has the power
23 to prevent cancer occurrences all together. There
24 are other resources from the state dedicated to such
25 research. There is no other commitment to preventing

1 tobacco use. I urge you to reject Proposal 94.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

4 I'm going to again remind you let's not have
5 empty mics. So if you're waiting over to the left or
6 to the right, come on out. Don't be bashful. Come
7 on. Come on out.

8 Okay. We're going to hear from Nick
9 Tomboulides, Sebastian Suarez, Linsey Grove, Jen
10 Underhill and Suzanne House, and Mary Stewart. So
11 let's please make sure when the individual's done,
12 let's get ready to go.

13 Thank you.

14 MR. TOMBOULIDES: Hello, Commissioners. Nick
15 Tomboulides from Melbourne, Florida, and I'm here to
16 speak in support of Proposal 43 for school board term
17 limits.

18 I applaud you for the work that you're all doing
19 today, and you have many great proposals from both
20 sides of the aisle, but I would like to remind you
21 that the issue of term limits is not just the most
22 popular issue in America, it's also the most
23 bipartisan issue in America. No matter which pole
24 you look at, between 70 and 90 percent of Americans
25 are for term limits at all levels of government.

1 Here in Florida we have had countless term-limit
2 initiatives that have been initiated by citizens
3 collecting millions of signatures, and all of those
4 initiatives have also passed with between 70 and
5 90 percent of the vote. So if you all are looking to
6 create a legacy for this Commission that is
7 bipartisan and has the ability to unify our state, I
8 believe school board term limits is the way to do it.

9 And the most remarkable fact about term limits
10 is that it is also the only issue in America
11 supported by both President Trump and President
12 Barack Obama. That is astounding.

13 This has -- and the basic logic here is as
14 American as apple pie. This was started with George
15 Washington when he resigned his military commission
16 and then when he stepped down as president instead of
17 becoming a king.

18 I mean, what we've realized in this country is
19 that when you give someone too much political power
20 for too long, they stop using it for public service
21 and they start using it for self-service, and school
22 boards are no exception.

23 I encourage you to place Proposal 43 on the
24 ballot. If you recall, we have term limits on our
25 governor, our state legislature, countless other

1 local offices.

2 What's so special about school boards that these
3 folks deserve to stay in office for life? It just
4 does not make sense. We need people who can change
5 government before it changes them.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Mr. Suarez.

8 MR. SUAREZ: Good afternoon. My name is
9 Sebastian Suarez. I'm a 17-year-old student from St.
10 Lucie County and I've been a member of Students
11 Working Against Tobacco for five years. Today I'm
12 speaking in opposition of Proposal 94.

13 All throughout my whole life my mother used to
14 be a smoker. It's a habit that she picked up when
15 she was a teenager in Columbia and she brought it
16 here when she came to live in the United States. I
17 never saw anything wrong with it because I was young,
18 but by the time I was 12 years old, I started to see
19 her health to decline.

20 I wanted to make a change, but I felt weak, I
21 felt powerless, and didn't know what to do, until one
22 day I found an organization that was Students Working
23 Against Tobacco, or I should say SWAT, it found me.

24 Through joining SWAT I was able to be educated
25 and equipped with the knowledge, tools and the

1 strength to be able to talk to my mother and help her
2 put down her smoking addiction once and for all.

3 SWAT has been monumental in my life and it
4 sparked a passion in me that wanted to help other
5 people, other youths like me, who had a dream but did
6 not feel as if they had the voice to stand up for
7 what they believed in.

8 SWAT has done a lot. We've educated and we've
9 aided in the passing of smoke-free college campuses,
10 smoke-free public housing, and we've also extended
11 peer outreach activities to educate youth about the
12 dangers of smoking. All of these advocacy efforts
13 come together in this one exact moment where the
14 dangers of Proposal 94 are looming on the horizon.

15 Today I take my stand once again, but this time
16 I'm not a single voice. I have the voices of over
17 500 youth and adults who I collected in the past
18 week, who are not able to be here, but wanted to
19 represent themselves. These are their voices, and I
20 brought them here for you to see that I am not alone
21 in this.

22 So I believe that speaking for myself, my
23 mother, and the youth and adults of the state of
24 Florida, that we oppose Proposal 94. Will you say
25 the same?

1 Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

3 Miss Grove.

4 MS. GROVE: Hello.

5 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Jen -- before you begin,
6 Jen Underhill, are you here? Jen Underhill?

7 Suzanne House. Suzanne House.

8 Empty mic. Come on up.

9 And then Mary Stewart.

10 Go ahead, ma'am.

11 MS. GROVE: Hello. Thank you for hosting this
12 public hearing. My name is Linsey Grove and I'm here
13 to speak about Proposals 22 and 94. I am opposed to
14 both proposals and urge you to vote against these
15 proposals.

16 The right to privacy, specifically, the right to
17 privacy when making medical decisions, should be
18 upheld as is. The current proposal seeks to create a
19 barrier for women and their families seeking safe,
20 legal abortion. This attempt to undermine a woman's
21 right to safe medical procedure will bring us back to
22 pre *Roe v Wade* times, which is a huge threat to
23 public health. As a public health practitioner, this
24 is terrifying.

25 Prop. 94 also puts the public health of

1 Floridians at risk. Diverting tobacco prevention
2 funds in unspecified ways toward cancer research puts
3 children and adults at risk for the very cancers
4 being researched in this proposal.

5 As they say, an ounce of prevention equals a
6 pound of cure, therefore, this proposal cuts at the
7 very heart of public health. So in the name of good
8 evidenced-based public health, please vote no on
9 Props. 22 and 94.

10 Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

12 Jen Underhill.

13 MS. HOUSE: Suzanne House.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Okay.

15 MS. HOUSE: Tampa. Prop. 67.

16 Greyhounds are sweet, gentle dogs, and like all
17 dogs, deserve to be protected from individuals and
18 industries that would do them harm. Sadly, thousands
19 of Greyhounds suffer at commercial race tracks for an
20 industry that is no longer economically viable. At
21 these tracks Greyhounds endure lives of confinement,
22 kept in warehouse-style kennels with rows of stacked
23 cages for up to 20 and 23 hours a day. They're fed
24 4D meat from downed or diseased animals deemed unfit
25 for human consumption.

1 Many racing dogs suffer injuries while racing,
2 and according to state records a racing Greyhound
3 dies every three days on a Florida track.

4 An historic constitutional amendment has been
5 introduced by Senator Tom Lee that would phaseout dog
6 racing in Florida by 2019. Florida has 12 of the 18
7 remaining tracks in the country and is the primary
8 reason this cruelty continues. This constitutional
9 amendment would allow the people of Florida to do
10 what the legislature has failed to do, rid the state
11 of dog racing by 2019 and put an end to the cycle of
12 cruelty.

13 You can help the dogs who are still suffering in
14 this industry. Please vote yes on Prop. 67, and
15 also, please place Prop. 91 on the ballot to ban oil
16 drilling in Florida's coastal waters.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

19 Before you begin, Jen Underhill, Mary Stewart,
20 Robert Hood, Mechelle Vaisey, and Shirlene Stuckey.

21 MS. STEWART: Good afternoon, Commissioners,
22 Your Honor. My name is Mary Stewart. I'm here in
23 support of Proposal 67.

24 Some of you may remember me from my attendance
25 at the meeting in Melbourne, and it is actually

1 because of that meeting that I stand before you
2 today. You see, what you were told that day by those
3 who were in favor of the racing industry did not
4 comport with the things that I experienced in being
5 involved in an adoption group for over a decade and
6 in going to the tracks and in going to the breeding
7 farms. Therefore, I decided to look into some of the
8 individuals who testified that day.

9 I found that as recently as last year one of
10 them was fined for having a Greyhound in her care
11 test positive for cocaine. Another one was fined
12 multiple times for animal neglect and positive drug
13 test. Still another one was investigated by the
14 state 20 times, fined 11 times, had his license
15 removed, and is now currently under investigation yet
16 again.

17 My veterinarian was supposed to be here today to
18 speak to you. Unfortunately, he couldn't be here.
19 You know why? Because he is performing surgery to
20 remove the second cancerous tumor found on one of my
21 dogs in three months, the first of which was in a
22 location where he broke his foot while racing. He
23 raced over 70 times in a little over a year and now
24 he is fighting for his life, even though he just
25 turned seven.

1 I've lost multiple Greyhounds to issues that
2 could have been prevented if these dogs had not been
3 a part of the racing industry, and I say enough is
4 enough. These dogs must be saved.

5 As a 15th generation Floridian, my family are
6 the early settlers of St. Augustine. I can assure
7 you that the vast majority of Floridians do not want
8 to be associated with an industry that, among other
9 things, views dogs as disposable.

10 We are better than this. The Florida Bar Animal
11 Law Section actually is in favor of Proposition 67.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, ma'am.

13 MS. STEWART: Okay. Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Appreciate it.

15 Mr. Hood?

16 MR. HOOD: Yes.

17 Hi. My name is Robert Hood. I'm a firefighter
18 from Brevard County. I'm in favor of Proposal 67.

19 My wife and I have rescued eight Greyhounds
20 through the years. It's been extremely rewarding as
21 well as we've had a lot of heartache. You see, the
22 racing lifestyle is not conducive to dogs having a
23 long, healthy life for after they're done running.

24 We've lost two dogs to bone cancer; we've lost
25 one to kidney disease; we have two that are currently

1 fighting cancer; we have two that have autoimmune
2 disease; and we have two that suffer from PTSD.
3 Every time they hear a loud sound, they run and hide
4 and they're scared.

5 They say they don't know -- they say we don't
6 know what we're talking about, but we absolutely do.
7 We pick up the wreckage after they're done racing.

8 The racing industry is completely out of touch
9 with reality. They make statements like -- it's all
10 about rainbows and butterflies. This just shows how
11 truly callous and ignorant they are. It's time to
12 end this barbaric, outdated sport.

13 It's 2018. We know better. Ignorance is not
14 bliss. Greyhounds deserve better from the state of
15 Florida.

16 Why is the state of Florida the crown jewel of
17 the Greyhound industry? We have 12 tracks. It's a
18 black eye and it's embarrassing for the residents.

19 Once again, Tallahassee has let a session come
20 and go and they've done nothing. It's time to let
21 the voters decide to make a change. Vote yes for
22 Proposal 67.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

24 MS. VAISEY: Hi. Mechelle Renee Vaisey. I --

25 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: We have an empty mic,

1 please. We've got about another 250 of these to get
2 through.

3 MS. VAISEY: I'm nervous enough and you have to
4 stop me. It's all good.

5 Anyway, I'm with Proposal 67 for the Greyhounds.
6 I myself have two racing Greyhounds at home.
7 Rescued. I've been around the Greyhound community
8 now for six years and I've heard so many things
9 coming out, like the gentleman that talked earlier
10 saying that he's got thousands that one -- one dog
11 can give thousands of births or sell thousands of
12 puppies.

13 Well, in the Greyhound community when we are
14 rescuing the Greyhounds, we only get to rescue the
15 adults. We never see any puppies. And in Seminole
16 County we did start the Greyhound Protection Act, and
17 we're the only ones that have done this. We got
18 17,000 signatures in Seminole County alone for people
19 that wanted to stop Greyhound racing, that wanted to
20 protect the Greyhounds, and all they had to do is
21 report their injuries, all they have to do is tell us
22 if the dog has been there for a couple of months to
23 register the dog, and even with this little bit of
24 information that they have to give us, they're still
25 not following the rules. They're still not following

1 what has been put in front of them.

2 And with that, that just shows you that they're
3 not -- they're not being as honest as they want you
4 guys to think that they are.

5 They don't love these dogs like they say they do
6 or they'd want to be the best for the dog. If the
7 dog does not show a great prey drive, which means
8 chasing the rabbit around in a circle, they're
9 disposed of, and that means that is a young dog that
10 has never raced.

11 We don't get those dogs. We don't get to give
12 those dogs the home. So I'm asking you to please --
13 I mean, the way we treat our animals is the way that
14 we are judged as a society, and we're so much better
15 than this. So please put it on the ballot so that
16 the Florida citizens, the Florida citizens, can
17 decide if they're willing to let go of this black
18 eye.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

21 We'll now hear from Miss -- once again, if we
22 could refrain from the applause. Believe me when I
23 tell you this, we're going to listen to every one of
24 these. You've got hundreds left, okay. That's why
25 I'm trying to make sure the mics are filled, that

1 we're ready to go.

2 Okay. Shirlene Stuckey, Jack Oliver, Gerard
3 Dahill, José Vega and Kate MacFall.

4 Please.

5 MS. STUCKEY: Hi. My name is Shirlene Stuckey.
6 I live in Apopka. I want to thank you for this
7 opportunity to say my peace.

8 I'm here in support of Proposal 67.

9 Some of the speakers say they treat the
10 Greyhound -- their Greyhounds like family and others
11 tell you they have rescued Greyhounds who have been
12 starved and mistreated. Putting myself in your
13 position, I can understand how this might be
14 perplexing, but one thing is clear, documented, and
15 undeniable: Those injury reports in Seminole County.

16 During a six-month period from May of 2017
17 through November 2017 there were 30 injuries
18 reported. Let me emphasize reported, because during
19 that time there were 100 additional dogs that were
20 either moved to other tracks or they were adopted out
21 without the necessary reporting.

22 So due to noncompliance, we have no idea what
23 became of those dogs. So that's why I'm asking you,
24 please help get Proposal 67 on our ballot this year.

25 Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

2 Mr. Oliver.

3 MR. OLIVER: My name's Jack Oliver. I'm the
4 founder and director of Floridians for E-Verify Now.
5 I'm from North Palm Beach, Florida, and I'm here to
6 support Proposition 29.

7 Illegal immigration harms almost all citizens in
8 Florida. It depresses wages, it robs legal workers
9 of job opportunities, and it cost the taxpayers
10 \$6.3 billion a year.

11 So, you know, we have a choice here in Florida.
12 We can either follow the example California set, and
13 out in California they've done nothing to stop
14 illegal immigration. It cost them \$25 billion a
15 year. They've closed over 100 hospitals from
16 unreimbursed medical care. They're building one
17 school a day to educate the children of the illegal
18 aliens.

19 Now, you could -- or we can follow an example
20 that Georgia set. Georgia enacted E-Verify. Their
21 wages and personal wealth is up, their economy is
22 booming, construction permits are up, and they're
23 ranked the second best state in the United States to
24 work in.

25 So I would just like to thank all of you for all

1 the hard work you've done. I've been right there
2 with you at every meeting, gotten to know a lot of
3 you on a first-name basis, and we really do
4 appreciate the hard work that you extraordinary
5 people put together here.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

8 Mr. Dahill.

9 MR. DAHILL: Yes, good afternoon. My name is
10 Gerard Dahill. I'm a licensed nursing home
11 administrator here in Florida and I'm vice president
12 of County and Health Services, which oversees eight
13 nursing facilities here in St. Petersburg and
14 Clearwater.

15 I'm here to urge you to vote against Proposal
16 88, which claims to be about nursing home resident
17 rights. I completely agree that it's vital to
18 protect the legal rights of our senior citizens, and
19 the Florida legislature and the United States
20 Congress has ensured these rights in both federal and
21 state law.

22 Those laws are used by state surveyors, the
23 local ombudsman, and others to ensure nursing home
24 care is a resident focus and promotes resident
25 dignity and quality of life. This proposal, however,

1 is more about suing nursing homes than ensuring
2 residents have access to the care and services they
3 need. Adding these provisions to the Florida
4 constitution is wrong and counterproductive to what
5 is best for our state that has made significant
6 strides in improving nursing home care over the last
7 decade.

8 Florida has the nation's highest share of
9 seniors and we're working to ensure they receive the
10 best possible care they deserve. Lawsuits do nothing
11 but take resources away from centers' ability to
12 continue providing the best possible care to our
13 residents.

14 I urge you to see Proposal 88 for what it is,
15 which is a money grab for trial attorneys, and I ask
16 that you please vote against it.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Let me go through and
19 just call out a few more.

20 José Vega, Kate MacFall, Jerry Wiles, Kenneth
21 Morrow and George Fuller.

22 Mr. Vega.

23 MR. VEGA: Yes, I am José Vega. I am an
24 immigrant who live in the United States for 44 years
25 and 10 months. I come in here to support E-Verify,

1 Proposal 29.

2 One of the main reasons, I see lot in military
3 people for the Army, Navy, Air Force, that they been
4 fight in Iraq, Iran. I got a lot friend over there.
5 They come back to the state and I see a lot of them,
6 they don't find a job, and that kind of job is in the
7 hands of the immigrant, that they -- people call.
8 That they are -- for me, it's like I feel a little
9 offense when they say immigrant because they're
10 illegal alien. Immigrant is the person like myself.
11 I would say I'm better than person, but I pay my
12 taxes since 1973, I got my paperwork done, I -- it
13 took me five years to keep my green card and later
14 get my citizenship. I take a test, and I don't have
15 no problem with the immigrants, they are part of
16 America, but we need to have legal immigrants who we
17 know who they are, and support first our military and
18 American people who -- they've been fighting for us.
19 And I don't agree to spend my taxpayer money to help
20 illegal immigrants and to -- and the reason they are
21 over here is because the employers, they hire them.
22 If nobody hired them because they don't have their
23 paperwork, I believe we'd be clear, you know.

24 I think E-Verify is one of the best things that
25 could happen to Florida.

1 Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

3 Yes, ma'am.

4 MS. MACFALL: Thank you.

5 Hi. I'm Kate MacFall with the Humane Society of
6 the United States and I'm speaking today in strong
7 support of Proposal 67.

8 We thank President Lee for his leadership on
9 introducing Proposal 67 for the dogs.

10 Our message in support of 67 is not what --
11 accusatory or critical of any individual in the
12 dog-racing industry. Our messaging is about ethics,
13 morals and right versus wrong.

14 The typical business as usual practices in the
15 Greyhound industry include extreme confinement up to
16 23 hours a day, the use of drugs, 4D meat from downed
17 and diseased animals, frequent injuries, and
18 sometimes death. A dog dies on the Florida track
19 every three days.

20 What was acceptable in 1931, which is when this
21 practice was legalized in the state of Florida, is
22 far from what's acceptable today.

23 The argument that we've been doing this for
24 decades and decades or that my ancestors did this
25 doesn't make it right. Throughout history countless

1 industries have phased out while others have been
2 born. The cycle.

3 The time has come for Greyhound racing to go in
4 Florida. Please let the people of Florida decide the
5 fate of Greyhound racing in this terrific state in
6 November. We stand ready to fight for this on the
7 ballot in November.

8 Please vote yes for the dogs, yes on 67.

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Mr. Wiles.

11 MR. MORROW: Hi. My name is Ken Morrow. I'm
12 from Fleming Island, Florida, and I've been to the
13 commission meetings before and I thank you for the
14 opportunity to speak again.

15 In following up with some of the comments made
16 by my component -- compadres here, allowing Proposal
17 29 to be included in the general election ballot in
18 November 2018, it would help the Commission assist us
19 in fulfilling our goal and objective, for Floridans
20 through E-Verify to realize the long-term benefit for
21 all Florida citizens.

22 Again, Proposal 29 assures the workforce of
23 Florida is a legitimate workforce. Mandatory
24 E-Verify will eliminate the possibility of ineligible
25 employees taking jobs away from legal, law-abiding

1 Floridians.

2 Proposal 29 also gives the state of Florida the
3 opportunity to be a leader among the national effort
4 to propose a similar type of workforce law. That law
5 is basically known as Legal Workforce Act, which is
6 HR 3711, written by Lamar Smith in Texas.

7 According to the Center for Immigration studies,
8 since the jobs recovery began in 2014, 64 percent of
9 the employment growth since then has gone to other
10 than native Floridians.

11 The potential workers in Florida is enormous:
12 One-half million college native born, as also
13 includes 1 million with less than college degrees,
14 and 1.4 million with no -- or less than high school
15 education.

16 The labor force participation in Florida has to
17 take care of legal, law-abiding citizens first.
18 E-Verify will guarantee that.

19 I'd like to thank the Commission for your
20 effort, and look forward to having this put through
21 for the ballot in November.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

23 MR. FULLER: Hello. My name is George Fuller.
24 I'm from Sarasota and I'm here to speak in favor of
25 Proposition 29.

1 In 1986 Congress promised to require all workers
2 to be legal to work in the U.S. Instead, Congress
3 lied and passed the first of seven amendments or
4 amnesty adjustments through the year 2000.

5 Meanwhile, the Florida legislature has never passed
6 legislation to protect legal workers' jobs or its
7 citizens' wallets. Meanwhile, Georgia, Alabama,
8 Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, North Carolina and
9 South Carolina all passed mandatory E-Verify, so
10 illegal aliens are flowing into Florida looking for
11 American jobs.

12 In 2007 the cost of Floridians to educate,
13 medicate and incarcerate illegal aliens was \$1.85
14 billion. Last year it had more than tripled when it
15 hit an outrageous \$6.3 billion. Anyone want to guess
16 what the cost will be in another decade if we don't
17 get mandatory E-Verify to protect legal workers' jobs
18 and citizens' wallets passed?

19 Adam Putnam, currently Secretary of Ag and a
20 strong candidate for governor, sponsored an amnesty
21 legislation when he served in Congress. Do you
22 honestly think if elected he will push for mandatory
23 E-Verify or perhaps try to make Florida a sanctuary
24 state?

25 To protect legal workers' jobs and citizens'

1 wallets, we need Prop. 29 on the November ballot and
2 passed. I hope you will support the effort.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: We're going to hear
5 from -- let me just go through the list so we can get
6 some folks up here: Mr. Wiles, Robert Kunst,
7 Catherine Walter, Cathy Unruh, Rick Tschantz, Donna
8 Peterson and Carlos Alfonso.

9 Yes, sir.

10 MR. WILES: Hello. My name is Jerry Wiles from
11 Boca Raton. I'm the owner and senior master
12 instructor of Tri-Star Karate in Coral Springs, and
13 I'm a Greyhound owner. I'm here today to support
14 Proposal 67.

15 Currently, my wife and I have four Greyhounds,
16 all of them rescues, and these dogs are a vital part
17 of our family. Like our children, each of these
18 Greyhounds have their own independent personalities
19 full of love, feeling, needs and often times comical
20 ways. As you and I, Greyhounds need love. They need
21 daily affection, care, someone to play with, the
22 freedom to run freely, a warm bed and good healthy
23 food.

24 No animal should suffer at the expense of those
25 who would use them for profits through gambling and

1 racing. When people race, they have the choice to
2 make the decision themselves, Greyhounds do not, and
3 they were not meant to be misused in this way.

4 Like every other dog, they should have the right
5 to be loved, not caged, played with, not raced, cared
6 for, not discarded when they no longer make a profit
7 for someone.

8 If you spent as much time as we have in the last
9 10 years with these animals, you will see how loving
10 and wonderful these dogs are.

11 Now, I have compassion for those who may lose
12 their job, however, I've seen many dogs retired with
13 serious injuries despite the quality of care they may
14 have received during their career. These animals are
15 among the most beautiful creatures in the world. Man
16 was given dominion over animals to protect and care
17 for them, not to use them. Please stop Greyhound
18 racing.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Robert Kunst.

21 MR. KUNST: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Kunst.

23 MR. KUNST: My name is Robert Kunst. I'm a
24 native and homeowner from Miami Beach, president of
25 Shalom International, and from 1977 through 1980 I

1 was head of the gay movement Anita Bryant and Jerry
2 Falwell opposed.

3 The privacy issue of 1980 was our fifth
4 election. We had to collect over 60,000 signatures
5 and go totally crazy. On the other hand, Dade County
6 had 600 murders, and our priority across the state
7 was put our police and our limited resources where it
8 belongs for our own safety, and at the same time
9 let's stop the bigotry. The license to discriminate
10 had now led to the license to murder, which has
11 always been there.

12 Tomorrow I'll be at the Pulse trial in Orlando.
13 The wife of the killer knew what was going on, kept
14 her mouth shut, 49 innocents were murdered and 50
15 were also wounded, and we got nothing from the
16 legislature, nothing from Congress, nothing from
17 anybody. I want to say this is my third time coming
18 before your Commission and the first time I had to go
19 through a search.

20 What is happening to our country when
21 Mr. Stemberger thinks that if he comes in through the
22 side door on the abortion issue, and all of a sudden
23 we can come out and go into a crazy scene, once
24 again, on gay rights and every other thing.

25 Miami and Dade County is the holy land of gay

1 rights because we made gay a household word. We won
2 the cultural revolution.

3 Please look at your Tampa Bay Times crossword
4 puzzle for gay pride in today's puzzle.

5 But the bottom line is we got millions of people
6 out of the closet, we saved countless lives, we
7 formed thousands of organizations, and we did it all
8 nonviolently. And the bottom line is, why are we
9 going through this insanity again on Proposition 22
10 so Mr. Stemberger can have another headline.

11 This is outrageous. We have to protect privacy
12 rights, which is under assault all across the
13 country, and Florida has the most radical in the
14 whole country.

15 I thank you for your time.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: And before we proceed, I
17 would like to make a comment, please.

18 Let's refrain from any personal attacks of any
19 of these commissioners. Everyone on this Commission
20 has worked very hard to do what they believe is in
21 the best interest, and I said earlier, we can
22 disagree, but we don't have to be disagreeable when
23 we do it.

24 Sir.

25 MR. ALFONSO: Hello. My name is Carlos Alfonso

1 and I'm a chair of the Florida Council 100's
2 Constitution Revision Commission Task Force. I want
3 to thank you guys all for your service. I know how
4 time consuming it is.

5 Since 1961 the Council 100 has been a private,
6 not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization of Florida
7 business leaders and it exist to promote the economic
8 wellbeing of the state and its citizens. Florida
9 Council 100 -- we represent more than 100 companies
10 and more than a half a million employees.

11 Florida Council 100 has concerns with two CRC
12 proposals. Those are Proposals 29 and Proposal 44.

13 Proposal 29 we put an E-verification requirement
14 for businesses in the Constitution. It does not
15 belong in the Constitution. It should be taken up as
16 a state statute. It makes it easier to amend.

17 Proposal 29 gives sweeping powers to the
18 Department of Business Professional Regulation. This
19 state government power will not require a warrant or
20 even judicial review before intruding in our state's
21 companies and corporations, raising serious Fourth
22 Amendment concerns on expansion of powers. It'll
23 harm our economy.

24 A similar program in Arizona resulted in a
25 2 percent annual reduction in Arizona's GDP and in

1 Texas it is projected to shrink the Texas economy by
2 78 billion and cost 875,000 Texans their jobs over
3 the next decade, so we are opposed to that, Proposal
4 29.

5 Proposal 45 would make it more difficult to
6 raise university tuitions and fees. Our concern is
7 this infringes upon the principle of local control
8 that's already enshrined in Article IX of our
9 constitution.

10 As a 12-year member of the University of Florida
11 board of trustees, we created -- and a board there
12 that is really familiar with local conditions and
13 local control, and that is our government structure
14 in the state of Florida, and we think that that is
15 constitutionally the best way to run our universities
16 in this state. So thank you very much for your time
17 and for your service.

18 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

19 MS. UNRUH: Commissioners, I am Cathy Unruh from
20 St. Petersburg speaking in support of Proposal 67.

21 Greyhound racing is a blight on our state. As
22 you know, it is a burden to taxpayers, and as you
23 know very well by now from everything you have read,
24 heard, and learned, it is an act of unconscionable
25 cruelty.

1 Please do give voice to the many Floridians who
2 place compassion and ethical enterprise before
3 chasing unethical profits and move Proposal 67 onto
4 the ballot.

5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, sir.

7 MR. TSCHANTZ: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
8 My name is Rick Tschantz. I'm the general council
9 for the Environmental Protection Commission of
10 Hillsborough County and I'm here on behalf of the
11 seven commissioners of Hillsborough County, as they
12 sit also as the commissioners of the EPC.

13 Our chairman at this time is -- is the former
14 Senator Less Miller, he's the chairman of EPC at this
15 time, and on February 21st the commission unanimously
16 passed a resolution opposing Proposal No. 95, and
17 they expanded it to say as well: Any effort to amend
18 Proposal No. 95 that would preempt local government
19 regulations to the state through the Florida
20 constitution.

21 Proposal 59 creates constitutional prohibition
22 against county's or municipality's regulations that
23 might intrude or impede upon commerce, trade or labor
24 across the county boundaries, and many, many of the
25 county and city regulations would probably have that

1 effect under that language, including our
2 environmental regulations.

3 The version of this commission in 1968 did the
4 exact opposite. They proposed the Home Rule
5 provision and the Florida voters voted that into the
6 Constitution, and it's now Article VIII, and it gives
7 the county and the cities all powers of local and
8 self-government, not inconsistent with local law.
9 The Supreme Court a couple years later heard a
10 challenge to that and narrowed it, so the legislature
11 in 1973 came right behind it and adopted the Home
12 Rule Powers Act that ended all challenges to the 1968
13 amendment of Home Rule.

14 Local government issues are best handled more
15 efficiently by the local government. Our
16 Environmental Protection Commission does biannual
17 surveys of the regulated community and the citizens,
18 and one of our questions is always -- and it's
19 conducted by an independent consultant -- given the
20 environmental regulations that are in place, would
21 you rather have the federal government implement
22 these --

23 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you very much.

24 MR. TSCHANTZ: Oh, okay.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you very much.

1 MR. TSCHANTZ: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. PETERSON: Do you want to call some other
4 people up?

5 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Oh, I do. Well, thank
6 you.

7 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Somebody put her in
8 charge, please.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: All right. What is your name?

10 MS. PETERSON: My name is Donna Peterson.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Donna, you get a star.
12 Okay.

13 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Two stars.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: You do.

15 Donna, great.

16 And so I'm going to say again, we've called
17 these names before: Jen Underhill, Catherine Walter,
18 Cathy Unruh, and then we have Donna.

19 No one, okay.

20 We'll go next to Allie Pass, Sharon Jones, Kim
21 Bankoff, Tamara Levine and Patricia Kodish.

22 Okay. Thank you.

23 MS. PETERSON: Thank you, Commissioners. My
24 name is Donna Peterson. I'm Dean of the College of
25 Public Health at the University of South Florida. I

1 appreciate the opportunity to be here today and thank
2 you for your time.

3 I'm here on behalf of all of us in academic
4 public health who work in the schools and colleges
5 and programs across the state of Florida to conduct
6 research and educate students and speak out on behalf
7 of issues that are in the interest of the public's
8 health.

9 I'm here to propose Proposition 94, which would
10 divert funding from what is currently devoted to
11 tobacco education and prevention toward cancer
12 research.

13 You've heard from a number of my colleagues here
14 today already, but I will just reiterate tobacco
15 remains the leading cause of premature mortality and
16 disease in adults across the United States. It is
17 entirely preventable. The small amount of money that
18 Floridians voted to devote to tobacco prevention in
19 2006 has been tremendously affected. We are one of
20 only a handful of states to use dollars from tobacco
21 companies to work toward prevention, so it puts us at
22 the forefront in a positive way. I think that's
23 something we would like to maintain.

24 Clearly, prevention is important. No one
25 chooses to smoke after they reach adulthood, so we

1 really need to work to protect our children from
2 tobacco promotion, and I would urge you to reject
3 Proposal 94 and continue to prevent the initiation of
4 tobacco use among our children.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

7 You're up.

8 MS. PASS: Hi. I'm Allie Pass. Thank you for
9 this opportunity to speak in front of this
10 Commission. I'm urging you to support Proposition
11 67, ending Greyhound racing in Florida.

12 Currently, we live in a time where our moral
13 standards have increased from where they were at the
14 time when Greyhound racing was originally instituted.
15 However, over the past 10 years 419 Greyhounds have
16 tested drug positive, including 68 cocaine positives.
17 Roughly 8,000 Greyhounds live in confinement at
18 Florida tracks, where many of them spend 20 to 23
19 hours a day in confinement.

20 We have tried to get this through the
21 legislature for a number of years unsuccessfully, and
22 at this point I think it's time to let the Florida
23 voters decide if it's ready to go ahead and end out
24 and phase Greyhound racing out of Florida.

25 Thank you very much.

1 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

2 MS. JONES: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Good afternoon.

4 MS. JONES: My name is Sharon Jones. I am a
5 resident of Pinellas County, Florida.

6 I became aware/involved in Greyhound rescue over
7 20 years ago. I want you and others to know that
8 this is a very sensitive, highly intelligent and
9 extremely gentle breed. They are very low
10 maintenance and, for the most part, undemanding.

11 I am familiar with most breeds, as I operated a
12 very successful professional pet care service for
13 over 25 years in Broward County and had the
14 opportunity to be around hundreds of K-9 companions.

15 Again, Greyhounds are very easy to care for and
16 are perfect for a busy person or household. This
17 wonderful K-9 deserves a wonderful life. Because of
18 it's speed, they have been exploited, used and abused
19 for way too long. After this cruel industry is done
20 with them, they are thrown away like yesterday's
21 garbage.

22 I am here today to plead for those that do not
23 have a voice. Greyhound racing needs to end. You
24 are the individuals that can get this done. The
25 Greyhounds, I and those who love them, will be

1 eternally grateful with a decision to do that.

2 Thank you for allowing us to speak for every
3 Greyhound past, present and future. Please, please,
4 please vote yes for Proposal 67.

5 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. BANKOFF: Hi, Kim Bankoff, Westin, Florida.
7 I am a mother to three boys in the Broward County
8 school system and an aunt to my niece and nephew who
9 live in Parkland.

10 I'm here today to support Proposal 3 and the
11 amendments made this morning. I'm lending my voice
12 to the fight for comprehensive changes on gun reform
13 so that no other community has to endure another mass
14 tragedy like what we've experienced in Parkland a
15 month ago.

16 I stand truly in awe of your role here on this
17 Commission. The responsibility and the honor
18 bestowed upon you as members of this Commission is
19 truly something unique.

20 We went to Tallahassee a few weeks ago. I saw
21 firsthand the challenges in putting a piece of
22 legislation together. We met with folks all over
23 this -- the city, in our hotel, in the capital, truly
24 saw firsthand how difficult it is. And there's all
25 this, you know, wheeling and dealing that goes into

1 putting legislation together. By the time it
2 actually gets to the governor to be signed into law,
3 it's not even close to what it started as, and this
4 last piece of legislation that passed is not even
5 close to what the majority of Floridians is asking
6 for when it comes to gun reform.

7 So being that we know the challenges in
8 legislation, I come back to your role on this
9 Commission. The safety of our children, their sense
10 of security in the communities that they grow up in
11 should not be up for negotiation. It should not be a
12 piece that's wheeled and dealt with in legislation.
13 It should be a constitutional right that our children
14 grow up in safe environments. So I'm asking you to
15 do what's right in the situation, put this proposal
16 on the ballot in November, and let the people vote
17 and decide, because enough is enough.

18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. LEVINE: Sorry, that's my sister. I'm kind
21 of proud.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Okay. You're up.

23 MS. LEVINE: Hi. I'm Tamara Levine. I urge you
24 also to support the amendment on Proposal 3 to ban
25 assault weapons.

1 I'm a Parkland mom. I have a 9 and 11-year-old
2 who will attend Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.
3 My best friend is an ER doctor in our town and he was
4 a first responder at Douglas the day of the Parkland
5 massacre. He unfortunately sees gunshot wounds all
6 the time and he said he's never seen anything so
7 tragic as these children who were gunned down with an
8 assault weapon. A weapon that imposed mass
9 destruction that day. A weapon that ripped our
10 children's bodies apart.

11 We don't live in a war zone. There is no need
12 for assault weapons on our streets.

13 The public policy polling found that 74 percent
14 of Floridians would like the opportunity to vote on
15 an assault weapons ban. I believe it's fate,
16 actually like perfect timing, that you are here one
17 month after this horrific massacre, and you have this
18 opportunity to allow the people of Florida to vote to
19 rid our schools, our parks, our movie theaters, our
20 communities of these assault weapons.

21 Please stand with Parkland and let the voters
22 decide to ban assault weapons.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

25 Before you begin, I'm going to call some more

1 names.

2 Patricia?

3 MS. KODISH: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Okay.

5 Then we're going to have Pam Miller, Jamie
6 O'Dwyer, Paige Bloch, Vanessa -- I believe it's
7 Mehew, Rachel Rosas, Valery Lenti, Marilyn Krantz.
8 If you'll all please come forward.

9 Thank you.

10 Yes, ma'am, please.

11 MS. KODISH: Okay.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

13 MS. KODISH: Thank you.

14 Good afternoon. My name is Patty Kodish and I
15 appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today. I
16 was a substitute teacher at Marjory Stoneman Douglas
17 High School the day of the massacre when we lost 17
18 precious lives. I'm here to urge you to support
19 Proposition 3615688.

20 Let me share a moment of my experience with you.
21 The bell rang at 2:20, a fire drill. I evacuated my
22 class. As we evacuated, we heard gunshots. I
23 evacuated my class out to the field and along a
24 narrow pathway that had a fence on one side, a narrow
25 dirt path that only one or two students could walk on

1 at one time, and a canal on the left. I had to save
2 children from trying to throw themselves into the
3 canal; I had to try to prevent children from trying
4 to throw themselves over the fences. It was
5 horrific, and these poor children were so panicked.

6 Once we got to the middle school, we had to
7 console parents who hadn't found out from their
8 children or hadn't gotten texts from their children.

9 I never want a student or a teacher or anyone to
10 go through that experience that we went through that
11 day. You are uniquely positioned to rise above
12 politics and move solutions to the ballot. I urge
13 you to support Proposal 3, bar code 615688, so that
14 we can have a safer Florida for our children and for
15 our population.

16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

18 MS. MEHEW: Good afternoon. My name is Vanessa
19 Mehew, a mother of two at Arecano (phonetic.)

20 Like other parents you have heard today, I share
21 the sense of urgency in creating legislation to
22 establish an environment in which our children can
23 learn and feel safe. In the aftermath of the
24 shooting at Stoneman Douglas, what upset me the most
25 is knowing that the shooter got past the background

1 check and obtained a military assault weapon legally.

2 Would you please think of two scenarios where
3 anybody in Florida needs to have high-capacity
4 magazines?

5 Please vote for Proposal 3.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Ma'am, what was
8 your name?

9 MS. MEHEW: Vanessa Mehew.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Vanessa. Thank you,
11 Vanessa.

12 MS. BLOCH: Hi. My name is Paige Bloch. I'm a
13 Parkland mother of four kids.

14 What has happened in our community is a tragedy
15 that should never have happened. During the time of
16 the Parkland shooting my oldest son was hiding
17 against a wall with tears in his eyes wondering if he
18 was going to die.

19 I am here so this never happens again. My
20 children were afraid to go back to school. I told
21 them a shooting has never happened in the same place
22 twice. I told them that to make them feel safe, but
23 I didn't believe it. I never thought it would happen
24 in Parkland and it did.

25 This is a community of families and that day and

1 days after mothers lied on the floor and cried and it
2 wasn't even our children who died. The tragedy in
3 our community is unfathomable and you don't know it
4 until you experience it.

5 My heart aches for the parents who will never
6 see their children again. I don't ever want that, to
7 be one of those parents, that is why I'm here.

8 I'm in support of Proposal 3 to ban assault
9 weapons. What I'm asking for is an amendment to ban
10 assault weapons, high-capacity magazines for firearms
11 and bump stocks. I'm also asking for an amendment
12 for universal background checks and mandatory waiting
13 periods.

14 The answer to this gun problem is so simple.
15 Let's make a change. The world is watching us. You
16 can be the leaders and Florida can be the first.
17 Let's make this happen.

18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

20 Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. MILLER: My name is Pam Miller and I support
22 Proposal 3. I'm a resident in Parkland and a mother
23 of two children who both attend the middle school
24 adjacent to Stoneman Douglas.

25 Prior to February 14 I had typical worries of

1 where -- of raising two children. Now my worries are
2 different. I have a child who was outside during the
3 massacre and heard gunshots from an AR-15 that killed
4 17 innocent children and severely wounded numerous
5 other children. In addition, my same child had to
6 come home early from school the following week
7 because I received a phone call from the principal.
8 He informed me that a child was threatened -- that my
9 child was threatened by another student claiming she
10 was going to bring a gun to school and shoot him.

11 I have a daughter who is now afraid to walk the
12 hallways of her school by herself. She recently told
13 me how she broke into a run in the hallway because
14 the intercom went on. She feared it was going -- she
15 feared it was going to be another code red. Four
16 days ago she told me how bad she felt because a
17 teacher had a breakdown in the middle of class, but
18 this does not compare to the 17 families that cry
19 themselves to sleep because they're never going to
20 see their child again, or the families that
21 practically live in the hospital because their child
22 is suffering from severe gunshot wounds, or other
23 children that now suffer from severe mental health
24 issues because they had to witness their friends and
25 classmates bleed to death right in front of their own

1 eyes.

