

STATE OF FLORIDA
CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 19, 2018
1:00 p.m. - 7:50 p.m.

EASTERN FLORIDA STATE COLLEGE

Maxwell C. King Center
3865 N. Wickham Rd.
Melbourne, Florida 32940

REPORTED BY:

STEPHANIE MCGRAW, RPR
ANGELL REPORTING SERVICE, INC.
8195 North Wickham Road, Suite 200
Melbourne, Florida 32940
(321) 259-8500

ANGELL REPORTING SERVICE

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

CHAIRMAN CARLOS BERUFF

COMMISSIONER LISA CARLTON

COMMISSIONER HANK COXE

COMMISSIONER ERIKA DONALDS

COMMISSIONER EMERY GAINNEY

COMMISSIONER BRECHT HEUCHAN

COMMISSIONER MARVA JOHNSON

COMMISSIONER ARTHENIA JOYNER

COMMISSIONER PATRICIA LEVESQUE

COMMISSIONER SHERRY PLYMALE

COMMISSIONER WILLIAM "BILL" SCHIFINO, JR.

COMMISSIONER BOB SOLARI

COMMISSIONER JOHN STEMBERGER

COMMISSIONER JACQUI THURLOW-LIPPISCH

COMMISSIONER CAROLYN TIMMANN

P R O C E E D I N G S

CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Today is our second of our road to the ballot around the State, where we'll listen to citizens about the 37 proposals that will be taken up in March and April, and which ones will go on the ballot in November 2018.

Before we get too far, I'd like to thank Eastern Florida State College because they have a beautiful facility and they made it available to us. And their staff has made it easy for us to work here.

For those of you who are going to come up and speak, you have to physically go out in the hallway and come down to one of the two microphones on either side of the stage. We have accessible seating in the back and a third microphone up there for those of you that can't get around the side ways to get here. So just want you to be aware how that will work.

My name is Carlos Beruff, and I was appointed by Governor Rick Scott as the Chairman of the Constitutional Revision Commission, which is called the CRC for short. Today I am joined by fellow commissioners. Some will be here later because

1 they're running a little late.

2 Immediately to my right is Commissioner
3 Donalds. Immediately to my left: Johnson,
4 Commissioner Stemberger, Commissioner Carlton,
5 Commissioner Gainey, all in front with me.

6 In the rear we have Commissioner Cox, e,
7 Commissioner Levesque, Commissioner Heuchan,
8 Commissioner Plymale right behind he, and
9 Commissioners Timmann and Solari to the right, to my
10 right.

11 Right now if we would all rise, we'd like to
12 have the invocation given by Mr. Stemberger.

13 (Invocation given.)

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Commissioner Gainey, would
15 you lead the Pledge.

16 (Thereupon the Pledge of Allegiance was recited
17 and the proceedings continued as follows:)

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Just as a point
19 of reference, we will be calling people up in groups
20 of three to speak for two minutes. The order of the
21 cards is the order in which they were filled out, so
22 nobody has any preferential treatment. Whoever got
23 here first gets called up first and so forth
24 throughout the afternoon.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Louder.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'm sorry. Louder? Louder.
2 There we go. I take instruction well. Okay.

3 Speaking of Proposal 54, Peggy Pettit. And I
4 hope that -- please pronounce your name correctly
5 when you come to this microphone.

6 Marilyn Waters, please come up. And Andrew
7 Huston. Thank you very much.

8 Please introduce yourself. Thank you.

9 MS. PETTIT: Commissioners, Chairman, thank
10 you. My name is Peggy Pettit, and I work for a
11 hospice that employs 5,000 healthcare professionals
12 and administrative staff across Florida. We cared
13 for 33,800 patients in 2017 in Florida, and have
14 close to 700 volunteers that have devoted their time
15 to these patients and their families.

16 I am here to respectfully request that
17 Proposal 54 be amended, and that hospice be removed
18 from the proposal. I've been a hospice nurse
19 administrator for 35 years. In those years I've
20 worked in and managed hospice in 20 different
21 states.

22 From this viewpoint I will tell you that
23 hospice in Florida works. It is in large part due
24 to CON. The regulatory structure tied to CON
25 creates a framework that ensures hospice operators

1 develop and operate programs that have in place all
2 the elements needed to comply with state and federal
3 regulations.

4 In other states we often see lower quality of
5 care, unethical marketing tactics, and confusion for
6 patients and families as they are steered towards
7 referral sources' preferred hospice relationships,
8 thus removing the perception of choice for the
9 patients.

10 Some markets in other states have hundreds of
11 hospices literally in a county, many caring for only
12 5 to 20 patients without appropriately trained staff
13 and ratios that end up providing little service to
14 the patients and their families.

15 If hospice CON is eliminated, the ability of
16 AHCA to monitor the compliance of the new programs
17 without a hugely inflated annual budget is
18 unimaginable. It has been estimated that as many as
19 1,000 to 1,200 hospices could apply for and be
20 licensed within the first two to three years. It is
21 possible that rural markets would lose the vital
22 hospice services they need.

23 The issue is a legislative one and does not
24 belong in the Constitution. If CON were eliminated
25 and it proves to be a mistake, there's little that

1 could be done for 20 years to change it back. The
2 safety and quality of care of Florida's terminally
3 ill could be significantly jeopardized through the
4 removal of hospice CON.

5 Please remove hospice from Proposal 54. Thank
6 you.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

8 Ms. Waters.

9 MS. WATERS: Good morning. My name is M. J.
10 Waters, and I'm a 30-year Florida resident, voter,
11 and a mom. And I'm here to express my deep concerns
12 about Proposal 22 that would eliminate all of our
13 existing privacy protections, including reproductive
14 rights, from Florida's Constitution except for
15 anything specific to information.

16 Our country has a legacy of privacy of our
17 citizens from the Bill of Rights to court decisions
18 and government regulations. I value deeply my right
19 to privacy in every single aspect of my life and my
20 kids' lives, and I'm concerned that it is being
21 continually eroded.

22 When it comes to personal decisions involving
23 our health, privacy is paramount. I cannot imagine
24 any one of us in this room calling our city council
25 member, our governor, or a legislator to get

1 involved in a personal healthcare decision of ours.
2 Your judiciary committee overwhelmingly voted down
3 this proposal, yet we hear you're being pressured to
4 revive it.

5 You have a sound process for this commission
6 and I urge you to let it work. The people on the
7 judiciary committee gave this proposal serious
8 consideration and decided it should not go forward.
9 I ask you to honor their hard work and decline to
10 reconsider this good faith decision. We need to
11 preserve our privacy rights.

12 Thank you for showing up today. I'm sorry all
13 of the commissioners could not be here, but we
14 appreciate you listening to our concerns.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

16 Mr. Huston.

17 MR. HUSTON: Good afternoon. My name is Andrew
18 Huston. I'm an unpaid volunteer for Progress for
19 All, Florida Fair and Open Primaries, and I would
20 like to personally thank Commissioner Bill Schifino
21 for having the courage to author meaningful,
22 electoral form with P-62, a top two open primary
23 initiative that will allow Florida's 3.4 million
24 independent voices a vote in the primary elections.