2 Our children's innocence have been broken. It's
3 time to take these dangerous weapons of destruction
4 off the streets of civilians. Please let's start to
5 follow the country that has banned semiautomatics and
6 other military weapons across the country.

7 Since Australia has banned these weapons, there
8 has been a total of zero mass shootings in 22 years.
9 In the U.S. there has been more than 30 so far this
10 year. Please vote to add Proposal 3, bar code
11 615688, to the ballot this November. Let's put
12 safety in front of politics.

13 Thank you for your cooperation.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

15 MS. O'DWYER: Hi -- oh, I'm sorry.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Go ahead.

17 MS. O'DWYER: Ready?

18 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yeah, please.

19 MS. O'DWYER: My name is Jamie O'Dwyer and I'm
20 in favor of Proposal 3. I'm a Parkland parent of two
21 that's come to the realization that the one place
22 which should be inherently safe for my children is no
23 more.

24 I support allowing the public to vote on
25 commonsense gun law reform because the bill Florida

1 passed, one that we were forced to swallow down as a
2 whim, did not go far enough.

3 I'd like to specifically address the argument
4 that this would infringe on the second amendment
5 right, one of many civil liberties that collectively
6 form the foundation of this country, but all we need
7 is an interpretation of the law, not removal. I'm a
8 proponent of the second amendment and in no way see
9 an assault weapon's ban as a pact to its complete
10 dissolution.

11 I do see a contradiction in claiming
12 constitutionality in the defense of assault weapons
13 while ignoring a primary purpose of the constitution
14 to ensure domestic tranquility. It's unfathomable to
15 me that a document written over 200 years ago is
16 applied verbatim as unwavering law of which we govern
17 ourselves. Language itself is fluent and words
18 change over time.

19 We give up our certain inalienable rights in
20 public locations such as airports and stadiums. This
21 is today's law. We submit to this for the greater
22 purpose of public safety.

23 Today the average citizen does not require an
24 automatic weapon to protect their home or form a
25 civilian militia in defense of this country. We

1 entrust our military with this duty.

2 As civilians, we aren't trained to operate a
3 weapon with the capability to swiftly and irrevocably
4 inflect mass murder and obliterate bodies, these
5 weapons' intent.

6 I implore you, give us people the platform to
7 decide what's in our best interest in regard to our
8 safety. We are voters, not obligated to a caucus or
9 constituency or at the mercy of a corporation. Vote
10 for this proposal.

11 And also consider what universal background
12 checks could mean. It only takes one person buying
13 one AR-15 or AK-47 at one gun show to take the lives
14 of countless innocents like lambs to a slaughter, as
15 in Sandy Hook, Vegas, Pulse and now in Parkland.

16 This isn't a partisan, religious status or race
17 issue. It's a moral issue.

18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

20 I'm going to call a list so hold on for one
21 second.

22 MS. ROSAS: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Rachel Rosas.

24 MS. ROSAS: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Valery Lenti, Marilyn

1 Krantz, Carlos Verney, Martha Persten, Amanda Martin,
2 and Michael Rajner.

3 I mean, I'll just ask everyone to remember,
4 we've still got a -- this is the stack left, so we've
5 got --

6 MS. ROSAS: Talk fast.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: -- a lot to get through
8 so try to remember the two minutes, okay? I really
9 don't want to stop anyone if I can avoid it, okay?

10 Thank you.

11 MS. ROSAS: Okay. My name is Rachel Rosas. I'm
12 a Parkland resident. I'm the parent of a Marjory
13 Stoneman Douglas student.

14 I would like to speak to you regarding Proposal
15 No. 3 with the 615688 bar code.

16 When I heard about the shooting at our school, I
17 rushed to the school, but I couldn't get through.
18 There were ambulances/police so I waited at Wal-Mart
19 with hundreds of other panicked parents. We watched
20 as dozens of police cars, helicopters, SWAT teams and
21 ambulances raced by. The phones weren't working due
22 to too much activity so we couldn't reach our kids.
23 We waited and waited.

24 Finally, my son arrived safe, but we later found
25 that one of our neighbor boys died, one was injured

1 and many others saw too much.

2 They saw their teachers and best friends get
3 shot and they walked over dead bodies to get out of
4 the school.

5 I haven't met anybody in Parkland who wasn't
6 personally affected by this shooting. There were
7 about 900 students in the building where most of the
8 shooting occurred. The gunman went from the first,
9 second, third floor. Many other students in nearby
10 buildings listened to the shootings and hid waiting
11 to be rescued.

12 Now there is an epidemic of PTSD in Parkland.
13 The parents are not sleeping well either. I've been
14 to Tallahassee twice in the last few weeks and we're
15 here today.

16 Thirty-four people were shot in about five
17 minutes. High-capacity magazines allow a shooter to
18 keep shooting and shooting without stopping to
19 reload. It makes it hard to catch them.

20 Many of the 17 injured have endured multiple
21 surgeries to repair extensive damage caused by an
22 assault rifle. These are not bullet holes, this is
23 serious damages.

24 I want my kid to be safe at school and all kids
25 in Florida to be safe in school. Recent legislation

1 is a good first step, but don't let our kids and
2 teachers be hunted down with assault rifles. Please
3 take action to do this. I would like to request your
4 support.

5 Please stand with Parkland and let the voters
6 decide.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. KRANTZ: My name is Marilyn Bonilla Krantz.
9 I too am of a resident of Parkland. I'm the mother
10 of two daughters who also attended Marjory Stoneman
11 Douglas.

12 I want to thank those commissioners who put
13 forth Proposal 3 and those amendments so we can be
14 here today to speak in favor of that proposal.

15 I'm an attorney. I'm also a holder of a
16 concealed weapon or firearm license. I support
17 Article I, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution,
18 which clearly sets forth that the manner of bearing
19 arms may be regulated by law.

20 I would like to share with you a message posted
21 on Facebook by Debra Dixon Hixon, she's the wife and
22 now widow of Christopher Hixon, the father of four
23 and the athletic director of Marjory Stoneman Douglas
24 who was killed in the mass shooting this past
25 Valentine's Day.

1 She says: "Everyone wants to know what they can
2 do for me. Here is what I need from you: I need you
3 to ban the sale, manufacturing and use of any weapons
4 that are lightweight, magazine fed, gas operated, air
5 cooled, shoulder fire and capable of semiautomatic
6 fire such as the AR-15 weapon. Please stop this
7 insanity and work towards getting these weapons
8 banned."

9 Reputable polls show consistently that citizens
10 agree with Mrs. Hixon and want these weapons banned.
11 Please, on her behalf and the behalf -- on the behalf
12 of so many victims, their families and other
13 Floridians, please support Proposal 3. Please use
14 your unique position in history to provide Florida
15 citizens the opportunity to ban assault weapons and
16 consider other commonsense gun control measures which
17 save lives. Enough is enough, and please never
18 again.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

21 Yes, ma'am.

22 MS. LENTII: Oh, hello. My name is Valery Lenti
23 and I'm from South Broward High School. Thank you
24 for the opportunity to speak today.

25 I remember when I got the news of the shooting

1 at Stoneman Douglas. I remember the looks on my
2 teachers' faces the day after when they realized
3 their coworker, their friend, their students and
4 their family has been taken away from them.

5 I'm only 15, but I believe no child has to come
6 to school and see their teachers have panic attacks
7 over the possibility of happening to their school one
8 day. I'm only 15, but I have seen too many school
9 shootings, too many deaths that should have never
10 happened.

11 Ever since the tragedy I've been forcing myself
12 to be a strong field for my friends and family. I've
13 had to comfort my 12-year-old brother because he was
14 scared . . .

15 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Take your time.

16 MS. LENTI: He was scared that he was going to
17 be shot at his own school.

18 He should be worrying about what lunch he's
19 going to get tomorrow.

20 I'm standing up for Carmen, for Peter, for
21 Mr. Hixon, for every child's life that has ever been
22 taken away from their families by the hands of a
23 weapon. You are the ones who can listen to us,
24 listen to the survivors, their families and the next
25 generation of voters.

1 I urge you to do something. Take that back, I
2 beg of you to do something. Your thoughts and
3 prayers are appreciated, but aren't enough. Your
4 action is.

5 Thank you very much.

6 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

7 Yes, sir.

8 MR. VERNEY: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My
9 name is Carlos Verney. I'm the executive director of
10 the Broward County Charter Review Commission and I'm
11 also a graduate of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas,
12 class of 2004. I come here to ask for your support
13 for Proposal 3, the amendments offered by
14 Commissioners Coxe, Smith and Martinez.

15 Quite simply, the students have asked for a ban
16 on assault weapons. The night of the CNN Town Hall I
17 went over to my AP government teacher, Mr. Jeff
18 Foster, the same teacher who's grooming these
19 students, and I said a couple things to him. I said,
20 Thank you for preparing me and others so well. Thank
21 you, as an educator, for preparing these students so
22 well for what will be an unimaginable long road
23 ahead.

24 There are some questions that need to be asked:
25 What if the CRC were to put a proposal and consider

1 it to ban assault weapons? What if the voters of the
2 state of Florida were to approve it?

3 Let me offer some answers to those questions:
4 Never again would a student be massacred; never again
5 would a teacher see such horrific things in a school;
6 never again would a first responder be traumatized
7 for what they saw; never again would a parent need to
8 bury their child. Their child. It just doesn't work
9 that way.

10 We're asking you to join us, because never again
11 is just not a hashtag, it's a commitment, and we're
12 asking you never again. We're asking you to allow us
13 the opportunity in one collective voice to vote in
14 November to say never gone.

15 Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. MARTIN: Hi. Amanda Martin here.

18 I stand here today in support of Proposal 3 as
19 an anxious parent and a concerned citizen, asking you
20 all to use your unique position to effect change in
21 our state. Please do not fail our children. We, the
22 people, are asking you for the opportunity to vote
23 commonsense gun laws.

24 You've heard and felt the testimony of those
25 here with me today, but I'm also asking you on behalf

1 of all those affected by the three different mass
2 shootings that we've experienced in our state in just
3 the last three years.

4 Special interest groups from both the left and
5 the right have tried to convince us that we are more
6 divided on this issue than we really are. By pushing
7 Proposal 3 to the ballot, you are giving this state
8 the opportunity to come together from both sides of
9 the aisle. You are on this Commission tasked with
10 the very rare chance to give the power to the people.

11 Please do not waste this chance to encourage
12 progress. Stand with me. Stand with Parkland.
13 Stand with the children. Let Florida decide.

14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

16 Did we -- before you go, did we hear from Rachel
17 Rosas?

18 Okay.

19 And so we should have Martha.

20 MS. PERSTEN: Yes, sir.

21 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Martha, and then a
22 Michael Rajner.

23 MR. RAJNER: Yes, Rajner.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Rajner. Sorry.

25 MS. PERSTEN: Hi. My name is Martha Persten.

1 I'm a housewife, mother of four children and a
2 resident of Coral Springs.

3 On February 14 the schools of Coral Springs were
4 on shutdown, lockdown. Code red, active shooter.
5 Neither my children or I knew where this active
6 shooter -- in what school was in. And because of
7 that, my 14-year-old send me a goodbye text.

8 No children should be sending their parents
9 their goodbyes through a text message from school and
10 no parent should receive such a text.

11 My 16-year-old son just survived from cancer
12 after three long years of battle. He went through a
13 lot of meals, a lot of multiple surgeries, tests, PET
14 scans, CAT scans, MRIs, radiation therapy, hair loss,
15 weight loss, and it would be very devastating for me,
16 my husband and my family to lose my son because of a
17 bullet, and that's why I'm here. That's why I
18 traveled four hours, because I don't want my
19 children's school to be next. I don't want the
20 school of Florida -- any school of Florida to be
21 next. And because I'm a woman of faith, I pray, I
22 beg and I hope that the Commission will see the
23 importance of banning assault weapons.

24 Thank you very much for your time and for
25 allowing me to be my children's voice today.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. RAJNER: Good afternoon. My name's Michael
3 Rajner. I'm from Broward County.

4 "Be a nuisance where it counts; do your part to
5 inform and stimulate the public to join your action.
6 Be depressed, discouraged and disappointed at failure
7 and disheartening effects of ignorance, greed,
8 corruption and bad politics, but never give up," are
9 the words of Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

10 You know, several of us that came up from
11 Parkland this week -- I was up last week with
12 students from Parkland: David Hogg, Ryan Deitsch,
13 and several others. They are asking you to stand up
14 and claim your legacy. Take action and support a ban
15 on assault weapons, large capacity magazines, and
16 background checks.

17 Last week I saw the eyes of commissioners on
18 this dais acknowledge the seriousness of this issue
19 and how it is tearing apart our communities, how it
20 is a threat to communities of having military-style
21 weapons in our communities where they don't belong.
22 They belong in the hands of law enforcement and
23 military.

24 You know, as you debate and contemplate the
25 amendments that are proposed before you, before you

1 go for floor debates, I implore you to visit
2 Parkland. I implore you to walk through the building
3 where these youths and teachers were murdered and
4 gunned down in cold blood. I urge you to see the
5 blood splattered all over these buildings and ask,
6 what if it was your child? What if it was your
7 mother, your sister, your brother, your father?

8 This is an issue of a lifetime for you to stand
9 up in leadership. I would just ask if this
10 Commission would by a show of hands show Floridians
11 that you're willing to do the right thing, not just
12 as the one commissioner said, trust we'll do the
13 right thing. Show us. Raise your hand. Will you do
14 the right thing, what the people of Florida are
15 asking?

16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: We'll now hear from
18 Theresa Citti, Jenna Murphy, Christie Dorchak,
19 Jennifer, I believe it's Leon, Jeff Kremer, and
20 Connie Rose.

21 MS. CITTI: Am I next up? I'm Theresa.

22 My name is Terry Citti. I live in Seminole,
23 Florida and I stand with the survivors and families
24 of Parkland, Florida's shooting.

25 The sale of assault weapons designed for war and

1 high-capacity magazines needs to stop now, today.
2 The Second Amendment does not protect these highly
3 lethal weapons, whatever the NRA may say. Seven
4 states have banned the sale of assault weapons. The
5 NRA has challenged these laws, but the Supreme Court
6 has not ruled against them.

7 In the words of former Chief Justice Warren
8 Burger on the subject of the Second Amendment and the
9 gun lobby: "This has been the subject of one of the
10 greatest pieces of fraud, I repeat the word fraud, on
11 the American public by special interest groups that I
12 have ever seen."

13 Assault weapons were first marketed to the
14 public in the 1980s. After the number of mass
15 shootings began to rise, the sale of assault rifles
16 was banned in the United States from 1994 until 2004.
17 The number of people killed in mass shootings went
18 down.

19 Diane Feinstein said: "This bill won't stop
20 every mass shooting, but it will begin removing these
21 weapons of war from our streets."

22 Yes, it will be a long process to reduce the
23 massive supply of these assault weapons in our
24 country, but we've got to start somewhere.

25 Since the assault weapons ban ended in 2004, the

1 rate of mass murders has been rising more and more
2 rapidly. It's time to do something meaningful. End
3 the madness of placing profits for the NRA and the
4 gun manufacturers above the lives of children and the
5 public at large.

6 Please, ban the assault weapons.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. MURPHY: Good afternoon, Commissioners, Your
9 Honor, and esteemed guests, we appreciate the
10 opportunity to speak today.

11 My name's Jennifer Murphy and I have worked with
12 sex crime victims for 30 years. Thirty years of
13 watching victims not have rights, not have anybody
14 beside them.

15 Where our friends in the defense community were
16 very kind enough to mention victims, their job is to
17 get paid to defend their client, not to support our
18 victims. We need Marsy's Law and Proposition 96.

19 As a psychologist and therapist, and a person
20 who has a law degree, not a practicing attorney, I
21 know you heard testimony today about most of the
22 rights in Marsy's Law are already in statutes. If
23 the laws were being followed, we wouldn't need
24 Marsy's Law. If we had enough victim advocates or
25 attorneys to stand up for victims, we wouldn't need

1 Marsy's Law.

2 If states like Florida and across the country
3 are not doing what we need to protect people in terms
4 of legislation from sex abuse, sex trafficking, we
5 need Marsy's Law. This is the only recourse that
6 these victims have.

7 Marsy's Law gives victims the following, and
8 survivors the following: To be treated with dignity,
9 respect, courtesy, sensitivity and fairness; to have
10 information on records protected that could be used
11 to locate or harass victims, or which could disclose
12 confidential information about your victims; to
13 timely dispositions of the case free from
14 unreasonably delay; to be present at all proceedings
15 involving cases; to be notified about the case and
16 whether or not defendants have been released from
17 incarceration, which we're not doing a very good job
18 of either; and for reasonable protection from the
19 accused throughout the entire process.

20 Again, to those who get up here today and talk
21 legalese about victims' rights, it's garbage. It's
22 crap. I can tell you because I've been doing this
23 for 30 years. I have seen atrocities I can't --

24 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you very much,
25 ma'am.

1 MS. MURPHY: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

3 Yes, ma'am.

4 MS. DORCHAK: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,
5 Mr. Senate, President, Members of the Commission, I'm
6 honored to be before you. My name is Christine
7 Dorchak. I'm the cofounder, president and general
8 counsel of Greyhound protection groups GREY2K USA
9 Worldwide and the GREY2K USA Education Fund. The two
10 groups work together to pass laws to protect
11 Greyhounds and promote the adoption of ex-racers.

12 I'd like to begin my testimony today by
13 presenting to you the first 25,000 signatures on the
14 petition asking that you please put Proposal 67 on
15 the ballot. I sent you an email today with a live
16 link to this petition, and at that time there were
17 about 80,000 signatures on it so far. I just
18 checked. We're at over 100,000 right now. That's
19 101,000 people that are standing ready to help get
20 this important measure passed. Please listen to
21 their voices.

22 I'm also here to touch on a legal issue that has
23 been brought up at past hearings.

24 Thank you.

25 Previous speakers have threatened that Proposal

1 67 would implicate recovery under the Bert Harris
2 Act. To clarify, Bert Harris concerns the taking of
3 property by government action.

4 In this case there is no taking of property, not
5 at all. Rather, the licenses to use Greyhounds for
6 gambling would simply not be renewed. There is no
7 constitutional right to a license. In fact a license
8 by definition is a privilege, and it's held as long
9 as public policy allows it.

10 We -- you will be receiving a full legal
11 analysis from the firm Broad & Cassel. This is the
12 firm that represented the pig farmer claimant in
13 *State versus Basford*, known as the pregnant pig case.

14 In the opinion of council, the phasing out of
15 racing licenses does not trigger recovery under Bert
16 Harris. Furthermore, anticipated future profit is
17 not a property interest --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

21 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Time.

22 MS. DORCHAK: Thank you. Please support
23 Proposal 67.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Jennifer Lenn (sic).

25 MS. LEON: It's actually Jennifer Leon.

1 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Leon, I'm sorry.

2 MS. LEON: I have atrocious handwriting.

3 Thank you.

4 Good afternoon. My name is Jennifer Leon. I'm
5 here today as both a private citizen and on behalf of
6 Big Cat Rescue with over 2 million followers in
7 strong support of Proposal 67 to phaseout dog racing.
8 Even cat people want a better life for dogs.

9 At previous meetings and at some point today
10 this Commission will likely hear from Jim Blanchard,
11 president of the Florida Greyhound Association.

12 In an attempt to gloss over and invalidate the
13 countless documented reports of bad conditions at
14 racing kennels across the state, Mr. Blanchard and
15 others will invite the commissioners to visit any
16 track with an open mind.

17 It's a great offer. It sounds really nice, like
18 there's nothing these folks have to hide, except that
19 it's all smoke and mirrors.

20 At this very minute Jim Blanchard has a pending
21 administrative complaint filed by the Department of
22 Business and Professional Regulation Division of
23 Parimutuel Wagering. Of the five counts detailed,
24 the most telling describes that Mr. Blanchard, and I
25 quote, has advised his staff to not allow any

1 division investigators into the kennel building and
2 obstructed the Division's inspection for several
3 hours.

4 What was he covering up during the several hours
5 he blocked access to state investigators?

6 It seems Mr. Blanchard's open invitation to
7 visit any kennel does not apply to state officials.

8 On average a racing dog dies every three days
9 here in Florida. Citizens want this to end.

10 Proposal 67 would have overwhelming support.

11 Please vote in favor of Proposal 67 and place
12 Greyhounds on the November ballot.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Let me call some
15 additional names: Jeff Kremer, Connie Rose, Kathy
16 Irish, Linda Pickem, Betsy Lamb, Elizabeth either
17 Rent or Kent, and Michael McQuikin.

18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Good afternoon,
19 Commissioners. We appreciate your service and thank
20 you for the opportunity to be able to speak today.
21 My wife and I are here today in support of
22 Proposition 67 for the welfare of Greyhounds and in
23 loving memory of and tribute to Sammy.

24 We met our boy abandoned on the side of the road
25 in Clearwater right here in Pinellas County where I

1 was born and raised. He was in very rough shape. He
2 appeared to have been homeless and hungry for quite
3 some time, so we took him to the SPCA.

4 Unfortunately, we learned that he had not been micro
5 chipped. He did have a partial tattoo on his inner
6 ear, indicating that he was a former racer.

7 After 10 days nobody had claimed him and we were
8 privileged to have the -- afforded to have the
9 privilege of adopting Sammy into our family's heart
10 and home. This is when we first began to learn of
11 the wonders, the absolute wonders of Greyhounds, but
12 the absolute horrors of the Greyhound racing
13 industry.

14 By supporting Proposition 67 for Greyhounds you
15 will enable amazing dogs like Sammy to enjoy the life
16 that all domesticated dogs should be afforded within
17 the comforts of a home and as part of a loving
18 family. By helping stop the exploitation of the
19 Greyhound racing industry, you're virtually
20 eliminating the need for rescue, so thank you very
21 much for your time and effort.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. ROSE: Hi. I'm Connie Rose. I'm from
24 Tampa, Florida and I'm the founder and president of
25 Connie Rose Consulting and Victims to Survivors.

1 Thank you, Your Honor, Commissioners, and special
2 guests, and Commissioner Cerio just left, but thank
3 you.

4 I'm here to lend my support for Proposal 96 as a
5 survivor of over 14 years of incest and 4 years of
6 sex trafficking at the hands of a serial sex offender
7 father who was also my pimp.

8 You see, I know what it feels like to be
9 invisible, to have no voice for the abuse I endured,
10 and for many times I have seen the criminal justice
11 system re-victimize and re-traumatize the victim.
12 Sometimes intentional and, yes, sometimes not.
13 Sometimes the defense team tries to discredit,
14 intimidate or harass victims.

15 Over the years I have personally worked with
16 hundreds of victims to help them tell their story,
17 but more importantly, they've had to tell it over and
18 over and over again just in order to have their
19 offender prosecuted. Yet victims are asked, Why do
20 you wear that dress? Why did you go to that party?
21 Why did you get in that car? Because, you see, if
22 you didn't, you wouldn't have been raped and possibly
23 have not been trafficked and sold for sex.

24 Imagine not knowing when your perpetrator or
25 your rapist is going to be let go; imagine not

1 knowing that they are now out back on the street, and
2 for the rest of your life you have to look over your
3 shoulder because, you see, I know that story also too
4 well.

5 So thank you, thank you for allowing me to be
6 the voice, thank you for allowing me to stand in
7 front of you and say that Proposal 96 is the way to
8 go. And we are not the solution looking for the
9 problem, we are the problem looking for a solution in
10 a justice system that is broken.

11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

13 And if we can please remember, we've got two
14 microphones.

15 So Kathy Irish.

16 MS. IRISH: Hi.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Linda Pickem, Betsy
18 Lamb, Elizabeth Kent or Rent, and Michael McQuilken.
19 If you're here, please let's fill up both mics.

20 MS. IRISH: Hi. My name is Kathy Irish and I'm
21 asking you to support Proposal 96 today, Marsy's Law.

22 I want to thank you guys for being here today
23 and for supporting everybody's hard work that they've
24 done.

25 You've heard many stories today and also I have

1 one, but I'd like to speak mostly in response to
2 those that oppose the law, that oppose the 96.

3 I understand the role, however, as criminal
4 defense attorneys, the system -- if the system was
5 working, I would not be here. They stated many items
6 that may not be entirely true.

7 Potential abuse of victims' depositions is just
8 one of the many reasons that the federal government
9 in 45 other states do not allow victims' depositions.
10 I come from a state that does not allow that.
11 Florida is one of only four states that do allow
12 that, and it does victimize the victims again.

13 We've heard from many victims today. I hate to
14 see them raked over the coals one more time.

15 So let me finish up real quick. As -- if the 45
16 other states function just fine, what is wrong with
17 Florida? Why can't they do what other 48 -- 45
18 states follow? Why do you have to put the victims
19 through this; why do you have to keep doing it and
20 doing it and doing it until they just can't go any
21 longer and then they just drop it? And can't you
22 tell people that their abuser is out on the street
23 and they could possibly be in their front yard
24 tomorrow?

25 They're not told. It's not right and you need

1 to support this measure.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

4 I'm going to call up -- it seemed like we had a
5 group that is no longer with us so we'll move on.

6 Samantha Vosloo, Steven Murawski, Sandy Hill,
7 Jacinda Shapiro, and Bob Asztalos.

8 And we're going to take a break after this next
9 group.

10 Samantha. Steven Murawski. Sandy Hill.

11 We've got someone, okay. We've got a taker.

12 MS. MURAWSKI: Yes. My name is Steven Murawski.
13 I'm a professor of oceanography at University of
14 South Florida.

15 I stand before you to support Proposition 91 to
16 ban oil and gas drilling in coastal waters of the
17 state of Florida.

18 The value proposition for oil and gas drilling
19 in state waters really isn't there. If we look at
20 the most optimistic estimates, there's likely some
21 gas and some oil in coastal waters, but when we look
22 at the -- the marine gas industry in the United
23 States, the production of gas in the Gulf of Mexico
24 has dropped by 80 percent in the last 20 years, and
25 that's because gas produced on land is much cheaper

1 and less environmentally risky.

2 In terms of the other side of the value
3 proposition, though, it's the coastal economy that's
4 so important to our state. If you look at coastal
5 tourism, for example, it's \$57 billion a year.
6 Fisheries in the state of Florida are worth \$20
7 billion per year in terms of both commercial and
8 recreational production. And so when we look at
9 fisheries, for example, it's worth more than citrus,
10 farming, ranching and aerospace to our state
11 combined.

12 So when we look at oil and gas production, its
13 risky proposition not necessarily in coastal waters,
14 but in the offshore waters about 125 miles away from
15 St. Petersburg. That's where the oil and gas
16 industry wants to drill. A -- oil and gas industry
17 at two miles deep in the middle of the loop current
18 would result in a devastating accident to the state
19 of Florida, and I urge you to pass Proposition 91.

20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

22 Yes, sir.

23 MR. ASZTALOS: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

24 I'm Bob Asztalos with the Florida Health Care
25 Association, and I appreciate you all spending all

1 this time listening to us. I'm here to speak on
2 Proposal 54 and to oppose the inclusion of nursing
3 homes in the elimination of certificate of need.

4 In 2014 the legislature created the most
5 progressive certificate-of-need process in the state,
6 and since then we've seen over 30 nursing homes being
7 built in different parts of the state where it's
8 needed. We're afraid that if you eliminate
9 certificate of need, there's going to be some
10 unintended consequences. One is what you'll see is
11 you'll see a dual health care system where you have
12 boutique nursing homes taking care of high-end
13 patients and then underfunded Medicaid facilities.

14 The other thing too is that in the state of
15 Florida you don't see nursing homes going out trying
16 to bring people into the community because we're full
17 and we're efficient. So we don't have competition
18 for home and community-based care and that promotes
19 home and community-based care where people should
20 receive their care.

21 You know, Commissioners, if you look at Texas,
22 Texas eliminated nursing home CON. They have the
23 same amount of elderly population as us. They have
24 twice the number of nursing homes. Their nursing
25 homes are 70 percent occupied, ours is 88 percent

1 occupied.

2 So we have efficient nursing homes. Our quality
3 standards are higher, way higher in every measure
4 than Texas. So I ask you, please do not include
5 nursing homes in Proposal 54, and I thank you for
6 your time.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

8 Is Samantha Vosloo here?

9 Sandy Hill or Jacinda Shapiro?

10 Come on up.

11 MS. SHAPIRO: Hi. Thank you.

12 My name is Jacinda Shapiro and I'm here to
13 support Proposition 94. I'm a mother and I'm also an
14 oncology nurse, sorry, and I've worked at Fred Hutch
15 Research Center in Seattle, Washington, but I'm here
16 as a mother.

17 We moved here recently to Florida and we were
18 overwhelmed with the amount of smokers. I'm here
19 with my one son, I have two other children that were
20 here recently, and I want to put a face to why I'm
21 here.

22 We need the funding for our children to prevent
23 smoking. We do not need the money to go towards
24 research that is already being done. How we can
25 prevent cancer is by preventing our children and

1 others from smoking.

2 I don't know if you know, but in 1912 lung
3 cancer was really unheard of. It was considered so
4 rare that most people didn't even know it existed.
5 But by 1940 it was a leading cause of death already
6 after we promoted the use of smoking. It -- the
7 tobacco industry and even the government would push
8 tobacco, even stating that it was -- smoking was as
9 safe as drinking water.

10 So I believe that Proposition 94 is somehow
11 related to the tobacco industry wanting to shift
12 those funds and move it into research instead of
13 preventing it where we need it today. It would be
14 unacceptable to take that money away from anything
15 that would prevent my child and his friends from
16 smoking.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

19 We're going to take a ten-minute break now.

20 (Recess taken from 5:51 to 6:10 p.m.)

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Would everyone please take
22 their seats?

23 The meeting is reconvened. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Okay. Can we please
25 take our seats? We're going to go ahead and get

1 going in just a minute.

2 All right. A brief announcement. Ready?

3 All right. The news is we have 267 left, okay?

4 We've been working, you have too. Everybody has
5 been working very hard to say their peace as quickly
6 as they can, but we've got a lot left. And the
7 commissioners are doing the best -- as you can
8 imagine, we are being as attentive as we can and we
9 will continue to do so, but -- and I know you all
10 have waited a long time. I want to encourage you and
11 remind you, we understand if you get up and say I
12 waive in support of or I waive against a particular
13 proposal. We've heard some of these quite a few
14 times on this same subject, and so we're very, very
15 in tune with your position so -- in several cities,
16 and, remember, Commissioner Coxe reminded me that
17 this is our sixth stop. So we're very well versed.
18 So if you want to waive in support or against, please
19 feel free to do so.

20 So with that said, Marc Pinied, I think.

21 MR. PINTEL: Pintel.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Pintel, okay.

23 And Chief Judge Ron Ficarrotta. He spoke
24 already.

25 Manley Fuller, Philip Blumel, and Catherine

1 Harrelson.

2 MR. PINTEL: Hi, my name is Marc Pintel. I'm
3 from Jupiter, Florida and I'm speaking in support of
4 Proposal 43 for the school board term limits.

5 I just want to say a few things. I think that
6 everyone should have the right to serve as a school
7 board commissioner and have the ability to run, and
8 the way this structure is right now, if school board
9 commissioners who are there for 20/30/40 years -- and
10 it's not fair. The average citizen who wants to
11 stand up and say I want to be on the school board
12 can't do that because people are in there forever,
13 and I don't think that's fair, and I think there --
14 that there needs to be something to make sure that
15 anyone who wants to represent themselves and say I
16 want to be on the school board, you know, Mary Jane,
17 John Smith, or whoever they are, they could go and be
18 on the school board and effect policy, and I think
19 everyone should have that right. So that's why I'm
20 for the amendment, and I think the thing for term
21 limits, I think the thing to keep in mind, it's not a
22 Republican thing, it's not a Democratic thing, it's
23 an American thing, and the population favors term
24 limits overwhelmingly. It's not a -- it's a
25 bipartisan thing, so I think it would be great if you

1 guys support that. So thank you very much for
2 letting me speak.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

4 Remember, we have two mics so please feel free
5 to come up and be ready to go.

6 MR. BLUMEL: Who's next?

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: You are.

8 MR. BLUMEL: Okay. I'll be quick.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Because you're right there.
10 That's the rule.

11 Manley Fuller. Philip Blumel.

12 MR. BLUMEL: Yes, I'm Philip Blumel.

13 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Catherine Harrelson.

14 MR. BLUMEL: Philip Blumel, West Palm Beach. I
15 have two kids in the school system here in the state
16 and I'm speaking in favor of Proposal 43, eight-year
17 term limits on your school board members.

18 We have eight-year term limits on governor,
19 cabinet, legislative, all our major counties and a
20 zillion cities in our state. I think with good
21 effect and also for good reason. And there's a
22 couple of aspects of our school board system in the
23 state which I think is basically pretty good, but I
24 think that calls out for this kind of reform.

25 Three things together as a piece, I think calls

1 for it: One is that we have paid school board
2 members in the state. Most states do not, even the
3 largest school districts in the country do not have
4 paid school board members. We do. That's okay, but
5 also we have to keep in mind that that gives a
6 personal incentive for people to keep this position.
7 Secondly, we have big money coming to these races. I
8 just read an article in *The Economist* a couple months
9 ago about million-dollar school board races that
10 popped up in a couple different states. We haven't
11 seen that yet, but we've got six-figure school board
12 campaigns now here in Florida and it's going -- it's
13 going to get worse.

14 Lastly, we have basically unbeatable incumbents.
15 According to the *Ballotpedia*, we have some of the
16 least competitive school board races in the country,
17 and I think these three things together lead to bad
18 incentives. They put -- allow special interests,
19 they have too much -- too much control over the
20 process and they lock citizens out.

21 So for those reasons, I'd support number 43.

22 Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

24 MR. FULLER: Manley Fuller, President Florida
25 Wildlife Federation.

1 We stand in support of Proposal 91. We think
2 it's -- we think it makes good environmental and
3 economic sense for Florida to place this on the
4 ballot. We think the voters will strongly support
5 it. We appreciate the sponsor and the cosponsors; we
6 hope that the other commissioners join with
7 cosponsors in support of this. We think it makes
8 good sense and urge you to take positive action on
9 91.

10 Thank you very much.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

12 Catherine Harrelson, Richard Winning, Austin
13 Sekel, Karen Lieberman, David Harbeitner, Stephanie
14 Owens, Less Robison, and Frank Henry, could you
15 please come forward.

16 First up.

17 MR. HARBEITNER: Hello. Thank you.

18 My name is David Harbeitner. I'm a resident of
19 St. Petersburg and a member of our -- or a
20 constituent of Senator Rouson. I'm happy to be here
21 today. I'm also a father of two adult daughters, a
22 certified financial planner and an active volunteer
23 in our community.

24 First, thank you to the Commission for your
25 service considering our opinions and our prospectives

1 in your final decisions on which proposals will make
2 it through to the ballot.

3 There are a series of proposals I will waive in
4 support of. Proposal 91 on offshore drilling, as
5 well as Proposal 3. We've already heard eloquently
6 from the people affected directly in Parkland.

7 There are a series of proposals I'd like to
8 speak against. Specifically, Proposal 95, expanding
9 preemption. Florida's a large state. It should not
10 be treated monolithically. Local prospective is
11 often times the most appropriate one.

12 Second, Proposal 45, expanding vouchers to
13 include religious schools is a misuse of our tax
14 dollars and risks publicly funding religious
15 instruction.

16 Third, Proposal 4, deleting the No-Aid Provision
17 from our Constitution. The religious freedom
18 protection should be retained, and, lastly, I'd like
19 you to not reconsider Proposal 22. Please retain the
20 strong privacy rights provided by our Constitution.

21 Thank you for your consideration.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, sir.

23 You're up.

24 MR. SEKEL: Good evening, Commissioners. My
25 name is Austin Sekel. I'm a resident of West Palm

1 Beach. I'm a small business owner and I'm the vice
2 chair of the Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida,
3 where we're known as the libertarian wing and the
4 conscience of the Republican party.

5 I came here today to speak on behalf of my
6 fellow Republicans and my small libertarians that
7 believe in, like myself, that barriers to entry of
8 office should be as minimal as possible. Big money
9 should not be one of those barriers and should not
10 prevent parents from running for office. The only
11 real deterrent from running for office should be
12 time, not the fear of losing to entrenched incumbents
13 in office.

14 According to U.S. term limits in 2014, over
15 95 percent of term limits initiatives passed
16 nationwide. Ninety-five percent. And in 2016 they
17 found that 100 percent of term limits initiatives
18 passed nationwide. One hundred percent. Everywhere.
19 Not one blemish.

20 And also today I saw an article posted by
21 *Florida Politics* that showed a study published from a
22 ClearView Research that showed that the number one
23 proposal with support for the Florida CRC with
24 overwhelming 68 percent support is 8-year school
25 board term limits. Nothing else came close.

1 This is the most popular issue. If you guys
2 want to have a great legacy, let's give parents the
3 option to run for office in competitive open-seat
4 elections instead of keeping the barrier to entry so
5 high like it is now.

6 Thank you very much and have a good evening.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

8 Yes, sir.

9 MR. WINNING: I'm Richard Winning, president of
10 Derby Lane, and I'm here to speak against Proposal
11 67.

12 We at Derby Lane do feel that this is something
13 that should be -- not really be on the ballots. We
14 believe that the Commission has other things and
15 better constitutional amendments that need to be
16 looked at than a business. A business -- regardless
17 is that Derby Lane has been here 93 years, but the
18 business itself has provided entertainment for
19 millions of people throughout the state of Florida,
20 residents and tourists alike. Not only here, but all
21 over the state.

22 It's not all about cruelty and it's not about
23 the industry starting to wane. We've had a lot of
24 competition. In this area we have the casinos. We
25 have the sixth -- the second -- fourth largest casino

1 in the United States in our backyard in Tampa. It's
2 the sixth largest in the world. Is also, though, the
3 most profitable casino of all of them.

4 We face a lot of obstacles, entertainment value
5 and entertainment dollars. People that choose not to
6 go to racing, they don't go, but there are people
7 that do still choose to come, and they enjoy it and
8 it's their time off. And businesses should be
9 allowed to work their business models, and if that
10 model doesn't coincide with business, then they
11 should be able to adjust. And so over the years
12 Greyhound racing -- the Greyhound tracks have been
13 trying to ask for new product through the legislature
14 and we'll try to continue to do that.

15 And thank you for your time to let me speak, and
16 I hope you get a chance to hear about the many
17 employees that are out there that would love to tell
18 you about how much this means to their jobs, their
19 families and the charities that are around here that
20 this has helped over the years.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

23 Yes, ma'am.

24 MS. OWENS: Thank you for the opportunity to
25 speak. Thank you for your service, and welcome to my

1 hometown of St. Petersburg, Florida.

2 I'm Stephanie Owens. I'm the legislative
3 advocate for the League of Women Voters and I want to
4 speak in part in opposition to Proposals 97, 95, 74,
5 71 and in support of Proposal 3.

6 While many of the proposals are positive,
7 they're overshadowed by those that seek to strip away
8 constitutional protections, gut our public school
9 system, blend church and state, tie the hands of our
10 local municipalities, making it harder for people to
11 engage in gainful work and suppress the people's
12 voice, and, therefore, I also speak to ask that you
13 seize this moment of tremendous opportunity with
14 tremendous responsibility.

15 It is important that you take the opportunity to
16 move forward the will of the people. I would ask
17 that you not move forward Proposal 74. The ballot
18 initiative for ballot 4, for felons' rights, has
19 already made the ballot. I think if you move this
20 forward, it would be confusing for those who want to
21 vote on that issue.

22 I will also share just a couple of data points
23 from a recent pole: 60 percent of Floridians oppose
24 making it more difficult versus sense to amend the
25 constitution; 69 percent overwhelming support local

1 municipalities' rights and self rule; and 68 percent
2 of Floridians across party lines, gun owners and
3 non-gun owners alike, approve commonsense laws,
4 including a ban on military-style assault weapons.

5 Citizens have lost much of their influence in a
6 day and age where money and politics rule.

7 I thank you again for your service, and I ask
8 that you please let the citizens' voices continue to
9 be heard on the ballot. Thank you for your time.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

11 MR. ROBERSON: Hello, my name is Less Roberson.
12 I'm from St. Petersburg, and I am an animal lover and
13 will be for the rest of my life, especially dogs.

14 I first happened upon Greyhound racing in 1971
15 at Derby Lane here in St. Pete along with my family.
16 I heard quite a bit of horror stories about the
17 treatment of Greyhounds and everything like that, so
18 I attended with my family and I was fascinated by
19 those animals. They're just amazing, graceful,
20 powerful.

21 I stood around for about 10 races that evening.
22 I went down to where they stop at the end of the
23 races and they were just wagging their tails and
24 everything, just happy as can be about doing their
25 job, performing. And so fast forward to right now, I

1 am still fascinated by these Greyhounds. I love
2 them, I'm going to adopt one when I retire and -- but
3 in the meantime, I'm really, really concerned if this
4 legislation passes about the -- you know, what's
5 going to happen to these Greyhounds.

6 I think a speaker before me said there were
7 about 8,000 current Greyhounds. How are they going
8 to be taken care of if there's no money coming into
9 the people taking care of them.

10 So that being said, I also am concerned about
11 the employees, the people that take care of the dogs,
12 some of them this is all they've ever known, and the
13 employees of the Greyhound tracks, vendors that
14 supply the tracks. Again, all I'm asking is you look
15 a little bit deeper into this situation, try to go to
16 the track and experience some of the Greyhounds, take
17 a look at the kennels, and let's keep those dogs'
18 tails wagging, okay?

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

21 Before you go, sir, we're going to hear from
22 Karen Lieberman, Catherine Henderson, and Frank
23 Henry, Dr. Sy Woon, and Nicole Sutton.

24 MR. HENRY: Frank Henry.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Frank Henry?

1 MR. HENRY: Right.

2 My name's Frank Henry and I've lived in Florida
3 for 40 years as a year-round resident. I'm here to
4 advocate for the Proposal 62, a recommended open
5 primary revision for the Florida Constitution.

6 This propoert -- proposed revision has been
7 discussed in several meetings of the ethics and
8 election committee. Proposal 62 was written by one
9 of your commissioners, and in fact, as I think it's
10 Mr. Schifino, and it was approved. Six days later it
11 went before the General Revision Committee, was
12 rejected after less than an hour of discussion, and
13 if you need a copy of it, I have one.

14 Personally, I have voted as a Democrat and a
15 Republican to try to vote for the people I thought
16 best qualified and represented my ideas.
17 Unfortunately, neither party has all the best
18 qualified candidates or totally represent my ideas.
19 In my frustration of the Florida's closed primary
20 system, I registered as an NPA, or Independent. I
21 felt the major parties were in charge and there was
22 nothing that my vote could do to change that.

23 There are 3.4 million taxpayers registered as
24 no-party affiliation or Independents. That's
25 27 percent of the electorate. If they're not

1 allowed -- although they help pay for the primaries,
2 which the taxpayers do, they're not allowed to vote
3 for the candidates of their choice. That reason
4 alone is enough to put open primaries on the ballot.

5 Eighty-four percent of our elections are decided
6 in the primary, not the general election. Florida's
7 normal turnout for the primaries is in the 20
8 percentile or less. Please review the General
9 Provision Committee's decision.

10 Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

12 MR. ROBERSON: Do you need the copy?

13 Do you have it?

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: We -- the lady to your
15 left. Thank you.

16 MS. SUTTON: Good evening, Commissioners. Thank
17 you so much for this opportunity to testify today or
18 to speak today, and also thank you for all of the
19 work that you do on this committee.

20 I'm here today, Nicole Sutton is my name. I've
21 reached out to all of you individually by phone as
22 well as by email. I'm here in several capacities.
23 I'm a public health professional. I'm here to speak
24 in opposition to 94, which concerns tobacco control
25 funds.

1 In addition to being in public health, I'm also
2 the mother of a two-year-old and I'm also the
3 daughter of a woman -- sorry, of a man who died at 59
4 years old, it's my father, from a tobacco-related
5 disease.

6 I want you to know, I think you already do,
7 there were several people who spoke before me, that
8 these funds are being used appropriately. They're
9 being used for effective, meaningful and needed
10 services across our state for services that prevent
11 addiction, disease, suffering and death. Prevention
12 efforts also save our state millions and millions of
13 dollars in future health care costs, but most
14 importantly, I ask you to consider that protection of
15 tobacco settlement funds for its intended purpose, as
16 part of the legacy that we leave to every child in
17 this state. Children like my son, who's only two,
18 and children who are yet to be born. So thank you
19 for this time.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

21 Yes, ma'am.

22 DR. SY WOON: Hello. My name is Dr. Sy Woon. I
23 am a veterinarian and medical director of Justin
24 Bartlett Animal Hospital in Royal Palm Beach,
25 Florida, and I'm also the Florida State

1 Representative for the Humane Society Veterinary
2 Medical Association.

3 I'm here imploring you to support and say yes to
4 Proposal 67, which is the phaseout of Greyhound
5 racing. As a veterinarian I have no ulterior motive
6 to be here speaking on behalf of the Greyhounds,
7 other than the fact that I care and want to save God
8 the welfare and health of these exploited animals.

9 The Greyhound racing industry has proven time
10 and time again they cannot follow basic regulations,
11 and that's why it is so important that we transition
12 to a phaseout of this unethical industry instead.
13 They're not being held accountable for the many
14 undocumented injuries that occur, the fractures, the
15 lacerations. There's an unacceptable level of death
16 that occur on the racing tracks, as you've heard the
17 statistics mentioned by multiple people so far.

18 The fact that this industry exist is unethical
19 in itself. I mean, the drug positive tests that have
20 been revealed, the exposé of the multiple injuries
21 that occur.

22 Greyhounds are just like any of my other K-9
23 patients that I see. They are just like Malteses,
24 poodles, Labradors, they deserve to be treated in the
25 same manner, and currently they are utilized and

1 exploited as disposable tools in the Greyhound racing
2 industry.

3 They are actually considered by most vets that
4 I -- I'm pretty sure every vet around the world who's
5 ever met a Greyhound would agree that they make the
6 perfect pets. They're docile, they're sweet, they're
7 incredibly easy to handle. As you've heard, many
8 people own them as pets. It's not okay for these
9 dogs to be treated in such a way that we would never
10 allow for our own pets to be treated. So I beg you
11 and implore you to support Proposal 67 to phaseout
12 this industry.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Karen Lieberman,
15 Catherine Harrelson, Nicole Sutton, are you here?

16 Carol Rizzo, Frank McCarron, James Phillips,
17 Brianna Auker/Oker.

18 The floor is yours.

19 MS. RIZZO: Good evening. My name is Carol
20 Becker Rizzo. I'm a 40-year Florida resident and
21 president of God's Greys Greyhound Adoptions. I am
22 against Proposition 67, and here's why: Over the
23 past 16 years I've placed into adoption more than
24 2500 Greyhounds from Florida Greyhound tracks. I
25 have handled each and every one of these dogs myself

1 personally. I'm allowed to enter the kennel
2 compounds and I typically visit there two or three
3 times a week. I've seen firsthand over many, many
4 years how these dogs are kept and treated with care,
5 love and compassion.

6 But it wasn't always this way. Conditions have
7 improved dramatically for these dogs over recent
8 years, however, people who don't like dog racing
9 continue to use examples of situations that are 10 to
10 20 years in the past. Most people here today who
11 have spoken who want to end Greyhound racing have
12 never been to a race kennel, have never seen for
13 themselves how the dogs live, have never even seen a
14 dog race or seen how happy these dogs are when they
15 get off the dog tracks with their tails wagging, just
16 loving what they do.

17 Dog tracks have capable and caring veterinarians
18 present at every race and on call 24/7. If a dog
19 gets injured, it's treated immediately, and if the
20 injury is serious, adoption groups like myself are
21 called and we make arrangements with our own vets to
22 get the dog in right away for surgery and to a foster
23 home.

24 At Sanford Orlando Kennel Club, where I live,
25 every retired racing Greyhound gets a home. The last

1 thing adoption groups want to have happen is to have
2 Greyhound racing end abruptly. We think it would be
3 far better to let the industry continue to decline as
4 it has been all on its own. If anyone thinks it's
5 bad for those dogs now, imagine 8,000 great racing
6 Greyhounds all trying to get adopted at once. That
7 is my worst nightmare.

8 Please vote no on Proposition 67.

9 Thank you for your time.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. AUKER: Hi.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Just go ahead.

13 MS. AUKER: Hi. My name is Brianna Auker. I'm
14 a sophomore at Freedom High School. I stand before
15 you today to ask that your committee adds an assault
16 weapons ban to the proposal list, that you show your
17 support for Proposal 3.

18 I ask that you allow the destroyed communities,
19 the devastated families, the heartbroken friends and
20 me, the frequent concert goer, the attendee of LGBTQ
21 establishments, the student, decide what should be
22 done with these weapons. The facts are and in fact
23 is there was never any question. Assault rifles are
24 weapons used to viciously take the lives of everyday
25 people. They're used to create hate crimes, murders,

1 slaughters and mass executions in public spaces.

2 In school we are taught to learn from our
3 mistakes. We memorize events in history in hopes
4 that we won't repeat our ancestors' poor choices,
5 however, it's hard to focus when you become the
6 example. When our schools become the war zones that
7 ignite temporary change, when our classrooms become
8 the history we never want to happen again, and our
9 survival of rebellion all in its own. These aren't
10 the interactive lessons we asked for.

11 Now is your opportunity to learn from our tears
12 and our cries for help. Here is the opportunity to
13 pass a new kind of state assessment. Committee
14 members, I encourage you to be on the right side of
15 history. Your final exam is simple: Add an assault
16 weapons ban and let our people decide. Follow in the
17 footsteps of your mentors, the traumatized high
18 school students, and make change through actions.
19 Thoughts and prayers will not be accepted as extra
20 credit, and attendance is a part of your final grade.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, sir.

23 MR. PHILLIPS: James Phillips, and I'm against
24 Proposition 67.

25 If safety were a reason to accept Proposition

1 67, then why have only two out of all the Florida dog
2 tracks even adopted one of my safety protocols, one
3 of seven? They're not accountable. They're not held
4 accountable for these kind of things.

5 If the revenues generated by the dog racing
6 industry were a concern, then more revenues would be
7 allocated for the improvement of the conditions
8 that -- for the public to attend these places. If
9 cruelty to the animals were a concern, then why
10 aren't conditions approved at the facilities
11 themselves. They're not being held accountable.
12 There's no governing body that can -- that is holding
13 them accountable.

14 Then I just find out from this man from
15 Massachusetts during this 10-minute break, he called
16 me a liar twice and then threatened me that -- that
17 I'm going to be put out of business: Just face the
18 consequences. This is what's going to happen.

19 He gets to talk to you guys in Tallahassee, but
20 nobody talks to me in Tallahassee. Nobody asked to
21 talk to me.

22 I know more about the racing industry than
23 anybody out here. This has been in my family since
24 1942. Please, just get in touch with me. It's very
25 easy. I can tell you everything -- answer every

1 question you have about this.

2 I thank you very much.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Frank McCarron -- once
4 again, we have the cards. That's going to speed
5 things up, please.

6 Frank McCarron. Sahyyah Ameer, and Julize Diaz.

7 Yes, sir.

8 MR. MCCARRON: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
9 My name is Frank McCarron. I'm the owner of Seminole
10 Animal Supply.

11 For the benefit of those commissioners not
12 present at the Melbourne venue, I would like to
13 repeat my opposition to Proposal 67.

14 For 37 years my business has supplied quality
15 kennel feed and supplies to every kennel in Florida.
16 No one, no one in this state sees more Greyhounds
17 than I do. Every day I see these beautiful dogs
18 healthy and happy in their kennels. Every year I
19 collect over \$160,000 in sales tax revenue from eight
20 different Florida counties. I'm going to repeat
21 that. Every year I collect over \$160,000 in sales
22 tax revenue from eight different Florida counties.

23 I believe Proposal 67 is funded and driven by
24 out-of-state activists. This proposal will destroy
25 my business and force me to layoff all my employees

1 and cost me my livelihood. This proposal will cost
2 thousands of job losses across the state and does not
3 belong in this constitution. This proposal is bad
4 for business, it's bad for people, and it's bad for
5 Florida. Please do not support Proposal 67.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Is Sahyyah Ameer here?

8 Julize Diaz, Jerry Berger, Cynthia Kahn, Elise
9 Bennett, Carol Lerner, Vera Jackson, Carol Levinsky,
10 Lauren Harkins, Jessica Sanchez, would you all make
11 your way down, please?

12 Yes, ma'am.

13 MS. KAHN: I'm Cynthia Kahn. I'm not an
14 out-of-state activist. I'm from Sarasota, Florida,
15 15 years. I own property and I vote.

16 Regarding Proposition 67, in my limited time
17 here I will not be addressing the unspeakable
18 exploitation and deaths of racing dogs. I'm sure the
19 Humane Society of the United States and the ASPCA has
20 provided you with the proper documentation. My
21 remarks today pertain to the culture that we live in
22 and how we aspire as a society to be.

23 In the 1950s my grandparents retired to Miami
24 from New York, spending every day where? At the jai
25 alai or at the dog track. They took me to the circus

1 and they took me to Sea World, and on the old Tamiami
2 Trail before the interstate we stopped to view a live
3 bear living in a pit.

4 When we know better, we do better.

5 Ringling has now put its elephants out to
6 pasture; Sea World will no longer breed orcas and
7 it's phasing out its shows. Hopefully, bear pits are
8 gone for good. Inexplicably, we still have dog
9 racing.

10 FYI, dogs were our first domesticated species
11 thousands of years ago. We train dogs to trust us.
12 Dog racing is a betrayal of that trust. Let me
13 repeat that. Dog racing is a betrayal of that trust.

14 Now we know better and now is the time we should
15 do better. The people here want to see Proposition
16 67 on the ballot.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: This is going to take a
19 really long time if I have to pause every time you
20 all clap, okay?

21 I mean, we've got about 230 left.

22 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm not going anywhere.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Well, we're getting
24 awful tired. We're doing our best.

25 Yes, sir.

1 MR. BERGER: Hi.

2 Commissioners, my name is Jerry Berger. I work
3 at Stanford Orlando Kennel Club. I'm a judge and
4 sharp writer.

5 I've worked in the Greyhound business for 22
6 years. I worked at Orange Park, Melbourne and
7 Sanford Orlando, and all this proposal will do would
8 cost me my job and cost people all around the state
9 the loss of their jobs. Please vote no on 67. Use
10 your commonsense.

11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, sir.

13 Yes, ma'am.

14 MS. LERNER: Hi, my name is Carol Lerner. I'm a
15 resident of Sarasota. I'm a retired public school
16 social worker and I'm here to represent Protect Our
17 Public Schools Minnesota, which is an organization
18 that's been set up to fight privatization of
19 education and to work for quality public school
20 education.

21 I have a number of proposals that I've been a --
22 that I'm opposed to and I came thinking I would just
23 be in an anti-way, but then I learned today about
24 Proposition 3, so I'd like to start my remarks by
25 saying that I very strongly support a assault weapons

1 ban in particular, and that has become a mission of
2 my organization, protect our public schools. After
3 the 14th, we actually decided to expand our mission
4 to not just protect public education, but to protect
5 the children of public education, so I very strongly
6 support that.

7 I just want to say real quickly, I am opposed to
8 quite a number of proposals that are actually
9 supporting privatization: Number 4, number 45,
10 number 71 and number 93.

11 I'd like in particular to zero in on Proposal 4,
12 which would eliminate the Blaine Amendment, which has
13 kept the separation of church and state, and what
14 that really means and what that's going to translate
15 is school vouchers, which I'm very strongly opposed
16 to.

17 Voters have twice before rejected this, so why
18 try a third time? Let's expend our energy on
19 proposals that improve public education, not
20 proposals that destroy it.

21 Thank you very much.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

23 Do we have Elise Bennett, Vera Jackson, Carol
24 Levinsky, Lauren Harkins, Jessica Sanchez?

25 Commissioner Rouson, it's all yours.

1 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much. I've
2 lived all my life for this moment.

3 UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: That's why you get paid the
4 big bucks.

5 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Next on deck: Dan Hicks,
6 Steve Grabarczyic -- I'm sorry -- Tina --

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Tina Braungardt. I don't know
8 how bad I did that.

9 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Kelli Hammer Levy.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'm his wingman.

11 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Marilyn Weaver.

12 Dan Hicks.

13 MR. HICKS: My name is Dan Hicks and I am in
14 support of Proposition 67. Thank you for hearing me
15 today.

16 I would like to read an article that was
17 published on Jacksonville.com July of 2017: "The
18 recent discovery of cocaine in a dozen racing
19 Greyhounds has focused attention on a mostly
20 forgotten practice that in Florida is being
21 perpetuated by politics."

22 The state's twelve dog tracks took in \$240
23 million at bets during the year that ended June of
24 2016, half the amount that was wagered a decade
25 before. The state says it now spends more money

1 regulating the Greyhound industry than it receives in
2 tax revenues from the races. First Coast News
3 reported that a trainer at Bet Best Orange Park had
4 his license suspended after 12 dogs under his care
5 tested positive for cocaine. The head of a nonprofit
6 that monitors dog tracks around the country called it
7 the largest Greyhound dog drug -- drug case in
8 American history.

9 Another trainer's license was revoked in May
10 after cocaine was found in the urine of five dogs
11 that raced at Derby Lane right here at St.
12 Petersburg. Earlier this year folks -- First Coast
13 News reported that 367 dogs had died at Florida
14 Greyhound tracks since 2013, including 52 in Orange
15 Park.

16 I'm quoting: "If you isolate decoupling of
17 dogs, I think that you probably would have a majority
18 of legislators who believe it makes little sense to
19 require under law an activity that no one wants to
20 watch and many people consider inhumane," quoting
21 Senator Rob Bradley.

22 Senator Dana Young states: "The issue is
23 disturbing because unlike so many other decoupling
24 issues in terms of jai alai and saddle racing, in
25 this situation you have dogs that are being bred

1 solely for the purpose of racing and no one is
2 watching."

3 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

4 MR. HICKS: They're racing -- all right. Thank
5 you.

6 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Steve Grabarczyic. Did I
7 say that --

8 MR. GRABARCZYIC: Steve Grabarczyic, Cape Coral,
9 Florida. I'm here today -- I have no financial
10 interest in the racing industry. I'm just a regular
11 citizen who happens to own three retired racers. Two
12 of them never raced. They're not dead; they're not
13 trashed; they're in my house; they're great. Another
14 racer I did adopt in December.

15 I'm here to address all the lies. I'm a
16 financial advisor. If I told one one-hundredth of
17 the lies that are coming out from these people, my
18 license would be barred. I'd be barred and
19 suspended.

20 GREY2K, they like to throw stones when they live
21 in the glass house. It's a fact, the founder was in,
22 either purposely or accidentally, a trained accident
23 many years ago. She then sued the MBTA. In her
24 testimony she said, and I quote, "I don't remember
25 anything from that day of the accident. I was

1 knocked unconscious."

2 She goes around telling a story about an
3 accident, which drives donations. This is akin to
4 the gentleman who went on GoFundMe, said he had
5 cancer to get donations.

6 So which story is correct, the one she tells
7 about her epiphany to save dogs or the court
8 testimony where she says she doesn't remember
9 anything about that date. Somebody's lying here, and
10 it's all about credibility, of which GREY2K has
11 known.

12 Even when they were in Massachusetts, the *Boston*
13 *Harold* said they defamed people and it was just a
14 bunch of lies and they were called out on advertising
15 that they had.

16 The cocaine issue, I discussed this in Cape
17 Coral. Commissioner Thurlow-Lippisch, you were here,
18 I'm the grain of sand guy, if you remember correctly,
19 and, Commissioner Stemberger, I think you were in
20 Cape Coral as well.

21 When they come up and say the dogs are drugged,
22 that's not true. Please look at my packet of
23 information from actual experts, not these people
24 coming up here repeating the same.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

1 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

2 Tina Braumgardt. Kelli Hammer Levy.

3 MS. BRAUMGARDT: Hi. I'm gonna waive in support
4 of 91 and I would like to speak against Proposal 95.

5 I'm a resident of Pinellas County. I'm the
6 director of Pinellas County's Environmental
7 Management Division and I serve on the executive
8 committee and board of directors of the Florida
9 Stormwater Association, so thank you for this
10 opportunity to speak today.

11 I know Proposal 95 is not normally active,
12 however, we understand that it may be reintroduced
13 for a consideration.

14 I'm extremely concerned about Proposal 95 with
15 regard to the ability of local governments to manage
16 flooding and water pollution. Flooding and water
17 quality are critical to our residents, businesses and
18 our tourists. People want to swim, boat, fish, dive
19 and drink clean water. All Florida waters have water
20 quality standards to meet and most local governments
21 hold federal Clean Water Act permits that require us
22 to address pollution. It's a very complex problem
23 and we need a lot of tools in our toolbox to respond.

24 Proposal 95 would eliminate the ability of local
25 governments to respond to communities' specific

1 pollution issues, address flooding, implement
2 stormwater fees, and choose the management efforts
3 that are most cost effective and supported by our
4 citizens.

5 The Bayway right outside that window is a great
6 example. There are years ago when you sit out there
7 you couldn't breathe and you couldn't -- you couldn't
8 even stand to be out there, but today that Bay that
9 we sit on today contributes \$51 billion to our Tampa
10 Bay economy, and one in five jobs in our region is
11 dependent on a healthy Bay.

12 Proposal 95 will cripple our efforts to sustain
13 progress we have made in restoring the Bay and other
14 local waters, and also our efforts to address local
15 flooding issues and sea level rise. So we ask you to
16 withdraw any further consideration on Proposal 95 so
17 that we can manage local flooding and water quality
18 conditions and create a sustainable future for our
19 residents and our economy.

20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

22 Marilyn Weaver up --

23 MS. WEAVER: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: -- and then on deck we
25 have Robin Jones, Kelly Nelson, Roger Crescentini,

1 Clay Connolly.

2 MS. WEAVER: Commissioners, I'm Marilyn Weaver,
3 I'm the executive director of the League of the
4 Humane Voters of the Florida chapter.

5 Hi, Chris.

6 And I'm speaking from my many thousands of
7 fellow voters throughout Florida, and I'm speaking in
8 support of proposition -- of Proposal 67.

9 The people you hear from today asking you to
10 support Proposal 67, as I am, have no financial
11 interest in this request. The breeders do,
12 regardless of their claims of love for their animals.
13 Increased profits, reduced cost, that's the monitor
14 of business.

15 For the racing industry Greyhounds have been
16 losing money and are recognized as a dying business
17 due to decreased betting attendance. The racing
18 gaming industry wants to use more lucrative ways to
19 make money. Why should they be forced to continue
20 racing dogs because the state mandates it?

21 Florida's losing a million to three million
22 yearly because regulatory costs cost -- exceed
23 revenues. I thought the idea was to get government
24 out of business as much as possible.

25 I'm asking that you support Proposal 67 so that

1 the voters have a voice in our democracy. We who
2 care about dogs know what the life of a racing
3 Greyhound is; mostly confinement for 20 to 23 hours a
4 day in stacked metal cages, fed meat from downed
5 animals that don't pass the smell test.

6 How do I personally know this? An employee at
7 the Race Track told me so.

8 Racing is already -- they're not em -- well,
9 they're paid.

10 Racing is already outlawed in 40 states. I
11 don't want to take the time going into details about
12 the use of steroids and drug dogs, injuries not
13 reported, and sick and dying from so-called food. I
14 am sure you are hearing these things from others. I
15 am requesting that you do the right thing by allowing
16 the citizens to vote via ballot initiative on this
17 issue that will give equal voice --

18 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

19 MS. WEAVER: -- to those for or against the
20 continuation of Greyhound racing.

21 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you, Miss Jones.

22 MS. WEAVER: Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Kelly Nelson.

24 I'm sorry, your name?

25 MS. JONES: Robin Jones.

1 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Robin Jones, you're up.

2 MS. JONES: I'm Robin Jones from St. Petersburg
3 and I urge you to vote no on Proposition 43, which
4 dictates how local communities structure their school
5 board elections by imposing term limits. It's a
6 solution without a problem.

7 A review of school board races since 2010 show
8 that 65.15 percent of the races were competitive with
9 a 41-percent turnover rate. So the parents and
10 taxpayers of our school districts are electing school
11 boards with a combination of experienced and
12 knowledgeable leaders, as well as those with new
13 perspectives.

14 Could this proposal actually be addressed in
15 another so-called problem that existing school boards
16 are exerting too much oversight over charter schools?
17 That problem is addressed in Proposal 71, which takes
18 charter school approval away from locally elected
19 boards. Ironically, both 43 and 71 were proposed by
20 the same commission member, a charter school advisory
21 board founder and a supporter of school
22 privatization.

23 We know the charter school lobby groups are
24 pouring millions of dollars into political races,
25 first at the state level and now in local school

1 board races. A threat was recently made in
2 Hillsborough by a charter lobbyist that a candidate
3 should withdraw since \$100,000 would be spent on the
4 opponent.

5 The churning caused by term limits would make
6 this campaign funding very significant. Vote no on
7 43 and also 71.

8 Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Kelly Nelson. Roger
10 Crescentini.

11 And what is your name, sir?

12 MR. CONNOLLY: Clay Connolly.

13 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: You're next after Roger.

14 MR. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

15 MR. CRESCENTINI: I don't have the microphone.
16 What, do you know something I don't know?

17 I'm here to speak in favor of Proposition 91.
18 My name is Roger Crescentini. I've been a resident
19 of the Bay Area since 1958. I was a graduate of the
20 University of South Florida before there was a St.
21 Petersburg campus, and I am a Vietnam veteran who was
22 schooled very well in the use of the M16.

23 Decisions that affect our economic and
24 environmental future should be based on the best
25 information possible. Only yesterday a new study

1 from a group calling itself 50/50 Climate Resource
2 Project was released to the public, and that provides
3 credible information that clearly supports a ban on
4 oil drilling off Florida's coastline.

5 The 50/50 Climate Project publishes an annual
6 Key Climate Votes Survey that identifies how the 30
7 largest money managers by assets under management
8 voted on Key Climate Votes during their preceding
9 annual board of directors meetings. These are
10 corporations that mostly are in the utility and oil
11 fields, and this is the report that was released just
12 yesterday.

13 The information topics covered include such
14 things as lobbying activities and other corporate
15 activities designed to influence political decisions.
16 The asset managers and climate-related shareholder
17 proposals report on Key Climate Votes, that's what
18 it's called, is strong evidence that the promise of
19 fossil fuel investments is becoming less valuable
20 than the industry is apparently willing to admit. A
21 min -- a major point is that shareholders in oil and
22 utility companies are proposing more climate-related
23 projects, but mainly of -- because of their asset
24 managers those --

25 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much, sir.

1 MR. CRESCENTINI: -- are not being -- I have a
2 copy if somebody would like it.

3 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Clay Connolly.

4 MR. CONNOLLY: Good evening. Thank you. My
5 name is Clay Connolly. I'm deputy chief with the
6 Williston -- can you hear me?

7 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: And on deck we have David
8 Johnson, David Caras, Ken Pelton, Lauren Brenzel.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

11 I'm deputy chief of the Williston Police
12 Department and I thank you for your opportunity
13 today.

14 I'm here to support, I said support, Proposition
15 88. My office just spent the last three months of
16 2017 investigating and prosecuting cases of neglect
17 at Good Samaritan Retirement Home in Williston that's
18 an assisted living facility. In a nutshell, Good
19 Samaritan was understaffed, undertrained and under
20 supervised. They've been under scrutiny by AHCA
21 since 2007, under three different owners, who between
22 themselves have a litany of violations, 63
23 complaints, 16 fines, \$103,000, and investigations
24 resulting in an agreement in 2013 that removed the
25 owners from the management of the facility.

1 The owners continue to own the property to this
2 day. The culture of violations has continued.

3 Between October 3rd, 2017 and December 15th,
4 2017 the Williston Police Department investigated
5 seven events of neglect, arrested two administrators,
6 and filed sworn complaints on two more employees for
7 criminal neglect. One client died.

8 The Levy County EMS made 97 ambulance runs to
9 the facility in 16 months. The police department
10 became so concerned we notified 911 dispatch to send
11 a Williston police officer for every ambulance run to
12 that ALF. We brought the activities of the past
13 three months to DCF and AHCA. It wasn't until
14 December 19th that the ALF license was suspended.

15 My question is, why so long?

16 Good Samaritan was managed by the Andrada
17 Sunshine Corporation of January 13 when they entered
18 into a revocation agreement to sell the business and
19 its assets in lieu of paying a \$72,000 fine. What
20 they did was transfer the property to their realty
21 company and sold Good Samaritan business name to
22 different LLCs. They've been hiding behind a shell
23 game of LLCs ever since.

24 It's willfully apparent that AHCA is not up to
25 the task of policing these violations effectively,

1 and if not them, then who?

2 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

3 MR. CONNOLLY: Folks of elder abuse, our elder
4 population, need Proposition 88.

5 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

6 MR. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: David Johnson. David
8 Caras.

9 MR. PELTON: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
10 Thanks for being here. I admire your --

11 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Your name, please.

12 MR. PELTON: I admire your work you're doing.

13 Ken Pelton from Cooper City, Florida, which is
14 by Hollywood.

15 Kathy, my wife, worked to free the Greyhounds.
16 She worked her heart out for 15 years on this issue,
17 and I'm here for her and the Greyhounds because she
18 died last October from cancer, but it was her passion
19 to free the Greyhounds.

20 There's a reason that 40 states have banned
21 Greyhound racing, commercial Greyhound racing. They
22 recognize it as an industry based on animal abuse and
23 exploitation of the Greyhounds.

24 On Florida tracks a dog dies every three days,
25 but we don't know how many dogs are injured and taken

1 to the vet and euthanized. That could be quite a
2 high number of dogs. We also don't know how many
3 dogs are injured because the Greyhound industry
4 refuses to make -- put those figures in the public
5 domain.

6 If any private person did to dogs what the
7 Greyhound industry does or let's happen to their
8 dogs, that person would be arrested and put in jail.
9 There's a big discrepancy there.

10 Florida legislatures have proven time and time
11 again that they are incapable of implementing any
12 legislation for this very recalcitrant industry that
13 refuses to reform itself.

14 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much, sir,
15 for your comment.

16 MR. PELTON: So I'm asking you to vote for the
17 amendment.

18 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Your name, please.

19 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening. I'm Detective
20 Sergeant Dave Johnson, Williston Police Department,
21 and I'm picking up from deputy chief here.

22 I was the chief investigator on the Good
23 Samaritan situation, but it's not safe for a moment
24 that there aren't really great ALFs, nursing homes
25 around. Let me predicate that.

1 However, in this situation we're looking for
2 enforcement of the wonderful regulations already
3 intact. Being that during my investigation the
4 ownership of the Good Samaritan Retirement Home,
5 located in Williston, Florida, I discovered that not
6 only does the Andrada Corporation own such assisted
7 living facility, which they have switched corporate
8 names on several times to avoid legal entanglements,
9 but also owns several others in the Apopka and
10 Kissimmee, Florida area.

11 Deputy Connolly has named you three other
12 business names that they have cleverly used to
13 describe the business. It appears as though
14 transferring personnel to their other locations to
15 avoid issues also takes place.

16 During my investigation of numerous incidents of
17 gross neglect of residents at the mentioned facility,
18 I was continually shocked by the lack of care and
19 concern for the residents by the staff, as well as
20 poor conditions that they resided in. I couldn't
21 help but reflect on my own parents, would I have to
22 have them housed in that kind of facility, how I
23 would have been enraged over it.

24 None of us have the total assurance about what
25 our circumstances will be when we reach that kind of

1 age and condition, and there's no guarantees that
2 we'll not require living in a facility of that
3 nature. Please try to put yourself in that kind of
4 situation and fathom how you'll feel to be neglected
5 as such, should you have to be in that mentality
6 about that.

7 While investigating the criminal investigation,
8 the criminal violations that took place in the
9 mentioned facility, I became curious as to why
10 nothing was being done by the governing agencies, as
11 we had, in one situation, four people carried out
12 unknowing to AHCA, who was on site.

13 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.
14 Thank you very much for your comments.

15 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much for your time.

16 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Lauren?

17 MS. BRENZEL: Yeah.

18 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: And on deck Diana Stem,
19 Cindi Kinch, Annie Filkowski, and Timothy Gee.

20 MS. BRENZEL: Hi, Commissioners. My name is
21 Laren Brenzel. I'm coming to you from St.
22 Petersburg, Florida today. Thank you for being here.

23 I'm speaking out against Proposal 22. I believe
24 that as a thank you for your patience here today, one
25 thing that I can do for you is keep my testimony

1 short.

2 I hope that going into this next phase of the
3 CRC process you reject any attempts to bring Proposal
4 22 forward again. We know that Floridians respect a
5 strong right to privacy and we want to keep that
6 going.

7 Thank you and have a wonderful day,
8 Commissioners.

9 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Diana Stem, Cindi Kinch,
10 Annie Filkowski.

11 MS. FILKOWSKI: Hi, guys. Thank you for being
12 here. I wish you had the chance to see my beautiful
13 campus. I'm a student here. I don't think you will
14 have that chance before the sun sets.

15 I'm sorry to disappoint, I'm not going to talk
16 about the Greyhounds; I'm going to talk about
17 Proposal 22.

18 I'm just really scared that if this is brought
19 back to the Commission again, it's going to really
20 threaten my right to privacy. It's a thinly veiled
21 attack on abortion access to Florida women, so I
22 please urge you to reject Proposal 22.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Timothy Gee. Alton . . .

25 MR. GEE: Hello. My name is Timothy Gee. I

1 oppose Proposition 65.

2 At the age of 10 I started stealing my mother's
3 cigarettes and I consumed and I smoked them, and I
4 went to as many lengths as picking up cigarette butts
5 from ashtrays and off the ground, and I was fully
6 addicted by the age of 12.

7 February 2nd, 2015 I was introduced to vaping
8 technology and I have not consumed a cigarette since
9 that day. I lost my father at 17 from emphysema and
10 heart disease from smoking cigarettes. I've tried
11 patches, nicotine gum, I've tried to work it into my
12 twelve-step program, and I was unable to quit until
13 the technology of vaping was introduced to me, and I
14 want you to be a part of the solution and not the
15 problem.

16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

18 MR. LABRECQUE: Hello. My name is Alton
19 Labrecque. I live in Clearwater, Florida. I'm going
20 to try to keep this short.

21 First I would like to thank Commissioner Joyner,
22 Commissioner Schifino has left, Martinez, Coxe, all
23 of you for voting down -- striking down Proposition
24 22 in committee. I request all of you to make sure
25 that it's not brought up again. It is the thinnest

1 avail of attacks on a woman's right to choose and you
2 have an opportunity to propel this state towards
3 justice right now. Passionately so. This bill is --
4 proposition doesn't do that.

5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Dianne Lebecdeff, Karen
7 Mullins, Sheila Burnhard, Jalessa Blackshear, Joanne
8 Wuelfing, Ken Wuelfing, Dara Cooley, Joel Elsea, Lisa
9 Tanaka.

10 MS. WUELFING: Hi, I'm Joanne Wuelfing,
11 cofounder of the Greyhound Advancement Center. I'm
12 very much against Proposal 67 to end Greyhound
13 racing.

14 Here's why: First of all, we've had about 450
15 Greyhounds participate in our Greyhound and inmate
16 prison training program. We have a partnership with
17 Hardee Correctional. It's a reentry program. We are
18 also involved with the department of corrections
19 credential program that helps find good jobs for our
20 inmate trainers. We produce companion service and
21 therapy dogs. We are racing neutral. We also head
22 up Gold Coast Greyhound Adoptions in Southwest
23 Florida. We place about a hundred dogs a year into
24 good homes to Southwest Florida. We personally own
25 two Greyhounds, Copper and Sweet Tray.

1 Here's why our experience matters: We know when
2 we love Greyhounds and we know what they can do. We
3 necessarily deal with most entities involved in the
4 racing industry at the working level. We know a good
5 cross-section of its people. We necessarily deal
6 with multiple adoption organizations in and out of
7 Florida. As intake to our organizations, we see
8 many, many dogs, so we are in a position to judge
9 their good position.

10 We see in enough facilities across the industry
11 to have a sense of its good condition. We have some
12 sense of capacity of the organizations involved, how
13 much they handle and how much they could handle. We
14 are comfortable speaking about the industry from the
15 outside through our involvement.

16 What about the Greyhounds? They're one of the
17 few breeds to grow up in their natural family with
18 all siblings and usually at least one parent. To a
19 dog they're treated professionally in terms of
20 nutrition and health care. Their mortality rate
21 during racing ages, up to five, is inarguably
22 dramatically lower than an average U.S. dog and
23 probably as good as any breed.

24 Most of them do love to run and eat and to
25 compete. They are professional athletes, and as

1 such, they're prone to injury, a small percentage of
2 which are serious. Very few dogs are good enough to
3 race for very long.

4 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

5 Ken.

6 MR. WUELFING: Ken Wuelfing, about 20 years in
7 Florida, Bradenton.

8 We didn't quite get to finish the setup here,
9 but my part is about what's worst for the dogs.

10 We're here for the dogs. We are very aware of
11 the industry and we certainly don't speak for it, and
12 I'm sure they would not want us to speak for it.

13 The dogs that we get are in good condition. We
14 turn out terrific dogs. The worst thing that could
15 happen here is anything -- any plan that takes
16 thousands of dogs and tries to put them on the street
17 overnight. That will result in the death of
18 thousands of dogs. That's our primary concern.

19 With our other aspects, we're going to have
20 people who lose jobs, we're going to have lost
21 revenue, not just the racing industry, but the
22 supporting industries. On top of that we're going to
23 lose a breed of dogs that's a wonderful breed that --
24 you know, we've turned out service dogs and therapy
25 dogs, emotional support animals. People are going to

1 lose the opportunity for that as well.

2 We do think the status quo is acceptable.

3 Coupling has -- whether it was intended or not, and
4 probably wasn't, has kept this industry dwindling at
5 a rate that's sustainable for us to place these dogs.
6 So that's great. If the market's not there, the
7 industry can go away and that's fine.

8 By the way, one plug here, that the Greyhound
9 should be made the Florida state dog.

10 Okay. You may have noticed that most of the
11 people who come up here who actually see the dogs in
12 their environment, both before and after racing, are
13 against 67. I'm there too. You may see a lot of
14 hands with red behind me. That's very appropriate,
15 because anything that passes --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

17 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much, sir,
18 for your comments.

19 Dara Cooley.

20 MS. COOLEY: Good evening. Dara Cooley.

21 I stand in support of Proposal 88. I'm a local
22 attorney here with my colleagues. We work together
23 advocating on behalf of Florida nursing home
24 residents. We urge you to vote for Proposal 88.

25 Based on our experience and concerns, we support

1 Proposal 88 for the following reasons:

2 Unquestionably, no person should have his or her
3 constitutional rights denied, abridged or infringed
4 upon simply because he or she has been admitted to a
5 nursing home or assisted lived facility. No
6 reasonable Floridian disagrees with that statement,
7 yet the current statutory scheme which governs
8 nursing home and assisting living facility litigation
9 in Florida does exactly that.

10 As it stands, residents of nursing homes and
11 assisting living facilities who have been abused or
12 neglected do not retain many of the individual rights
13 that all other law abiding citizens have. Needless
14 to say, the current system must be fixed and fixed
15 quickly; otherwise, the injustices against Florida's
16 most vulnerable individuals will continue to
17 accumulate for years to come.

18 Most, if not all, Floridians are familiar with
19 the concept of equal protection. Even if they don't
20 know it by name, simply stated, the right to equal
21 protection guarantees every law abiding citizen will
22 be treated equally by the laws of Florida.

23 Another similar right guaranteed to all
24 Floridians is the right to access to our Florida
25 courts. Unfortunately, the current legal framework

1 governing nursing home and assisted living facility
2 litigation abridges these two fundamental rights in
3 various ways. Under chapter 400 and under chapter
4 429 nursing home residents may only bring specific
5 statutory claims and not your negligent common law
6 claims.

7 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you for your
8 comments.

9 MS. COOLEY: Thank you. We urge you to vote for
10 Proposition 88.

11 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Joel Elsea, and on deck
12 Lisa Tanaka, Joseph Ficarrota, Bennie Lazzara, Lydia
13 Wardell, Laura Weiss, Linda Stoller, Donna Pol --
14 Polhamus, Guddy Scheider.

15 MR. ELSEA: Thank you.

16 Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, my name is Joel
17 Elsea and I urge -- I stand before you in support of
18 Proposal 88. Picking up where Miss Cooley left off,
19 I want to talk with you about some deficiencies in
20 the current framework. I support Proposal 88 for
21 many years, three of which I'm going to speak with
22 you about.

23 The first is that chapters 400 and 429
24 substantially infringe upon the equal protection and
25 access to court of nursing homes and assisted living

1 facility residents respectively by requiring these
2 residents to go through a mandatory presuit process.
3 Unlike most Floridians holding statutory and common
4 law claims for negligence, residents of nursing homes
5 and assisted living facilities must delay the filing
6 of their negligence actions for at least 75 days.
7 Most Floridians are free to file any lawsuit at any
8 time within the statute of limitations period, but
9 nursing home and assisted living facility residents
10 don't have that same freedom.