25 I would also like to personally thank

Commissioners Hank Coxe, Roberto Martinez, and Rich Newsome. Without these gentlemen, this proposal never would have made it out of elections with ethics, which it did.

We need open primaries at every level of government between the state and local elections to ensure that all voters have a voice. The people in the State of Florida agree. 87 percent of Floridians support electoral changes that expand our democracy. 74 percent want independent/NPA voters to be included within the primary election process. 73 percent think that this body right here should put an open primary initiative on the ballot this year.

We have it in front of us. It is P-62. The Election Ethics Committee heard from three separate county election supervisors this fall. They agreed on these three key findings. The number of registered independents is exploding across the state and is trending to outpace Rs and Ds in the coming years.

Closed primaries are a significant source of voter confusion and voters across the State of Florida are upset. The supervisors also noted that Florida's primary elections have notoriously low

1 turnout. They get determined eventually the winners
2 of 90 percent of these races.

3 Only 16 percent of Florida's races were
4 competitive in 2016. Primary elections have become
5 the most meaningful step in selecting our
6 representatives, yet 3.4 million taxpayers cannot
7 participate, though they directly fund these public
8 elections.

9 A top two open primary addresses each and every
10 one of these concerns. It is for these reasons I
11 strongly urge all in attendance to refer back to the
12 tape, go to the CRC web site, and watch the general
13 provisions vote. Take the time and do it. It's a
14 travesty. It's highly questionable.

15 I urge strongly that we get Commissioners
16 Schifino, Coxe, Martinez, Newsome back to the table.
17 Claw back -- sorry -- P-62. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Huston.

19 MR. HUSTON: Sorry, guys. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Robert Kunst, I think.
21 525 -- keep the privacy amendment intact. That's
22 the subject matter.

23 Lynette Fodor. Lynette Fodor. And Sharell
24 Chitwood, I think.

25 AUDIENCE MEMBER: Sheriff.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Sheriff, oh. Sheriff
2 Chitwood. Hey, Sheriff, your penmanship's as good
3 as mine.

4 Okay. Yes, sir.

5 MR. KUNST: Good afternoon. My name is Bob
6 Kunst from Miami Beach, native. Along with
7 Dr. Allan Rockway and Melanie Moorehead, this was
8 our fifth election, privacy rights constitutional
9 amendment, 1980, against Anita Bryant and Jerry
10 Falwell's anti-gay witch hunt.

11 From 1976 to 1980 we made "gay" a household
12 word, brought millions out of their closets, helped
13 form thousands of organizations. In the most open
14 debate on human sexuality they saved countless
15 lives, and we got 1,723,000 votes statewide, 60
16 percent. We beat Jimmy Carter by 300,000 votes.

17 In Polk and Orange County we won by 33 and 34
18 votes each after the whole orange juice boycott. In
19 Dade County we went from 92,777, 31 percent, to
20 248,000 in 1980. That's why we're called the Holy
21 Land of Gay Rights. That's why Florida's the holy
22 land of privacy rights. We have the most radical
23 privacy rights constitutional amendment in the
24 country. We beat the U.S. Government.

25 We don't want this thing threatened because of

1 individual politics to use the abortion issue to
2 come in and start an entire screaming match once
3 again on gay rights and everything else. The last
4 thing we need is a division in this country after
5 what we've just gone through.

6 I'm sorry to say that one of your members
7 here -- Mr. Stemberger, you want to dump the privacy
8 rights issue, once again divide the State. And we
9 are witnessing nationwide how the Hillary campaign
10 spent \$12 million for a phony dossier that the
11 Justice Department from Obama and the FBI to open up
12 a whole attack on privacy rights for this guy,
13 Carter Page, to stop Trump before, during, and after
14 the election.

15 Since I spoke with you before, we've had this
16 tragedy at Parkland. And where was the FBI? I urge
17 everybody, read today's Florida Today newspaper.
18 It has an amazing story of what really happened. I
19 can't get from the Miami Herald. What really is
20 going on?

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

22 MR. KUNST: I want to offer you information,
23 please.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. We'll take the
25 information. Someone will come to meet with you to

1 get the information while we continue. Thank you so
2 much.

3 Here's Lynette Fodor. Thank you, Ms. Fodor.
4 And then the Sheriff.

5 MS. FODOR: Good day. My name is Lynette
6 Fodor, a resident of Brevard County.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Could you come up to the
8 microphone a little closer? Thank you.

9 MS. FODOR: I thank the Constitution Review
10 Committee for providing me the opportunity to
11 discuss with you Proposition 22. I implore you to
12 uphold Florida's solid protection for privacy rights
13 and oppose Proposal 22.

14 The reasons to reject the proposal are many and
15 compelling as it will diminish Floridians' rights to
16 personal privacy. Our present privacy laws protect
17 everyday Floridians from governmental intrusion into
18 so many aspects of our private lives.

19 In addition to protecting our rights to make
20 personal medical decisions, including end-of-life
21 decisions, it protects us from government meddling
22 into how we raise our children, our educational
23 choices for them, and what we do in the privacy of
24 our homes.

25 At this time I thank the Judicial Committee for

1 the rejection of the proposed changes to Proposition
2 22. The rejection from the Judicial Committee is
3 appreciated as a female Florida citizen and Auntie
4 to four nieces and one great niece.

5 The Judicial Committee of legal experts on the
6 original version categorically states the
7 constitutional rights we have today stay as
8 initially written. Debates and discussions for both
9 sides were heard in public loud and clear despite a
10 2-to-1 margin in support of the original privacy.

11 Privacy rights that Floridians will no longer
12 have would be personal rights, marriage, intimate
13 relationships, activities in dwellings and other
14 personal spaces, women's health, parenting choices,
15 and public employment in licensing.

16 In 2012 a similar amendment was proposed. It
17 was rejected heavily by voters in a 15-point margin.
18 In October 2017 a survey states Floridians supported
19 74 percent to keep the amendment as is with only
20 7 percent supporting the change.

21 I urge you all to keep Proposition 22 from
22 being voted on. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Go ahead.

24 Sheriff.

25 SHERIFF CHITWOOD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1 I've been called worse, as you could imagine.

2 I'd like to thank all the commissioners for
3 their hard work on this important topic. I'm here
4 to discuss Proposition 13.

5 The Florida Sheriffs Association would like to
6 thank Commissioner Carolyn Timmann for her
7 leadership in sponsoring this proposition. The
8 sheriffs would also like to thank Commissioner
9 Nocco and Commissioner Gainey for co-supporting this
10 important proposal.

11 Sheriff Wayne Ivey from Brevard County could
12 not be here today as he is making funeral
13 arrangements for his deputy who was tragically
14 killed over the weekend.

15 Proposition 13 revises Sections 1 and 6 of
16 Article VIII of the Florida Constitution demanding
17 that all constitutionally prescribed county
18 officers -- sheriff, tax collector, property
19 appraiser, supervisor of elections, and clerk of the
20 court -- be elected by the voters of that county.

21 This proposal was approved by nearly unanimous
22 votes in the local government committee and the
23 Ethics and Election Committee. The 1885 Florida
24 Constitution initially established that
25 constitutional officers are to be elected and that

1 their duties are prescribed in Florida Statutes.

2 However, with amendments authorizing county
3 charters, in particular the Home Rule of 1968, the
4 duties and method of selection for some officers has
5 been changed. With every county officer elected,
6 Prop 13 would reinstate the original democratic
7 checks and balances and restore the power to the
8 county citizens.

9 Sheriffs should be elected by the citizens of
10 their county and no charter should abolish the
11 office, such as mine, or turn sheriffs into
12 appointed position. The elected, independent
13 sheriff is the most accountable law enforcement
14 officer because they can develop strategies that
15 properly address the tone and tenor of law
16 enforcement services demanded by their citizens.

17 I strongly urge you to support Proposition 13
18 and give the citizens a chance to restore the
19 independent and elected position of sheriff in all
20 67 counties.

21 Thank you for your work and your time.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Barbara Williams, Mark
23 Pruitt, Pamela Goodwin.

24 We have a volunteer in the front row, if
25 anybody would like to leave any materials with us

1 after they speak. Thank you.

2 MS. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon. I'm Barbara
3 Williams and I have been a citizen of Brevard County
4 for 30 years. I am president of the League of Women
5 Voters of the Space Coast, and it is my work with
6 them that brings me here today to urge you to oppose
7 Proposal 97.

8 The preamble of our Florida Constitution
9 begins: "We the people of the State of Florida."

10 The CRC web site touts that Florida is the only
11 state in the nation that offers this unique process
12 with high level input from its citizens. Yet,
13 Proposal 97 will really eliminate the ability for
14 citizens to effectively participate in amending
15 their Constitution.

16 Proposal 97 will make it almost impossible for
17 a proposed amendment to pass the threshold of
18 required votes because Proposal 97 requires
19 60 percent of the people voting in the election, as
20 opposed to 60 percent who voted on the proposal.

21 Now, while my organization as well as others
22 try to work with people and engage and inform the
23 public, there are still far too many voters who only
24 vote for key candidates on the ballot.

25 Thankfully, many citizens also know the wording

1 on the amendment of a ballot can be deceiving as can
2 be the ad. So if they don't have time to
3 investigate or do research on the amendment, they
4 often don't vote on the amendment.

5 They will not have that option with Proposal 97
6 because showing up to vote but not voting on an
7 amendment they do not understand will be an
8 automatic "no" vote. This is an unfair decision for
9 the citizens of Florida, and so -- and an assault on
10 our democracy, really. So I'm urging you to oppose
11 Proposal 97.

12 I'd also like to tell you that we stand with
13 Parkland, so I ask you to please put an assault
14 weapons ban on ballot. Thank you.

15 (Audience interruption.)

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Folks, there's a lot of
17 people that are taking time out of their day and
18 their family to be here today, so the cards of
19 support in green and red, we're fine with that. But
20 we would really like to keep the outbursts to a
21 minimum so we can give everyone their time at the
22 microphone. Thank you very much.

23 Mr. Pruitt.

24 MR. PRUITT: Thank you for being here and thank
25 you for your service.

1 My name is Mark Timothy Pruitt, and I represent
2 Tampa General Hospital, and I would like to take a
3 minute to address Proposal 54 regarding certificate
4 of need.

5 Everyone in our community deserves access to
6 the best, most affordable healthcare. The repeal of
7 CON and deregulation of healthcare has the potential
8 to dramatically increase healthcare costs as well as
9 lead to a significant decrease in quality of care
10 across the State of Florida.

11 It also has the potential to significantly
12 decrease access to quality healthcare, making it
13 harder to obtain necessary services that are
14 currently available in our community.

15 While some say that eliminating CON creates
16 more competition and drives down costs, the opposite
17 is more likely to happen. The healthcare industry
18 is heavily regulated by both state and federal
19 government making it unlike any other business in a
20 free market.

21 Adding competition in healthcare doesn't drive
22 quality, and lower costs, like it does in a free
23 market economy. Instead, costs will increase. With
24 the repeal of CON you will most likely see a
25 significant increase in new hospitals in our

1 communities, and independent hospitals are likely to
2 be consolidated into larger healthcare systems.

3 These large systems will have more leverage to
4 negotiate higher reimbursement rates from insurance
5 companies. This higher insurance cost will be
6 passed through to consumers, increasing their
7 insurance premiums and deductibles.

8 While we are likely to experience an increase
9 in costs, we are likely to see a decline in quality
10 of care in our community. It is well documented
11 that the more times a hospital performs a procedure,
12 the better the outcome. With CON in place,
13 hospitals gain expertise in specific procedures due
14 to increased volume among fewer hospitals.

15 Based on our research and healthcare
16 experience, it is our recommendation to continue
17 certificate of need regulation in the State of
18 Florida. CON is working in Florida. It is an
19 effective tool that keeps costs in check and
20 protects the quality and access of care in our
21 community.

22 Thank you very much.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

24 While Ms. Goodman comes up, please -- Anthony
25 Dutton -- I think I pronounced that right -- Terry

1 Sanders and Conwell Hooper.

2 Thank you. Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. GOODMAN: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

4 My name is Pamela Goodman, and I'm president of the
5 League of Women Voters of Florida. I'm also today
6 representing the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun
7 Violence.

8 What I'm really here today doing is
9 representing the thousands of students that I was
10 honorable -- honored to stand with on Saturday at a
11 rally in Fort Lauderdale, students that were
12 friends, comrades, and peers of the 17 that were
13 mowed down in the terrible tragic shooting in
14 Parkland, and I'm speaking for them.

15 They're on buses on their way to Tallahassee,
16 so please indulge me in expressing their voice to
17 this very powerful Commission.

18 There are no easy solutions to the epidemic of
19 gun violence in our nation, but there is at least
20 one thing that can get us moving in the right
21 direction. The majority of Floridians, regardless
22 of political affiliation, support a ban on assault
23 weapons. And let's start calling them what they
24 are. Assault weapons are weapons of mass
25 destruction designed to kill humans quickly and

1 efficiently.

2 The Parkland shooter used an AR-15 assault
3 rifle purchased legally to snuff out 17 innocent
4 lives. The Pulse Nightclub shooter killed 49 and
5 injured 53 others with a Sig Sauer MCX. These
6 semi-automatic assault weapons are civilian versions
7 of military assault rifles.

8 This is a distinction with no difference in
9 killing power. They are arguably more deadly than
10 military versions because most experts agree that
11 semi-automatic fire is more accurate.

12 A majority of Americans, including gun
13 owners -- and I'm one of those -- consistently
14 support laws prohibiting assault weapons and
15 supported growing. A poll conducted in 2012 found
16 that 62 percent of Americans favored banning
17 military-style weapons. A recent Pew Research
18 Center poll last year found that 68 percent favored
19 banning assault weapons. A political morning
20 consult poll showed 72 percent.