11 Next, nursing home and assisted living facility
12 residents are required to attend a mandatory
13 mediation within the presuit process. It's attended
14 with the defendants before they're even allowed to
15 file a suit, if one is filed at all. These mandatory
16 mediations, practically speaking, serve no purpose
17 other than increase the cost of litigation. These
18 mandatory mediations never resolve the claim, but
19 it's something that residents of nursing homes and
20 assisted living facilities must go through, and it
21 violates their equal protection and the right -- and
22 it delays their access to court.

23 And finally, members of nursing homes and
24 assisted living facility residents there have to --
25 before they sue or bring claims against the types of

1 corporate entities that you heard about before from
2 the law enforcement officers here, they have to go
3 through a special evidentiary hearing, an evidentiary
4 hearing that other claimants in Florida do not have
5 to go through. They have to go through that extra
6 step, and Proposal 88 is needed.

7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

9 Lisa.

10 MS. TANAKA: Good evening. Mr. Chairman and
11 Commissioners, my name is Lisa Tanaka. I'm a local
12 attorney who represents nursing home and assisted
13 living facility residents, and as you heard from the
14 previous two speakers in support of Proposal 88, the
15 laws in Florida currently do not provide equal
16 treatment and equal access of courts to nursing home
17 and assisted living facility residents. The laws in
18 Florida provide statutory causes of action under
19 chapter 415 to every natural person in Florida whose
20 rights are violated in the ways outlined therein.
21 Nursing home and assisted living facility residents,
22 however, are not able to sue their abusers for
23 negligence under chapter 415. This is not equal
24 treatment under the law.

25 To make matters worse, chapter 415 provides for

1 an award of attorneys' fees and costs to parties that
2 prevail on their lawsuits under that chapter.

3 Residents of nursing homes and assisted living
4 facilities may only sue for injuries arising out of
5 negligence under chapters 400 and 429, but they are
6 unable to obtain an award of attorneys' fees and
7 costs when they prevail on their claims for those
8 damages.

9 The ability of Floridians who prevail on claims
10 under 415 to obtain an award of attorneys' fees and
11 cost is vital to ensure their access to the courts.
12 Without an award of attorneys' fees and costs, many
13 Floridians would not be able to afford a lawyer to
14 even bring their lawsuits in the first place.
15 Nursing home and assisted living facility residents
16 cannot obtain an award of attorneys' fees and costs
17 in the same way as all other Floridians. Thus,
18 currently their access to courts is diminished and
19 sometimes denied. Therefore, we urge you to support
20 Proposal 88.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

23 MS. WARDELL: My name is Lydia Wardell. I
24 support Proposal 88, but I'm not just here as an
25 attorney whose practice is centered around our

1 elderly, a protected class who deserve protections in
2 hopes of minimizing their vulnerability. I also
3 speak to you today as a daughter, the determined
4 daughter of an individual whose father has suffered
5 the crippling effects of diseases of the aging, the
6 diseases of the elderly. I am his voice too, and
7 this is why we need Proposition 88.

8 Nursing home residents are required under
9 Florida statutes to show evidence that a potential
10 defendant owed them a duty of reasonable care before
11 even being able to sue that potential defendant. All
12 other Floridians in almost every other situation are
13 allowed access to the courts without any such
14 requirement.

15 This section also requires nursing home
16 residents to make an evidentiary showing that
17 establishes causation as to their potential
18 defendant. These two requirements in effect create a
19 trial before the trial. Nursing home residents are
20 required to establish through evidence that certain
21 potential defendants owed duties, breached those
22 duties, and the breach has legally caused the
23 resident's injuries before even being able to allege
24 the same.

25 These exact showings are then required to be

1 made at the actual trial on the merits, all other
2 plaintiffs in Florida can simply allege these
3 elements in a complaint without any other necessary
4 requisite showing. This is not equal treatment under
5 the law. These additional requirements hamper or
6 restrict the nursing home residents' constitutional
7 right to access the courts.

8 Similarly, nursing home and assisted living
9 facility residents are required to make a showing of
10 their entitlement to plead a claim of punitive
11 damages at a full evidentiary hearing. All other
12 plaintiffs in Florida must simply proffer evidence to
13 show an entitlement to plead such punitive damages.
14 In most cases this is as simple as filing an
15 affidavit. Nursing home residents, however, are
16 required to participate in a full evidentiary
17 hearing. With that, I request that you support
18 Proposal 88.

19 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

20 MR. LAZZARA, JR.: Good evening, Commissioners,
21 and Your Honor. My name is Bennie Lazzara, Jr. I'm
22 an attorney who for the last 20 years has represented
23 the families of residents and residents who have been
24 abused and neglected in nursing homes. I want to
25 thank you for your service on this Commission. It's

1 a beautiful thing to see democracy working.

2 Wise leaders, both men and women, throughout
3 history have said that we judge a society by how that
4 society protects and provides for its elderly, its
5 enfeeble and its helpless, and those are the people
6 that we're here speaking on behalf of.

7 That's what Proposal 88 is for. I urge you to
8 give the citizens of Florida an opportunity to vote
9 to show that the voters in Florida, the citizenry of
10 Florida, respect our elderly, our enfeeble and our
11 helpless. Give them a chance to permanently ensure
12 that these people, these residents, will have the
13 same protection as anybody else and they won't lose
14 their rights, as have been described to you, just
15 because they end up where no one wants to end up, but
16 it's inevitable sometimes, in a nursing home or an
17 ALF.

18 Proposal 88 simply levels the playing field as
19 it should be. We're not asking for anything here
20 that all other citizens aren't entitled to. You
21 shouldn't lose those rights when you're in a nursing
22 home or an ALF.

23 You have the chance to level the playing field
24 by your vote when you consider what provisions, what
25 proposals go up for referendum. I urge you to

1 support this one so we can all do our part to protect
2 those who cannot protect themselves.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you, sir.

5 Laura Weiss.

6 MS. WEISS: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Linda Stoller.

8 MS. WEISS: Laura Weiss.

9 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: And Donna Polhamus, Guddy
10 Scheider, Bonnie Bollenback, Susan Bass, Sarah Copel.
11 Please.

12 MS. WEISS: Okay.

13 Good evening, Honorable Commissioners. I'm in
14 support of Proposal 67. I'm here today because I'm a
15 huge animal lover and I'm a voice for all animals,
16 and Greyhound dogs are no exception.

17 And a person who unnecessarily torments,
18 deprives of necessary sustenance or shelter or
19 unnecessarily mutilates any animal in a cruel or an
20 inhumane manner commits animal cruelty, and there's
21 no exception for Greyhound racing, and yet the very
22 definition of animal cruelty describes this sport.

23 As a society, we are supposed to be civilized
24 and more cultured and intelligent than the past
25 decades. Greyhound racing is a despicable, cruel and

1 often barbaric practice and its end is long overdue.

2 Please support Proposal 67 and let voters decide
3 on Greyhound racing in Florida.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Folks, as soon as your name is
6 called, would you raise your hand as you're coming up
7 so that we can see how many people are responding and
8 how many people are here so we can keep calling the
9 roll?

10 Thank you so much.

11 MS. BOLLENBACK: Good evening. My name is
12 Bonnie Bollenback and I'm here to provide input in
13 support of Proposal 88.

14 I had to make one of the most difficult
15 decisions in my life to place my dad in the care of a
16 nursing home. I did research, and like so many
17 others in the situation, felt I had chosen a nursing
18 home that I could trust to provide the level of care
19 he needed in a safe setting. My dad's experiences in
20 a nursing home environment were unfortunately like
21 many stories we read and hear about every day. The
22 facility he resided in employed people who did not
23 have the skills and training to carry out their
24 responsibilities. There were staff shortages,
25 particularly on the weekends, and frequent turnover.

1 Staff frequently did not respond timely to his
2 needs and failed to treat him with the dignity,
3 respect and courtesy he deserved. Prescribed
4 medications were often not dispensed timely and
5 medical records regarding care were often incomplete
6 and incorrect. Basic needs regarding nutrition and
7 basic hygiene were not met. Communication from the
8 nursing administrator down through all levels of
9 facilities were poor, inconsistent, nonexistent and
10 inexcusable.

11 There was frequent finger pointing and no
12 resolution for the resident and the family. Unknown
13 and unobserved by anyone at the facility, my dad was
14 let out the front door. He suffered a fall from his
15 wheelchair onto the pavement, sustained a significant
16 head injury, and after several months of trauma and
17 debilitating decline, died as a result of that fall.

18 These nursing homes organize themselves with
19 layers of management and ownership. Emission
20 paperwork is often unclear and deceiving to families
21 during a time of great stress when trying to find
22 care for a loved one. These are some of the factors
23 that make it difficult to hold these facilities
24 accountable when abuse, negligence, neglect, injury
25 and death, as what happened to my father, occur on

1 their watch.

2 Residents in nursing homes, and one day that
3 could be you or me or a loved one of yours, need
4 protection. They need access to the courts and a
5 jury system. Too often these incidents are buried
6 and there are no consequences for the facility and
7 all involved.

8 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you so much for your
9 comments.

10 MS. BOLLENBACK: I urge you to support Proposal
11 88.

12 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

13 Ma'am, please state your name.

14 MS. COPEL: Hi. I'm Sarah Copel and I live in
15 St. Petersburg. Thank you all for being here.

16 I'd like to voice my support for Prop. 3 and 91,
17 and in addition I'd like to speak on Proposal 67,
18 which I'm in favor of.

19 I volunteer at Big Cat Rescue in Tampa, Florida
20 and I live -- I work at Southeastern Guard Dogs in
21 Palmetto, Florida. I'm not familiar with any
22 lobbying organization and I receive no money from
23 them.

24 My heart goes out to anyone who would lose their
25 job, I do not wish job loss on anyone, however, to

1 respond to previous comments, I'd like to say that if
2 there were no demand for Greyhound racing, they would
3 not be bred at such a high rate, and thus in the
4 future we would not need a place for all those dogs.
5 Whether or not they are well taken care of by the
6 breeders does not justify their exploitation later on
7 in their life.

8 As someone who works firsthand with -- firsthand
9 with service and guarddogs and has for years, I
10 oppose the state mandate that forces dogs to perform
11 for human entertainment. Dogs should only work when
12 they are willing and they are able.

13 At Southeastern Guard Dogs they do not sustain
14 any sort of injury that they are forced to work with
15 and they always receive medical treatment.

16 Also, dogs that work should only be doing it to
17 help others. Greyhounds do not have a choice, and
18 when they sustain injuries, whether or not they
19 receive medical treatment, it is on the shoulders of
20 Floridian citizens and legislators that the dog was
21 injured in the first place.

22 Thank you guys so much for listening.

23 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Sandra Kearney, Naomi
24 Charboneau, Brittany McNaughton, Shannon Helton, Mimi
25 Osiason, John Kearney, Nathaniel Anderson, Gladys

1 Moore, Calvin Holland, Jim Peake.

2 MS. MCNAUGHTON: Good evening. My name is
3 Brittany McNaughton. I thank the Chairman and the
4 Commissioners, I thank you all for being here,
5 hanging in here with us. I think we're just as tired
6 as you all are.

7 Tonight I'm not speaking to a specific
8 proposition.

9 Can you hear me?

10 Great.

11 Tonight I'm not speaking to a specific
12 proposition, but rather to the process that typically
13 would happen after today's hearing and the collection
14 of hearings.

15 The role of the style and drafting committee is
16 typically to combine as many proposals as possible
17 into fewer amendments with the intention of, of
18 course, reducing voter fatigue.

19 Many people are not aware of that process and
20 wherein the issue lies is there's a lot of people out
21 here tonight standing in either opposition or in
22 support of certain amendments, and it's kind of hard
23 to really feel that you're doing a good job as a
24 citizen when you're having to chose between a
25 proposal that you may really want to support and one

1 that you may not necessarily want to support.

2 In '98 34 proposals were pro -- excuse me --
3 were combined into about 9 amendments, which really
4 forced the voters to have to chose between which ones
5 meant the most to them, rendering other ones that may
6 not have meant the most to them.

7 Combining these proposals could mean only one
8 vote to cast on an amendment that contains proposals
9 that I strongly support with proposals that I may
10 strongly oppose, and that is concerning to me.

11 I urge you to let the citizens of Florida vote
12 up or down on the specific issues that they care
13 about so that we can continue to be productive
14 citizens of this state and have the voice that we
15 would like to have. So thank you for your time.

16 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

17 Ma'am, please state your name.

18 MS. MOORE: Good evening. My name is Gladys
19 Moore. I am here against Proposal 67.

20 I'm a homeowner and a registered voter. I am
21 married to a racing Greyhound kennel owner. I invite
22 you to come see a racing Greyhound kennel for
23 yourself so that we can dispel the myths, untruths,
24 exaggerations and hyperbole written and quoted by
25 anti-racing people.

1 Please do educate yourself about our beautiful
2 racing Greyhounds; come and see for yourself how they
3 are raised, raced and live prior to their retirement
4 from their racing control.

5 I urge you to vote no pro -- oppose --
6 constitutional amendment 67. I cannot believe that
7 you want to put everyone who is working with our
8 racing Greyhounds out of a job without considering
9 the financial impact it will have in the state of
10 Florida and in other states.

11 I ask you, what are your plans for the
12 Greyhounds should Proposal 67 be passed? How are you
13 going to find homes for the thousands of Greyhounds
14 left homeless and without a racing career? Are you
15 just going to dump them in on us to clean up the mess
16 you will create by voting yes on 67? Are the
17 anti-racing people going to help support the
18 Greyhounds until a new home is found for the
19 thousands of them left homeless?

20 I ask you, do not vote yes on 67.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

23 Ma'am, please state your name.

24 MS. HELTON: Hi. I'm Shannon Helton. I'm from
25 Pinellas County and my title's not important.

1 I'm here for proposals that I made: Numbers
2 700577, 700666 and 700718.

3 In 2016 the Florida Supreme Court found in the
4 case of the *Atwell versus Florida* that Florida's
5 parole system is broken, yet nothing has been done to
6 fix it. To make a long story short, as you can see
7 in the Leon County case, 2016-CA-002007, the parole
8 system is making over \$80 million a year. With my
9 proposals to reform this system and let DOC take over
10 the parole system responsibilities, this will save
11 the state of Florida 15 million in just the first
12 year.

13 Next, the parole system government -- Governor
14 Rick Scott and every innocent project in this country
15 has not been able to help my personal issues. My
16 innocent husband was granted his habeas by one state
17 and four federal judges. An innocent man, he was
18 ordered discharged, but he is stuck in prison for 26
19 years now because his lawyer failed to file his
20 habeas correctly, and because he is stuck in prison,
21 I was told the only way to get him home is to change
22 the laws, and that's why I'm here. And these are
23 numbers 700606, 700607, 700608, 700609, 700659 and
24 700660, and I beg you to please help me get my
25 husband home.

1 And last I propose 70065, 700720 and 700658 to
2 help the actual innocent, the wrongfully convicted
3 and unjustly incarcerated, because it's an epidemic
4 that people don't know about.

5 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much for
6 your comments.

7 Sir, please state your name.

8 MR. ANDERSON: Hello. My name is Nathaniel
9 Anderson. I'm here on behalf of Fishing for Freedom,
10 Manatee Chapter, and East Coast of Florida Fish
11 Harvesters, Sellers and Transporters to speak about
12 public proposal 700500, to strike Article X, Section
13 16, limited marine net fishing out of the Florida
14 constitution.

15 Thank you for being here today.

16 It has been brought to the citizens of Florida
17 attention that this legislation was passed illegally.
18 The democratic process was designed to protect
19 Florida citizens. Having been placed onto the ballot
20 using false information and the legislation written
21 without using due process or utilizing the
22 science-based research provided, the process has
23 clearly failed the citizens, effective while
24 violating our civil rights.

25 The rules have been challenged many times in

1 state court and overturned once. The laws were
2 promptly put back into place by the attorney general
3 after influence from sport fishing groups and
4 activists with political interest over true
5 conservation.

6 Please consider this testimony while reviewing
7 this case and strike this language from our state
8 constitution.

9 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much for
10 your comments.

11 Sir, please state your name.

12 MR. PEAKE: Good evening. My name is Jim Peake.
13 I live in St. Petersburg. I am a homeowner, a
14 taxpayer and a registered voter. I work at Derby
15 Lane Greyhound track. I am a track announcer there,
16 and I've called the races for the past 23 years. I
17 am here to ask you vote no on Proposal No. 67.

18 I have called over 100,000 races at Derby Lane,
19 and I know one thing, these Greyhounds love to run
20 and they love to compete.

21 I hear from Greyhound owners and racing fans
22 from all over the country and the world that plan
23 their vacations to Florida to meet, see our track and
24 enjoy our Greyhounds. I speak for the hundreds of
25 employees at Derby Lane and the thousands of

1 employees from around the state, and racing fans from
2 all over the country and around the world to, again,
3 ask you to vote no on Proposal No. 67.

4 Thank you. Thank you for your time.

5 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

6 Sir, please state your name.

7 MR. HOLLAND: Yes, my name is Calvin Holland.

8 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Okay. One moment, please.

9 On deck we have Jayden Collier, Allyssa
10 Williams, Phillip Williams, Loukin Thompson, Peggy
11 Johns, Susan Morgan, Mark Coarsey.

12 Please continue.

13 MR. HOLLAND: Good afternoon. My name is Calvin
14 Holland and I'm against Proposal 67. I am a
15 homeowner and a registered voter in Florida.

16 I own a racing Greyhound kennel at Derby Lane
17 Greyhound track. You have all been invited at any
18 time to come and see my kennel. I've only had two
19 people, Senator Lassa came and went through my kennel
20 and he was amazed on how everything was -- how all
21 the dogs were treated, the condition of my kennel,
22 the condition of my dogs, and so I guess this is why
23 he was always one of my friends and I could always
24 count on him.

25 But I am president of the Tampa Bay Greyhound

1 Association, I am vice president of the Florida
2 Greyhound Association. I'm not here to defend how I
3 take care of my dogs. I've been racing dogs for 55
4 years, mainly ever since I was just a young boy. My
5 grandfather, my father, my son and myself have all
6 trained Greyhounds for over five generations.

7 But right now there is 12 active Greyhound
8 tracks in Florida with a large race support and staff
9 with the tracks and the trainers. People with
10 mortgages, bills and expenses to pay.

11 My minimum expenses is \$10,000 a month, so I
12 spend over \$102,000 a year on my Greyhounds for my --
13 for the well kept of my dogs, but this does not count
14 the -- the utilities, the veterinarian service, the
15 bedding, the equipment, and not to mention how much
16 we give for our adoption kennels when the dogs are
17 ready to retire. But, anyway, if you put this --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

19 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much for
20 your comments.

21 Please state your name.

22 MS. JOHNS: Good afternoon, or early evening
23 I'll say.

24 Thank you, Commissioners. My name's Peggy
25 Johns. I'm here on behalf of the American Heart

1 Association and as a lifelong K through 12 health
2 educator.

3 The Tobacco Free Florida proposals that are on
4 board are -- are wrong. I've seen firsthand as a
5 health educator in our schools what's working and
6 what's not working, and three things that made the
7 biggest impact with me as a health teacher were,
8 first, having students be able to be part of SWAT,
9 Students Working Against Tobacco. It made a huge
10 difference to empower these students to advocate not
11 just for themselves, but for their families and
12 entire communities. Second, the media messages they
13 are able to receive through Tobacco Free Florida on
14 how they're being duped by the tobacco companies and
15 what they can do to empower themselves to be
16 advocates for tobacco nonuse, and lastly, Tobacco
17 Free Florida has given these students options for
18 where they can get resources for themselves and for
19 their families.

20 These three things together have made a huge
21 difference. The tobacco use rates are way, way, way
22 down. We are a benchmark for the nation. I see no
23 purpose in trying to tinker with what's working, and
24 in fact, I implore you to reject Proposal 94 as
25 unneeded for best practices, unrequested by the

1 American Cancer Society, and it would be a dilution
2 to the processes that are working and are effective
3 so that we can have health and wellbeing for all
4 citizens of Florida.

5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you for your
7 comments.

8 MR. COLLIER: Good evening. My name is Jayden
9 Collier. I'm currently a junior at Osceola High
10 School. I'm just here to say thank you all for
11 coming here today. I know you're all tired from
12 sitting in this room all day listening to everybody
13 talk, but thank you for having the time to listen to
14 me.

15 I'm just here in opposition of Proposal 94. I
16 know we all have things that bring out the best in
17 us. But as for myself, I can say Osceola County
18 School is definitely one of the many things I partake
19 in that allows me to advocate, educate and help those
20 who aren't aware of the dangers of tobacco and
21 harmful products used in.

22 Growing up in a minority community where a
23 cigarette ad is being advertised as something normal
24 and positive on every corner, a lot of kids don't
25 know the harmful effects of it. I know a lot of kids

1 brought up in smoke-infested homes, being peer
2 pressured into smoking or thinking smoking is cool.
3 Smoking being something they think is normal because
4 they see it being done daily around them, until they
5 find out what it could do to them and those around
6 them.

7 Without tobacco prevention programs like SWAT,
8 youths aren't aware of the dangers of tobacco and the
9 things it can do to family, friends and loved ones.
10 Less than half of this Board represents people that
11 look like me, so why would people that look like
12 others in my community not want to help.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much for
15 your comments.

16 Phillip Williams, then Allyssa Williams, and
17 then . . .

18 MR. THOMPSON: My name's Loukin Thompson. I'm
19 born and raised in St. Petersburg, Florida.

20 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: You're right after them.

21 MR. THOMPSON: Oh, okay.

22 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Hello. My name is Phillip
24 Williams and I am a high school --

25 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Speak closer to the

1 microphone, please.

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Hello. My name is Phillip
3 Williams and I am a high school student from Osceola
4 County. SWAT is a very important part of my
5 community. A lot of teens aren't born into that
6 perfect family setting, such as teens that live in
7 low-income neighborhoods or teens that don't have
8 that person or support system in their life to guide
9 them in the right direction. SWAT is an outlet for
10 teens like me to get support and learn about how
11 tobacco companies think that kids like me,
12 minorities, are not smart enough to know what is
13 going on.

14 Youth prevention programs have been proven to be
15 very effective, but past legislation has been proven
16 if left open for interpretation, youth prevention
17 programs funding could be cut.

18 When left to voters, people of the state of
19 Florida overwhelmingly voted for youth prevention
20 programs. This proposal doesn't guarantee funding or
21 protection for youth prevention programs. I feel
22 that it is my responsibility, as well as every person
23 in this room, to help ensure that the future
24 generations are protected and educated with a youth
25 tobacco prevention program, and the only way that can

1 be guaranteed is by saying no to Proposal 94.

2 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Allyssa Williams.

3 MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Allyssa Williams and
4 I'm 16. I'm from Osceola County.

5 Tobacco use remains the leading cause of
6 preventable death and disease. Through the master
7 settlement agreement, tobacco prevention programs
8 like SWAT are funded. The impact of SWAT has been
9 proven to be effective through social media campaigns
10 and policy work. Without programs like SWAT, the
11 teen smoking -- teen tobacco use rate will skyrocket,
12 undoing years of hard work to get the tobacco rate
13 down to the lowest it has ever been.

14 The CRC amendment states: "Comprehensive
15 statewide tobacco education and prevention program.
16 In order to protect people, especially youths, from
17 health hazards of using tobacco, including addictive
18 disorders, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, lung
19 diseases and to discourage use of tobacco,
20 particularly among youth, a portion of the money that
21 tobacco companies pay to the state of Florida under
22 the tobacco settlement each year shall be used to
23 fund a comprehensive statewide tobacco education
24 and prevention program."

25 By adding cancer research, which is not a CRC

1 best practice, it has been proven in the past by
2 legislation that prevention funding would be cut,
3 taking away the order to protect the people of the
4 state of Florida.

5 I disagree with proposition -- Proposal 94 for
6 the reason because it can potentially have a dramatic
7 effect on the funding of youth prevention programs,
8 which would directly affect me because I'm the target
9 of big tobacco since 90 percent start before the age
10 of 18.

11 Cancer research is a great thing for those who
12 have already been diagnosed with cancer, but it's not
13 beneficial for prevention. Taking away funding from
14 already underfunded prevention programs does not make
15 sense. The only person who has spoken out in support
16 of Proposal 94 is the same person who proposed it and
17 who has not shown up to any meetings prior to hear
18 any constituents or public opinions on it. I think
19 that the potential ties between her, her husband and
20 his law firm, who represents R.J. Reynolds, is a huge
21 conflict of interest that should be questioned.

22 We would like to thank our local delegates
23 within our regions, especially our representatives,
24 that listen to us youths.

25 Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much --

2 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: -- for your comments.

4 Loukin Thompson, and on deck we have Susan
5 Morgan, Mark Coarsey, Tammy Shorter, Cynthia Rennick,
6 Nora Nelson, Dr. Carol Deatricks, Renee Rivard,
7 Natalie -- Natalia Lima, and Marty Lee.

8 MR. THOMPSON: My name's Loukin Thompson. I'm
9 from here in St. Pete, Florida, born and raised,
10 native. I'm here in opposition to all oil
11 extraction, not just the state of Florida, but I
12 speak in reference to the Proposition 91.

13 I found a Florida statute that seems to protect
14 all state waters as of July 31st, 1990, and on
15 November 3rd, 2017 Proposition 91 was written to
16 protect the people of Florida and their environment.

17 "Oil drilling for exploration or extractions
18 prohibited in and beneath all state waters between
19 the mean and high tide line and the outermost
20 boundaries of the state's territorial seas. The
21 prohibition does not apply to transportation of oil
22 and gas productions produced outside of such waters."
23 This section itself -- I must have messed that one
24 up.

25 On December 15th, 2017 these terms were adopted

1 to make an exception for lands that are alienated.
2 By legal definition, this means land and property
3 that has been transferred from one group to another.
4 It's not included to protect land and waters. This
5 proposition has the potential to open state waters
6 for drilling.

7 I am greatly concerned under this Proposition 91
8 we are potentially being exploited to assume that we
9 are not already protected. I urge you to change this
10 proposition to exclude the revision for alienated
11 areas, to focus on the purpose, to protect us against
12 air and water pollution and punish those who pollute.

13 Please and thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you for your
15 comments.

16 Sir, please state your name.

17 MR. COARSEY: My name is Mark Coarsey. Good
18 after -- good evening, Commissioners.

19 I am the president of Fishing for Freedom of
20 Manatee County. I'm here on Proposal 700500, the net
21 limitation act. It's been 20 years since the net
22 limitation act, Article X, Section 15, which the
23 people of this state voted in. They call it the net
24 ban now. It was voted into existence, but the
25 change -- it did change the commercial fisherman/net

1 fisherman's life and our fishery, not for the good --
2 not for good. It opened the door to foreign imports
3 when our resource -- seafood resource could not be
4 filled.

5 The problems that exist today are the net act --
6 the nets that we were made to use are not
7 commercially feasible: More -- more body catch, the
8 net is not letting the smaller fish targeted swim,
9 and the fact that they don't let us connect our nets
10 together anymore.

11 We can't catch these fish. We need this
12 fishery. We need you all to look at this net
13 limitation act. We need it to come back and let the
14 people of this state, the fresh from Florida
15 seafood -- Fresh from Florida Seafood Campaign is
16 hurting. We can't supply the fresh Florida seafood.
17 That opens this door to all this foreign seafood.

18 Most of you people eat that seafood. When you
19 start eating this seafood and you ask what it is
20 because it ain't come from this country, it really
21 makes you think.

22 Every time we come up with an idea to help get
23 our nets back, it changes. They change the law on us
24 the next -- within a couple of months. We need you
25 alls help. We need the people of this state. I've

1 talked to -- the past couple seafood festivals we've
2 had I've collected, over a four-day period, 500
3 people have signed a petition to get our fishery back
4 and give it to the hands of the fishermen.

5 Let the fishermen run our fishery. Let the FWC
6 control our fishery, but let the fishermen who run
7 it, let these guys -- they know what they need to do.
8 They're more environmentalist than anybody. That's
9 their livelihood.

10 I thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Please state your name.

12 MS. MORGAN: Yes. Hi, my name is Susan Morgan.
13 I'm a social worker in the Tampa Bay Area. Thank
14 you, everyone, for all your time and patience to
15 allow us to speak.

16 I would like to ask that you oppose Proposition
17 94 and retain those dollars for prevention in the
18 tobacco prevention and education. Of the money only
19 15 percent of those dollars of the tobacco industry
20 is required to pay the state of Florida, only
21 15 percent goes to prevention, and to my knowledge,
22 since you've been holding these hearings across the
23 state, not a single person has stood up and spoken in
24 favor of this, however, stakeholders of the cancer
25 research have spoken in opposition.

1 So the very -- you want to move these dollars to
2 cancer research and the folks in cancer research are
3 saying, hey, we need dollars in prevention. In
4 addition, the results of Tobacco Free Florida have
5 been outstanding. Rarely do you have a prevention
6 program that has the outcomes that Tobacco Free
7 Florida has and you've heard from many students here
8 and the young people today that have seen the
9 benefits.

10 I also humbly and respectfully ask that
11 Representative Nunez recuse herself from voting on
12 this measure, as her husband does work for the law
13 firm that represents the tobacco int -- the interest
14 of the tobacco industry here in the state of Florida.
15 That could be seen as a conflict of interest, and I
16 don't think anyone on this committee would want to be
17 a part of that.

18 I again thank you for the opportunity to speak
19 before you today.

20 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

21 Ma'am, your name?

22 MS. LIMA: Hi, I'm Natalia Lima and I'm here to
23 speak on behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

24 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: I'm sorry, say that again.

25 MS. LIMA: Natalia Lima.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Get a little closer to that
2 microphone.

3 There you go. Pull it up.

4 MS. LIMA: All right. I feel like I'm on
5 American Idol.

6 Okay. So I'm here to speak on behalf of the
7 Animal Legal Defense Fund and, as a resident of St.
8 Petersburg, to express our strong support of Proposal
9 67.

10 The Animal Legal Defense Fund has more than
11 25,000 members and supporters just in the state of
12 Florida, all of whom support the end of the
13 exploitation of animals for entertainment purposes.

14 Greyhound racing is an inherently cruel form of
15 entertainment that abuses these animals. These
16 Greyhounds are kept in small cages that they can't
17 even turn around or fully stand up in for 20-plus
18 hours a day.

19 I urge you to think about your family pets,
20 about the dogs that you have at home. Would these be
21 acceptable conditions for them?

22 How about drugging them, because the Greyhounds
23 in the industry are often drugged with anabolic
24 steroids and even cocaine to improve performance.

25 Four hundred and eighty-three dogs have died in

1 the state of Florida in the last five years because
2 of Greyhound racing. That's one dog dead every three
3 days because of Greyhound racing. But let's put the
4 gross and obvious mistreatment of animals aside for
5 just a second, because financially this industry
6 makes no sense at all.

7 Greyhound racing is already illegal in 39 states
8 and demand for this type of entertainment has
9 dwindled so much in the last few years that race
10 track owners are actually losing \$30 million a year
11 on the endeavor. The state is actually having to
12 spend millions of tax dollars to prop up this dying
13 industry because regulatory costs exceed revenues.

14 It's about time for Florida to follow the lead
15 of the rest of the country and outlaw Greyhound
16 racing. I urge you to vote to put Prop. 67 on the
17 ballot so that people of Florida can make the
18 decision on the future of this industry.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. RIVARD: Hello, Commissioners. Renee
21 Rivard. I support Proposal 67. I'm a founding
22 member and legislative representative of the League
23 of Humane Voters, Florida chapter.

24 Taxpayers are losing money. Greyhounds are
25 dying and Greyhound racing is illegal in 40 states.

1 Greyhound kennel workers say they will lose jobs.
2 Right now there are at least 30 animal-related jobs
3 on Indeed.com from kennel assistant to dog walker to
4 dog groomer to vet tech.

5 Greyhounds are bred by the tens of thousands to
6 find the fastest ones. According to the National
7 Greyhound Association, Champion Kiowa Sweet Trey
8 sired over 16,000 puppies, Dodgem By Design 11,000
9 puppies, and Gable Dodge 11,000 puppies. That's over
10 38,000 puppies from just three dogs.

11 These are Greyhound puppy mills. A friend of
12 mine saw with her own eyes a Greyhound breeding
13 operation in Marion County. Three hundred female
14 dogs on dirt mounds giving birth. The breeder told
15 her only a few would be used to race and the rest
16 would be called.

17 Who is regulating these types of operations?
18 There is no way these tens of thousands of Greyhounds
19 are getting adopted.

20 The AKC ranks dog breeds by order of popularity.
21 Greyhounds are ranked 151. They are not easy to get
22 adopted at that rank, so where are these tens of
23 thousands of Greyhounds going?

24 Thank you for your time and your service.

25 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

1 Elise Mysels, John Banyas, Alan Sayler, Lynn
2 Sayler, Lisa Vanover, Vera Rasnake, Edward Trow.

3 Please, ma'am.

4 MS. MYSELS: Hi. Elise Mysels, Land O' Lakes,
5 Florida. We meet again.

6 Addressing all of you reminds me of a medieval
7 movie, the peasants addressing the king's court.
8 Despite your signage, "Floridians speak, we listen,"
9 you have been hearing over and over again throughout
10 the state of Florida the peasant's call for open
11 primaries and closing the write-in loophole, but only
12 two CRC members were listening so I repeat it again:
13 Over 70 percent of voters, including majority of
14 Democrats, Republicans and Independents, want the CRC
15 to place open primaries on the ballot. If the two
16 major political parties want to leave the primaries
17 to their good old boys club, so be it, but then you
18 have to stop using our taxpayers' dollars to fund
19 those primary elections. You can't have it both
20 ways. It is unethical and you are allowing it.

21 Moreover, by not closing the write-in loophole,
22 you are allowing the good old boys club to manipulate
23 our elections and you are supporting corruption.
24 Hence my vision of the medieval movie. The only
25 difference is that I'm not being carried off so that

1 you can literally cut off my head, but instead this
2 panel is cutting off our heads. Cutting off our
3 heads by numerous proposals stripping our rights,
4 such as P 97, which will make it virtually impossible
5 for citizens' initiatives to pass.

6 The entire CRC process has been to service the
7 agenda of the political establishment, not the
8 people. They know our only recourse is at the ballot
9 box, and you are intentionally wielding their power
10 to silence our voices there, as if we were still
11 in -- in operating in medieval times.

12 I remind you that while you have been appointed
13 to this Commission, our representatives were elected
14 to represent all of us, all of the people, and your
15 actions will indeed be remembered at the ballot box.
16 P 62, P 11 please support --

17 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much for
18 your comments.

19 MS. MYSELS: -- and 97 stricken. Thank you.

20 MR. SAYLER: I'm Alan Sayler from St.
21 Petersburg, and for the record, I do not envy any of
22 you your jobs on this commission.

23 I'm a Florida native and I've owned a small
24 business here in Pinellas County for over 40 years
25 now. I've employed as many as 15 employees, and I'm

1 speaking to you this evening in opposition to
2 Proposition 29.

3 On the surface this reads really good, really
4 nice, and certainly, no one can argue with the goal.

5 Presently, and for about 20 years now, we've had
6 to fill out a form I-9, which documents everything on
7 an employee we hire that they are eligible to work in
8 the United States. So we have that right now that's
9 going on, but there's several issues with the
10 Proposition 29.

11 First of all, E-Verify has a long and documented
12 history of glitches and software malfunctions. There
13 is no provision in this amendment that provides
14 protection for businesses that use the system in good
15 faith but are unable to comply due to software
16 glitches. Secondly, the E-Verify system requires all
17 its users to sign a document holding the federal
18 government harmless for any glitches. Next, we have
19 the proposal treats small businesses like myself the
20 same as large businesses like Wal-Mart.

21 You are looking at my HR department right now.
22 I don't have anybody besides me. I don't -- I try
23 not to employ attorneys so --

24 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Now you just --

25 MR. SAYLER: Well, I think it's very American

1 not to do that. I did want to qualify to say that I
2 am not a board certified attorney.

3 And this proposal creates a rigid mandate that
4 any employer who fails to check a new employee within
5 3 days of hiring them would potentially be shut down
6 for 10 to 30 days. You shut me down for 10 to 30
7 days --

8 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you for your time,
9 sir.

10 MR. SAYLER: -- my employees are out of
11 business.

12 Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Please state your name.

14 MS. VANOVER: Lisa Vanover.

15 Good evening. I'm Lisa Vanover. I live here in
16 Pinellas County. I'm a resident, a homeowner, a
17 citizen, former business owner and educator, so I've
18 been very involved in this area for a long time, for
19 14 years.

20 I want to thank you for coming here today to
21 listen to the voices of concerned Floridians.
22 Whatever their opinions, it's been really great, I
23 think, to have everyone express their opinions so
24 eloquently.

25 Proposal 95 would harm our ability to protect

1 the future of your children and mine. This June my
2 husband and I will welcome our first grandchild, Lyla
3 Marie, and it's important to me that she can grow up
4 in a safe and healthy environment, that she can drink
5 the water. Our children, our grandchildren and our
6 water, these are all precious resources, and like
7 you, I want to protect them. I want her to have a
8 clean, unpolluted Bay, a gorgeous Gulf and delicious,
9 safe drinking water.

10 To get there we must put pressure on local
11 governments to ensure proper safeguards are in place
12 and they're effective. Our local governments must
13 have the authority to act to protect our
14 grandchildren's future. Home rule is critical.

15 If Proposition 95 is in place, we would not be
16 able to pressure local governments to protect the
17 water, to protect health and wellbeing.

18 I call on you today not to move forward with
19 Proposal 95 or any other proposal that would preempt
20 and limit our local government's ability to put
21 careful regulations into place to protect all
22 children.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Sir?

25 MR. BARRON: Hello. My name is Arnold Barron

1 (phonetic). I'm a resident of Sarasota. I think you
2 called my name. I'm not positive.

3 Okay. I'll just keep going. How's that? I've
4 really cut back my comments.

5 Thanks for the opportunity to speak today.
6 Thank you for the public service you're doing, for
7 hanging in here. I know this is a rare --

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Move a little closer to the
9 microphone.

10 MR. BARRON: I know this is a rare
11 responsibility and opportunity for you all.

12 I've cut back my comments, as I've said.

13 We've heard about the human tragedy regarding
14 Proposition 3 so I won't repeat that, but I am in
15 favor of the ban of assault-type weapons and
16 magazines. I've also read all the red herrings about
17 the -- that have raised the complexity of the issue
18 and how they're going to do definition of a weapon.

19 I don't think it's that hard. Other states have
20 banned assault weapons and I think we can do it too
21 here in Florida. Bottom line, if it's a weapon that
22 can be easily modified for mass killing, then let's
23 ban it.

24 I'll waive Proposition 91, but I am for it, for
25 banning on oil and drilling offshore.

1 I'm also for Proposition 67, the prohibition on
2 wagering on Greyhound racing.

3 You've heard about Greyhounds as pets, I won't
4 go over that. You've also heard from the industry
5 today referring to them not as pets, but as
6 entertainment, products, and dogs doing their job.
7 But let's cut to the nut of the problem. We all know
8 racing is a ruse. People who like to gamble prefer
9 other means, so let's be practical, and if you want
10 to gamble, okay, but let's cut the monetary losses
11 and get the gambling, the entertainment and, quote,
12 product off the backs of these Greyhounds.

13 Thank you very much.

14 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Ma'am.

15 MS. SAYLER: My name is Lynn Sayler and I'm here
16 to speak on Proposal 88, but from a little bit
17 different perspective. I'm speaking about something
18 that few people know about, guardianship abuse and
19 how the probate courts drag the elderly through the
20 court system and rip them of their constitutional
21 rights, take away their powers of attorneys and their
22 health care surrogates and take all their assets.
23 Take over their homes, take over every aspect of
24 their life, and at some point they get where they
25 don't want them in their home, don't want to put up

1 with pets, so they throw them in ALFs, and then they
2 strip them of their resident's right there.

3 The statutes are ignored, the judges totally
4 ignore the statutes; they're left there flingering
5 without -- they're not allowed visitors or isolated,
6 and I want everybody here when they go home, if they
7 have a chance, to get on their computers and google
8 Adam Wasler, Wasler, of ABC Investigates, I-Team. He
9 did a number of stories on guardianship abuse that he
10 won huge awards for and he did one on Willie Berchau
11 in particular here in Pinellas County where he was
12 locked into a lockdown and there was nothing wrong
13 with the gentleman.

14 He was eventually freed, but it took a ton out
15 of him. It's great stories. Look at them.

16 There's an organization that my mother's story's
17 on. It's called NASGA, N-A-S-G-A, National
18 Association to Stop Guardianship Abuse. You could
19 read my mother's story there and many other stories
20 of Floridians and in other states, and there's
21 another organization that's been put up throughout
22 Miami, it's called AAAPG, Americans Against Abusive
23 Probate Guardianship, and it's there and it will tell
24 you the stories of how they ripped them of their
25 constitutional rights and then place them in

1 facilities and rip -- take away their resident
2 rights. The statutes are -- there's no due
3 process --

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 MS. SAYLER: -- and the statutes are ignored.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.
7 Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. RASNAKE: Okay, good evening. My name is
9 Vera Rasnake. I am a Florida resident for 23 years.
10 I've worked in the Greyhound industry for 40 years.