21 During the federal assault weapons ban that was
22 in force already from '94 to 2004, the number of gun
23 massacres --

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Ms. Goodman.

25 MS. GOODMAN: I please ask you to -- you can

1 influence your appointees, influence our senate
2 president, our house speaker, and governor, and the
3 power that you have to please put this issue on the
4 ballot --

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Ms. Goodman.

6 MS. GOODMAN: -- before the voters.

7 (Audience interruption.)

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Folks -- folks, we have a
9 meeting to conduct. We appreciate the passion in
10 the room. But at the end of the day, we want
11 everyone to be able to come to this podium and
12 speak. And that's why we insist that we keep the
13 show to green and red cards. And that's the rules
14 we've set. So we appreciate you following them,
15 please.

16 Everybody understands, I think, in this room
17 the talks about gun bans, that is not one of the 37
18 proposals before this Commission, okay.

19 (Audience interruption.)

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Folks, this is a process.
21 And it was a process that was established before us.

22 (Audience interruption.)

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: So we appreciate your
24 comments. If you want to come up here and take your
25 two minutes and talk about that, that's fine. But

1 it is not one of the proposals that are before us.
2 So we appreciate -- we have a job to do. We have a
3 job to do. And we'd like to be supportive of the
4 citizens in the room that want to talk about the 37
5 proposals, which are before us for further
6 consideration in March and April. Thank you.

7 So Anthony Dutton, Terry Sanders, Conwell
8 Hooper.

9 Mr. -- how do you pronounce your name?

10 MR. DUTTON: Anthony Dutton.

11 My name is Anthony Dutton. I'm a retired Navy
12 officer and a lawyer and I reside here in Melbourne.

13 I urge you to oppose Proposal 72, which would
14 require a supermajority two-thirds vote by each
15 house in the legislature to approve any new state or
16 tax fee or to increase an existing tax or fee.

17 Adding Proposal 72 to the Constitution would
18 severely limit Florida's ability to invest in
19 education, mental health, roads, bridges, parks, law
20 enforcement, healthcare, and much more. Its
21 adoption would leave our state in a dangerously
22 unpredictable economic position.

23 Further, at this time when the federal
24 government's new tax and infrastructure plans are
25 designed to require states and cities to be

1 responsible for more of their own operating costs
2 and infrastructure, Proposal 72 would be an
3 especially bad policy for Florida. Think how our
4 senior citizens might suffer in the next inevitable
5 economic downturn.

6 Finally, the legislature by Proposed
7 Amendment 1 is attempting to reduce local government
8 revenues at the same time as a CRC, largely
9 appointed by that legislator's rulers is trying by
10 Proposal 72 to make it harder for the legislature to
11 assist the local governments it has just injured.
12 Sensibly? No. Please, vote no on Proposal 72.

13 And finally, just a question for you all to
14 consider. Proposal 21, Restoration of Felon Voting
15 Rights, has been withdrawn by its sponsor. Is
16 Proposal 21 truly dead? Or may its substance
17 somehow be revived by the full commission obtaining
18 another proposal or by some other means?

19 Can you please tell us so we will know, those
20 of us who support Amendment 4, how we should
21 proceed?

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Dutton.

23 MR. DUTTON: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

25 Terry Sanders.

1 MS. SANDERS: Hi. Thank you, Commissioners.

2 Terry Sanders. I live in Indialantic here in
3 Brevard. And thank you all for coming. I noticed
4 District Attorney Bondi is not here. Unfortunately,
5 she won't hear our public comments. But I do want
6 to say that we are interested in the process. And
7 what we understand is that there have been
8 committees. Committees have looked at proposals and
9 many have been laid on the table.

10 That should be the end of it, but we understand
11 from public comments by some commissioners that, for
12 instance, Proposal 22 to change the privacy
13 amendment, will be brought back. And that goes
14 against any kind of logical rules about what you
15 would -- why do you have committees if you're going
16 to just bring something back?

17 So this also addresses the issue around the
18 assault rifles. If you can bring something back,
19 you can add something. So that's what people are
20 asking you today. We're looking for you to listen
21 to the people. We're here. We've shown up. We
22 have given up a lot of our time for this, as have
23 you. Thank you.

24 But we really need you to understand that 22 is
25 extremely unpopular. 97 is extremely unpopular.

1 They would go nowhere. All education bills, they
2 would go nowhere. You would never get 60 percent of
3 voters.

4 Please, you can get 60 percent of the voters on
5 banning assault weapons. Please move forward with
6 that. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

8 Gary -- no. Mr. Conwell, is that correct?

9 MR. HOOPER: Correct.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: While you're coming up,
11 Mr. Gary Laur, I think. Laura Roth, James Rose
12 would please line up also. Thank you so much.

13 Please proceed.

14 MR. HOOPER: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and
15 members of the Committee. My name is Conwell
16 Hooper. I'm the executive director of the American
17 Senior Alliance. We are a nonprofit, advocacy
18 organization headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia, and
19 we're covering legislative and regulatory issues in
20 six southeastern states: Louisiana, Mississippi,
21 Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and Tennessee.

22 We appreciate your service. We testified
23 recently in the Declaration of Rights Committee that
24 we are very concerned about Proposal 88. We think
25 it's bad for Florida, bad for senior citizens, and

1 bad for those providing exceptional care for our
2 senior citizens.

3 We strive every day to ensure our vulnerable
4 citizens receive quality care and affordable prices
5 in our nursing home community. And Proposal 88
6 would wreak havoc on the industry. It would disrupt
7 the tremendous progress that our nursing homes and
8 assisted living communities have made over the last
9 ten years.

10 We're interested in affordable, quality care
11 and dependable services for our seniors. And
12 Proposal 88 would do nothing more than make it
13 easier for the plaintiff trial lawyers to sue
14 nursing homes and assisted living providers.

15 Florida is home to about 3.5 million seniors
16 who are 65 plus. And 70 percent of the nursing
17 homes in Florida are rated 4 or 5 stars by
18 Commission. We can't afford this radical proposal
19 that would simply line the pockets of trial lawyers
20 and jeopardize quality care. Our senior citizens
21 don't want to see a "Closed" sign in front of the
22 only long-term care facility in their community.

23 We ask you to vote "no" on Proposal 88 so
24 Florida can remain open to those that provide
25 affordable quality care and dependable services for

1 elderly Americans. Thank you very much.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

3 Gary -- if you could give me the last name,
4 please, sir.

5 MR. LANE: Lane, L-a-n-e.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, sir.

7 MR. LANE: My name is Gary Lane, Melbourne
8 Beach, Brevard County. I would like to thank
9 Commissioner Erika Donalds for sponsoring Proposal
10 43.

11 As most of us know, the CRC meets once every 20
12 years and can place constitutional amendments
13 directly on the state ballot. This year you're
14 considering Proposal 43 for 8-year term limits on
15 all school board members. Term limits will
16 encourage regular, open-seats elections.