11 I am here as the voice of the racing Greyhound
12 to ask you to please stop this madness and vote no on
13 number 67. It has no business being on our
14 constitution. I'm only on -- I'm sorry that
15 Commissioner Lee isn't here to hear this.

16 I have been to other meetings and I'm appalled
17 that an animal extremist group and its members
18 continue to outright lie about how Greyhound racing
19 kennels are operated in Florida by responsible people
20 like myself. The out-of-state extremists have taken
21 racing anomalies and manipulated data to make it
22 appear as if isolated incidents are everyday
23 practices.

24 Over and over again I have heard the dogs live
25 in crates for 22 hours. Come on, do the math.

1 There's 24 hours in a day. Most of us are there 15
2 hours a day, seven days a week. When we're not in
3 the kennel, we're at the track, and we're back in the
4 kennel.

5 Those dogs have to go outside. They need to be
6 let out, as they are, and they are taken care of. I
7 don't know where they keep getting this 22 hours and
8 why they are not held accountable for saying lies
9 like this.

10 Also, also, I've heard about this cocaine issue.
11 It has been thrown out of the courts, but that does
12 not get mentioned.

13 You know, there are things that do not get
14 followed up on and it's just over and over again.

15 Tourism, 67 billion-dollar -- and by the way,
16 this is the Naples Fort Myers Greyhound track.
17 Nobody goes there?

18 This is ten days ago. It's full. It was just
19 like this yesterday.

20 Yes, tourists come here.

21 Thank you very much.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23 While the next speaker comes up, if Dr. George
24 Bing, Chris DiPasqua, Sherry Silk, Kelly Faircloth,
25 and Richard Rodriguez would come this way, please,

1 we'd appreciate it.

2 Thank you.

3 Please proceed.

4 MR. TROW: Hello. My name is Edward Trow. I've
5 spent 34 years operating Greyhound kennels.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Closer to the mic, please.

7 MR. TROW: I've spent 34 years of my life
8 operating Greyhound kennels. I'm opposed to
9 Proposition 67. I hear all of the stories of how the
10 dogs are treated, the disasters that have happened.
11 In all my life in the business, I've not witnessed
12 it, not once.

13 And as Hurricane Irma approached, I watched the
14 animal rights activists, namely GREY2K, tell us we
15 leave our dogs in harms way. We -- every one of us
16 moved into the kennels with our dogs. We stayed with
17 our dogs, and that was the safest place that the dogs
18 could be.

19 They provided us with good buildings. We had,
20 you know, emergency equipment there, generators,
21 extra water in containers, and certainly, you know, a
22 lot of people evacuated, some leaving their pets
23 behind in their homes and returning to their pets
24 even missing or deceased. That didn't happen with
25 our Greyhounds. Not one Greyhound was injured and

1 not one Greyhound perished, and that's the way we
2 take care of our dogs day in and day out, and, you
3 know, the things that have been said about us are so
4 false and so untrue.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Chris DiPasqua.

7 MR. DIPASQUA: Hello. Chris DiPasqua here. I'd
8 like --

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Sherry Silk, if you come to
10 the other microphone, whoever's up here.

11 Thank you.

12 Let's try to get up to these microphones. As
13 soon as one person is finished, then the next person
14 should be going.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. DIPASQUA: Chris DiPasqua here.

17 I would like to thank the members of the CRC for
18 allowing me the privilege to advocate to vote no on
19 Proposal 67.

20 I drove 979 miles through the night from
21 Maryland in hope that you will listen and learn for
22 yourself about the reality of how Greyhounds are
23 truly loved and not what the picture of propaganda
24 would have you believe.

25 I am not a member of the Greyhound industry,

1 just a man who's adopted two retired racers, which I
2 emphasize retired, not rescued.

3 My family as well as countless other families
4 who can't be here today come to Florida multiple
5 times each year to benefit this great state's economy
6 for the sole purpose of watching these graceful
7 animals run and interact with the dogs. I took it
8 upon myself to not believe what others told me, and I
9 hope you do the same, but to learn for myself the
10 reality of how truly well cared for these dogs are by
11 asking to visit myself the farms where they're born,
12 interact with the dogs and the staff who meticulously
13 maintain kennels where they're given whirlpool
14 massages, music therapy and, most importantly, loved.

15 I've observed lead outs and trainers who have
16 dedicated their lives to ensuring the safety and
17 wellbeing of these dogs, in addition to individuals
18 at the tracks who ensure safe transition to adoption.

19 Please don't believe that this is an antiquated
20 sport of cruelty, because I have brought my two
21 retired racers to two tracks to promote adoption just
22 last month, which they could not see the track but
23 could hear the roar. Both dogs perked up with
24 anticipation and barked as they tried desperately to
25 get back on the track.

1 Truth is, these dogs love to run.

2 You can stop that, please.

3 Last month a trainer called me and asked me if
4 my -- one of their long-term racers, if I would be
5 willing to take that dog home and stay in contact
6 with him after the career ended. I was glad to do
7 this, and this is truly an example of love, and when
8 I leave here today, this retired racer will join me
9 on that near 1000-mile ride home and be a proud
10 addition to my family.

11 I implore you to please learn for yourself about
12 the good of the industry and vote no for Proposal 67.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

15 Sherry Silk.

16 MS. SILK: Good evening. I'm Sherry Silk, CEO
17 of the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, and I sit on the
18 board of the Florida Association of Animal Welfare
19 Organization. It is the statewide organization that
20 represents Humane Societies, animal shelters and
21 SPCAs throughout our great state of Florida.

22 I'm here to ask you to support Proposal 67 for
23 the Greyhounds. These gentle, sweet, sweet dogs
24 deserve so much better than we're giving them.

25 Greyhound racing is a dying industry, already

1 illegal in 40 states. Picture your own dog sitting
2 in a crate -- whether it's 18 hours, 14 hours or 20
3 hours, it really doesn't matter -- day after day,
4 week after week, month after month, year after year.

5 It is cruel to the dogs and often leads to
6 serious injury or death, and as far as the comments
7 what's going to happen to these dogs once the tracks
8 close, there are a hundred shelters that are ready to
9 step up and take these dogs and place them into a new
10 home.

11 Bottom line, we are a country of dog lovers.
12 Greyhounds are dogs that just happen to run really,
13 really fast. They cannot speak for themselves, so
14 I'm asking you to please speak for them by supporting
15 Proposal 67, and thank you for your patience.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Kelly Faircloth, Richard
17 Rodriguez, Betty Holden, Greg Ungru -- if I
18 pronounced that right -- please step forward. Come
19 up to the microphone.

20 MS. FAIRCLOTH: Hello. My name is Kelly
21 Faircloth and I'm with Greyhound Rescue and Adoptions
22 of Tampa. I am proposing -- supporting Proposal 67
23 and I'm here to talk about the farm dogs.

24 The image that you see behind me is an example.
25 She's one of the farm dogs that we have taken in over

1 the years, and we've actually taken in dozens of dogs
2 who look just like this. Very little hair, either
3 from tick or flea infestation, rotten, nasty mouths,
4 that if you sit in the car with that for a couple of
5 hours, you're really never going to forget that
6 smell. So I have been to the farms, I have been to
7 the kennels, I have been to the tracks, and I have
8 been in several kennel compounds, so I do know what
9 I'm talking about. I have personally seen the
10 packages of 4D meat. I do know what I'm talking
11 about.

12 We are currently now dealing with hookworm
13 infestation in our dogs that we have currently in
14 foster care. We've been dealing with it for months
15 and we're having so much trouble clearing these dogs
16 of hookworms. We've had dogs come in with tick-borne
17 diseases; we have had injuries, illness. These dogs
18 just don't deserve that.

19 There are good people involved in Greyhound
20 racing. I consider some of them my friend, although
21 I'm pretty sure right now they're not liking me too
22 much.

23 I'm not here to say that they're all bad and I
24 don't want to see people lose their jobs. I lost my
25 job in November and I'm still looking for work. I

1 don't wish this on anyone, but I don't want to see
2 exploitation of dogs that don't deserve this being
3 used to prop up an industry that no one's interested
4 in, that we're losing money on, and it's just time to
5 let the citizens decide that enough is enough. We
6 can do better as a society and put people to work
7 doing jobs that will actually support their families
8 for years to come.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Rodriguez --

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'll try and make this brief.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- Betty Holden, Greg Ungru
13 and Rachel Sines, please step forward.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: My name is Richard Rodriguez.
15 I'm the director of business involvement at Central
16 Florida Behavioral Hospital in Orlando.

17 I'm here today to respectfully ask that Class
18 III hospitals be amended out of Proposal 54. I'll
19 start by telling you about my facility and what role
20 we play in the local community, as well as what role
21 Class III hospitals, such as mine, play across the
22 state. But simply, our role in the community is to
23 lessen the burden that is placed on acute hospitals,
24 in particular emergency rooms, across the state.

25 Class III hospitals are designed to treat our most

1 acute mental health patients across the state. We
2 consistently accomplish this task.

3 In Orlando alone Central Florida Behavioral
4 Hospital serves a six-county radius as a Baker Act
5 receiving facility, as well as treating and assessing
6 patients that would otherwise end up in emergency
7 rooms. We have two sister facilities in the area
8 that provide the same service we do in Orlando and
9 over 10 across the state. In Panama City we have
10 Emerald Coast; in Fort Lauderdale we have Fort
11 Lauderdale Hospital; in Bradenton we have Suncoast
12 Hospital, all doing similar work that we do with
13 patients that need our care.

14 Just as with skilled nursing facilities and
15 hospice centers, we have one CON that covers our
16 whole facility. Also similar to skilled nursing
17 facilities and hospice centers, we serve the most
18 vulnerable population in their greatest time of need,
19 with CON litigation being pretty much nonexistent.

20 In light of the recent attention on mental
21 health and mental health services, the CON system in
22 place has worked, is working and will continue to
23 work if uninterrupted.

24 The similarities between Class III hospitals,
25 such as my own, and skilled nursing facilities and

1 hospice centers should mandate that they be treated
2 similarly in regards to CONS. It's for that reason
3 that I again respectfully ask that Class III
4 hospitals like the ones described be amended out of
5 this proposal.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

8 Betty Holden.

9 And you're Mr. Ungru?

10 MR. UNGRU: Yes, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: After Miss Holden.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. HOLDEN: Okay, hi. My name is Betty Holden.

14 I live in St. Pete.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

16 MS. HOLDEN: And some of the comments from the
17 people that are dog owners for the -- well, first of
18 all, I would like you to vote yes on Prop. 67.

19 But some of the comments from the people that
20 run the dog tracks and stuff were pretty interesting.
21 Some of these people sound like they really do care
22 about their dogs and they might be taking good care
23 of them.

24 I've read a lot of things and I basically have
25 prepared a statement that a lot of the things I've

1 read about are a lot of abuses to these dogs,
2 statistics that have been printed in the Tampa Bay
3 Times and lots of publications. Different reasons
4 that I would like to see Prop. 67 voted yes on: The
5 confinement that some people mentioned where they're
6 in the cages for hours and hours; the injuries that
7 have been on the tracks; Seminole County was --
8 started tracking injuries and has found 40 injuries
9 since May of 2017; 32 two dogs suffered broken bones,
10 including 9 with fractured legs.

11 Again, I know these are things that the dog
12 track owners say aren't true, but I don't think
13 people are making these things up, you know, these
14 are statistics.

15 And 438 deaths of Greyhounds at Florida tracks
16 have been tracked since 2013, with 383 over the past
17 4 years.

18 Why do we have to have animals as a form of
19 entertainment anyway? I don't know why that -- why
20 is it at their expense that we're entertained?

21 Four hundred nineteen dogs have tested positive
22 for drugs. Cocaine's been a big issue. The Tampa
23 Bay Times has reported on that.

24 Twenty-four positive cocaine deaths in 2016 and
25 2017 were found at Orange Park in Jacksonville, and

1 it goes on and on, but vote yes on Prop. 67.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

4 Mr. Ungru, Rachel Sines, Brian Sandrock,
5 Katherine Lacasse, Sarah Wiseman, please step
6 forward.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. UNGRU: My name is Greg Ungru. I'm here to
9 address Proposal 96.

10 Other speakers at this public hearing have
11 talked about the deposition provision of this
12 proposal and how the proposal would harm the due
13 process of Defendants. They talked of a panel of
14 judges, prosecutors and attorneys who voted to oppose
15 equal rights for victims.

16 It's important to know this is a group in the
17 Florida Bar, the same Florida Bar that opposed any
18 victim's rights to the state constitution 30 years
19 ago. Rights that at the time were considered
20 progressive, but now are seen as antiquated and
21 unenforceable.

22 I would like the commission to know that not
23 every state attorney agrees with them. Marsy's Law
24 is supported by current state attorneys Andrew
25 Warren, Katherine Fernandez Rundle, RJ Larizza and

1 Brad King, along with former state attorneys Rod
2 Smith and Willie Meggs.

3 At this point I'd like to read a letter from
4 Brad King: "I was asked if prohibiting depositions
5 of victims would lead to a return of preliminary
6 hearings, as that process existed before our more
7 modern discovery process. This argument is that
8 years ago a deal was struck. If depositions were
9 allowed, there would be no need for preliminary
10 hearings. If depositions aren't required, then
11 preliminary hearings would somehow be reinstituted.

12 I cannot see that occurring. The criminal
13 system has changed dramatically from the 1970s. We
14 now have audio-and video-recorded statements of most
15 all victims, as well as other witnesses, which can
16 serve to inform the defense as to the facts of any
17 case.

18 I believe that the rights of victims should be
19 part of the constitution. It is this document that
20 sets forth the most compelling rights bestowed to our
21 citizens. It is time that we recognize that the
22 rights of victims should not be subordinated to the
23 criminals."

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

1 Rachel Sines. Brian Sandrock, Katherine
2 Lacasse, Sarah Wiseman.

3 Please proceed. Your name?

4 MS. SINES: My name is Rachel Sines.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 MS. SINES: I'm here today in support of
7 Proposal 96, also called Marsy's Law.

8 Eleven years ago I was sexually assaulted at
9 gunpoint inside my own home. As someone whose
10 experienced the court process firsthand, I can tell
11 you a victim's suffering does not end with the
12 attack. It continues as we navigate a very
13 complicated criminal justice system which works for
14 the criminal and not the victim.

15 All of the criminal's rights would not change or
16 weaken, the two parties will finally be considered
17 equal in the eyes of the law. That means everything
18 to crime victims. We deserve to be seen as someone
19 real as -- with real emotions who went through a
20 painful ordeal we did not ask for, rather than as
21 simply evidence in a case.

22 One of the rights afforded to crime victims
23 under Marsy's Law is the right to privacy. I am
24 familiar with privacy rights because my own right to
25 privacy was compromised. By acting as his own

1 counsel, my attacker was afforded access to all of my
2 personal information, as well as those of my
3 witnesses. He made harassing phone calls to me and
4 them from jail asking us not to testify.

5 There was nothing anyone could do. The state's
6 attorney and sheriff's department's hands were tied.
7 His right to identify his accuser trumped my right to
8 privacy and to be free from intimidation.

9 Marsy's Law would also provide crime victims
10 with a voice, which is something I wish I had had in
11 the court process.

12 My attacker was originally given 4 consecutive
13 life sentences plus 67 years given the violent nature
14 of his crime. Recently, though, his sentence was
15 reduced to just 50 years and he will be eligible for
16 parole.

17 My input was not taken into consideration, even
18 though the Court's decision directly impacted my
19 safety.

20 Crime victims all across the state have similar
21 stories. All we are asking for are the same rights
22 given to criminals, nothing more and nothing less.

23 My story would have been completely different if
24 Marsy's Law would have been in effect. Maybe my
25 identity wouldn't have been stolen, or myself or my

1 friends harassed by my attacker from jail.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

3 Thank you.

4 Grant Alastair, Dr. Karen Moffitt, Karen
5 Moffitt, Jerry Berger, Dr. Jerry Schrader, Schrader,
6 excuse me, Edward Bolton, please move -- please come
7 up to the podiums.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. LACASSE: Hi. My name is Katherine Lacasse.
10 I urge you to oppose 67. I'm a Greyhound trainer at
11 Sanford Orlando Kennel Club and also a 12-year
12 resident of Florida. I've attended and spoke at the
13 Melbourne hearing and I've watched several of the
14 others.

15 A lot of the people for 67 have started their
16 speeches by, I've read, I heard, I've been told.
17 They haven't been there. They're just regurgitating
18 the propaganda of an out-of-state animal rights
19 group.

20 Let's start with diet. The athletes that just
21 competed in the Olympics didn't sit around all week
22 eating junk food and then compete successfully.
23 Neither do my dogs. Happy/healthy/conditioned dogs
24 are what make money.

25 And just for the record, I have two AKC Whippets

1 that lived to 16 and 17 years old, pointed in the
2 ring, that ate the same food my Greyhounds ate every
3 day.

4 We've heard about Hockey Puck that didn't know
5 her name until she was at two years old. Probably
6 because that wasn't what she knew.

7 I have Wild Time Flies in my kennel. No
8 combination of those words are going to get her
9 attention. She comes to Tina.

10 Again, no different than my AKC Whippet Carasage
11 Lynar's Magic. She's pretty sure her name is
12 Twinkles.

13 The adopter of Hockey Puck was probably never
14 given this information because anti-racing adoption
15 groups don't want their rescuers to have any contact
16 with the dog's former life for fear they might learn
17 the truth.

18 We've also heard about a dog with unhealed
19 scars.

20 Well, first off, if they're scars, it's healed,
21 and just because the dog has scars doesn't mean it
22 wasn't treated. I have -- the two Whippets got in a
23 fight. Three surgeries and \$4,000 later, the loser
24 still has scars.

25 I ask that you vote with commonsense and not

1 with your heartstrings from people that are well
2 meaning, but just uneducated.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 Please come to the microphone and introduce
6 yourself, please.

7 MR. GRANT: Alastair Grant. I'm a kennel owner
8 at Sanford Orlando Kennel Club.

9 I've been listening all day and the main issue
10 is parimutuel wagering. I don't see any -- I've read
11 it three times. It doesn't say anything about the
12 welfare of the dogs. It says parimutuel wagering
13 on -- is it declining? Is it not?

14 Ten-week time from Sanford Orlando Kennel Club
15 there's been over \$4 million wagered through that
16 facility. This is about parimutuel wagering; it's
17 not about animals.

18 Is parimutuel wagering on its decline?

19 I don't know, but the figures I'm getting it's
20 not. I mean, you can talk about animal abuse all you
21 want. I had a commissioner come into my kennel and,
22 you know, out of his privacy I'm not going to say who
23 it is, but they saw -- they came into the kennel and
24 they saw the operation. And if you want to talk to
25 him, you can talk to him.

1 Parimutuel wagering is not in the decline. All
2 this is, is tracks wanting to get their casinos and
3 get their slot machines pushed by one member of this
4 Commission. That's all this is. You can see through
5 it; it's easy to find.

6 He's using the animal rights activists to go
7 bleeding hearts to get what he wants, so he can get
8 rid of the dogs, get the casinos in there and go up
9 to Tallahassee and say, oh, we're broke, you got rid
10 of the dogs, so let's give them their slot machines
11 that have already been approved.

12 But the Indians are going to fight that, so I'm
13 telling you, the Bert Harris Act is looking -- if
14 this goes through, I will be suing, because you can't
15 take a part of the parimutuel wagering industry
16 and -- you're not doing anything with the horses.
17 You're just targeting me.

18 Why are you targeting me? Why are you not
19 targeting the whole parimutuel industry?

20 It's because of money. The horses have more
21 money than we do and we're just an easy target.

22 Please vote no on Proposition 67.

23 Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

25 Come up, please.

1 MR. SCHRADER: My name's Jerry Schrader. I'm a
2 track veterinarian for Stanford Orlando Kennel Club.
3 I moved down here from Iowa about a year ago, almost
4 exactly a year ago, to be the track veterinarian.
5 The other one was retiring, and I plan to retire in
6 about a year so.

7 Whether you vote yes or no on Proposition 67
8 won't affect me a whole lot, so I just -- I'm here
9 mainly to address the animal welfare issue that's
10 been talked about a lot today as far as Greyhound
11 racing goes.

12 I have kind of a unique background in that
13 regards, so I'd like to review that a little bit so
14 you know where I come from and what I've done.

15 I graduated from Iowa State University in 1975
16 and I've been a vet -- a member of the Iowa
17 Veterinary Medical Association ever since. I served
18 on the animal welfare committee of the IVMA for
19 several years and was chairman for a couple of years.

20 I started practic in southwest Iowa, I was a
21 rural practitioner, mixed-animal practice, about 14
22 years. In the '80s the farm crisis got a little
23 tough for everybody, including veterinarians, so I
24 was looking for another job. I found one down in
25 the -- the city of Des Moines was hiring the city

1 veterinarian for their first time. So I applied for
2 it and I was offered the job.

3 I ended up working there for 18 years. Didn't
4 plan to be there 18 years, but that's how it turned
5 out.

6 A lot of my job dealt with the city animal
7 shelter, of course; that was a big part of it. We
8 impounded 7,000 animals a year, so I was in charge of
9 the shelter management and the personnel, all the
10 care and treatment of the animals. We spayed and
11 neutered over 6,000 animals, or I did personally in
12 the last few years, then we got into the adoption
13 phase more.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Doctor, we'd like to thank you
15 for your comments. If you want to turn in that
16 paper, we'll be putting it into the record. Thank
17 you very much.

18 Yes, ma'am.

19 MS. WISEMAN: Hi. My name's Sarah Wiseman. I'm
20 a student at Eckerd College right now, and in the
21 interest of saving both of us time, because I've been
22 here since 11:30, I can't imagine how you guys feel
23 right now, I'd just like to thank you for rejecting
24 Proposal 22 initially and urge you to please keep it
25 off the ballot in any upcoming discussions.

1 I'd also like to say that I do support Props. 91
2 and 3, and I'd just like to urge you to keep our
3 schools safe, keep our waters safe, and keep myself
4 and my sisters safe in the most stressful decisions
5 of our life involving our sexual health and medical
6 privacy.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

8 MS. WISEMAN: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Gentlemen.

10 MR. BOLTON: Yeah, my name is Ed Bolton. I'm
11 here to speak against Proposition 67.

12 I'm a retired -- from teaching/coaching after 38
13 years and most of it in Florida. I was named Oviedo
14 High School Teacher of the Year, Florida Basketball
15 Coach of the Year, and Florida PTS Teacher Who Cares
16 for Kids Award. So I find it a real shame that
17 people can stand here before you and tell about
18 things that took place years ago, use unverified or
19 exaggerated and, yes, even lies without fear of
20 prosecution.

21 If what they say is the truth, I would be the
22 first in line to say yes to the Proposition 67, but I
23 have firsthand knowledge and want -- what they say is
24 not the truth. I know the truth and I must vote no
25 on 67.

1 The biggest mistake the Greyhound industry has
2 made in the past is not standing up to being
3 accounted. We let the public listen to these
4 activists too long without reacting and
5 counterattacking them. Today I'm asking for all pro
6 Greyhound people to stand with me. Please stand.
7 Show them who you are.

8 There would be even more, but unlike the
9 activists, most of the dog people have to stay at the
10 kennel to take care of their animals and can't be
11 here at every meeting. Unlike the activists who come
12 here every meeting and say the same things over and
13 over again, they want the truth, the truth -- and if
14 you want the truth, you need to find out the facts
15 for yourself by coming to our kennels, coming to my
16 farm, come to the Race Track and find out the real
17 truth. If you decide against me after you've
18 listened to and seen the facts for yourself, then I
19 would be happy with that, but please, please do some
20 research on your own.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23 Yes, ma'am.

24 MS. MOFFITT: My name's Karen Moffitt. I'm from
25 Tampa and I'm here to speak in opposition to Proposal

1 94. And with a name like Moffitt, you can believe
2 I'm all about cancer research, but the first line of
3 defense is prevention.

4 Lee's throat cancer could have been prevented.
5 His six weeks of radiation treatments twice a day
6 could have been prevented. For the last 40 years,
7 Lee and I have fought the fight against cancer. He,
8 as the founder of Moffitt Cancer and board member,
9 and me as the national board member of the American
10 Cancer Society and a long-time volunteer.

11 Our daughter's always joked that cancer was the
12 Moffitt family business, but in spite of this, in
13 high school she started smoking. Unfortunately, she
14 graduated from high school two years before the SWAT
15 team truth ads came on TV. When she went to college
16 and checked into her dorm, the welcome package was a
17 basket of feminine hygiene products and two packs of
18 Marlboro cigarettes. It took her 12 years, 12 long
19 years for us, for her to finally quit smoking, and
20 she's now joined the Moffitt family business and is
21 on the Moffitt Cancer Center Board.

22 As a mother and an educator, I ask you to please
23 not take money from a highly successful program, and
24 I also have an open letter for you from 25
25 corporations, public health organizations and

1 professional sports teams here in Florida that have
2 united together to oppose Proposal 94.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 Jerry Berger, Scott Mahurin, James Lax, Bill
6 Stokes.

7 Jerry Berger, Scott Mahurin, James Lax, Bill
8 Stokes, please come forward. Jennifer McClearn.

9 Please introduce yourself on the right.

10 My right. I think that's you.

11 MR. LAX: Thank you, sir.

12 James Lax, Longwood, Florida, 44-year resident
13 of Florida.

14 I'm speaking in opposition of Proposal 67 this
15 evening. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank
16 committee member John Stemberger for taking some
17 personal time to visit SOKC and the Bolton Kennel in
18 Longwood. Seeing for yourself is something I would
19 strongly urge every committee member to do.

20 I'd like to talk about the consequences the
21 taxpayers of Florida may face should this proposal
22 pass and be approved by the voting populous. Should
23 Greyhound racing be dismantled, there exist the high
24 probability those whose livelihoods are affected will
25 see compensation under the Bert Harris Act.

1 This compensation is estimated to be some 250 to
2 500 million dollars in costs. A cost ultimately
3 passed on to the taxpayers. The estimated 2 billion
4 dollars in parimutuel handle would diminish and the
5 live racing handle of \$80 million a year would end.
6 With it comes an estimated \$20 million in tax
7 revenue, which would cease.

8 So if you combine the loss of revenue with the
9 Bert Harris liability, taxpayers are looking at some
10 half a billion -- that's billion with a "b" -- in
11 lost dollars.

12 Members of the Constitution Review Committee,
13 understand these are the probable consequences of
14 your decision.

15 You've heard the distorted conjecture of the
16 proponents of this bill. Now is the time to look at
17 the reality of what your decision will bring to the
18 citizens of Florida. Don't allow the well intended
19 motives of a misguided contingency funded by casino
20 gambling interest to stand in your way.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, sir.

23 MR. STOKES: Good evening. I'm Bill Stokes,
24 retired realtor from St. Petersburg.

25 You all have an opportunity to either leave a

1 legacy, a partisanship or one of doing the right
2 thing for the people of Florida. Please support
3 number 3, the assault weapons ban; support 67, ban
4 Greyhound racing due to animal cruelty and being one
5 of the last states to have this primitive support;
6 support number 91, ban oil drilling in Florida
7 coastal waters. This has had two favorable committee
8 votes. Support number 11, allows all voters to
9 participate in a universal primary where all
10 candidates are in one party. Reject number 4, which
11 is private vouchers as the extent of public education
12 and religious indoctrination and discrimination.
13 Reject number 22, which undermines the right to
14 privacy. This was deceitfully crafted and defeated
15 by committee vote. Reject number 43, which mandates
16 school board term limits. Reject number 45, no tax
17 dollars to private and/or religious schools. Reject
18 number 56, strips meager public funding for new
19 candidates. Reject number 71, no state control of
20 schools. Reject number 72, limits Florida's ability
21 to invest in public education, mental health,
22 housing, roads, bridges. They're requiring super
23 majority vote to raise taxes or fees. This has been
24 a disaster in other states.

25 Reject number 95, no state preemption on local

1 ordinances that business claims interferes. Reject
2 number 97. Sixty percent is close to impossible to
3 change constitution by initiative.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you for your
5 comments.

6 MR. STOKES: It would be our nation's highest.
7 Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: James Lax?
9 You're?

10 MR. MAHURIN: Scott Mahurin.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Scott. How do you pronounce
12 your last name?

13 MR. MAHURIN: Mahurin.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mahurin.
15 Please proceed. Thank you.
16 Jennifer McClearn.
17 Go ahead.

18 MR. MAHURIN: Good evening, everybody. My name
19 is Scott Mahurin and I'm the director of Florida
20 Preborn Rescue, a pro-life nonprofit organization
21 based here in Tampa Bay. I'm here to speak in favor
22 OF Proposal 22.

23 If a law can save one life, we should pass it.
24 We should support it. We all want our children to
25 grow up safely, as we've heard so passionately and so

1 sadly from so many parents who lost children at the
2 horrible massacre at Parkland several weeks ago.
3 We've heard about those who wish to protect animals
4 and the environment here locally and across the
5 state. In other words, we all can agree that life is
6 precious. That's why we want to take a stand against
7 teen smoking as well, but I'm here today to speak on
8 behalf of another group that has no voice, and I'm
9 here to speak about the preborn -- unborn human
10 babies of Florida. I agree that we need to protect
11 our children, and so I'm speaking on behalf of the
12 smallest children.

13 The privacy amendment, which was adopted in the
14 late '70s, was never meant to approve abortion.

15 Roe versus Wade was just decided five years
16 before the privacy amendment was passed, so there was
17 no need for the privacy amendment to contain abortion
18 laws. It was only meant for informational privacy
19 alone, but sadly the Supreme Court has misinterpreted
20 the intent of this amendment and has extended it now
21 to protect abortion laws.

22 At the very least this Commission should give
23 the citizens of Florida the right to determine
24 whether the privacy amendment extends to the privacy
25 of the child inside the mother's womb, or whether it

1 does not, because in 1978 there were no ultrasounds,
2 there were no science that confirms what we know now,
3 that there are two human beings involved in an
4 abortion, the mother and the unborn child, and so
5 this Commission would be wise to give the citizens of
6 Florida another chance at this privacy amendment and
7 to do its original intent, which was for information
8 only and not for abortion.

9 Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.
11 That mic is -- that battery must be dead. That mic's
12 not working. That mic is not working, folks.

13 Huh?

14 UNIDENTIFIED VOLUNTEER: It came down and went
15 back up.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: It went back up.

17 Okay.

18 UNIDENTIFIED VOLUNTEER: Yeah, it's fine.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Jennifer McClearn, is she in
20 here?

21 Giselle Fetigan. Giselle Fetigan, Laura Hulley,
22 Desiree Zokoski.

23 Raise your hands as soon as you hear your name,
24 folks, so I know how many people I got to keep
25 calling.

1 Giselle Fetigan? No.

2 Laura Hulley?

3 MS. HINE: Hine maybe? H-i-n-e.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: H-u-l-l-e-y. Laura.

5 MS. HINE: No, Laura Hine.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: But that's okay, you can take
7 a seat up here. It'll be closer when I get to your
8 name.

9 Desiree Zokoski with a "z".

10 Dealaney, Allen Dealaney. Jessica White.

11 That's an easy one, Jessica White.

12 No.

13 Samuel Eshelman. Samuel Eshelman. Kristen
14 Knight. Kristen Knight. Sherry Mogul, M-o-g-u-l,
15 Cheryl. Cheryl B. Mogul.

16 MS. MOGUL: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Proposition 94.

18 MS. MOGUL: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Come on up.

20 Jennifer Bliska. Jennifer Bliska and Tresa
21 Watson. Tresa Watson.

22 Thank you. Come on up.

23 Go ahead, ma'am. Thank you. Introduce
24 yourself, please.

25 MS. MOGUL: Thank you.

1 Good evening. My name's Cheryl Mogul. I live
2 here in Gulfport, Florida -- I mean Pinellas County.

3 I'm opposed to Proposal 94. For the CRC, it
4 seeks to dismantle our state's highly successful
5 Tobacco Free Florida programs by shifting money from
6 tobacco control and prevention to cancer research.
7 This proposal is shortsighted and it doesn't make
8 sense. Cancer research shouldn't steal from a
9 program already preventing cancer. Why would anyone
10 suggest diverting funds in dollars such as this?

11 Only one person has spoken in favor of this
12 proposal, or all organizations have spoken up against
13 it: The American Cancer Society, the American Lung
14 Association and Heart Association.

15 Funding should not be reduced, and if any -- and
16 please look into all the ethical implications of this
17 on who's supporting it, the one sponsor.

18 And I also taught health in this county for many
19 years and other subjects, and I know these prevention
20 programs really do work with the students from the
21 guests that I used to have come to my classroom.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23 MS. MOGUL: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.

25 Please step up to either microphone so that

1 you're ready to go as soon as the speaker ahead of
2 you is finished.

3 You are?

4 MS. BLISKA: I am Jennifer Bliska. I'm a
5 concerned citizen from Wesley Chapel, Florida, and
6 I'm here to speak against the -- to oppose
7 Proposition 94.

8 Personally, I would like to share with you that
9 both my parents grew up in a time when smoking was
10 pretty much acceptable, and my father was a veteran
11 so he also suffered from PTSD and relied on smoking,
12 and both of them became highly addicted. I watched
13 them both die tragic deaths related to smoking. My
14 mother died of cancer and my father recently died
15 less than a year ago after years of heart attacks,
16 amputations, and then his last days were on oxygen.

17 While I greatly fully support cancer research,
18 prevention honestly could have saved them, and we
19 live in a time where it should be socially
20 unacceptable at this point and trends should be
21 demolished.

22 I have seen through my work and social services
23 prevention work and I urge you to keep prevention at
24 the forefront here in Florida.

25 Thank you very much for your time.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

2 Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. WATSON: Yes. I'm Tresa Watson and I also
4 am a citizen, and I'm urging you to oppose Proposal
5 94.

6 I've had not one but two immediate family
7 members die directly from tobacco-related use. I
8 personally believe that prevention could have saved
9 them both. My understanding is there's already
10 legislation and funding directed to cancer research
11 and I would urge you to keep this program.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

13 Gary Woodruff. Gary Woodruff. Frank Delucia.
14 Frank Delucia. Carolyn Kahn, James Abernathy, JoAnn
15 Griner, June Kennedy, please step forward.

16 Thank you.

17 Please.

18 MR. WOODRUFF: Hello. My name's Gary Woodruff,
19 Sarasota resident, 14 years, and I'm a IT
20 professional, an independent journalist and also have
21 litigated in Florida, not as an attorney, and don't
22 practice law, for about 14 years, and have probably
23 several thousand hours of legal research. Not
24 because I like to or I want to, but because it's a
25 survival mechanism.

1 I don't know if there's a specific proposal in
2 what I am here for today, but I want to make my voice
3 heard given the weight of the matter, which has to do
4 with the life, liberty, property and family matters
5 of what people are going through, especially the
6 veterans, given the family court issues.

7 The life issues I can say began with PTSD, with
8 a high rate of suicide, that there are veterans that
9 are getting out of the service, they're serving
10 several tours in the Middle East, they get back and
11 find their marriages are failing, their families are
12 falling apart, end up in the divorce court, which
13 they're not even remotely equipped to be able to
14 handle. They end up destroyed in family court and a
15 lot of them are in suicide mode.

16 The suicide issue in Florida I have learned
17 recently is one of the highest rates in the nation,
18 and the nonveteran suicide is also among the highest
19 rate. We need to reign in the family courts. We
20 need to be able to bring in accountability.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

22 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am. You are?

24 MS. KAHN: Good evening. My name is Dr. Carolyn
25 Kahn and I'm speaking against Proposition 65.

1 I'm a nonsmoker for eight years now due to the
2 availability and the freedom to use my vaping device
3 as I needed to to stop smoking. I've provided you
4 with a copy of the report from the CDC, the U.S.
5 Health and Human Services, as well as the National
6 Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

7 They evaluated the air quality and surfaces
8 inside a vape shop in California over a several day
9 period with personal and room sampling devices. It
10 tested for and tried to measure more compounds that
11 are listed in the introduction of this proposal. The
12 results revealed they were either not detectable or
13 in concentrations significantly lower than that
14 established for workplace standards of exposure.

15 In Dr. Burstyn's review, *Peering Through the*
16 *Mist*, he concluded there's no evidence that vaping
17 produces inhaleable exposures to contaminates of the
18 aerosol that would warrant health concerns by
19 standards that are used to ensure the safety of
20 workplaces. Exposures of by-standards are likely to
21 be on orders of magnitude less, and thus pose no
22 apparent concern.

23 Every business should be allowed to decide if or
24 how they will allow vaping in their establishments.
25 Based on the science available world wild, there's no

1 reason to curtail and a pleather of reasons to allow
2 vaping.

3 Hospitals in the UK are now being encouraged to
4 sell and recommend the use of vaping devices to --
5 for smokers who are convalescing. Also, placing
6 vapors with smokers exposes us to the dangers of
7 secondhand smoke, which we have successfully removed
8 ourselves from.

9 Do not put us back in harms way. Do not believe
10 and perpetuate the wrong impression that vaping is as
11 dangerous as smoking.

12 Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

14 Yes, sir.

15 MR. DELUCIA: Good evening. I'm Frank Delucia,
16 executive vice president of Abilities, Inc., d/b/a
17 Service Source Florida, a Clearwater based 501(c)(3)
18 nonprofit, and I'm here to voice my opposition to
19 Proposal 67.

20 Abilities has helped tens of thousands of
21 Floridians and military veterans with lifelong
22 disabilities obtain mainstream jobs and affordable
23 housing, enabling them to contribute to the economic
24 strength and life of their communities as productive,
25 wage earners and tax paying citizens.

1 Since its inception in 1959, Abilities has
2 relied on the magnificence of corporate and
3 civic-minded leaders to accomplish and sustain its
4 mission. The St. Petersburg Kennel Club, known as
5 Derby Lane, is a shining exemplar of one such
6 benefactor.

7 Over the past 4 decades and in my 35 years at
8 Abilities few corporations have supported us more
9 than Derby Lane, which has distinguished itself by
10 providing substantial annual financial funding
11 through job placement services and low income
12 housing, hiring graduates from our skills program,
13 sponsoring charity matinees and fundraisers that
14 netted us more than \$4 million, and governing and
15 chairing the Abilities foundation, our 501(c)(3)
16 nonprofit arm for 20 years, under the astute
17 leadership of Derby Lane Vice President Richard
18 Winning, with the accountability, transparency, and
19 full public disclosure.

20 These services made it possible for thousands of
21 people with significant disabilities who were once
22 marginalized, unemployed or underemployed, to obtain
23 employment and live dependently. Their funds also
24 helped to pay for past-due utility bills, rent and
25 mortgage payments, to avoid service disconnection,

1 eviction and foreclosure, tuition for training
2 leading to competitive employment, affordable,
3 accessible housing at below-market rates for people
4 classified as low income, and enabled 1800 veterans
5 with disabilities to transition from homelessness to
6 apartment life. Most importantly, these services
7 lessen dependents on government.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

9 MR. DELUCIA: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Appreciate it.

11 You are, sir?

12 MR. ABERNATHY: James Abernathy.

13 Thank you, Commissioners, for your time.

14 I'm a business owner, I'm a property owner and
15 I'm a voter. If I'm -- and I'm against Proposition
16 67.

17 If this goes through, only a voter. I won't be
18 a property owner probably anymore, and I won't be a
19 business owner.

20 There's been a lot of things said up here today
21 that aren't true. The main thing is the dogs are
22 only let out one hour a day. No, my dogs are out six
23 or seven hours a day.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: If you can get closer to the
25 microphone, that would be better.

1 MR. ABERNATHY: My dogs are let out six or seven
2 hours a day.

3 It says the dogs don't have a choice. The dogs
4 have a choice. They don't have to run. I've had
5 plenty of dogs throughout my life -- I'm third
6 generation. My family has been doing it 90 years.
7 The dog doesn't run, I call up one of the adoption
8 centers, say this dog doesn't want to run, will you
9 come and get it. He's adopted out.

10 The dogs love to run. You know, I just have a
11 hard time with this Commission and these people
12 saying this dog is abused because he runs and he
13 loves to run.

14 The dogs can't talk to me, you know. Police
15 dogs can't talk to police officers.

16 Do police dogs want to be there? Do dogs want
17 to be in the Army? You know, do dogs want to be
18 guide dogs?

19 No.

20 Then each one of those cases all we can do is
21 try our best to take care of that dog, whatever
22 situation he's put in, and that's what we do with all
23 our Greyhounds.

24 Thank you very much.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

1 MS. KENNEDY: My name is June Kennedy. I've
2 been volunteering in Greyhound adoption for 15 years
3 and I'm currently an active racing Greyhound owner.
4 I'm speaking against Proposal 67.

5 You've heard over and over that one Greyhound
6 passes away every three days. I'm going to give you
7 a new number. I'm going to put that into context.

8 If you consider that over 8,000 racing
9 Greyhounds pass through the state of Florida every
10 year, that yields a rate of 0.015 percent.

11 Now, I've talked to three veterinarians across
12 the country, one of them pro-racing, one of them
13 anti-racing and one of them neutral. All three
14 agreed that that is well within the norm of common
15 household pet ownership.

16 I put before you my stand. It is just as safe,
17 if not safer, to be a racing Greyhound in the state
18 of Florida as it is to be a common household pet.

19 My family was in this business in the '70s and
20 '80s. I'm in this business today. I have seen
21 firsthand that this industry has reformed. It has
22 evolved. Are we, as a society, going to punish that?

23 Leave these people alone. They are good for the
24 economy; they're good for Florida; they're good for
25 Greyhounds as a breed. They are doing no harm.

1 Now, I've seen your intelligence and my
2 intelligence be insulted over and over again tonight.
3 Every time one of these red cardholders gets up and
4 says that they think, they've heard, somebody told
5 somebody that told them, or they saw in person in
6 1997.

7 They say that Florida needs to come into the
8 21st Century. I say that they need to get up to
9 speed with the Greyhound racing industry of 2018.
10 This is the face of the Greyhound racing industry of
11 2018. A happy, healthy hound.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

14 After this speaker we're going to take a break.

15 MS. GRINER: Oh, wow, thanks.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Five minutes.

17 MS. GRINER: I'm JoAnn Griner. I am a
18 volunteer/vice president with Greyhound Pets of
19 America, Tampa Bay Chapter. I ask you to vote no on
20 CP 67.

21 This is not an animal protection measure. This
22 is simply an antigambling initiative. Amending the
23 state Constitution to say people can still wager on
24 horses but not on Greyhounds is illogical calendar.
25 The state constitution is not the place to regulate

1 these businesses. Let the free market decide what
2 businesses should continue to do or not. That's
3 democracy. That's how America works.

4 I'm proud to be a volunteer and to volunteer my
5 time to adopting the Greyhounds from the racing
6 kennels at Derby Lane.

7 We are the ones that get the dogs the day
8 they're done racing, okay? We get healthy, happy
9 animals from the racing kennels at Derby Lane. When
10 there's an injury, because once in a while it
11 happens, they tell us and we address it with our vets
12 prior to adoption.

13 The people that don't have firsthand
14 knowledge -- I'm back there three/four times a week.
15 Derby Lane has donated an adoption kennel and so
16 we're back there with the racing kennels. I'm there,
17 I have access, I see it firsthand. The reason why
18 the red cardholders here have docile, loving, healthy
19 pets is because these dogs were raised by the racing
20 kennels to be loving, docile animals, who happen to
21 like to chase a lure around the track.

22 The people that don't have firsthand knowledge
23 of what really happens back there want you to believe
24 that the animals will be better off and better
25 protected by not having wagering, and that's false.

1 There's no animal protection wording in this
2 amendment. It's all about stopping wagering. If you
3 stop wagering, you remove oversight by the state. It
4 becomes and amateur sport, and look at Georgia and
5 some of the other states that have done this.
6 There's no oversight on amateur sport.

7 Vote no on Proposition 67.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

10 We'll stand adjourned for five minutes.

11 (Recess taken from 9:01 to 9:07 p.m.)

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: All right. Let's reconvene.
13 It's getting late. I'm sure some of you are tired.
14 We're getting our second wind so we're ready to go
15 until two in the morning.

16 Okay, folks. We're ready to go. Will Steve --
17 Steve Lafanti, I think. I can't make out -- Steve
18 Lafanti, is he here? Is that you, sir?

19 Well, how do you pronounce your name?

20 MR. INFANTI: Infanti.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Infanti. Infanti.

22 Please come to the microphone.

23 And Maryann Tollover, Maryann Tollover, Brian
24 Corley, Sabrina Schultz, please step forward.

25 Go ahead, sir. Thank you.

1 MR. INFANTII: Thank you.

2 I'm here to speak on Proposal 67. I'm in
3 support of that. I'm a Greyhound owner. I own
4 several right now; I've owned several over the years.
5 I've fostered for a number of groups and volunteered
6 for even the prison retraining program for the
7 Greyhounds.

8 As a certified planner, part of my job is to
9 help government agencies find viable revenue streams
10 for a sustainable future. Dog racing is neither
11 viable nor sustainable. We see that in the
12 decline's work over the last 20 years and by the
13 fact that the state loses millions of dollars per
14 year on Greyhound racing.

15 This is all taxpayer money being lost. Simply
16 put, we subsidize dog racing in this state as
17 taxpayers. Racing dogs that find homes as pets after
18 becoming injured or otherwise surplus do so through
19 the many charitable groups across the country. These
20 groups are funded through tax deductible donations
21 and tremendous volunteer support. So the re-homing
22 of surplus Greyhounds is also funded by the taxpayers
23 through the charitable donations.

24 As taxpayers we're active in Greyhound racing
25 whether we like it or not. It's not a matter of let

1 the market decide; if you don't like it, don't show
2 up. We're funding it through our taxes; we're
3 subsidizing it through our taxes one way or the
4 other. We deserve to have a say in the future of
5 this activity, just like we would if we were being
6 forced to subsidize any other outdated or outmoded
7 industry.

8 I used to be a steel worker years ago. We all
9 know how that worked out for most of the steel mills
10 in this country. The taxpayers shouldn't be held
11 accountable for that.

12 If the public pays, then the public votes. It's
13 the American way.

14 Despite there being a burden on the taxpayer,
15 the racing industry seeks to deny us the right to
16 vote on this issue. They're a small group with a
17 vested financial interest in racing. We, the
18 taxpayer, come from all walks of life and want to
19 have a clear choice on this matter. Let's put it on
20 the ballot. Let the voters decide.

21 Please support Proposal 67.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

24 Maryann Tollover, Sabrina Schultz, Brian Corley.

25 Going once, going twice.

1 Okay.

2 Frank Keterman. Frank Keterman. Angela Vick.

3 I think Angela Vick spoke. Yeah, she's gone.

4 Manuel Sykes. Sonia Stratemann. Catherine
5 same -- Infanti.

6 I got it. I figured you were connected. Come
7 forward, please.

8 Chris Stratemann. Chris Stratemann. Arlene
9 Smith. Kami Buchanan. Richard Marcort. Richard
10 Marcort. Matt Jordan.

11 I don't see anybody coming forward.

12 Cathryn Vaughn.

13 Please announce yourself and speak, ma'am.

14 Thank you.

15 MS. STRATEMANN: Hi. My name is Sonya
16 Stratemann. I have -- my family and I have been
17 rescuing Greyhounds for over 14 years and we've taken
18 in well over 2000 dogs. These are x-rays of six of
19 the broken legs we were able to save. All six were
20 taken in to be euthanized. The last four were as
21 recent as November and December. My husband and I
22 paid personally for the last three surgeries.

23 We've taken in hundreds of dogs like this. In
24 the past five years our vet bills alone were
25 \$104,000. Palm Beach Kennel Club does donate. In

1 2015, for example, they donated \$3,346. Our last
2 donation from Palm Beach Kennel Club was in 2000 --
3 August 2017 for \$500. I've always appreciated the
4 track's help. The owners very, very rarely ever
5 contribute so I've always relied and appreciated the
6 track's help.

7 I lost my son a year ago and that's when I
8 started speaking out. There's life changes and
9 things change. My kids grew up seeing things that
10 would disgust you, would make you -- when they were
11 14 years old, they knew how to splint broken legs.
12 That's not a normal thing for children to know.

13 With -- they've seen dogs come in such bad
14 condition we had no choice but to euthanize. We came
15 home one day when they were young to a dog with a
16 broken back in our yard thrown over, literally over
17 our gates. I don't know who did that.

18 That's how my kids grew up. I've always told
19 them that Greyhound racing would end. I told them
20 that one day politicians would figure out how to get
21 the dogs away from the gaming issues. My son didn't
22 get to see that. I'm going to keep fighting for this
23 and I hope -- I urge you to please think about voting
24 for Proposal 67.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

1 Yes, ma'am, your name.

2 MS. INFANTII: Good evening. My name is
3 Catherine Infanti and I live in Pinellas County.

4 This Florida parimutuel wagering license, and
5 it's recent, well, fairly recent, gave me access to
6 the kennels at the dog tracks. I've been inside the
7 kennels and I've seen the very things that the racing
8 industry denies, things that would keep caring voters
9 awake at night. I've seen dogs filled with parasites
10 and emaciated to the brink of death. I've seen dogs
11 hobbling on broken legs or neglected, abused and
12 abandoned by their racing owners. I have felt the
13 bumps on their heads and bodies where the ticks
14 infested them. This is undeniable because I've
15 witnessed it firsthand.

16 Rescue groups bear the cost to treat, feed and
17 foster these dogs through the tireless efforts of
18 volunteers like myself. In many years her -- in my
19 years as a volunteer on the outside of the kennels
20 I've poured countless hours of my time and money into
21 rescuing and re-homing these dogs, and yet my efforts
22 and that of all the volunteer -- all the volunteers
23 and dog rescue groups in Florida and across the
24 country are unable to keep up the amount of dogs that
25 flow at us through the -- or from the industry thanks

1 to their over production of dogs for racing.

2 We do not have the resources to save them all.
3 Too many dogs die from injuries or are killed simply
4 because their surplus. I've seen it all from the
5 inside and out and it's not pretty.

6 This is the reason why I'm standing here before
7 you now. The future of Greyhound racing in Florida
8 needs to become a public decision. Please vote yes
9 on Proposal 67. If the industry has nothing to hide,
10 then let the voter decide.

11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Yes, ma'am.

13 MS. SMITH: I'm Arlene Smith with Volusia County
14 and I'm representing the Volusia County Council's
15 position.

16 First of all, we oppose Proposal 95 because we
17 support home rule, and so we hope that one won't come
18 back up again. But what I'm here to talk about today
19 is 13. Proposal 13 allows those outside our
20 community to vote on what is being proposed as the
21 best form of government for the locals. It's a
22 one-size-fits-all kind of a proposition.

23 We're not saying that the proposal is not a good
24 form of government. It's just not a good sub -- fit
25 for everybody.

1 Decades ago the legislature determined that it
2 was more appropriate for locals to decide on their
3 form of government, which we did. In 1970 Volusia
4 voters approved a county charter after a legislative
5 study determined that there would be cost savings
6 from our recommended organization, and there have
7 been. Our CFO has analyzed the impact of 13 to
8 Volusia and determined that it would cost our
9 taxpayers an additional \$10 million a year.

10 Now, those numbers, our CFO would be happy to
11 sit with any of you and discuss her numbers and how
12 she came to her analysis, but she thinks it's a
13 conservative estimate.

14 If our community wants to change our structure,
15 the local voters can do that, but don't ask the
16 voters in Escambia County to determine what is the
17 best operational government in Volusia County. Trust
18 the local voters to determine their local form of
19 government that is best for them and vote no on 13.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

21 Yes, sir.

22 MR. JORDAN: My name is Matt Jordan. I'm here
23 on behalf of the American Cancer Society. I want to
24 talk about the two tobacco-related amendments and
25 thank all the SWAT kids and other volunteers who

1 spoke today, as well as you Commissioners for
2 dedicating all of your time that you have to CRC.

3 I know that you're very well educated on these
4 issues and you understand how effective Tobacco Free
5 Florida is, how efficient the program is managed, how
6 much money it has saved our state. In the last 10
7 years it saved over \$17 billion in state-related
8 health care costs -- or smoking-related health care
9 costs here in the state, and that track will continue
10 if we continue to invest the preventative dollars
11 into Tobacco Free Florida, and I also want to remind
12 you guys that the dollars are through the Tobacco
13 settlement agreement. These are not taxpayer
14 dollars, and the last time it was up to the
15 legislature the program was defunded, and that's why
16 it's before you today, because it was a citizen-led
17 initiative that put this back into the Constitution.

18 So please vote no to Proposal 94, but I also
19 want to support Proposal 65, which would include
20 e-cigarettes into the Clean Indoor Florida Air Act.
21 Commissioner Carlton, myself, and other Floridians
22 are very tired of going to public events, sporting
23 events, the restaurants, the grocery store and
24 breathing in secondhand smoke from these aerosol
25 products, and we are not very sure of all of the

1 effects that come from the secondhand aerosol, and
2 it's not fair for people to be out at a public event
3 and have to deal with someone smoking an e-cigarette
4 next to you. An e-cigarette should be considered a
5 tobacco product and led into the Clean Air Act.

6 I would strongly support 65 and hope that you do
7 the same. Thank you for your time today.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Tina Koufis. Tina Koufis.
9 Donna Gechter. Or Gechter.

10 Tina, Donna Gechter.

11 Nobody. Oop. There's . . .

12 Carole Phillips.

13 Yes, ma'am. You can proceed, ma'am. Ma'am?
14 Miss? Tina, go.

15 MS. KOUFIS: Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Tina, go.

17 MS. KOUFIS: Okay.

18 Hi. I was born and raised in Florida and I'm
19 all about democracy, and I haven't seen much of that
20 lately in the state of Florida.

21 I want to talk about Proposal 67 because I
22 believe whether you are for or against Greyhound
23 racing the people of Florida should decide this.
24 That's democracy in action and I want to see
25 democracy happen again in the state of Florida.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. GECHTER: Hi. I'm Donna Gechter from
4 Pinellas County. Thank you for letting us speak
5 tonight.

6 I'm here to speak for the dogs. Vote yes for
7 Proposal 67 for the Greyhounds, and also yes for
8 Proposal 91, no oil and gas drilling.

9 Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

11 Carole Phillips. Carole Phillips. Melissa
12 Evans. Melissa Evans. Susan Peake.

13 Susan Peake, Raymond Peake, Mr. and Mrs. Peake.

14 Okay. Sandra Weeks. Sandra Weeks. Todd Byers,
15 Janet Skinner, Karen Moffitt.

16 We've heard from Karen; have we not?

17 Another Moffit. Karen Moffitt.

18 Okay. Please introduce yourself, ma'am.

19 Thank you very much. We'll start with the lady
20 right here.

21 MS. EVANS: I was going to say good afternoon,
22 but now it's evening.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: A couple more hours it'll be
24 good morning.

25 MS. EVANS: Let's hope not.

1 Good evening. My name is Melissa Evans and I'm
2 against CP 67. I believe it doesn't belong in the
3 constitution because it will put thousands of
4 hard-working, dedicated people out of their jobs.

5 These people contribute to our economy. We buy
6 food for our families, we buy vehicles and we pay
7 rents and mortgages, and we also buy health insurance
8 for our families. A lot of us are third-and
9 fourth-generation Greyhound people, some of which are
10 too old in today's market to get a good paying job or
11 too young to retire. Also, this will put our
12 Greyhounds at risk. While our adoption groups
13 already work diligently to find the best homes for
14 our Greyhounds, they would be seriously overwhelmed
15 with such a massive influx.

16 With no funds coming in, how would any of us
17 afford to feed and care for them properly, let alone
18 vet care. Fifteen thousand Greyhounds are a lot to
19 care for. This leads me to ask, so who's going to
20 help us take care of our Greyhounds if this was to
21 happen? The out-of-state animal rights radicals or
22 the HSUS, who are only good at making their
23 commercials.

24 I'm a tax paying Florida citizen and I don't
25 want to be held accountable for the damages from the

1 Bert Harris Act on top of losing my job and business.
2 Please vote no on CP 67, and thank you for your time.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, sir. Your name?

4 MR. BYERS: My name is Todd Byers. I'm from
5 Daytona Beach. I'm the president of Daytona Beach
6 Kennel Owners Association. I'm here representing
7 myself and the 50 plus other people that are working
8 in the kennels alone in Daytona Beach, and not to
9 mention all the track employees.

10 I've been in this business for 33 years. I've
11 been a kennel owner for 18 years. I sit here --
12 everything I've ever made in my business I've
13 reinvested back into my business, including life
14 savings. If this proposal goes through, you vote on
15 this proposal, this could cost me everything I've
16 got. It makes my entire business, everything I've
17 invested into totally worthless.

18 I've sat here and listened to the economics part
19 if it. Two-thirds of the money bet on Greyhound
20 racing now is done through the Internet, which the
21 state does not see any of the money from it. They
22 don't get the tax money from the Internet because
23 there's no law saying so.

24 Well, shame on the state for not going after
25 that money. That's your money and you're leaving it

1 sit in there, okay.

2 I'm asking you to visit the kennels. All you
3 people, my understanding, you are volunteering for
4 this job for the government; am I correct? All I'm
5 asking you to do is do your research, go to a kennel,
6 come to my kennel, anybody's kennel, and go see what
7 it's like.

8 I'm not asking you to believe what I say; I'm
9 not asking you to believe what they say; just believe
10 what you see with your own eyes. If you don't go and
11 see it and do your own research and you don't take a
12 look at it, then in your eyes we're guilty by
13 accusation, okay?

14 This country ain't based on that. We should be
15 proven guilty. You say -- they're saying all these
16 lies about us. Well, why don't you go see for your
17 own eyes what it's like, how we take care of our
18 dogs. If you don't we're guilty by accusation, just
19 like the media portrays us, okay?

20 One more thing. Bad apples. All the bad apples
21 in this business are usually ousted by us. Once we
22 oust them, that's part of state record. That's their
23 fuel against us.

24 We turn them in to get them out. We don't want
25 them there. Even though we know it's going to be bad

1 publicity for us, we still get them out of there, all
2 right? That's their fuel, when we get them out. We
3 don't want them people in our business neither. We
4 don't like it.

5 One more quick thing, bad apples.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.
7 Appreciate it.

8 Yes, ma'am.

9 MR. BYERS: Bad apples everywhere.

10 MS. WEEKS: My name is Cassandra Weeks. I am a
11 board certified nurse practitioner living in St.
12 Petersburg. I am here to speak on primarily two
13 proposals, number 22 and number 4. They are
14 undemocratic and anti-woman.

15 Proposal 22 rescinds our right to physical
16 privacy and renders women back into chattel. When
17 women do not have the right to control our bodies, we
18 become less than fully human. We become subject, as
19 a practical matter, to ownership by others.

20 My suffragettes ancestors fought long and hard
21 to become full citizens in this country. Proposal 22
22 would end this. I urge you to ensure it remains laid
23 on the table and I thank those of you who put it
24 there.

25 Proposal 4 would remove freedom of religion from

1 our state constitution. I refuse to allow my
2 hard-earned tax dollars to be used to fund religious
3 institutions which seek to limit my rights or oppose
4 my religious beliefs.

5 I am also opposing Proposals 29, 43, 45, 71, 72,
6 95, 96 and 97 for similar reasons. These are also
7 the proposals marked by the League of Women Voters as
8 the 10 worst.

9 I urge you to address gun violence and assault
10 weapons instead, or any number of the public
11 proposals which would add to our rights rather than
12 negating them.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. SKINNER: Good evening. My name is Janet
17 Skinner and I'm speaking in favor of Proposal 67.

18 I have lived with and loved, rescued racing
19 Greyhounds here in Pinellas County for over 20 years,
20 and I have in the past volunteered with various
21 Florida adoption groups and advocacy organizations.

22 These are photos of my three Greyhounds that I
23 have adopted over the years: Annie, Alice, and Josh,
24 my current Greyhound. I am here today to speak for
25 them.

1 Those of us who are familiar with dog racing
2 issues know full well that the dog racing industry is
3 in serious economic decline and has been for some
4 time. It's no secret that the industry cannot
5 compete with newer, more humane forms of gambling,
6 such as casinos and the lottery. The dog racing
7 industry survives today only because it has been kept
8 on life support for years through various government
9 bailouts.

10 The industry has also had to contend with the
11 ever growing public awareness of its well documented,
12 mistreatment and killing of racing Greyhounds, which
13 has also contributed to the decline in attendance at
14 Florida's dog tracks. Compassionate Floridians
15 simply have no desire to watch these gentle dogs
16 literally run for their lives. Like the drive-in
17 movie theater, the dog racing industry is a dinosaur
18 that has outlived its time.

19 The public no longer patronizes the dog tracks
20 because they have found better ways to spend their
21 time and money. In a free-market society, that
22 usually means the demise of a business. Why should
23 the dog racing industry be any different?

24 The fact is that Floridians --

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Miss? I'm sorry, ma'am.

1 MS. SKINNER: The fact is -- did you hear me?

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Time's up.

3 JUDGE STARGEL: Time's up.

4 MS. SKINNER: Oh, I'm sorry.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Randy Wiseman. Randy Wiseman,
6 Donna Templin. Donna Templin. Mary Russell.

7 Judy --

8 MR. GIBELLINA: On the order I believe my card
9 was there a half hour ago, I haven't been called yet.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Glen Gibellina, you're next.

11 MR. GIBELLINA: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: But you're next after Judy
13 Gallizzi and Mary Russell.

14 They're not here so you're next.

15 MR. GIBELLINA: I'm next.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Come on up, Glen.

17 MR. GIBELLINA: Unbelievable. I'd hate to do a
18 time stamp to check on that.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'd hate to do one too because
20 I can't read it.

21 Go ahead.

22 MR. GIBELLINA: My name is Glen Gibellina,
23 community activist, parental rights advocate.

24 Assault weapons, they're very destructive, very
25 destructive. When I think of assault weapons, I

1 think of family court. The destruction of family
2 court, of our families, is unconscionable.

3 I'm looking on here as proposals for active
4 consideration. I don't see any parental rights here.
5 I mean, our first concern should be parental rights.
6 We get hammered every time we go into family courts.

7 So what I did is I penciled in 700431. It
8 should be on the agenda. It's shared parental
9 rights. It's modeled after the federal parental
10 shared rights. This is my proposal. I entered it
11 several months ago. I've been to most of the
12 meetings, as you well know, and the travesty in our
13 judiciary is a problem, is a serious problem. You
14 have our children being held hostage. Go look at
15 divorce court. Fifty-billion-dollar industry.

16 I don't think this proposal will go anywhere.
17 It's the ethical and right thing to do, but you guys
18 would be killing your cash cow. The family courts,
19 the judiciary, they all make money on the backs of
20 parents.

21 We deserve to be parents. Would you wake up
22 tomorrow and say, you know what, I'm not going to see
23 my kid except for four days a month?

24 It's done day in and day out. I know, I've been
25 going through it for 15 years and I'll go through it

1 another 15, so if I have to come back in 20 years and
2 sing the same song, if I'm around, I will be back in
3 20 years. I urge you to put this on the ballot.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Gibellina.

6 Susan Pine. Susan Pine. Elizabeth Sheehan.

7 Dawn Ladd. Donna Grace. Steve Ton -- T-o-n-j-e-s.

8 I won't try to pronounce that word. Steve

9 T-o-n-j-e-s.

10 Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. PINE: Me?

12 All right.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Your name?

14 MS. PINE: My name's Susan Pine. I'm here with
15 Face Life from West Palm Beach, Florida.

16 I would like you to support Proposal 4 that
17 would stop the government from discriminating against
18 persons and organizations and religious -- with
19 religious convictions.

20 I would also like you to support Proposal 45,
21 71, 43, and above all, I would like you to bring
22 Proposal 22 to a vote by the entire commission.
23 Proposal 22 would protect minor girls from having
24 been abused by perpetrator and sexual predators and
25 statutory rapists by allowing legislation to be

1 enacted to the parental consent laws.

2 Gallup polls over 19 -- over a 19-year period
3 indicated that Floridians, wanted by a super
4 majority, between 69 and 75 percent, want parental
5 laws, parental consent laws.

6 Now, something that I want to show you, I
7 brought enough for a card for each one of you,
8 because when a 15-year-old girl has an abortion, a
9 chemical abortion, she does not -- when she leaves
10 that place is when she delivers the dead baby, and
11 she is told that this is the -- a blob of tissue, and
12 I can assure you, if each one of you -- I have a card
13 for each one of you to show you what that looks like,
14 what she may be faced with.

15 This is not a blob of tissue. These are
16 fingers/toes; this is a human being, and I thank you
17 if you would bring that to the Florida voters.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

19 Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. SHEEHAN: My name is Elizabeth Sheehan and I
21 thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

22 I've been a Florida citizen for over 50 years.
23 I am here in favor of Proposal 22 and Proposal 4.
24 That is if the monies given to religious
25 organizations will be given without any conditions

1 that will conflict with the religious beliefs.

2 Please resurrect Proposal 22, which will protect
3 minor girls by allowing the legislature to enact
4 parental consent laws and other laws that will
5 protect the health, safety and welfare of minor
6 girls. These young girls are not even allowed to
7 take an aspirin in school without their parents'
8 consent, yet they are deemed mature enough to make a
9 life and death decision without their parents'
10 knowledge or assistance.

11 Clearly, the Florida Supreme Court has betrayed
12 parents and victimized minor girls and their unborn
13 children by using Article I, Section 23 to create a
14 new right to abortion for minors without their
15 parents' consent and knowledge.

16 What is an abortion? Currently in Florida
17 children in their mother's womb, which should be the
18 safest place for them, are being mechanically ripped
19 apart, burnt by chemicals in the case of the abortion
20 pills, being flushed down the toilet.

21 In the Planned Parent videos, which the Federal
22 Committee in Washington investigated for a year, we
23 see a video of a child being born alive and their
24 brains being ripped out of their cranium to be sold
25 for profit.

1 This is unconscionable in our country and in our
2 state. This is what this is allowing minor girls to
3 do and they don't even know what they're doing.

4 We need to end the killing of all children in
5 Florida, the killing of the children in our schools
6 and in the mother's womb. If a mother's allowed to
7 kill her own child, what is to prevent us from
8 killing each other?

9 Clearly, we are seeing the consequences in our
10 state. We have heard the tragedy of what's happened
11 in Parkland and in our schools. If we do not return
12 to God on our knees like that wise Parkland father
13 does, we will lose our souls and the souls of our
14 children.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much. Thank
16 you for your comments.

17 Are you Steve?

18 MR. TONJES: I'm Steve.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: And how do you pronounce your
20 last name?

21 MR. TONJES: It's Steve Tonjes.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Tonjes, thank you.

23 MR. TONJES: Not as hard as it looks.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: No, not as hard as it looks,
25 you're right.

1 MR. TONJES: I'm from Deland, and as I told you
2 earlier, I'm on the planning board in Deland, and we
3 had a few midnight meetings. I hope you all aren't
4 here for that long. Thank you for your patience.

5 Someone stole my thunder, put in a plug for the
6 League of Women Voters, and so I will just defer to
7 that and add my request that you look at the
8 information that they give you. The League is a
9 nonpartisan organization, they do a lot of homework,
10 they put out their research for you to look at, and I
11 would urge that you look at their assessments of the
12 proposals.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

15 Yes, ma'am. You are?

16 MS. GRACE: My name is Donna Grace and I wanted
17 to thank all of you Commissioners for having this
18 hearing and staying so late and all that stuff.

19 There are a lot of people that would like to be
20 here that are standing with me sort of that would
21 support Proposition 67. We're trying to think of how
22 to make an impression on you, how to make something
23 that you would remember, and when you think about the
24 cruel sport of racing, Greyhound racing, "Three Dog
25 Night" comes to mind: "How can people be so

1 heartless? How can people be so cruel? Easy to be
2 hard. Easy to say no."

3 And we'd ask you to give the people of Florida a
4 chance to say no to no more Greyhound racing.

5 Florida is a unique kind of place. We don't
6 have a lot going for us except the weather, but
7 lately things are changing. Just recently we got a
8 law passed that helps with gun regulation and we're
9 very proud of that. Also, we abandoned all this
10 flipping back and forth with daylight savings time
11 and standard time, although I'm not so sure how I
12 feel about permanently losing that hour, but, anyway,
13 these are things that I'm proud of about Florida.
14 But one thing that keeps coming up is the fact that
15 most of the country has abandoned Greyhound racing,
16 but not Florida.

17 That's something that we're ashamed of. People
18 are becoming aware of the cruelty of Greyhound racing
19 and are interested in stopping the practice. Race
20 tracks are not interested in keeping the racing
21 going. They would just assume have gambling only,
22 but they're not allowed to so they're stuck.

23 Given the choice, most people in this state
24 would like to shut Greyhound racing down. All we're
25 asking for at this time is a chance to put it to a

1 vote and to let the public say what they want.

2 Please put the racing question on the ballot and give
3 us a chance to erase this shameful practice and give
4 Floridians another reason to be proud.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Brian Graham. Laura Hine.
7 Laura Hine. Debbie Taylor. Debbie Taylor, okay.
8 Brian Pitts. Pete Taylor.

9 Hi, Laura, welcome back. The other Laura.

10 MS. HINE: Thank you, yes, Laura Hine.

11 Good evening. My name is Laura Hine and I'm
12 here to speak about public education and I'm against
13 Proposals 4, 5 -- 4, 45, 71 and 93.

14 I was born and raised in Tampa and I've been
15 educated in public schools. Sorry. I'm a graduate
16 of the U.S. Naval Academy in aerospace engineering.
17 I was accepted to Harvard and Georgetown Universities
18 for graduate school.

19 When our son was born here in St. Petersburg
20 seven years ago, the first question people asked was
21 where's he going to go to school, and that was the
22 first indication to me of the quagmire that public
23 education has become for parents.

24 I kept hearing Florida schools are bad, St. Pete
25 schools are failing. Our son was in a private

1 school, a private preschool, and I would drive by our
2 neighborhood elementary school that no one I knew had
3 on their list, much less actually sent their children
4 to. It was a title 1-D school and I decided to visit
5 and ask questions as to what that meant.

6 That was two and a half years ago. Since then
7 our family and many other neighborhood families have
8 committed to this school and to asking the questions
9 around the popular assumptions around public
10 education. Our son is thriving at this accelerated D
11 school. Our metrics are wrong when it comes to
12 education.

13 I have three specific takeaways to share with
14 you from my last couple years of boots on the ground
15 experience with education, which most of our
16 legislators don't have. One, educational standards
17 and regulations should be by educators not by
18 legislatures.

19 Look at the way we run our military with joint
20 chief staff who actually sets regulations and
21 standards which then have oversight and funding by
22 Congress. The state legislature here has too much
23 power and 45 and 71 just gives them more and more.

24 Tax funded education, whether it's traditional
25 public schools, charter schools or schools that

1 receive voucher funds, should have some metrical
2 regulations. If charter schools have freedom to
3 intervale, so should traditional public schools. If
4 traditional public schools have strict oversight on
5 finances --

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your --

7 MS. HINE: -- so should charter schools.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

9 MS. HINE: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Sir.

11 MR. PITTS: Brian Pitts.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Pitts.

13 MR. PITTS: Thank you very much. Brian Pitts.

14 Well, I don't know. You got a lot of stuff on
15 here, or whatever your log roll, who knows what that
16 comes to. You know what I mean by log rolling.

17 So I might give you a benefit: 11, 91, 66 12,
18 20, 9, 65, 97. You might confirm with those
19 proposals.

20 Why? They cleanup, clarify or confirm an issue.
21 Basic and simple. That belongs in the constitution.

22 What's missing? Commissioner Stemberger's
23 definition of marriage that he did by initiative.
24 Remember, Supreme Court struck that down. Why isn't
25 that among your proposals?

1 Don't go there. There's nothing you can do with
2 that. Article I, 27 of -- you know, in the
3 constitution. You can't do nothing with that
4 anymore.

5 Maybe you need to make a commission bill or
6 maybe a -- put an amendment on one of your other
7 bills because that completely is deleted.

8 Beyond that, you don't need 72 because why?
9 House of joint resolution 7001 just passed 2008
10 session.

11 Seventy-two will be on the ballot in some
12 fashion. Don't need that either.

13 Unfortunately, what the people have said to you
14 is they don't like what the judiciary and legislature
15 are doing because all the rest of the proposals --
16 I'm talking about only the 36 I'm dealing with that's
17 supposed to be pending. You all aren't even supposed
18 to deal with that. They're talking about the
19 unhappiness they are with their legislature and
20 judiciary not dealing with issues, because you got
21 statutory language in all those other proposals
22 beyond the 8 that I mentioned. That's statutory
23 language. That's not what you're supposed to be
24 doing.

25 You need to make a revision of the legislature

1 statute and the judiciary statute, Article V and,
2 what, Article III, I think is the legislature, and
3 fix both of those branches. That's what the people
4 want.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 MR. PITTS: I don't know.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

8 Margaret Hanks. Margaret Hanks. Christopher
9 Haddad. Christopher Haddad. Margaret. Christie
10 Bruner. Sharon Dippel. Mary Beth Constante.

11 We'll go through that again. Margaret Hanks,
12 Christopher Haddad, Christie Bruner, Sharon Dippel,
13 Mary Beth Constante.

14 I don't see all those people coming up. Well,
15 let's see who shows up.

16 There we go. Yes, ma'am, your name is?

17 MS. DIPPEL: Sharon Dippel.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Sharon. Please
19 proceed.

20 MS. DIPPEL: I got to put this lower.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay.

22 MS. DIPPEL: I'm a shrimp.

23 First off, thank you all for allowing me to
24 speak. I thank you for attending, and also for the
25 length of time that you've committed to today.

1 I am asking you to vote no on Prop. 67. As you
2 know, my name is Sharon Dippel. I run GST, Sun State
3 Greyhound Adoption. We are the track adoption group
4 for Naples, Fort Myers and Flagler. I will be the
5 third track adoption group to step up today to ask
6 you to vote no.

7 We are the groups that work directly with the
8 kennels. We have access with the kennels. We are in
9 and out and we take the dogs directly from the track.
10 We have no issues with the industry and we get happy,
11 healthy dogs to adopt out.

12 The most alarming issue that I see is that the
13 current legislation does nothing to address the
14 racing Greyhound and how or what will happen to them
15 if this legislation passes. We adopt on the average
16 of 300 dogs per year. I'm very proud of that number.

17 This is adopting locally and hauling to
18 out-of-state groups. If we get 8 to 12 thousand dogs
19 in one fail swoop, we will not be able to take care
20 of them, feed them, vet them, nor pay to transport
21 them.

22 This legislation will be your legacy in
23 politics.

24 I listened to those horror stories from the
25 opposition and I wonder why my industry is being held

1 to higher standards than the public. Our dogs are
2 adopted at a 95-percent rate. It's the best breed
3 adoption. The Humane Society estimates 3 million
4 animals --

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

6 MS. DIPPEL: -- are euthanized yearly.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

8 Yes, ma'am. Come forward, please.

9 Is there anybody else that I called that hasn't
10 come up?

11 John Farmer, Aneela Brock. Miss Aneela Brock.

12 MS. BROCK: Angie.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Angie. Angie Brock? It
14 doesn't say that. Maybe it's an Angela. Angela
15 Brock.

16 Okay. And Maurice Mizrahi. I probably did that
17 wrong.

18 Yes, ma'am, please go ahead.

19 MS. CONSTANTE: Hi, my name is Mary Beth
20 Constante. You had the name very close.

21 Good evening. I had afternoon, but good
22 evening, everyone.

23 My name is Mary Beth Constante and I volunteer
24 and I foster for GST, Sun State Greyhound Adoption.
25 As Sharon said, we are the track adoption group for

1 Fort Myers, Naples and for Flagler. I am here to
2 urge you today to vote no on number 67.

3 I do own a retired racer. She retired in last
4 April after -- last year after winning only one race
5 out of 30 at Southland in Miami. I am not ashamed of
6 that record and I am not ashamed of her past. In
7 fact I'm very proud of that.

8 Now she spends her days going to the various dog
9 parks, dog friendly restaurants and meet and greets
10 in the Greater Tampa Bay Area. Wherever we go I get
11 compliments on her calm disposition and her excellent
12 behavior. She has been such a wonderful dog since
13 the day of her adoption, but I cannot take any credit
14 for that. I've only had her since September, so I've
15 decided to forgo all the regurgitated talking points
16 and to take this opportunity to give credit where
17 credit is due. So on behalf of my sweet Ellie
18 Banelli, I'd like to thank all of the trainers and
19 the people in the racing industry in attendance
20 today. You consistently turn out unintended retired
21 athletes that effortlessly transition in cherished
22 pets, therapy, emotional support and service dogs to
23 families across America.

24 Also, to my fellow volunteers, thank you for
25 sacrificing your evenings and weekends and opening

1 your homes and hearts to fosters, and thank you Jeff,
2 who is behind the Facebook page Paint the Trail. You
3 questioned your propaganda and you got off your duff
4 to put the Greyhound racing industry and anti-racing
5 activists under the microscope. You've enlightened
6 yourself and many others along the way. You talk the
7 talk, and more importantly, you walk the walk. I
8 cannot thank you all enough and I hope all of our
9 efforts are not in vain.

10 Please vote no on number 67.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

12 Yes, sir. You are?

13 MR. FARMER: My name is --

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Hold it down, guys. It's
15 getting late.

16 MR. FARMER: My name is John Farmer. I'm a
17 kennel owner here at Derby Lane and I'm a homeowner
18 and a registered voter in the state of Florida.

19 I moved to Florida in 1976. I grew up watching
20 the dog races and fell in love with the animals, and
21 I had a dream and wanted to come race here in
22 Florida, and I've been here for 31 years racing, and
23 I've got two sons that I've put through school with
24 income from the Greyhounds, and one of them goes to
25 this school right here. And I am a eyewitness to

1 some of the South Florida tracks that have pretty
2 much tried to push to get casino gambling and to push
3 the dogs aside. They got us all to back them on
4 getting the slots put into the tracks, and then once
5 they got the slots, they wanted to try and get rid of
6 the dog racing, and they've -- one of the tracks that
7 obstructed the view of the racing box so that you
8 can't see it, one of the tracks had no toe board for
9 one whole year.

10 So what kind of people would go out to a race
11 track if there's no toe board to see the odds. You
12 know, they tried everything they could to discourage
13 people from coming out and these tracks have -- some
14 of the tracks have done this over the past 10 years
15 and stuff to try to get all you to vote, get casino
16 gambling only. And some of these anti-racing
17 activists, none of their money goes towards any of
18 the Greyhounds at all, it goes to help pay for their
19 lobbying, for their personal -- their personal
20 agendas and their -- their -- their payroll. They're
21 on payroll pretty much, and they just use the
22 Greyhound industry to make their own payrolls.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

24 Yes, ma'am. You are?

25 MS. BROCK: I'm Angela Brock. Just to clarify.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

2 MS. BROCK: And I just want to say I appreciate
3 you guys being here listening to all this and all the
4 hours that you're putting in.

5 I apologize, I'm not a public speaker. I'm
6 going to talk from my heart.

7 I'm here to oppose Proposition No. 67. I am
8 actually a third-generation small business owner. I
9 moved to the state of Florida probably about five
10 years ago with my father because of the Greyhound
11 industry. We make all the supplies for the industry,
12 the collars and the leads and all muzzles and
13 different things that the Greyhounds wear. You know,
14 we pay taxes, I'm a registered voter, but like I
15 said, we did move to Florida because there are 12
16 tracks here, to better service our customers. And
17 first point I want to make is that I'm kind of
18 confused as to why the state of Florida would think
19 about voting on a proposal, making it a constitution
20 amendment when it threatens over anywhere from 3500
21 to 8000 jobs in the state.

22 Thirty-five hundred is directly resulted, 10,000
23 is probably when you're talking more like the lead
24 outs and the certain kennel helpers and things like
25 that.

1 You know, I have a very hard time believing that
2 a state would do that.

3 Many of the people that you've heard from
4 tonight are, you know, third/fourth generation. We
5 take a lot of pride in what we do. I feel very
6 blessed to be in this industry. I've met a lot of
7 great people, and one thing these people have is
8 passion. They care very much for their dogs. Their
9 dogs are absolutely treated better than most house
10 pets.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you for your
12 comments.

13 MS. BROCK: Thank you, guys.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Gentlemen.

15 Are you Maurice?

16 MR. MIZRAHI: I'm Maurice Mizrahi. You got it
17 perfectly, thank you, sir.

18 Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for staying late
19 tonight. I would like to ask that you make No. 67 on
20 the ballot this year. I want to vote against
21 Greyhound racing.

22 Gentlemen, ladies, I'm offended that you've been
23 spending my tax dollars to regulate an industry that
24 hurts animals.

25 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Liar.

1 MR. MIZRAHI: Op, don't call me a liar because
2 it's true.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Folks, whoa, whoa, whoa.

4 MR. MIZRAHI: No, that's not acceptable.

5 Four hundred thirty-seven dogs --

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: It is not acceptable. Let the
7 gentleman speak.

8 MR. MIZRAHI: Four hundred thirty-seven dogs
9 have died since 2017. That's a state fact. That's
10 not a GREY2K fact; that's not anything else.