17 Term limits encourage independence by the
18 school board as term limits will regularly sever the
19 relationship that grows between special interests
20 and incumbent board members.

21 Term limits improve citizen access to the
22 process, both in running for office or working on
23 meaningful campaigns. Term limits encourage new
24 faces and ideas. Incumbent members often have their
25 heels dug in over past political ballots, are

1 whetted to special interests they have relied on for
2 reelection.

3 The term limits mandate rotation in the office,
4 which expands a circle of citizens with intimate
5 knowledge of how the school board works. Term
6 limits encourage transparency and discourage
7 corruption, both soft and hard.

8 Term limits create a level playing field
9 between the school board and Florida's other
10 political offices which almost all have 8-year term
11 limits. This term limit should not be larger than 8
12 years. Florida deserves a vote on school board term
13 limits. I ask that you place a constitutional
14 amendment on the state ballot.

15 Thank you very much. Have a very nice
16 afternoon.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

18 Ms. Roth.

19 MS. ROTH: Good afternoon. Thank you for your
20 service to this important Commission. I'm Laura
21 Roth, clerk of the circuit court for Volusia County,
22 Florida. I'm an attorney and member of the Florida
23 Bar as well.

24 I'm here today to ask you to adopt Proposal 55,
25 which would ensure a more reliable funding model to

1 support the vital duties of the Florida clerks of
2 court. The integral role of the clerks in our court
3 system is of such importance that language regarding
4 our funding is already included in our Constitution.

5 Article V of the Constitution, which
6 establishes the judicial branch, currently states in
7 part in Section 14, "All funding for the offices of
8 the clerks of the circuit and county courts shall be
9 provided by adequate and appropriate filing fees and
10 service charges and costs for the performing of
11 court-related functions."

12 However, legislative changes to filing fees and
13 their distribution over the years has resulted in an
14 unsustainable situation where the majority of cases
15 processed by clerks currently require no fees,
16 resulting in revenue shortfalls and drastic budget
17 reductions for the clerks year after year.

18 Statewide, clerk budgets have decreased
19 \$63 million in the last five years. It's a crisis
20 point for us. In Volusia County alone, my
21 court-related budget has been reduced by almost \$3
22 million, and I've lost over 60 employees.

23 While clerk funding has steadily decreased, our
24 duties and services to the court, other justice
25 agencies, attorneys, and justice partners have

1 become more complex and necessary.

2 In 1998, in the Statement of Intent regarding
3 Article V, Section 14, the 1998 CRC stated that the
4 legislature should adopt a procedure to fund the
5 clerks when filing fees, charges, and costs are
6 insufficient to cover the court-related expenses of
7 the office.

8 Proposal 55 simply adds the specificity needed
9 to complete the intent expressed by the CRC in 1998,
10 and, therefore, should be included in the
11 Constitution. Please support Proposal 55.

12 Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

14 James Rose and Grant -- Grant Maloy, Josephine
15 Shim, and Tina Braungardt, please.

16 Next speaker.

17 MR. ROSE: Thank you. My name is James Rose.
18 I'm an attorney from Daytona Beach, Florida, where
19 I've practiced law there for 36 years since my
20 graduation from the University of Florida Law School
21 back in 1982. I'm a past board member of the
22 Volusia County Bar, also a past chairman of the
23 Daytona Regional Chamber of Commerce. I rise also
24 today to support Proposal 55 that Ms. Roth just
25 spoke to.

1 I've been, again, an attorney there in the
2 Volusia County area for 36 years, and during that
3 time we've seen a reduction in the amount of money
4 that the clerk's office gets. The clerk's office is
5 the lubricant that makes the judicial system work.

6 As Ms. Roth said, they've lost some \$3 million
7 in funding and 30 percent of their funds in the last
8 10 years. It's important that they're adequately
9 funded because if you go to court, if the documents
10 aren't there, if the cases haven't been done, things
11 don't get done. As a business person, that means
12 your case is not being adjudicated. You cannot move
13 forward.

14 Unfortunately, the clerk's office funding has
15 become a political football in the legislature. As
16 Ms. Roth said, they do not get any funding for the
17 criminal matters that come before them, which is a
18 great part of what they have to deal with.

19 So my request would be, Proposition 55 needs to
20 be taken care of to help the judiciary and help the
21 business community also. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Maloy.

23 MR. MALOY: Good afternoon. Grant Maloy,
24 Seminole County Clerk of the Court and Comptroller.
25 I have a unique story to tell. I served two terms

1 as a Seminole County commissioner in a charter
2 county. I was appointed by -- I appointed citizens
3 to serve on the charter review. Later on I served
4 on a charter review commission that proposed to take
5 over the powers of a constitutional office. I then
6 campaigned against those proposals, which the voters
7 rejected.

8 Now, 12 years later, I happen to be a
9 constitutional officer myself as clerk and
10 comptroller, and I'm currently in front of a charter
11 review commission that's been going on for 6 months,
12 and the only topic they've been talking about is
13 constitutional officers.

14 And this is happening instead of the Home Rule
15 issues that they're supposed to talk about that
16 citizens really care about. So I've seen this issue
17 from every side. Current rules of charter counties
18 weaken the checks and balances that protect the
19 citizens.

20 An example is, my office of the comptroller is
21 the taxpayer watchdog for the county. Every check
22 and paycheck that goes out on county business has
23 two signatures, the chairman's signature and my
24 signature. State law says I'm personally liable for
25 the expenditures approved that are not following

1 procedures.

2 So our job is to protect the taxpayers' checks
3 and balances in the county government. This also
4 happens to be the office that the charter review
5 tried to abolish 12 years ago.

6 Charters are sold as Home Rule and that's a
7 hoax. Here's what charters do. They make counties
8 supercities, able to raise more taxes. Once our
9 charter was passed in Seminole County, the first
10 thing the commissioners did was put in place a
11 utility tax, which they previously could not do.

12 Charters grow bigger government and restore the
13 protective checks and balances built into our
14 Constitution, and tilt the balance of power from the
15 people to the county commission. At any time in
16 Seminole County three commissioners can propose a
17 charter change to abolish my office or any other
18 constitutional office.

19 This should be a state issue that's decided by
20 legislators. They created the counties. The
21 counties don't create the state. And if there's a
22 change to a charter officer, it should occur in the
23 state legislature, not at the county level.

24 I would appreciate your support in protecting
25 checks and balances by supporting Proposition 13.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Josephine Shim.

3 MS. SHIM: Good afternoon. My name is
4 Josephine -- or "Jo" -- Shim, and I live in Cocoa in
5 Brevard County. I'm here today to speak as a member
6 of the League of Women Voters and also as an
7 immigrant.

8 Proposal 29 mandates that Florida businesses
9 use the E-Verify system to confirm that newly hired
10 employees are eligible to work. I urge you to
11 oppose this proposal.

12 E-Verify is error prone and, therefore, has the
13 potential to result in thousands of Florida
14 residents, citizens, and legal immigrants being
15 denied the right to work. Even an error rate of
16 1 percent results in thousands of eligible workers
17 being unable to work.

18 The E-Verify system is costly for businesses to
19 run, and additional staff may be needed to run the
20 program and to investigate problems. Additionally,
21 the proposal provides harsh penalties for businesses
22 for noncompliance. E-Verify opens the door to
23 discrimination by employers. Immigrants are
24 vulnerable because E-Verify was developed to
25 identify illegal immigrants.

1 An L.A. Times editorial sums up the issue.
2 "Mandating E-Verify wouldn't provide American
3 businesses with a legal workforce. It would merely
4 drive millions of undocumented workers further
5 underground where unscrupulous employers can more
6 easily exploit them."

7 I thank the members of the Commission for
8 allowing me to speak today and I urge you to oppose
9 Proposal 29. I also ask you not to bring back
10 Proposal 22, which will weaken privacy protection
11 for all Floridians. And, finally, I urge the CRC to
12 take action by bringing forward a proposal to ban
13 assault weapons.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: After Tina Braungardt, Mary
16 Stewart, Lauren Brenzel, Sue Kiley come up.

17 MS. BRAUNGARDT: Thank you, Chairman and
18 Commissioners. My name is Tina Braungardt, and I am
19 a 37-year Florida resident and registered voter.
20 And I've been in hospice care for 11 years and in
21 administration 10 of those 11 years. I'm here today
22 to respectfully ask the CRC to amend Proposal
23 Number 54 and remove hospice.

24 I would like to say that the hospice
25 certificate of need is a complex issue and it should

1 be considered by the Florida Legislature and not
2 decided by a constitutional amendment.

3 Elimination of hospice certificate of need will
4 not lead to a free market for hospice. 95 percent
5 of hospice care is paid for by the federal
6 government through Medicare or Medicaid.
7 Reimbursement rates are fixed and not subject to a
8 free market economy.

9 Hospices are paid a daily per diem rate and is
10 a risk-assumed benefit for providing services,
11 products, and durable medical equipment. It's not
12 based on a fee for services or products.

13 Need for additional hospice programs are
14 currently analyzed twice a year by the Agency of
15 Healthcare Administration. Applications are
16 submitted and certificates are awarded to meet
17 Florida's growing need.

18 Hospice patients in the State of Florida will
19 be harmed if hospice certificate of need is
20 abolished as a part of the Florida Constitution. It
21 would adversely affect the quality of care multiple
22 patients receive as well as the care their families
23 receive in their community.

24 It is the legislature's job to make laws. This
25 issue does not belong in the Constitution. What

1 would be lost? Regulatory structure. There would
2 be chaos in hospice without a regulatory structure.

3 Since my time is up, I'm not going to finish,
4 but thank you very much.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 Mary Stewart.

7 MS. STEWART: Good afternoon. My name is Mary
8 Stewart and, hopefully, you've been receiving my
9 letters. When I adopted my first greyhound, I knew
10 very little about greyhound racing.

11 I knew the dog that I was adopting was going to
12 be killed by the breeder because she couldn't get
13 pregnant until the breeder's wife contacted the
14 adoption group and begged it to take her and another
15 female in because, as she put it: Her husband had
16 killed so many dogs recently, she just couldn't take
17 it anymore.

18 I then started volunteering with an adoption
19 group, and as an attorney and the president of
20 multiple legal and charitable organizations, I was
21 given a lot of responsibility from the very
22 beginning. The first thing that struck me with my
23 time with the adoption group was the condition of
24 the dogs.

25 I could not believe how thin they were, how

1 rotten their teeth were, how many were covered in
2 fleas and ticks, had PTSD, intestinal worms, and
3 health issues that were never attended to, including
4 cancer and autoimmune diseases.

5 One dog in particular I will never forgot had
6 just come off the track and she was screaming in
7 pain with blood pouring out of her rectum as she was
8 trying to go to the bathroom. I will also never
9 forget the dog who came directly off of a breeding
10 farm who was over a year old and had an eye
11 condition so severe that one eye was the size of a
12 golf ball and it looked as if it was about to burst.

13 And the other eye was crested over to the
14 extent that this dog was practically blind. And yet
15 at 14 months old she had never received a day of
16 veterinary care. I also won't forget the calls I
17 received even recently to pick up dogs as soon as
18 possible because the trainers were threatening to
19 kill them to make room for the new ones coming in.

20 But that's the thing. Regardless of what you
21 may hear today from those who are in favor of
22 greyhound racing, those in the industry don't really
23 care about these dogs. They don't care if the dog
24 loses its life on the track. If they did, they
25 simply would not race them.

1 They also would not keep them caged for 20-plus
2 hours a day, day after day, month after month, year
3 after year. These dogs are nothing more to them
4 than money-making machines and --

5 (Audience interruption.)

6 MS. STEWART: -- they will stay and do whatever
7 they can to preserve their way of life.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for comments.

9 MS. STEWART: Thank you. Please vote "yes" on
10 Proposal 67.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Lauren Brenzel. Sue Kiley.

12 MS. BRENZEL: Hi, my name is Lauren Brenzel.
13 I'm coming from the Tampa Bay area because I
14 recognize how important this Commission is, and I
15 just want to urge you not bring back Proposal 22,
16 and respect citizens in the State of Florida's
17 strong right to privacy.

18 I also want to urge you to consider a ban on
19 assault rifles. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

21 Kate Mazzotta, Estefany -- Stefan- --

22 MS. LONDONO: Estefany Londono.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Londono, there you go.

24 Sorry, Estefany.

25 Lisa Tilson, please. Is Ms. Kiley here, Sue

1 Kiley? Thank you.

2 You're next. You're Kate? Thank you.

3 MS. MAZZOTTA: Good afternoon, my name is Kate
4 Mazzotta. I'd like to thank you so much for all
5 your hard work and for opening this Committee and
6 this hearing for the public. I'm sorry.

7 I urge you to uphold Florida's strong
8 protection for privacy rights and, therefore, oppose
9 Proposal 22. The misleading language of this
10 proposal risks fooling Florida voters into
11 supporting an amendment that would dismantle
12 Florida's existing comprehensive privacy protection.

13 I am sure you realize that according to an
14 October 2017 policy poll, 74 percent of Florida
15 voters said they would not support an effort to
16 remove our current privacy protection. I ask then
17 that you do not revive this proposal and instead
18 focus your efforts on what Florida voters do want, a
19 ban on assault weapons like the AR-15.

20 (Audience interruption.)

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Folks --

22 MS. MAZZOTTA: I cannot help but note that you
23 began this hearing with a heartfelt and meaningful
24 prayer for those affected by the violence in
25 Parkland. As elected officials here, you have the

1 unique opportunity to circumvent the choke-hold that
2 the NRA has on our nation's politics. Let Florida
3 voters decide that enough is enough.

4 I cannot express in words what it was like when
5 an active shooter was at the Florida State
6 University campus and I had to answer panic texts
7 from my mother who wanted to know if I was a
8 statistic, if I would be a static face, a static
9 photo around which my friends would hold a vigil.