11 Dogs -- the head of the racing industry
12 blacklisted -- said that there was a blacklist on a
13 rescue group. That's not anybody who loves their
14 dogs. That's nonsense.

15 They want to talk with passion, let's talk with
16 some passion. We have rescue groups that can't get
17 dogs; we're sending dogs out of state so Florida
18 can't follow to them. Let's talk about what's really
19 going on, because this ain't the truth.

20 We need this amendment and we need to ban doing
21 racing, and you all need to think about where we're
22 spending our money. You want to call yourself
23 Democrat, you want to call yourself Republican, I
24 don't care, but it's costing money to regulate this
25 group and we're killing animals in our name.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

3 Valerie Brehm. Valerie Brehm. Michael

4 Weisen -- Weisensee. Helen Kirten. Come on up.

5 Dave Wiggins.

6 And then please pronounce your name properly
7 since I'm sure I'm not.

8 MR. WEISENSEE: Yeah, you slaughtered that a
9 little bit --

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yeah, probably.

11 MR. WEISENSEE: -- but that's okay.

12 My name is Michael Weisensee. I'm from
13 Englewood, Florida. I'm an in-state advocate for
14 ending dog racing.

15 You know, it's -- I would just ask you to put it
16 on the ballot so Floridians have a voice, a voice for
17 these dogs. You know, bottom line -- I have some
18 sympathy for people that are in the industry, you
19 know, they're facing losing their livelihood, but
20 dogs are dying. You know, that's not -- that's not a
21 disputed fact. You can go to the state data. Dogs
22 are dying.

23 You know, can you find a livelihood that doesn't
24 involve animals dying?

25 So, you know, put it on the -- put it on the

1 ballot. You know, give us a chance to vote. Give us
2 a chance to voice our opinions. You know, this is a
3 dark cloud over the Sunshine State, and I think, if
4 you put it on the ballot, I think it will pass.

5 Well, maybe not, maybe the majority of the
6 people will overlook the deaths and injuries and
7 they'll vote it down, but I don't think so. I don't
8 think you think so either, and they don't think so.
9 They're afraid of it, because most people want to be
10 on the right side of history. They want Florida to
11 join the other 40 states that have banned, and
12 they've banned dog racing for good reasons, so please
13 let us be a voice for the dogs and vote yes for this
14 proposal.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Valerie Brehm, Helen Kirten,
17 Dave Wiggins, Linda Coman. Linda Coman. Colby Wise.

18 Mr. Wise.

19 Lorna White. Theresa Potter. Kim Glace, or
20 G-l-a-c-e, and Belinda Parker, please come forward.

21 Thank you.

22 Mr. Wise.

23 MR. WISE: Hello, Commissioners. Good evening.
24 My name is Colby Wise. I live in Bradenton, Florida.
25 I'm here to support the revival of public Proposal

1 700,000. I ask the CRC to replace this proposal on
2 our 2018 ballot.

3 Adults having a right to cannabis marijuana is
4 essentially for our health, a better criminal justice
5 system, our environment and to better our economy.
6 Unfortunately, current cannabis laws do very little
7 to address the potential this plant can offer our
8 state. Instead, such laws are counterproductive in a
9 free society, and in Florida they directly hinder our
10 ability to enjoy and defend life and liberty as
11 afforded by Article I, Section 2 of our state's
12 constitution.

13 I realize, due to the endless misinformation and
14 propaganda, the issue of cannabis is often considered
15 taboo and may seem petty to some. We must rise above
16 that stigma and misinformation 80-plus years of
17 cannabis prohibition have created and focus on facts
18 and science.

19 Here's a few facts science has revealed:
20 Cannabis is not a gateway substance to hard drugs;
21 despite our strict cannabis laws, teenagers can still
22 get weed easier than most adults can; cannabis does
23 not drastically impair the ability to drive as
24 alcohol does; after 5000 years of humans using
25 cannabis, not one verifiable death has been

1 associated with its use; cannabis use improves our
2 health and does not harm it; cannabis can be utilized
3 to prevent many life-threatening illnesses, such as
4 cancer and others; rights to cannabis is a matter of
5 civil liberties, human rights and would correctly be
6 addressed by means of a constitutional amendment.
7 The fact is, the only true danger surrounding the
8 cannabis plant is getting caught with it.
9 Fortunately, this Commission can advance eliminating
10 this danger all together.

11 Many of you assigned to this Commission have
12 expressed bias towards --

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. WISE: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am. You are?

17 MS. WHITE: Hi. My name is Lorna White. I live
18 in Riverview, Florida.

19 I'm not an activist, but I'm asking you to vote
20 in favor of Proposal 67. I am a Greyhound mom for
21 seven years. I currently have two Greyhounds and
22 fell in love with the breed, and will probably never
23 own another breed.

24 On the way in I spoke briefly to a woman who --
25 I'm sorry. I spoke briefly to a woman who was

1 pro-racing. She said that Greyhound racing was a
2 \$2 billion industry.

3 I told her that I've been to a few races and
4 didn't see hardly anybody there. She said that
5 people were doing it online. So I think that if
6 people are going to gamble on dogs and they're doing
7 it over the Internet, they don't really have any
8 interest in watching the dogs, it's more just in
9 gambling, and there's plenty of ways to do the
10 gambling.

11 And why we're allowing -- why are we allowing
12 Greyhound racing to continue on the backs of
13 Greyhounds? Literally, as many of the injuries are
14 fatal spinal cord injuries, especially since they
15 don't even go to the tracks to see them run.

16 I don't know if anyone else has said it, but I
17 will: Why are we torturing Greyhounds for people to
18 gamble? They are -- they are casualties of gambling.

19 I can't speak intelligently about food that they
20 are given or about being drugged, however, there is
21 no way to get around the fact that they are kenneled
22 hours and hours every day.

23 And at home my dogs love to be out and they've
24 heard people talk about how they love racing, that
25 they're wagging their tails. I think it's because

1 they're actually getting out of the kennel and
2 actually have some human contact.

3 Please vote for Proposal 67.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 MS. WHITE: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am. Your name?

7 MS. PARKER: Hi. My name is Christie Parker and
8 I'm speaking on behalf of my mom because, ironically
9 enough, she went to let the Greyhounds out of the
10 kennel.

11 Right? That's cool.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: And who's your mom?

13 MS. PARKER: My mom is Belinda Parker.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Belinda Parker.

15 MS. PARKER: Yes, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay.

17 MS. PARKER: I am not involved in Greyhound
18 racing any longer. I own my own hairdressing salon;
19 I'm a business owner and I am a proud St. Petersburg
20 resident.

21 I am here to speak to you because, contrary to
22 what a lot of these people that are in these
23 extremist groups believe -- and I would call them
24 extremist because a lot of their information is
25 antiquated, and it's just not true.

1 My parents, my family, a lot of the people that
2 are sitting here behind me have raced Greyhounds and
3 they care about them. A lot of the reasons why
4 they're so easily living in homes is because these
5 women have sat and taught them to sit and stay and
6 play and they're happy dogs. They know -- they
7 associate people with positivity. They see any
8 person and they're happy to see them because the
9 people who care for them on a regular basis are not
10 cruel to them. These are professional athletes, and
11 if they were beaten or not fed or mistreated, they
12 wouldn't perform as such.

13 I hear what these people say regularly and it
14 feels like a personal attack because my parents would
15 never harm an animal. We've had animals and
16 Greyhounds in our home for years.

17 As far as not feeding animals, I wish I could
18 swear right now, but I can't. I lost my childhood
19 home because my parents were so adamant about making
20 sure that, despite the fact they weren't actually
21 making money on their kennel, their dogs were fed,
22 and I have an incredible work ethic because every
23 single morning, including Christmas, we got up and
24 worked with our animals and let them out and treated
25 them well. And I just wanted to stand here and tell

1 that as a person who has absolutely nothing
2 to gain --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.
5 Thank you very much.

6 Michael Minardi, Michael Minardi, Mohammad Abdul
7 Aziz, Cheryl Orr, Dr. Kelly Deburek, Joan Foster.

8 MS. FOSTER: Right here.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Donald Beers. Velva Lee
10 Heraty.

11 Yes, ma'am. You are?

12 MS. ORR: My name is Cheryl Orr.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

14 MS. ORR: And I live in Largo, Florida, been
15 here since '69.

16 We own a small business, my husband and I, and
17 we've been rescuing Greyhounds for 30 years. I love
18 the breed. I don't know some of the kennels that
19 they've been talking about; I can only talk to you
20 about what I have seen. I have been into the
21 trainers area where I helped somebody because we had
22 to pick up some dogs and take them to the kennels.

23 JUDGE STARGEL: The clock's not going.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'm sorry?

25 The clock's not going. There you go.

1 MS. ORR: Oh goody, I get extra time.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Lucky you.

3 MS. ORR: Anyway, I went to the -- we went to
4 the breeders and I was just appalled. The females
5 had given birth, they were laying on a piece of shirt
6 on the dirt. We had to wash a dog three times to get
7 the fleas off of him. When I went -- we took him to
8 the kennels and I -- here again, I'm only telling you
9 what I have seen in the area where I live. There may
10 be wonderful kennels out there, but I did not see
11 that.

12 Crates stacked two high across from each other,
13 dogs laying in a crate they could not fit in,
14 couldn't stretch out -- or they could fit in it, but
15 they couldn't stretch out, which is why, I guess,
16 every one we got had no hair on their back end.

17 When you get a dog from the track, they're very
18 quiet and timid. These dogs make wonderful,
19 wonderful rehab dogs or PTSD dogs, and they do make
20 good pets because they're docile, okay? So I'm not
21 arguing that point. What I am arguing is the fact
22 that we have done to Greyhounds what we have not done
23 to any other animal.

24 Why is a dog not allowed to be a pet? That's
25 what they're here for. And why in the world -- why

1 in the world would we expect the Greyhounds to bear
2 the cost of a job for our economy? They're a
3 four-legged dog. They're here to help us; they're
4 here to be friendly; they're here to make us feel
5 good. They should not have the responsibility of
6 putting money into somebody's pocket just because
7 they think they need it, or the government for that
8 matter, but I thank you very much.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

10 Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. FOSTER: Thank you for this time today. My
12 name is Joan Foster and I'm here today to ask you to
13 vote no on Proposal 67.

14 I've traveled over 1400 miles to have these few
15 minutes with you today because -- and I'm not
16 employed in the racing industry and I never have
17 been, but I feel very strongly that this is a
18 multilayered issue, and it belongs in legislation,
19 not on the ballot. I also feel strongly that when we
20 make important decisions, we be well informed before
21 we're doing so.

22 I understand that there have been many
23 invitations that have been extended to you to visit
24 racing kennels and farms, but no one has accepted for
25 the most part.

1 There are many lives and livelihoods that hang
2 in the balance here. With all due respect, how can
3 you make such an important decision based on only
4 what -- you know, the rhetoric of lies and
5 misinformation that you've been hearing from
6 anti-racing groups. You know, all I'm asking is that
7 you go and see for yourself. You owe it to them to
8 make an informed decision, and also, you know, I've
9 heard so much today -- I would love to address all of
10 the things that I've heard that are really
11 misinformation.

12 I'm from Iowa and it's not -- the Greyhound
13 racing there is the same as it is here. The people
14 are the same. They treat the dogs the same. There
15 are a certain number of bad people in every industry.
16 You know, to say that every person in the Greyhound
17 industry is bad would be to say, and I'm sorry to
18 say, every priest is a pedophile or every cop is a
19 racist. That's not true. So why -- you know, why do
20 we paint this industry with that same ugly brush?

21 Like I say, I have no interest financially or
22 anything else in this; I just don't like to see
23 people being treated unfairly, and I believe that's
24 what's going on here.

25 Thank you very much for your time and vote no on

1 67.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, sir, you are?

3 MR. BEERS: Yes, my name is Don Beers and I'm
4 here to speak in support of Proposal 22. This
5 proposal would simply allow the voters to restore
6 Section 23 of Article I of our state constitution to
7 its original intended meaning, which was voted on and
8 approved by 61 percent of the voting citizens of
9 Florida. As you all are all aware, Section 23 was
10 misinterpreted by the Florida Supreme Court,
11 legislating from the bench, who decided that Section
12 23 could somehow be used to allow a minor to have an
13 abortion without the permission of their parent.

14 That is an outrageous perversion, having nothing
15 to do with what the voters approved. Proposal 22
16 will give the voters the opportunity to correct this
17 misinterpretation by adding the words, and I quote,
18 "with respect to privacy of information and the
19 disclosure thereof."

20 That's all that's changed, is the addition of
21 those words. If those who support a minor being able
22 to obtain the most serious of invasive surgical
23 procedures without their parent's knowledge want to
24 inshrine that in law, then they should be required to
25 honestly put that on the ballot and let the voters of

1 Florida roundly re -- defeat that absurd idea.

2 Florida voters should be allowed to decide on
3 whether or not to restore Section 23 to its original
4 and true meaning.

5 Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

7 Jennifer Webb, Fred Johnson, Nancy Natilson,
8 Richard Alley, Jessika Ann Sterno, please come
9 forward.

10 Yes, ma'am, you are?

11 MS. WEBB: Hi. I am Jennifer Webb.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Jennifer.

13 MS. WEBB: And I'm a candidate for House
14 District 69, which includes many of Pinellas County's
15 beaches, and I am a business owner and resident of
16 Gulfport.

17 I am here today because my community asked me to
18 represent their positions of -- the positions of
19 three sectors in my district, and that's the barrier
20 islands governing council. This council is comprised
21 of 11 barrier island cities and their mayors. The
22 local hotel areas, which is the cornerstone of
23 tourist industry, and the vast majority of families
24 in District 69.

25 We all agree and overwhelmingly support Proposal

1 91 to put a ban on offshore drilling on the 2018
2 ballot. In our community we understand that what is
3 good for our environment is good for the health of
4 our economy and the health of our families. Tourism
5 in our beautiful white sand beaches are a major
6 engine of our local economy. Indeed, two of the top
7 10 best beaches in the county according to
8 TripAdvisor are in Pinellas County. Statewide
9 visitors spend \$109 billion and created 1.4 million
10 jobs in 2016, yet our beaches remain vulnerable.

11 Our community constantly -- is constantly
12 reminded that our shores remain under threat, such as
13 the recently proposed federal five-year program for
14 offshore oil drilling. While the state may have
15 limited influence over federal policy where we can
16 control our own destiny, we have an obligation to do
17 so.

18 Putting Proposal 91 on the ballot will give
19 Florida residents the opportunity to protect our
20 shores and our state's waters. Thank you so much and
21 I hope this evening is over soon.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23 Yes, sir. You're next. You are?

24 MR. ALLEY: My name is Richard Alley.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Richard.

1 MR. ALLEY: I am a -- sorry -- registered voter
2 here in Pasco County actually.

3 I'm a proud owner of Greyhounds and I'm here to
4 vote against or urge you to vote against Proposition
5 67.

6 As a proud owner of the Greyhounds for several
7 years, and, more importantly, being able to foster
8 multiple dogs and find homes for them, I find one
9 avenue, or one of this -- I pity the folks here
10 having to decipher what's fact and what's fiction of
11 this testimony today, and I keep coming away from how
12 in the heck are you ever going to be able to decipher
13 the fact and the fiction of what's been stated
14 together. And one thing I took away, having been
15 here all day listening to all these testimonies, is a
16 very important question that I present to each of
17 you: There's been one overwhelming testimony from
18 all the parties involved today that state how
19 wonderful the pets are, the Greyhounds are a
20 wonderful pet, and they are just phenomenal to be --
21 to take home and be -- and that is absolutely true.
22 And one of the reasons that is, is because they're
23 not mistreated. They're not abused on the track.

24 I challenge any one of you to recite -- find an
25 example of dogs that were abused and just suddenly

1 became wonderful pets. That's not the case.

2 You'll find -- and I urge you to try and get out
3 to the tracks. I've been there. I've been doing
4 this for a number of years now. I urge you to get
5 out and do the fact finding on your own and don't
6 take what is being recited because they read it on
7 the Internet as fact.

8 Remember, the Internet isn't always factually
9 correct, and neither are these lies that are being
10 proposed -- presented to you all.

11 Vote no on Proposition 67.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

13 Karen Berman, Devan Cheaves, Damaris Allen, John
14 Ciani, Debi Mazor, Kimberly Reimer, Bruce Inverso,
15 Bruce Inverso, Kristen Mendez.

16 Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. MAZOR: Debi Mazor.

18 I didn't see whether anyone else is still here.
19 I've been here for eight hours like you guys. I
20 guess you've been here for nine.

21 I'm a resident of St. Petersburg, Florida. I
22 hope that you have a chance to stand -- spend more
23 time here and enjoy what an enlightened city St.
24 Petersburg is.

25 I'm very proud to say that St. Petersburg is the

1 first city in the entire country that has passed an
2 ordinance banning campaign financing of candidates
3 over \$5000. They took a risk when they did that, but
4 they did it because they felt that they had to defend
5 democracy, and we all feel very threatened here by
6 what's happening to our democracy. So in terms of
7 the proposals, I would urge you not to put on the
8 ballot anything that is designed to take away rights.

9 Number 4 is going to take away the right not to
10 have a religion established, which is something that
11 we're given by the constitution. Freedom of religion
12 is one thing, establishment is another.

13 Twenty-two would take away the right to choose;
14 45 would take away the right to have a free and
15 public education in our country according to it's
16 long -- long tradition; 29 would take away the rights
17 of immigrants; and 95 would take away home rule.

18 I just want to say, in terms of 67, which I
19 support, there are only five states that still have
20 legalized gambling. I have them here: Alabama,
21 Arkansas, West Virginia, Texas and Florida.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you for your
23 thoughts.

24 MS. MAZOR: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Denise Deja. Denise Deja,

1 Ryan Scates.

2 MR. SCATES: Is it Scates?

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Scates? We'll take Scates.

4 MR. SCATES: S-c-a-t-e-s, so it's Scates.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Denise. Delores Orlando,
6 that's an easy one. Delores Orlando. Brian Lowack.
7 Chuck Cawl -- Cawley.

8 Go ahead, sir.

9 MR. SCATES: Can you hear me?

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Sure. Yeah.

11 MR. SCATES: Yeah.

12 Hi, my name is Ryan Scates. I'm a 21-year-old
13 college student at USF Tampa. I live in Wesley
14 Chapel.

15 I'm here to let the Commission know of my
16 support of Proposal 62 and how I'd like for it to be
17 brought back.

18 Proposal 62 would make Florida an open primary
19 state. I'm a registered Independent. In 2016 I was
20 not able to participate in the primaries for either
21 the President of the United States or for the U.S.
22 Senate, and I would like to -- and yesterday I had to
23 update my voter registration information just so I
24 could participate in the democratic primaries,
25 despite the fact that I and millions of other young

1 people have a distaste for the -- for the two-party
2 system.

3 I would like to be able to have the freedom to
4 participate in the primary regardless of political
5 affiliation, because the idea of the closed primary
6 basically discriminates against view points,
7 basically saying that if you are Independent, you
8 cannot participate in the primary. In addition to
9 that, is undemocratic, so I'd like you to bring back
10 Proposal 62 and put it on the ballot this November.

11 In addition, I'd also like to state my
12 opposition to Proposals 4, 22 and 29.

13 Four and 22 are proposals being pushed by
14 evangelical theocrats who want to be able to fund
15 religious institutions with public money, and
16 Proposal 22 basically take away privacy protections
17 from our Constitution in order to restrict a women's
18 reproductive rights, while Proposal 29 is being
19 pushed by xenophobic white nationalists who basically
20 don't think -- think that immigrants are a problem.

21 Undocumented immigrants are not a problem; they
22 do not come out and steal jobs. Not only do they
23 contribute viably to Florida's economy, but they also
24 contribute viably to our diversity.

25 Immigration is not only a human right, but also,

1 you know, so is freedom of movement, and, basically,
2 you know, Proposal 29 sees them as less than human
3 and, you know, as a pest, so I urge you to reject
4 Proposals 29, 22 and 4.

5 In addition, I urge you to support Proposal 91.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

7 MR. SCATES: You're welcome.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am, you are?

9 MS. ORLANDO: Good evening, CRC members, and
10 thank you for your service. My name is Delores
11 Orlando.

12 I oppose Proposal 65. I'm a board member of the
13 Florida Smoke Free Association. Our purpose is to
14 support tobacco harm production and to protect vapors
15 rights. Currently we have 58 members and represent
16 85 businesses throughout the state.

17 Proposition -- or Proposal 65 is sending a
18 dangerous message that vaping and smoking are the
19 same.

20 Vaping is not smoking. Vaping is tobacco free.
21 It is a form of replacement therapy. Yes, smoking
22 rates are on the decline, but is it a coincidence
23 that vaping is on the rise?

24 The proposed argument is secondhand vapor
25 contains toxins; vaping has an adverse health effect

1 and there are not enough research.

2 All of these statements are false. Along with
3 the Royal College of Physicians' Report the committee
4 received in Cape Coral, I have for you reports from
5 the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New
6 York, the American Cancer on Science and Health, the
7 Health of New Zealand Report, a National Center for
8 Biotechnology Information, and, yes, even our own
9 CDC.

10 Get educated. Combining tobacco and vaping is
11 wrong. It sends a wrong message. Life-saving
12 technology cannot be buried in the black hole of
13 smoking. Associating vaping and smoking is
14 deplorable. I quote Ronald Reagan when he said, "As
15 government expands, liberties contract."

16 Also patriot -- Patrick Henry stated: The
17 Constitution is not an instrument for the government
18 to restrain people, but for the people to -- an
19 instrument for the people to restrain the government.

20 This is not a constitutional issue. I too have
21 lost my father and father-in-law to cancer. Vaping
22 products may have saved their lives.

23 I ask you to reject Proposal 65.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

25 Yes, sir, you are?

1 MR. LOWACK: Good evening. Brian Lowack here on
2 behalf of the Pinellas Board of County Commissioners.
3 I'd just like to thank you all for sticking it out
4 tonight, especially the chairman of our local
5 delegation, Senator Rouson, and I will waive my time
6 in support of Proposals 61 and 91 and opposition to
7 Proposal 95.

8 Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

10 Chuck Cowley, Stephanie Cox, Chris Grieb or
11 Grieb.

12 How do we pronounce it? Chris?

13 MR. GRIEB: You were right the second time.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay. Getting there, huh?

15 MR. GRIEB: Yeah, hang on a second. Don't start
16 my clock yet.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Jeanie -- no, we're not.

18 Jeanie Ghafari, Kurt Trzeciak.

19 That's a tough one.

20 Here we go. You ready?

21 MR. GRIEB: Ready.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Let's go.

23 MR. GRIEB: Evening. My name is Chris Grieb.

24 "An opinion is the lowest form of human
25 knowledge. It requires no accountability and no

1 understanding. The highest form of knowledge is
2 empathy, for it requires us to suspend our egos and
3 live in another world."

4 Words that are 2400 years ago by a Greek
5 philosopher are still as truthful today as they were
6 then. You cannot fully understand anything unless
7 you roll your sleeves up, strap on your boots and
8 delve into a world that you're not familiar with.
9 Until you can say that you've seen with your own
10 eyes, touched with your own hands and then walked in
11 the footsteps of all these people behind me, you
12 can't possibly have a true understanding of the care,
13 love and devotion that we place into our dogs.

14 I spoke last week about my journey into becoming
15 a trainer. I adopted a dog and was blasted with
16 incessant indoctrination tactics, misled with
17 inaccurate information, hyperbole and outright lies,
18 I felt the need to learn for myself. I went out of
19 my way and visited tracks, racing kennels and farms
20 all over the country.

21 I didn't see what was being thrown at me. I saw
22 people that went to work in the dark and came home in
23 the dark, much like we are all going to be doing
24 today.

25 Excuse me.

1 I saw people forgo birthdays, holidays, weddings
2 and vacations all because of their devotion to their
3 dogs and their care. I myself only get to go home to
4 Washington State once or -- once a year at
5 Thanksgiving to visit with my family, and even still
6 that's only for a couple of days.

7 In addition to spending years apprenticing as a
8 helper and an assistant before I became a trainer,
9 three years ago I bred a litter of my own. It was a
10 five-pup litter that cost myself and my partner
11 \$18,000 to raise. That's just one litter done by one
12 guy and his friend.

13 Three of those dogs are still racing; two of
14 them are here at Derby Lane with John Farmer, who
15 spoke earlier; and the other with AJ Grant in
16 Orlando, who also spoke earlier; the other two
17 retired into homes. One never raced at all, ever,
18 and the other is a service dog for one of our
19 disabled U.S. Army veterans who has said to me,
20 Joshua gave me a new purpose, a new hope.

21 Joshua would never have been bred if it weren't
22 for racing, and there are no more Josh -- and there
23 will be no more Joshuas to help those in need of dogs
24 like him if this proposal comes to fruition.

25 Ladies and gentleman, our constitution is meant

1 to protect its citizens, not discriminate against
2 them.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your time.
5 Thank you for comments.

6 MR. GRIEB: Proposal 67 puts thousands of good,
7 hard-working people --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

10 MR. GRIEB: -- out of work and out of business.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Sir.

12 MR. GRIEB: I urge you to visit our kennels.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: We have to wrap up.

14 MR. GRIEB: Come see our dogs and come see for
15 yourself.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Let the lady speak, please.

17 Yes, ma'am, you are?

18 MS. GHAFARI: I'm Jeanie Ghafari. Thank you,
19 Commissioners; thank you, Your Honor. I know we're
20 all tired. I'm going to try to make it short. I'll
21 try to cut down.

22 Okay. I strongly support Proposal 91 to
23 prohibit offshore drilling on oil in coastal waters.
24 Oil is not sustainable. We are switching to clean
25 energy at this point in time.

1 The second point, what is at risk; what if we do
2 do offshore drilling; what's wrong with that?

3 Well, oil spills are not contained in the ocean.
4 They damage our ecosystem and can last more than 30
5 years, as we saw in the Exxon Valdez disaster. They
6 spilled 11 million gallons of crude oil, contaminated
7 2000 miles of shoreline, and 26,000 gallons of oil
8 remain in the sand on the shoreline today according
9 to the NOAA.

10 The largest marine oil spill was the Deep Water
11 Horizon by BP in the Gulf of Mexico. Eleven people
12 were killed, 17 were injured, 200 million gallons of
13 oil was spilled, 82,000 sand birds, 102 species of
14 birds were killed. The cleanup used
15 1.8 million gallons of chemical disbursements deemed
16 harmful for wildlife and maybe harmful to the people
17 that worked on it.

18 What feeds Florida's economy? Tourism supports
19 1.4 million jobs; 112.8 million visitors came in
20 2016. Florida's tourist spent \$109 billion in 2016.

21 Are we willing to destroy tourism, our main
22 industry? Are we willing to destroy the shoreline
23 for decades? Are we willing to contaminate the
24 Florida aquifers that millions of families depends
25 on? Are we willing to kill thousands of fish and

1 other sea life? Do we want to allow the oil history
2 to wreak havoc on our number one resource, the ocean,
3 home to fishing, boating, swimming and marine
4 animals?

5 I say no thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments,
7 ma'am. Thank you.

8 Please.

9 MR. TRZECIAK: My name is Kurt Trzeciak. I'm a
10 registered voter from Palm Beach County and proud to
11 be a racing Greyhound trainer for over 25 years, and
12 I am here to oppose, once again, Proposal 67.

13 Contrary to what anti-racing activists want you
14 to believe, the American racing Greyhound is the
15 safest breed in the country because of the care they
16 receive from those of us who have dedicated our lives
17 to this animal. As you can see from a poster a young
18 lady has back here, I'm not sure who she is,
19 Greyhounds are housed in large spacious crates within
20 soft bedding inside clean, comfortable,
21 climate-controlled kennels under 24-hour security in
22 a very heavily regulated industry.

23 Kennels are subjected to routine, unannounced
24 inspections by agents of a state regulatory agency.
25 Each race track has a state-licensed judge who

1 monitors all activities related to racing and makes
2 sure state mandated rules are followed. In the rare
3 event of an injury, a Greyhound receives immediate
4 veterinary care from a state-licensed veterinarian
5 who has an office at the track.

6 Now, on the subject of injuries, most, if not
7 all, of the injuries these people want you to think
8 happen on a regular basis could have been avoided if
9 the out-of-state radical activist group they support
10 had not fought tooth and nail against the Smith/Rader
11 Safety Act, which would have mandated very specific
12 safety regulations, procedures and equipment at
13 Florida race tracks.

14 Why would they fight a bill that would make
15 racing industries virtually nonexistent, because
16 happy, healthy Greyhounds do not generate donations
17 to their nonprofit and pay their salaries?

18 Remember, just because they tell the same
19 scripted lies over and over again does not suddenly
20 make them true. We Greyhound people have invited you
21 commissioners to visit our kennels and farms
22 unannounced. If the conditions of abuse and neglect
23 are as they allege, why don't the activists encourage
24 you to do the same? Because then you would see
25 through all their lies and vote against Proposal 67.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

2 Henry Chin, Carolyn Phillips, Shannon Spring.

3 MR. CHIN: Yes, here.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Theresa Helmich, Carol
5 Robinson, please come forward.

6 MR. CHIN: My name is Henry Chin. I'm from West
7 Palm Beach.

8 You know, it's been a long day. I've been to
9 most of these meetings. You know what, to cut back
10 and save time, if you only had a bible right here.
11 If you had a bible right here, we'd be out of here
12 six hours ago, seven hours ago, if we had a bible
13 right here.

14 I'm here to ask you to vote no on 67.

15 There's a lady here a few minutes -- a little
16 while ago saying that she had a parimutuel license
17 and that she went back there to inspect the
18 Greyhounds. She had access to the Greyhounds. She
19 described fleas and ticks and all kinds of abuses.
20 My question to you is, what did she do about it? Did
21 she report it to anybody? Did she call animal
22 control? Did she call the sheriff's department,
23 SPCA? She didn't tell -- she told you guys. She
24 didn't even report anything.

25 What's that saying?

1 See something, say something. Well, I guess she
2 said nothing.

3 Well, another thing was, this 67 is only
4 affecting me because I'm a Greyhound breeder. Now,
5 it takes a Greyhound from birth to race track about a
6 year and a half. So if I bred a Greyhound today, it
7 would be a year and a half before he can race.

8 Now, if this thing passes, there will be no race
9 track for me to race at by the time they're ready to
10 race.

11 Now, I raise about 50 Greyhounds a year and at a
12 cost of 3,000 per Greyhound, so I'm investing
13 \$150,000 in this economy for what?

14 I spent a lot of time and money on my Greyhounds
15 and hope you vote no for 67.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

17 Yes, ma'am. You are?

18 MS. HELMICH: Theresa Helmich, Tampa, Florida.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'm sorry, your name?

20 MS. HELMICH: Theresa Helmich, Tampa, Florida.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

22 MS. HELMICH: I was here to ask the Commission
23 to please go ahead and consider again Proposal 22,
24 place it on the ballot and let the voters themselves
25 decide that the right to privacy is being unjustly

1 used against the unborn. Please allow parental
2 rights to go ahead and decide that pregnant minors --
3 to give them consideration for adoption and being
4 educated at pregnancy centers within a 24-hour
5 waiting period. To have a minor pregnant today enter
6 an abortion clinic and expect an abortion counselor
7 to go ahead and give them an actual choice is
8 ludicrous. We ask that this Commission give the
9 voters a chance again to let us stand and be a voice
10 for the voiceless and the unborn in Florida.

11 Also we'd like to consider Proposal 96. We'd
12 like to thank Pam Bondi and her continued efforts to
13 end human trafficking and give additional rights to
14 victims.

15 I'm also a prison minister with Diocese of St.
16 Petersburg, and we ask that Proposal 20 -- we thank
17 you for considering Proposal 20, and that if there
18 are actually monies saved with Proposal 20 and the
19 sentencing guidelines are shortened, if you can
20 somehow use that money for the opioid crisis.

21 We thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23 Yes, ma'am, you are?

24 MS. SPRING: Hello. I'm Shannon Spring and I'm
25 a master's level humane educator. I do not get all

1 of my information off of the Internet. I am also the
2 proud mother, not owner, of Mayor Puppy Pants, the
3 first dog mayor of St. Petersburg, and I am here to
4 piss a lot of people off and make a lot of people
5 happy.

6 We are definitely putting Prop. 67 on the
7 ballot, correct, because I am for that, and this is
8 ridiculous if we don't get to vote on this. I am
9 very much for compassion and for Prop. 67.

10 I am sitting back there listening to racers say
11 things like, we're here for the dogs, which is the
12 equivalent of child predators saying we're here for
13 the kids.

14 They are whining and complaining about job loss;
15 they are greedy opportunists. I am losing money by
16 being here and I am happy to take that hit on my
17 income to speak up for the voiceless.

18 There are other jobs that you can get. Dogs
19 don't get a second life. Cruelty is not a sport,
20 it's a crime. The greatness of Greyhounds is not in
21 their speed, but in their forgiveness. Today may
22 they be given the gift of freedom and relieve the
23 burden of continuing to forgive those who don't even
24 have the wisdom to seek their forgiveness.

25 I have been talking to kindergarteners through

1 fifth graders for the last two weeks about animal
2 kindness. That's what my dog and I do, we visit the
3 public schools for free. Kids want to know why
4 adults aren't doing the right thing, and they said,
5 Miss Spring, we send you off today and ask you to
6 please come back with some good news because it sure
7 as hell seems like -- excuse me, they said heck,
8 they're kids -- it sure as heck seems like the bad
9 guys win a lot and the dogs lose. I need to bring
10 some good news back to the children.

11 I will tell you that dogs being asked to perform
12 on race tracks at all costs is not fun. It's not a
13 sport, it's sick. I ask you to say freedom, not
14 forgiveness anymore, is the destiny for the greatness
15 of our Greyhounds. Do something already. No
16 thoughts and prayers. Take action. This is cruelty,
17 not a sport. Amen.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you four your comments.

19 Carol Robinson, Virginia Wyman.

20 MS. WYMAN: Wyman.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Wyman. Virginia Wyman, Megan
22 Diehl or Diehl, Christin Behrens, and Brooke Busby,
23 please step forward.

24 MS. ROBINSON: I'm Carol Robinson and I'm here
25 to speak in opposition to Proposal 22, because the

1 right of privacy in making medical decisions for
2 one's own body must be protected, and because I'm old
3 enough to know what it was like before we had a
4 choice.

5 In 1972 I was a college student and I thought my
6 biggest decision was going to be choosing a major,
7 but I didn't know what I didn't know, and then my
8 birth control failed and life as I knew it ended. I
9 didn't know my body could become a prison in which I
10 was forced to carry and bare a child against my will.
11 I thought I could save money to get my life back, but
12 I didn't know a woman could be fired for being
13 pregnant until I was.

14 When I heard about it, the *Roe versus Wade*
15 decision, in January of 1973, I -- I cried for the
16 life that I was -- I lost, but I also cried for all
17 the women's lives that would be saved and still are
18 today.

19 The first clinic opened in Florida in April of
20 '73. It was too late for me. My son was born in
21 June of that year and the next day I was informed
22 that I would no longer be welcome in my parents'
23 home, or I should say we were no longer welcome.

24 I can't believe in 2018 that they are still
25 trying to control women's lives. That's -- we just

1 have to not let them have happen -- not let it
2 happen. I mean, we are really stronger than that.
3 We are not handmaids. We have voices. We fight
4 back. We vote.

5 Fight for women. Fight for your privacy.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

7 MS. ROBINSON: Defeat --

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ma'am --

9 MS. ROBINSON: -- Proposal 22.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Miss.

11 MS. ROBINSON: The committee voted it down.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

13 MS. ROBINSON: Don't bring it back. The women
14 of Florida will be watching.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

16 Yes, ma'am. You are?

17 MS. BUSBY: Hi. I'm -- my name is Brooke Busby
18 and I oppose Proposition 67.

19 I hold three loans with the state of Florida.
20 To obtain each of them I was fingerprinted and passed
21 a background check. One is my teaching
22 certification, the second is my concealed carry
23 permit, and the third is my department of business
24 and professional regulation license to own a racing
25 Greyhound in the state of Florida.

1 Yes, you heard that correctly, to own a racing
2 Greyhound I had to submit fingerprints and was
3 subject to a background check. As elected officials
4 in Florida, you have allowed lobbyist organizations
5 from out of state to waltz in and presume to tell you
6 how to run our government.

7 Are you not offended? As a voter, I am. This
8 group is counting, there I say betting, on you
9 falling into one of three categories: That you are
10 too ignorant to see through their propaganda, too
11 busy to vet the allegations by conducting your own
12 independent research, or too apathetic to care about
13 your own constituents.

14 Florida state statute chapter 550.0555 section 1
15 states: "It is the finding of the legislature that
16 parimutuel wagering on Greyhound dog racing provides
17 substantial revenues to the state."

18 I urge each of you to do your own research,
19 become familiar with the laws already regulating this
20 industry, accept the offers from the trainers to
21 visit their kennels, think of the statewide
22 ramifications if you put this industry out of
23 business.

24 How are you going to make up an \$11 million
25 budget deficit and how are you going to facilitate

1 the re-homing of over 8000 dogs overnight?

2 I adopted my first retired racer five years ago.
3 In the time since I've educated myself and learned
4 how loved these dogs are. It is the reason why they
5 make such great pets.

6 I now have two retired racers and my 26th foster
7 at home. Additionally, I co-own two active racers in
8 the state. Please do not be ignorant, too busy or
9 apathetic to do your due diligence, your constituents
10 and the dogs deserve better, and for the record, this
11 is the size of a racing crate.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

13 Yes, ma'am. You are?

14 MS. WYMAN: Hi.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Folks, it's late. Let's try
16 to move through the agenda without the clapping,
17 please.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. WYMAN: Hi. I'm Virginia Wyman. I'm not an
20 activist of any sort. I'm just a human being with a
21 conscience.

22 First of all, I would just like to read you a
23 quote that says: "The greatness of a nation and its
24 moral progress can be judged by the way it treats its
25 animals."

1 Well, you know, I was first exposed to
2 Greyhounds as a child in the mountains of Spain, and
3 they're just natural dogs. They're just like any
4 other animals; they would run to chase what the
5 hunters would kill.

6 Unfortunately, over there in Spain they're also
7 killed when they're no longer wanted. When I came
8 back here I thought, you know, we're such a great
9 country, we wouldn't allow things like that to
10 happen, but what we're doing is so much worse.

11 And, you know, I'm sorry for the people that --
12 they work, this is their job, and this is what they
13 use as an income, but there's other ways to make
14 money. I have to get up every morning and I have to
15 go to work. I don't have my Morkie running around to
16 do my job for me. I have to get up, I have to go to
17 work.

18 It's unconscionable what they're going through.
19 They're not born to be racers. They're born to be
20 pets like my Morkie, like a German Shepherd, like any
21 other animal, like any other dog.

22 There's no lies about that. It's just a
23 conscience. You either have one or you don't, and
24 it's about making money or -- or doing the right
25 thing in life, and you have that power to give the

1 people a chance to vote for what is right.

2 Please allow us to vote for what is our
3 conscience.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. WADLEY: My name is Tera Wadley. I believe
7 I was skipped. I've been here since 2 o'clock.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Then speak.

9 MS. WADLEY: All right. Thank you.

10 I wanted to speak to you on the Proposal 700500.
11 I'm here to give an insight on the degradation of our
12 lakes/rivers/streams.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Could you come closer to the
14 microphone, please?

15 MS. WADLEY: I'm sorry.

16 I'm here to give an insight on the degradation
17 on our lakes, rivers and streams and oceans. I'm a
18 Florida haul seiner. I can catch up to 50,000 pounds
19 of fish in six hours flat in the freshwater. I have
20 a thousand-yard net, which is the length of 10
21 football fields at 3-inch mesh, and a 450-yard net at
22 2-inch mesh.

23 I understand that the saltwater commercial
24 fishermen are only allowed 500 square meshes, period.

25 That is astronomically crazy. I feel like it is

1 a neglect to our state and our country to not compare
2 that catches of the commercial fisherman to that of
3 the biologist of this state who do not know how to
4 catch like the commercial fishermen. If they cannot
5 catch, you cannot manage, and I can catch more fish
6 than probably most of them in the entire state in one
7 day. In one day.

8 If I can catch more than that, there needs to be
9 an overhaul. There needs to be something looked at.
10 This is almost -- this is sinful. This is wrong.

11 This is -- there's four disciples of Jesus
12 Christ that was commercial fisherman. These
13 industries have been targeted. There's 7000 lakes in
14 the state of Florida, 5000 are not allowed to be
15 utilized, 2000 are the only ones that are used by
16 commercial use.

17 You shut down the turtle industry saying that
18 they were going to be over harvested. How can you
19 over harvest something when there's 5000 lakes for
20 them to breed in?