10 I cannot express what it was like in the wake
11 of the Pulse shooting to sit in total anxiety as I
12 waited to hear if my friends were still alive. And
13 now we have witnessed the tragic events of Parkland
14 and yet there is no proposal for an assault weapons
15 ban.

16 You have the chance -- and I would argue, the
17 responsibility -- to make sure that no child in
18 Florida ever has to wake up and go to school and ask
19 themselves, "Am I next?"

20 (Audience interruption.)

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

22 Folks, keep it down, please.

23 Estefany. Could you pronounce your last name
24 one more time for us?

25 MS. LONDONO: Londono.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Londono. Thank you.

2 MS. LONDONO: So thank you for allowing me to
3 speak today. My name is Estefany and I live in
4 Orlando. I'm a graduate student at the University
5 of Central Florida studying reproductive justice and
6 social inequality.

7 I urge you to protect privacy rights in Florida
8 and not bring back Proposal 22. This is an
9 intentionally misleading proposal that threatens the
10 right of privacy to Florida citizens. This proposal
11 would disproportionately affect women and
12 particularly low income women and women of color.

13 I urge you to ensure that protections
14 guaranteed under the current privacy clause of our
15 State's Constitution continue to protect all
16 Floridians in their personal and private lives.

17 Additionally, we are submitting -- we are
18 electronically submitting a copy of thousands of
19 signatures we have collected throughout the State
20 from thousands of Floridians who could not make it
21 to this hearing today who also strongly oppose
22 bringing back Proposition 22.

23 Finally, I would like to ask you that you
24 propose a ban on assault rifles or any other form of
25 gun control proposal. As appreciated as our

1 thoughts and prayers may be, enough is enough. We
2 need action. We need policy change. And I hope
3 that you have the courage to write a proposal that
4 would put a stop to these mass killings.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

7 Guerdy Remy, Michael Smith, Tess Martin.

8 Guerdy Remy, Michael Smith, and Tess Martin.

9 Ms. Tilson, please.

10 MS. TILSON: Good afternoon. My name is Lisa
11 Tilson, and I'm from Boca Raton, Florida. I have
12 three children, and I'm here to speak against
13 bringing back 22, Proposal 22. But I'm actually
14 going to just say that and tell you what happened
15 last Thursday when my daughter, in middle school in
16 Boca Raton, told me that she was afraid that she
17 wouldn't survive such a shooting that happened.

18 She told me about her last period class and how
19 unprotected it was. I don't ever want to have a
20 conversation like that with my daughter again, ever.

21 I know that you're saying that you cannot put
22 this on the ballot, it's not part of what you do,
23 but many of you are elected officials or former
24 elected officials. Many of you were appointed by
25 the governor. Many of you have his ear. And I

1 implore you to take this back to Tallahassee.

2 Right now those kids are up there asking for
3 bills that will never make the floor to be heard.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Guerdy Remy, please.

6 MS. REMY: Hello. Good afternoon. My name is
7 Guerdy Remy. I came from Seminole County by way of
8 Winter Springs. I'm here with Planned Parenthood.
9 I'm here for opposition to Prop 22. I'm speaking
10 both as a nurse and as a case manager. Not only
11 would that put our people who are licensed in
12 jeopardy of litigation, because there's already a
13 HIPAA law that is actually federal, which is
14 stronger.

15 So as we are receiving lesser duties with
16 Prop 22 for privacy, we can still face issues with
17 privacy violations that we would do if that is
18 passed. Also, we have FRBR [phonetic], so that's
19 already a rule that's out here. So Prop 22 really
20 in my opinion does not have a place because we have
21 stronger areas that are there.

22 But also on assault rifles, I served in the
23 U.S. Army. I carried an M16. There's no reason for
24 anyone to have that sort of weapon out here. When I
25 had my M16, I don't see that -- that is a weapon of

1 mass destruction. It's a weapon that people carry
2 for war. An AR-15, that same rifle, has the same
3 power.

4 So for me, when I see that people are shooting
5 that in public and not in the battlefield, just as I
6 served in the Army, that is something that should
7 not have happened. So we really need to find out
8 why we're allowing this to happen in Florida because
9 I come from New York -- and guess what? -- all that
10 is banned.

11 Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Michael Smith. Michael
13 Smith. Tess Martin.

14 MS. MARTIN: Good afternoon. My name is Tess
15 Martin and I thank you for the opportunity to speak.
16 I'm here in opposition of Proposal 4, the repeal of
17 the No-Aid Provision, which would undermine the
18 vital barrier preventing direct funding of religious
19 practice with taxpayer dollars.

20 For over 130 years this proposition has
21 prohibited the use of public tax dollars from
22 funding religious institutions, thereby protecting
23 Floridians from watching as their tax dollars fund
24 religious activities to which they aren't affiliated
25 and with which they may not agree.

1 Florida's No-Aid Provision isn't just about
2 protecting your right to individual religious belief
3 and practices, it's about protecting you from seeing
4 your tax dollars used in ways you neither believe in
5 nor support.

6 Let's be absolutely clear. Deleting this
7 provision means diverting funds from neighborhood
8 schools in order to directly fund religious
9 practices, whether it is your religion or not. And
10 because this proposal doesn't require any oversight
11 or accountability, Floridians could see the misuse
12 of millions of taxpayer dollars, massive fraud, and
13 political cronyism as access to this money is given
14 to any group that calls itself a religious
15 institution.

16 Under the Florida Constitution as currently
17 written, the State already contracts with
18 religiously affiliated organizations to provide
19 services in communities throughout the State. The
20 argument that the No-Aid Provision hurts this
21 important work is patently false.

22 Under the existing system, religious
23 organizations receive hundreds of tax breaks,
24 exemptions, and accommodations. Faith-based groups
25 perform essential social services every day, much of

1 it with funding through contracts with State
2 agencies.

3 Arguing that these charitable contracts will go
4 away unless we change the Constitution is a scare
5 tactic. Under current law, services that these
6 groups perform are required to be nonreligious and
7 serve the needs of the community without
8 discrimination.

9 The removal of these protections would lead to
10 Floridians' tax dollars potentially funding
11 religious indoctrination, proselytizing, and
12 discrimination.

13 So I urge this Commission to vote "no" on
14 Proposition 4.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Ms. Martin.

16 MS. MARTIN: Thank you so much.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

18 Katherine Banko, Leann Chaney, Matt Susin.
19 Katherine Banko, Leann Chaney, Matt Susin. And
20 after those three, Rachel Sines, Amy Tidd, and
21 Victoria McGrath.

22 Is Ms. Banko here? Ms. Banko first, then
23 Ms. Leann Chaney, and then Matt Susin. Thank you.

24 MS. BANKO: Hello. My name is Katherine Banko.
25 Thank you, all you commissioners, for being here and

1 all of my fellow citizens for also showing up and
2 giving your support or requesting that some of these
3 bills, these proposals, not go forward.

4 We have had a shooting, another shooting in
5 Florida. And I understand the argument that was
6 suggested a moment ago. And I just want to say that
7 scary AR-15s should also be joined by other rifles,
8 such as the Ruger Mini-14, which also can hold ten
9 to a hundred rounds of ammunition.