21 It's political pressure that has shut these
22 industries down. That is wrong. For 80 years this
23 has been going on. My parents -- grandparents walked
24 from the state of Florida in the 1800s here to fish.

25 Please help us and give us a voice.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time's over.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

3 MS. WADLEY: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay. Matthew Broerman,
5 Pamela Gamet or Gomet, Matthew Parker, Jenna Cullen,
6 Kelley Weaver, Mindy Taylor, Jason Blank, Stacey
7 Kroto, Kroto.

8 Thank you for hyphenating it that way. I
9 appreciate it.

10 Yes, ma'am, please.

11 MS. WEAVER: Hi, I'm Kelley Weaver.

12 I stand before you a medical professional who
13 has taken unpaid time off to ask you all to vote no
14 on Proposition 67.

15 Ending Greyhound racing would be devastating for
16 so many reasons. A few of them are: Loss of jobs,
17 loss of tourist revenue for the state and the loss of
18 Greyhound lives.

19 My entire family volunteers with the local
20 Greyhound adoption group. Not a rescue group. We
21 have fostered close to 90 dogs. This is a true
22 volunteered, unpaid position. We do this for the
23 love of the breed and the people who train them.

24 In the eight years that I've volunteered for
25 this group, I've picked up many Greyhounds from the

1 tracks and the farms. I've been inside numerous
2 kennels. These tracks -- of these tracks. I have
3 never once seen any of the abuse or the neglect that
4 the Greyhound -- that the GREY2K would have you
5 believe exist. I've watched many trainers and owners
6 cry as they've turned their dogs over to us to adopt
7 us out.

8 These dogs have been part of our lives for many
9 years. There is an amazing bond. We also work with
10 Greyhound prison program that for six years provided
11 love, hope, job training to the prisoners of Florida
12 system. Many prisoners have said this is the first
13 time that they've ever had unconditional love.

14 They've said time and time again, without the
15 love from the trainers that these dogs have created,
16 it wouldn't be so easy for them to train them. We
17 have been -- we have a waiting list for these dogs
18 and the prison has seen a huge behavior improvement
19 in the process -- in the prisoners.

20 I myself have four personal Greyhounds and they
21 all are therapy dogs. They go into the nursing homes
22 that I worked for, the hospitals, inner city
23 libraries and Hillsborough County public schools.
24 Because of the way they've been raced and trained and
25 loved by the racing industry, they make amazing

1 therapy dogs. I don't understand how people can
2 judge and lie about what's happened in kennels if
3 they've never stepped foot in one.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time's up.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, ma'am. Thank you.

7 Yes, ma'am, you are?

8 MS. CULLEN: Hello. My name is Jenna Cullen.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: What is it again, Jenna?

10 MS. CULLEN: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

12 MS. CULLEN: I am an unpaid 17-year-old that
13 drove here during my spring break to stand up for
14 what I believe in. I am here today to speak against
15 Proposition 67.

16 I may only be 17, but I have actually visited
17 numerous kennels across the state of Florida, unlike
18 a majority of the people that were here today.

19 Endless days of my life have been spent at
20 Greyhound tracks. I've spoken with many trainers
21 over the years and I've become quite accustomed to
22 the truth behind Greyhound racing.

23 When a Greyhound decides that it is ready to
24 retire from racing, I've heard the same response from
25 every trainer I've spoken with, the feeling is bitter

1 sweet. The trainers will be devastated when they
2 have to say goodbye to a dog that they spent
3 countless hours with raising as their own, however,
4 they take solis in knowing adoption groups will find
5 the dog's forever home. I would know since my family
6 has fostered and placed over 90 Greyhounds.

7 In the past the goodbye would often be the last
8 time the trainer would ever see the dog. I have
9 comforted trainers as they cried while saying goodbye
10 to their favorite pups.

11 My family decided to do something about that.
12 Once a year we hold a reunion of sorts. The adopters
13 bring their dogs to a beach here in St. Pete and the
14 trainers are able to reunite with some of the dogs
15 they are blessed to train. Every year over 30
16 families across the Bay Area come to the reunion.
17 Seeing the joy from the Greyhounds and trainers both
18 is the reason I believe in Greyhound racing. It has
19 changed the lives of so many, connecting trainers
20 with adopters and connecting Greyhounds with their
21 forever homes.

22 I'm standing here to speak for the compassionate
23 trainers who are not able to be here today, as they
24 are at the track caring for their kennel. On behalf
25 of the trainers I have met across the state of

1 Florida, I encourage you to vote no to Proposition
2 No. 67. I encourage you all to visit a kennel and
3 take the time to find the truth for yourself.

4 Thank you all for your time.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 Yes, sir.

7 MR. BLANK: Good evening. Mr. Chairman, members
8 of the Commission, my name is Jason Blank, and I rise
9 today on behalf of the Florida Bar criminal law
10 section to express our opposition to Proposal 96.

11 The -- well, you know what, Mr. Chairman, it's
12 getting late so let me say this: If there is one
13 organization to which this Commission should look for
14 guidance on how to act on Proposal 96, it is the
15 criminal law section.

16 Composing of prosecutors, defense attorneys,
17 judges and educators from across the state of Florida
18 practicing in the criminal justice arena day in and
19 day out, this is the Commission -- this is the
20 organization to which the Commission should look,
21 because we evaluated this proposal at length. And in
22 a vote of 29 to 3 voted to take a position against
23 it. Not because we oppose victims' rights that are
24 already codified in the Florida constitution and the
25 enacting statutes by the legislature, but because

1 this law is so important to all persons involved.

2 It is the position of the criminal law section
3 that this is a matter for the legislature, not one
4 which should be placed on the ballot as an amendment.

5 We urge the Commission to oppose Proposal 96 for
6 that reason, and we urge the Commission, if it has
7 any questions, to feel free to reach out.

8 Also and lastly, I would just like to applaud
9 your stenographer for doing such a great job in this
10 very long day. Court reporters and stenographers do
11 not get enough applause in the courtrooms or in
12 meetings like this, so thank you very much for your
13 time, ladies and gentlemen.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

15 Yes, sir. Your name?

16 MR. PARKER: Hello. I'm Matthew Parker. I am a
17 part of the Greyhound racing industry through my
18 parents, Henry and Belinda Parker. They have been
19 racing Greyhounds their whole entire life and it's
20 been a livelihood. It's made me and my sister who we
21 are today.

22 If you step foot in one of our kennels at 6
23 o'clock in the morning with my father -- he's 63
24 years old. He still has to do this to this day, and
25 luckily my mom got out of it, but my dad, he's

1 somebody to look up to. Somebody who instilled
2 values in me that I can look back on and just see how
3 we treated the dogs, and I would never think about
4 any of these vilifying comments that are coming from
5 another side of this crowd and -- and have less
6 malice towards them. They just make me sad inside.
7 They evoke emotions that I just can't bear to live
8 with.

9 I know my dad is a very compassionate man and I
10 would never think of any of these insatiable things
11 that have been said about this industry.

12 I know all these people back here and I've seen
13 the way they've handled these Greyhounds. It's with
14 compassion, and I'm mainly just speaking out of my
15 heart as a character witness for these people who are
16 speaking the truth today about the Greyhound
17 industry, and what have -- what I've seen with my own
18 eyes.

19 I've been there. I've seen the dogs. I know
20 their names. I could tell you about P&J's Bar from
21 10 years ago when I was 12 years old, you know. I
22 could tell you about any of the dogs and how they
23 were treated. It was just an amazing thing to watch
24 and be a part of, and a part of our history as St.
25 Petersburgians. So it's been here: Joe DiMaggio,

1 Babe Ruth, all the gang, they were there hanging out
2 at Derby Lane, and the dogs are not being mistreated.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you for your
4 comments.

5 Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. KROTO: Good evening. I'm Stacey Kroto. I
7 live in Pinellas Park. I'm also a registered voter,
8 and I vote and I'm a homeowner.

9 I'm here today to speak out against the
10 resurrection of Proposal 22. Our present privacy
11 clause protects everyday Floridians from governmental
12 intrusion into so many aspects of our private lives.
13 It has been correctly, purposely and purposefully
14 interpreted broadly by our state supreme court.

15 While I also see this proposal as a thinly
16 veiled attempt at limiting a woman's right to choose,
17 I want to make it clear that our present privacy
18 clause protects far more than just information. In
19 addition to protecting our rights to make personal
20 medical decisions, including reproductive health and
21 end-of-life decisions, it also protects us from
22 government meddling into how we raise our
23 children, our educational choices for them, and what
24 we do in the privacy of our homes and backyard.

25 Proposal 22 seeks to limit Floridians' right to

1 privacy. There is no reasonable argument in favor of
2 limiting our right to privacy and our constitution
3 should provide protections to Floridians, not limit
4 them. I ask again that you please do not resurrect
5 Proposal 22.

6 Also, I want to strongly speak out against
7 Proposal 4 and Proposal 45. I do not believe that
8 taxpayer money should be diverted to private schools
9 or religious institutions, and I would like you all
10 to consider this in your free time: That if the
11 majority of private schools in Florida were Islamic
12 or Jewish day schools, this would never be an issue
13 that we would hear about.

14 Lastly, because I still have time, I have been
15 here since 4 o'clock. I've heard a lot about
16 Proposal 67. I hope to be able to vote for it --
17 excuse me -- in November, and I find all of the
18 positions against it to be moot in the -- in the eyes
19 of the question of whether or not Floridians should
20 be able to vote against Greyhound racing.

21 Thank you all for your time.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23 Sherrie Dorsey, Sherrie Dorsey, Jamie
24 Blumenthal, Amelia Barr or Barr, Tina Vargas,
25 Isabelle Tassi, Shelly Ann Lawson, Myriam Parham,

1 Arnold Baer.

2 Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. TASSI: Yes, my name is Isabelle Tassi. I
4 live in Tampa. I'm here to ask you to please vote or
5 support Proposal 67 to ban Greyhound racing.

6 I wanted to thank Senator Lee and the other
7 cosponsors of this sane, rational and humane
8 proposal. I believe it's truly bipartisan and I
9 think it crosses all political -- all parts of the
10 political spectrum. I think there's wide support for
11 this.

12 As a society we have evolved over the years in
13 how animals are treated, and this proposal is another
14 step in the right direction. This proposal is one of
15 commonsense and compassion and brings us into the
16 21st Century. Our current laws regarding Greyhound
17 racing are antiquated and from a different era, and I
18 was going to cite some statistics, but I've heard
19 other people cite them. I won't take any more time
20 regarding that.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

22 MS. TASSI: But, again, please put Proposal 67
23 on the ballot in November so that all citizens of
24 Florida can vote on it.

25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

2 Yes, ma'am. Your name, please?

3 MS. VARGAS: My name is Tina Vargas and I'm here
4 in support of Proposal 91.

5 I'm sorry.

6 I'm here on behalf of several environmental
7 groups and I'm a member of the Environmental Justice
8 Committee of the League of United Latin American
9 Citizens.

10 To me this proposal is about one thing and that
11 is choices. The choices that we make to protect our
12 environment; the choices that we make to rule our
13 economy.

14 Ten years ago, with a map of the entire country
15 in front of me, I made a choice to move to Tampa Bay.
16 I did that because of the pristine beaches, the
17 beautiful opportunities to enjoy the beauty of this
18 area, and to enjoy the flora and the fauna that is
19 part of the Florida heritage.

20 Every day of every week retirees like myself sit
21 in front of a map and make similar decisions. I
22 decided against another state because they said yes
23 to fracking. A lot of senior citizens, and there
24 will be approximately 4.5 million in Florida by 2020,
25 will be looking at their maps and making their

1 decisions. Other citizens as well will be making
2 their decisions whether to make Florida their home or
3 not. Five of my immediate neighbors are in fact
4 residents who moved to Florida and invested here who
5 are from other states.

6 I ask you to make the correct choice and decide
7 to protect the coastal areas of the beautiful state
8 of Florida.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

11 Rebecca Falkenberry, Lori S --

12 MS. SZOLLOSI: Yes, yes.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay.

14 MS. SZOLLOSI: Szollosi, that's okay.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

16 Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. PARHAM: My name's Myriam Parham and I'm
18 with the group Florida Voices for Animals, a
19 501(c)(3) education group that dedicates to educating
20 about animal abuse and exploitation. We have no paid
21 staff, no lobbyist, we're all volunteer, and I
22 understand the emotions of this issue, especially
23 people who are working in the industry, and we do
24 represent thousands of people in the area and the
25 state of Florida who speak for the voiceless, and we

1 believe that dog racing is not in the interest of the
2 dogs, it's in the interest of the persons who are
3 racing the dogs, and if the dog is not a winner, then
4 they probably choose not to keep those.

5 So I don't know how they decide which ones they
6 keep, but they raise and breed a lot of animals and
7 race them, and then they need to find homes for them.
8 So I just want to point out that a lot of people out
9 here and from our group have adopted many Greyhounds,
10 so we've been helping the industry by adopting the
11 dogs that they don't want.

12 I don't know how you decide not to keep a dog.
13 In our family, they're part of the family. The dogs
14 are definitely very social and they're truly man's --
15 well, women's best friend too. And they really are
16 part of the family, and so they are definitely part
17 of the pack, and like has been pointed out, they are
18 very forgiving. And, again, the thousands of dogs
19 that they say would need homes, I don't understand
20 why they're not providing for them in -- and having
21 someone else adopt them.

22 So we're definitely for a proposal on the ballot
23 for 67, and also I'm personally for Proposal 91 about
24 offshore drilling.

25 And I thank you for allowing us to speak for the

1 voiceless, and it's late, and allow people to make a
2 decision on this and be able to vote.

3 Thank you very much for your time.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. SZOLLOSI: Hi, I'm Lori Szollosi. Thank you
6 to those of you who stuck it out and are still here.
7 I really appreciate that.

8 I am a Pinellas County resident, and I am in big
9 trouble with my dogs, because when I get home they
10 are going to give me hell because it's been long
11 time. I am not their owner, I'm their guardian, I'm
12 their mom, and I would never ever think about giving
13 them away when I was through with them. Ever.

14 They love me. They are bonded to me. I would
15 never do that to my pet.

16 I'm not going home to them and them being in a
17 kennel, which is a cage. I'm going home to them and
18 they each have a couch and a bed, and they're going
19 to get a nice stew when I get home. That's what they
20 deserve.

21 Now, I noticed that on some issues we all are
22 holding the same cards. We agree on issues, and I
23 think it's unfortunate that the opposition to Prop.
24 67 is really being rather nasty and calling people
25 liars.

1 I personally am a resident here. I am involved
2 in animal rescue, and here's what I want to say: I
3 am -- when I was a social worker, I was in foster --
4 I'm sorry, my brain is completely frozen -- foster
5 care, and I heard at a conference a woman say an
6 example about a village, and in this village all of a
7 sudden these babies came floating down the river in a
8 little basket, right? And they kept taking these
9 babies in, giving them homes, giving them homes. All
10 of a sudden they don't have homes for them anymore,
11 and finally somebody thinks to say, who's throwing
12 the babies in upstream; who's throwing the babies in
13 the river?

14 Well, Derby Lane and these breeders are throwing
15 the dogs downstream, and then it's people like myself
16 who are -- who I am overwhelmed with the dogs that I
17 have. I have taken in two dogs off the streets of
18 St. Pete. I have five pets and I am overwhelmed. I
19 am dog poor. Think about all us animal rescuers here
20 and let us vote.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

23 Lacy Benton, Tina Spangler, Keith Long, Linda
24 Whitley, Denise Yettaw.

25 Yes, ma'am, you are?

1 MS. BENTON: Lacy Benton.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Lacy.

3 MS. BENTON: Good evening. I live in Oldsmar
4 and I am here to voice my support for Proposal 67.

5 I feel that if we as human beings consider
6 ourselves the rightful inheritors of this world, then
7 we have an obligation to do good by all that we share
8 it with, and that we do not have the ethical or moral
9 right to use any other sentient being for our
10 entertainment or profit.

11 I am a member of the working class and I do not
12 wish anyone the stress and hardship of job loss at
13 all. However, as social consciousness evolves, so do
14 our values, and our industries must adapt, as is
15 evident by the overwhelming public support to end the
16 use of the animals, such as elephants and orcas, in
17 shows for public entertainment.

18 Greyhounds are no different. I want to tell the
19 kennel workers, this is not about you, it is about
20 the animals. Everyone has different standards of
21 what constitutes quality care for a living thing.

22 I am not here to say that racing owners abuse
23 their animals. I am saying that the lives of these
24 animals are worth more than any profit garnered by
25 those who literally gamble with their wellbeing.

1 So please support Proposal 67 and let your
2 Florida voters decide what is the right thing to do.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 Denise Yettaw, Nicole Leary, Sheri Buckley,
6 Rebecca Williams, Bethany Smith, Catherine Durkin
7 Robinson, Jackie Scharff, John Graham.

8 Yes, ma'am.

9 MS. WILLIAMS: Hi, my name is Rebecca Williams.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Rebecca.

11 MS. WILLIAMS: I'm a resident of Hillsborough
12 County and I'm here today to voice my support for
13 Proposal 67 to phase out Greyhound racing in the
14 state of Florida.

15 Greyhound racing is already illegal in 40
16 states, however, in Florida approximately 8,000
17 Greyhounds still sit in metal cages for up to 23
18 hours a day. This is a dying industry that is
19 surrounded by death. Since 2013, 438 dogs have died
20 on tracks. We are a nation of animal lovers, so
21 please allow our legislation to reflect that. I
22 strongly believe that this proposal will have
23 overwhelming support, but we should let the Florida
24 voters decide that for themselves.

25 Please vote yes on Proposal 67. Thank you for

1 your time.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

3 Yes, ma'am, your name?

4 MS. SMITH: Yes, my name is Bethany Smith. I
5 live right here in St. Pete about a mile away from
6 Derby Lanes. I drive by it every day, and I have to
7 admit, I went there once to see what was going on
8 there. I actually asked for a tour and was told no.

9 That's okay, it wasn't the right time that day.
10 Not a problem. I understand. But when I drive by
11 there, I can't help but think of the statistics, and
12 these aren't hate group statistics or extremist group
13 statistics, these are the state of Florida statistics
14 that 438 dogs have died in the state of Florida since
15 2013. Some of those at Derby Lane, some of those at
16 other places. It is documented by the state of
17 Florida that 22 dogs tested positive for cocaine this
18 year alone.

19 A lot of people say that a lot of the dogs are
20 kept in inhumane conditions. I'm not saying that any
21 of these people are bad people; I'm not saying that
22 they mean to cause any harm to these dogs; I'm just
23 saying that we need to take a really close look at
24 this.

25 I challenge you to look in your heart and ask if

1 it's right to keep these dogs in a kennel. Even if
2 it's just 15 hours a day, is that right? Is that
3 what they deserve?

4 And if you look in your heart and you think: Is
5 this what I would do with my pet; what would I do; is
6 this right for my pet? If the answer is no, then
7 think again.

8 What is the difference between fluffy and Benji
9 at your home and these Greyhounds?

10 The answer is nothing, other than these babies
11 are being mistreated and exploited for profit.

12 You've heard this before: Forty states have
13 outlawed Greyhound racing; four others have opted to
14 cease live racing even though there's been no
15 prohibitory statutes enacted. This leaves six
16 states.

17 All I'm asking is that you put this up for a
18 vote. Let the people speak. That's what they're
19 asking too. They said let the people speak. Let the
20 people speak.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

22 Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. SCHARFF: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen
24 of the Commission. My name is Jackie Scharff.

25 You know, I've just about heard enough of all of

1 this because none -- nobody here -- there was one
2 gentleman, Henry Chin, has had to experience these
3 folks like we have. Me and my kids, my husband --
4 and my husband, he would be here but he had to stay
5 and take care of the dogs, because that's the most
6 important things, the dogs. It's always the dogs.

7 I did first turnout in all the beds when my --
8 when I was pregnant with him and then I drove myself
9 to the hospital. My husband stayed with the kennel
10 because they're the most important thing. And I know
11 you've heard about holidays. They don't get presents
12 until after morning work.

13 You know, in Massachusetts GREY2K -- well, they
14 were after us since we were up there in 2002 to 2009.
15 That's when we had to leave because all of their lies
16 spread to everybody.

17 You know, check -- we didn't get to speak to
18 folks like you. They just, you know, put out their
19 40-year-old statistics, pictures from other
20 countries, which they've all said this before, and
21 they got away with it. They got away with it in
22 Tucson as well.

23 I've been doing this for 25 years. I've been to
24 18 different tracks, and I've raced at 9 of them and,
25 I mean, that's pretty much everywhere. The things

1 that they're speaking of, I've never even seen,
2 heard. I mean, '92, that's when I started doing the
3 dogs.

4 In Massachusetts their first thing was, oh, the
5 crate size. They mandated it, they okayed it, and
6 then they go around telling everybody that we have
7 tiny crates.

8 They -- they were promised -- they promised
9 money to folks that were going to lose their jobs.
10 That never happened. That came straight out of
11 Christine Dorchak.

12 This dog right here they accused not just us,
13 this is --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you for your
16 comments.

17 Yes, ma'am.

18 MS. SCHARFF: They said we killed this dog and
19 we didn't. Does nobody care about that?

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. SCHARFF: Nobody cares.

22 MS. BUCKLEY: Hello, thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: You are?

24 MS. BUCKLEY: My name is Sheri Buckley from St.
25 Petersburg, Florida, and I want to thank you in

1 advance for your consideration of my proposal.

2 I'm here asking to correct a judicial injustice.
3 In 1983, with the institution of sentencing
4 guidelines, an 11-year anomaly was created. There
5 were two committees -- I'm sorry, there were
6 two . . . those who are -- who committed a
7 non-homicidal crime were sentenced to life without
8 parole, while those who committed a capital offense,
9 such as first degree murder and child rape, were
10 sentenced to life with parole. So those who
11 committed crimes such as armed robbery and even some
12 nonviolent drug offense received life without parole
13 to die in prison, while those who committed the
14 ultimate crime of first degree murder are
15 participating in a parole process to this day.

16 The lesser crime here is getting the harsher
17 sentence and Florida is the only state with this kind
18 of injustice. Several studies have been found that
19 the child's mind is not fully developed until they
20 reach the age of 25. Several cases have gone on to
21 the Supreme Court and several states have and
22 continue to raise the juvenile age for life
23 sentences. I ask you to make a constitution law in
24 Florida raising the juvenile age for life sentences
25 to 24 in line with the science, as well as correcting

1 the sentencing guidelines to make it fair.

2 Thank you very much.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

4 Alma Gonzalez, Melissa Zepeda, Todd Bowman or
5 Bowmar. Todd --

6 MR. BOWMAN: Bowman.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: David Gonzalez.

8 Yes, ma'am. You're Melissa?

9 MS. ZEPEDA: Melissa Zepeda, St. Petersburg,
10 Florida.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

12 MS. ZEPEDA: Today you are hearing from two
13 passionate sides of the Greyhound racing story. Both
14 sides claim they care about the dogs, but we're
15 asking for two different outcomes for Proposal 67.

16 So which side do you believe?

17 Allow me to suggest that you ask yourself this
18 question: Why is a person speaking really here
19 today, love of the dogs or love of money, because it
20 can't be both?

21 The people here who are making money off dog
22 racing have already had a voice in Tallahassee for
23 years. The rest of us here speaking today because we
24 love the dogs, we have not had a voice on the dog
25 racing issue. So please pass Proposal 67 to give all

1 dog lovers a chance to have a voice on dog racing,
2 not just the people who are in it for the money.

3 One cannot both care about the Greyhounds and
4 support racing, because how can you continue to breed
5 and continue to race these dogs knowing that 400 dogs
6 have died on Florida tracks since 2013. That's the
7 state numbers, not a different -- not some made-up
8 propaganda.

9 Sixty-seven dogs have died right here in St.
10 Pete at that Derby Track. No one knows how many dogs
11 have been injured because the people who make money
12 off dog racing have fought all legislative efforts to
13 require injury reporting. We all know that.

14 Those who support racing may tell you the dog
15 death toll, it's not that bad, but why are we, as a
16 state, okay with dog racing when it has the potential
17 to kill any number of dogs.

18 For gambling?

19 I don't think we are. I don't think we're okay
20 with that. We have outlawed gambling -- we have
21 outlawed dog fighting because we, as a society, have
22 realized that gambling on dogs engaging in a
23 life-threatening activity is inconsistent with our
24 values. There must come at -- there must come a
25 point in dog racing where our values exceed their

1 desire for money. That point is now.

2 I understand you will hear and consider many
3 proposals and not all will make it on the ballot.
4 Proposal 67 is literally a life-and-death issue, so
5 please support Proposal 67.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comment.
7 You are?

8 MR. BOWMAN: Good evening. My name is Todd
9 Bowman. I'm a resident of St. Petersburg.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

11 MR. BOWMAN: I wanted to come here tonight
12 actually just to speak to you about my four-legged
13 best friend Bruce.

14 Now, I've had Bruce for a few years now and he
15 does everything with me. Rarely is there something
16 that I do that I can't do with him: Spend my
17 weekends doing whatever he does happy, whether it's a
18 day at the park or the beach, dog-friendly
19 bar/restaurant. I spoil him because I love him, and
20 I will continue to spoil him each day of his life
21 because his life is a blessing to mine.

22 I love him because he unconditionally loves me,
23 and you would all love Bruce, everyone does. When we
24 take him out, people can't help but stop and play
25 with him. He just wants to love you and be with you

1 and lean on you and just do everything with you.

2 That's what love of a dog is.

3 Now, the folks behind me, they say they love
4 their Greyhounds too, but a gentleman earlier said
5 that they get out for six hours, not two.

6 Well, that means they're still caged for 18
7 hours. They're run in any conditions in any weather,
8 and if 400 of them have died since 2013, how can you
9 say you love an animal that you're possibly working
10 to death?

11 And what about the thousands of them that are
12 bred that aren't raced and aren't adopted; what do
13 they think happens to these dogs?

14 Sure, a lot of folks have said that all the dogs
15 they get to adopt are healthy and they look good.
16 Well, those are the dogs they get. I mean, what
17 about all the other dogs; what about the ones who are
18 injured?

19 You know, we don't know how many there are
20 because they have fought injury reporting every step
21 of the way. If the racing is so compassionate, why
22 would they fight that?

23 I beg you to support Proposition 67. Please
24 give the voters a chance to end this horrific
25 practice.

1 And while I have 18 seconds, I just also want to
2 voice my support for Proposition 91. I really don't
3 think our economy and our coast and our environment
4 need to be put at the risk of further drilling after
5 what's happened in the Gulf both in October and back
6 in the Deep Water Horizon.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

8 MR. GONZALEZ: Hello, my name is David Gonzalez
9 and I'm here -- well, I wasn't expecting to be here
10 today when I woke up.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Neither was I.

12 MR. GONZALEZ: And I wanted to thank you all
13 first to be here.

14 My family's all from Cuba and I can't imagine
15 anybody in Cuba spending until 10 o'clock at night
16 arguing about Greyhound racing. I'm not here about
17 the Greyhounds; I don't have a dog in that race.
18 My -- the reason I'm here is because of Proposition
19 3. Not as it is, as the amendments that were added
20 specifically this morning that I know they have not
21 been voted on, but they were reprehensible enough for
22 me to come down here today and talk about it.

23 While state bill 702.56 was passed on Friday,
24 part of that prohibition is the -- is the prohibition
25 of firearms ownership for adults 18 to 20 years old.

1 I understand this is in response to the events at
2 Parkland -- largely events of Parkland and also the
3 events down in Orlando in the nightclub shooting last
4 year, or two years ago now. I believe this is
5 reprehensible because of this -- this prohibition is
6 on the amendments right now for those laws, and I
7 actually have two cousins that were down in Parkland,
8 and should this pass, they would basically be unable
9 to lawfully defend themselves until they turn 21.

10 As of right now section -- I don't believe this
11 should be in a constitutional right. Right now the
12 law 790.06, the license to concealed carry firearms,
13 regulates what can and can't happen, and I understand
14 you have to go to your constituents and you have to
15 say, what will you do against the violence?

16 Right now the concealed carry permit license
17 gives protections to most places. There are specific
18 exemptions on what can be open and concealed carry,
19 and this would be taken to account with any potential
20 shooter in the future.

21 One of those places, if you look through the
22 list in 790.16 is actually in a legislature or a
23 meeting, which, as you can see, there are police
24 right here to enforce that. Another place would be
25 schools, which Parkland has 3,000 students and only

1 had one police officer that day, and the nightclub
2 only had one guard that night for 500 people.

3 So please do not pass any sort of extension to
4 Proposition 3.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 Jahtia Haynes.

7 Thank you.

8 Sorry, I can't read your writing.

9 Dana --

10 MS. HAYNES: Jahtia.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: See, you were wrong too.

12 MS. HAYNES: It's usually hard to pronounce.

13 Don't worry, you're not alone.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Pretty name.

15 MS. HAYNES: Thank you.

16 Thank you so much for being here with us
17 tonight. In order to accommodate time, I will keep
18 it short.

19 My name is Jahtia Haynes and I do ask that you
20 please support Proposal 97 because we need to make
21 sure that all voters, not just a select few, are
22 informed of an amendment to the Florida constitution
23 before they vote.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

1 Chris Capozziello. Is Chris here?

2 Oh, hi. I'm sure I did really bad with that
3 name.

4 MS. CAPOZZIELLO: No, you did fine.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Oh, did I? Come on forward
6 then, please.

7 Richard Murphy. Mr. Murphy, please step
8 forward.

9 Go ahead, Chris. Thank you.

10 MS. CAPOZZIELLO: Okay. Hi. I'm a resident of
11 Pinellas County and I'm here to support Proposal 67.

12 I was not planning on speaking, I'm very nervous
13 speaking in front of people, but as the night went on
14 and I just heard both sides, I felt I needed to say
15 something. But, basically, all I want to say is just
16 please give the Florida voters a chance to vote. I
17 think if we had a chance, you would see the majority
18 would be against this cruel industry that exploits
19 the dogs.

20 There's always two sides to the story. They're
21 asking you to go check out their farms and their
22 tracks, and I think you should on unannounced visits.
23 People have tried before and been turned away or
24 asked to wait, so, again, I guess the biggest point
25 is just let us have a chance to vote.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Murphy, Brittney Gaudet,
3 Delphine Gabriel, Mark Skogman and Mark Klutto.

4 Mr. Murphy, please proceed.

5 MR. MURPHY: Thank you, sir.

6 Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for the time. I
7 know it's getting late. I'll try to be brief.

8 My name is Richard Murphy. I'm a former Florida
9 school board member, 14 years, elected in Hendry
10 County, former sup intendant 4 years in Florida. I'm
11 also a teacher and educator. I've taught in Manatee,
12 Highlands, and also administrator in Palm Beach
13 County. I'm here to speak about 43 first, about term
14 limits for school board members.

15 Counties by law have a way of putting this on
16 the ballot. I think it should be allowed for them to
17 do that. Also, you lose good veteran board members
18 when you have term limits because you have a lot of
19 new ones coming in. You have to have leadership. I
20 can tell you during the great recession if I had had
21 veteran board members, we'd never made it through it.

22 Also, local county voters will make the changes
23 for you and not -- many counties want 66 counties to
24 make that decision for them on a referendum
25 amendment.

1 What is superintendent? Twenty-six counties are
2 appointed, 41 are elected, medium, small counties,
3 and parents and voters lose their voice in my
4 opinion. Counties have the authority to place it on
5 the ballot. Some of them do, some of it pass, some
6 it doesn't. They let the voters decide. That
7 county, not 66 other counties.

8 Elected superintendents have to listen to the
9 board members, their employees, the parents, the
10 voters of that county and all the business people of
11 that county. I believe that it should be left up
12 to -- these two, number 43 and 33, be left up to the
13 individual counties and not be voted on by 66 other
14 counties. Let the individual voters make that
15 decision. Give us local school control.

16 That's all we hear. We want to give local
17 school boards local control.

18 Well, you do or you don't. So that's my
19 understanding of this, and I think your time is very
20 valuable and I appreciate that. Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

22 Yes, ma'am. Your name?

23 MS. GAUDET: Brittney Gaudet.

24 Members of the Constitution Revision Commission,
25 I would like to start by thanking you for taking the

1 time to hear the people of St. Petersburg today.

2 As I said, my name is Brittney Gaudet and I'm a
3 resident of St. Petersburg and a first year medical
4 student at the University of South Florida's Morsani
5 College of Medicine. I'm here this evening to urge
6 you to reject efforts to revive and vote again on
7 Proposal 22.

8 This proposal threatens to restrict the right to
9 privacy of residents across the state and alarming
10 could apply to patient care settings.

11 As a future physician in the state of Florida,
12 it is imperative for my success and the health of my
13 patients that I build strong, trustworthy and private
14 relationships with those whose health and wellbeing I
15 am entrusted. I urge this body to support my efforts
16 to do so by ensuring that the difficult, deeply
17 personal and joyous elements of my patients' lives
18 are protected not only by their medical providers,
19 but by the state in which they chose to live.

20 Passage of Proposal 22 has a very real and
21 insidious potential to undermine the delegate,
22 sometimes volatile, and incredibly important
23 relationship between health care providers and their
24 patients. If patients cannot confide in those who
25 have been called to heal, how then can physicians do

1 their best to ensure the health and wellbeing for
2 those whom they are responsible.

3 The insidious potentials that this proposal
4 carries extend far beyond the patient provider
5 relationship, however, it jeopardizes the rights of
6 Florida women not only to privacy but to reproductive
7 health care as well. There's nothing more
8 fundamental to a women's private life than the right
9 to decide the most intimate, personal and difficult
10 decision of whether or not to carry a pregnancy to
11 term, and there's nothing more crucial to my future
12 as a primary care provider in this state than to be
13 supported by the state in building trusting, strong
14 relationships with my patients so I am able to stand
15 by and support Florida women and their partners and
16 whatever option they chose for themselves.

17 I would urge you strongly to ensure that the
18 protections guaranteed under the privacy clause in
19 the constitution continue to protect Florida women
20 and their families.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

22 MS. GAUDET: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

24 Yes, sir. You're?

25 MR. KLUTHO: Mark Klutho, Largo.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Go ahead.

2 MR. KLUTHO: Yeah. Sixty-seven, let it go to
3 voters.

4 I'm not getting paid by anyone, and it's a shame
5 that there are all of these claims about lies, but
6 it's also a shame that, you know, the animals must be
7 used for amusement. The subjugation is a doggone
8 crime.

9 You know, they don't have a say, do they?
10 That's -- now, that's a doggone shame.

11 Now, 91. Yeah, our beautiful coast. You know,
12 that's a big deal here. Tourism, number one industry
13 for Florida, I believe.

14 Well, here's the book, *The Sixth Extinction*.
15 This is the state of the world today. There have
16 been five before. Humans didn't have a hand in any
17 of those, but doing drilling, it will just hasten it,
18 what's going to come. Would not be smart. Not smart
19 at all.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

21 Delphine Gabriel, Mark Skogman, Darlene Pawa --
22 P-a-w-a-b-o, I think. Donna Rich, Craig Fox, Sharie
23 Lesniak, and Donna Grace, and that completes the
24 roll.

25 Please.

1 MR. BLANCHARD: We must have got skipped,
2 several of us.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay. Well, we're still here.

4 MR. BLANCHARD: My name is Jim -- I know. We've
5 been here a long time.

6 My name is Jim Blanchard. I'm president of the
7 Florida Greyhound Association. I'm here to defend
8 our industry once again.

9 I'm going to skip part of that because I'm going
10 to go -- we do still invite you or your staff to a
11 kennel, a farm or track visit unannounced. Just have
12 an open mind. Out-of-state radicals will not advise
13 that.

14 As for injuries, they do occur, and as I've
15 stated before, almost all of the injuries could be
16 preventative and eliminated by passage of the
17 Smith/Rader Greyhound Safety Act.

18 These two organizations opposing the bill, along
19 with the senate leadership, they want to only report
20 injuries; they don't want to prevent them. The
21 legislature recently adjourned, and with the senate's
22 attempt to pass slot machines, decouple racing, and
23 that would also allow permits to move in Dade and
24 Broward Counties. The House leadership seen it for
25 what it was, the largest expansion of gambling in

1 Florida's history.

2 On birth control for Greyhounds, the House
3 leadership followed the accepted guidelines for the
4 division of parimutuel wagering and the ARCI, which
5 also was low-dose testosterone.

6 These are just a few examples why CP 67 does not
7 belong in the Constitution. The Bert Harris Act
8 holding the citizens of Florida responsible for
9 hundreds of millions of damages is another. And by
10 the way, the petition that President Dorchak alluded
11 to, this is what it read: Stop innocent Greyhounds
12 from being electrocuted.

13 As of 6/17, it did have 103,035 supporters, but
14 only 7,987 supporters are registered Florida voters.
15 Just more deception, deceit.

16 Please visit our Florida Greyhound Association
17 Facebook page. We have truth and facts there that
18 can be easily checked.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: What was your name again?

20 MR. BLANCHARD: Jim Blanchard.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay.

22 MR. BLANCHARD: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

24 MS. RICH: Thank you.

25 My name's Donna Rich. I'm a resident and

1 registered voter of Hillsborough County. I moved
2 there in August 2016 when I was ousted from my home
3 in New Port Richey from a family court order of
4 Pinellas County. My boyfriend of over 10 years had
5 to go through a divorce process in this county which
6 lasted 10 years just to get a divorce. And during
7 that process, he lost his son and our home due to a
8 runaway litigation and false accusations of domestic
9 violence, parental alienation, child abduction, and
10 now is facing permanent alimony payable to his ex in
11 the amount of \$10,000 per month.

12 There is no escape from the atrocities of family
13 court. This is an institution that violates the
14 constitution on a daily basis. Children are being
15 caught in the middle of their parents' wars, and they
16 are being subjected to a lot of mental and emotional
17 abuse.

18 My boyfriend had to go to court four years to
19 fight for equality in the parenting opportunities for
20 his son because the other parent didn't want to give
21 more than four days a month.

22 Four days a month is the minimum that the state
23 allows for time-sharing for parents and their
24 children. A child doesn't want only four days with
25 their parent. They want as much time as possible

1 with their mom and their dad.

2 Fathers' rights have to take precedent because
3 children are suffering. False accusations of
4 domestic violence are the silver bullet that harm too
5 many children. These things have to stop.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your --

7 MS. RICH: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Ma'am.

9 Yes, ma'am.

10 MS. RICH: Thank you, Senator Lee, for 668.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

12 Your name, ma'am?

13 MS. LESNIAK: Sharie Lesniak.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Sharie.

15 MS. LESNIAK: I'm here today in support of 67.

16 I recently moved back to St. Petersburg after being
17 away for about 18 years. And, you know, times do
18 change. I mean, it used to be the nearly wed -- or
19 the newly wed and the nearly dead, and St. Pete does
20 not hold that anymore.

21 So I think what I'm here to say is, you know, we
22 really need to put this 67 on the ballot. We need to
23 give the Florida voters a chance to say -- to really
24 vote on the change that we're kind of going through.
25 As we know, Ringling has given up their elephants,

1 Sea World has stopped breeding orcas, and times
2 change and people change, we learn things, and
3 there's nothing against the people or anything in the
4 industry, but it's time the Florida voters had a
5 chance to vote.

6 And I would also like to say please also for 91
7 give us a chance to save our coast and keep our
8 state, as beautiful as it has become.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Great. Thank you.

11 Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. HAMPTON: Hi, my name's LaDonna Hampton.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: LaDonna Hampton, thank you.

14 MS. HAMPTON: I'm here today to speak in
15 opposition of Proposal 67.

16 I've worked with Greyhounds since 2006, starting
17 out as a kennel helper and working my way up to being
18 a trainer and starting a 501(c)(3) adoption group. I
19 work with our dogs for their entire lives, and before
20 you judge my family and my business, before you take
21 my job and my children's security, I implore you to
22 come visit our kennel, come play with our dogs and
23 come see the truth.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.

1 I've called everybody. That doesn't mean that
2 there wasn't -- somebody got called while they were
3 out, but as far as I'm concerned, is there anybody
4 else that would like to speak?

5 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I just want to thank you
6 guys for spending as much time here. I know it's
7 been a hard day for everybody. Thank you very much.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: That's what we signed up for.
9 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Move.

11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

13 (Proceedings adjourned at 11:31 p.m.)
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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2 STATE OF FLORIDA)

3 COUNTY OF PINELLAS)

4 I, RUTH A. CARNEY, Registered Professional Reporter,
5 do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did
6 stenographically report the CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMISSION
7 MEETING; that a review of the transcript was not
8 requested; and that the foregoing transcript, pages 1
9 through 476, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

10 I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee,
11 attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a
12 relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or
13 counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially
14 interested in the action.

15 DATED this 2nd day of April, 2018.

16
17

18 

19 Ruth A. Carney
20 Registered Professional Reporter
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