10 These look like just basic hunting rifles. I
11 want to know what hunter needs that many bullets to
12 rapid fire. What are they shooting? Are they going
13 after buffalo to make them extinct? I'm just
14 wondering.

15 So I've heard gun owners say that the left only
16 wants the AR-15s banned, or the scarier guns. I
17 want any gun banned that's going to kill 17 students
18 in such a short period of time. The assault rifles
19 ban was let expire in 2005 by the 109th Congress,
20 and shame on them. And if you all do not pick up
21 and write a proposal for this, shame on you.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ms. Leann Chaney, Rachel
23 Sines, Amy Tidd, Victoria McGrath.

24 MS. CHANEY: Hello. That working all right?

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes.

1 MS. CHANEY: I am Leann Chaney. I live here in
2 Melbourne, Florida. I'd like to ask you all to
3 support Proposition 67, which is to ban greyhound
4 racing. Right now there are only 19 racetracks left
5 in all of the United States, and 12 are them are
6 here in Florida. Forty states have already banned
7 this horrible practice, and it's really time for us
8 to do the same.

9 My only problem with 67 is it's not going into
10 effect until 2021, so there's still three more years
11 of these animals suffering. There's no point in
12 making it take that long. You can make this happen
13 even sooner.

14 Since I still have plenty of time, I'd like to
15 say Proposition 22 was tabled because it didn't pass
16 the Judicial Committee. I ask you to please respect
17 the democratic process and don't bring it back. I
18 understand there's a commissioner actively trying to
19 bring it back. There's no point. It's already gone
20 through the process. Let it drop.

21 And, finally, as many others have brought up, I
22 do stand with Parkland. Enough is enough. It is
23 time to ban these weapons. Protect our children.
24 Protect our society. You all have the ability to be
25 on the right side of history. Please do.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Susin, Ms. Sine, Amy
2 Tidd, Victoria McGrath, Vicki Impoco, please. Thank
3 you.

4 MR. SUSIN: Thank you, Commissioners. I just
5 want to take a minute and ask your support for the
6 term limit bill. My name's Matt Susin. I'm a
7 school board member here in Brevard County, and I
8 wanted to bring light to a couple of issues that you
9 may not have heard before.

10 I listened to the other speaker, which laid out
11 a lot of good points, but one of the things that I
12 wanted to bring before you is, is where term limits
13 came from.

14 Not many people know that President Washington
15 was the first president to say that he wanted two
16 terms. But where did it come from? If you look
17 back at the Roman Emperor Cincinnatus, who came
18 forward twice to defend Rome -- from being a farmer,
19 then becoming emperor -- and then set down all of
20 his emperor clothes the day after he defended Rome,
21 that is why President Washington decided on the two
22 terms.

23 And the reason you know this is because his
24 society was known as "The Society of Cincinnatus."
25 And it's also what he wore on his chest when he was

1 founded as one of the founding members and he became
2 president of the United States of America, was on
3 his chest "The Loyal Order of Cincinnatus." I
4 wanted you guys to understand that and how that ties
5 into our term limits.

6 The other thing I would like to speak to is, as
7 a new school board member, you bring new ideas. In
8 education we are three years behind the curve of
9 where we truly need to be. When you have an
10 incumbent that's in there -- and I was just in a
11 meeting where there was an incumbent in there for
12 30 years -- you have policy that becomes stagnant,
13 you have ideas that don't get brought to the table.

14 When you have somebody who goes in there for
15 eight years and then they're out -- listen, I have a
16 hundred thousand people that are registered voters
17 inside my district that could run for my office.
18 For somebody to sit there and say that you're the
19 best that can be inside your district and that you
20 bring the only ideas, that is wrong.

21 I will tell you this as I close, is that if
22 it's good enough for the President of the United
23 States to sit in there for two terms and eight
24 years, it's good enough for a school board member.

25 Thank you very much.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

2 Ms. Sines. Amy Tidd. Is Ms. Sines in the
3 room? Ms. Sines, Rachel Sines, not present. Thank
4 you.

5 Go ahead, ma'am.

6 MS. TIDD: Good afternoon, Commissioners. We
7 are really thrilled you're here in Melbourne today.
8 My name is Amy Tidd, and I live in Rockledge. And
9 I'm speaking today in favor of Proposition 11, which
10 is suffrage and elections.

11 I would like to thank the Commission for your
12 support of this Proposition 11. I want to thank --
13 I apologize if I mangle your name -- but Sherry
14 Plymale as sponsor, Carolyn Timmann, Hank Coxe, and
15 Roberto Martinez for sponsoring this.

16 The reason I'm speaking before you today is
17 that democracy is very important. Your work is
18 extending democracy. In Florida we attempted --
19 right now if there's Democrats or Republicans on a
20 ballot, you get to vote. If there's only
21 Republicans on a ballot or only Democrats, and
22 you're the opposite party, you should get to vote.

23 The legislators put a law into place so that if
24 there was no opposing opposition, that all persons
25 would get to vote on an election. So in Florida

1 right now this is -- we have a whole bunch of
2 attorneys. They looked and found a loophole for
3 this.

4 So if you want to be a legislator, if you run
5 for office, you have to raise thousands of dollars
6 or get hundreds of petitions in order to get on the
7 ballot. Right now there's a loophole that allows a
8 write-in candidate to place their name on the ballot
9 without any work, no money, no time, just put their
10 name on the ballot.

11 When they do that, if there are three
12 Republicans and no Democrats, the write-in ballot
13 closes the ballot for all the other people. In
14 Brevard we had one legislator who was elected by
15 7,000 people. There was a hundred thousand people
16 in his district.

17 So please support Proposition 11. I thank you
18 for that. And also I stand with Parkland. Please
19 ban assault weapons.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

21 Victoria McGrath, Vicki Impoco, Melanie Marsh.
22 Victoria McGrath, please. Vicki Impoco. Thank you.

23 MS. MCGRATH: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
24 My name is Victoria McGrath, and I want to speak to
25 you today in support of Proposal 96, Marsy's Law. I

1 am here because I am a member of a club in which no
2 one wants to belong. I am the parent of a murdered
3 child.

4 My son, Nicholas, was murdered on October 1,
5 2016, or as I count the time, 1 year, 4 months and
6 17 days. My worst fears as a parent is now my
7 reality. I can't imagine getting that ill-fated
8 phone call, because I did.

9 Since Nick's horrific death I have surrounded
10 myself with victim's advocates and other survivors
11 of murder. I attend monthly support group meetings
12 at POMC, or Parents of Murdered Children. I have
13 heard countless heart-wrenching stories of grief and
14 loss and just as many stories of extreme
15 frustration, anger, and abandonment over how our
16 criminal justice system treats these victims.

17 I choose to believe that this treatment for the
18 most part is unintentional because I believe caring
19 for victims should be a top priority.
20 Unfortunately, this isn't always the case, which is
21 why we need Marsy's Law.

22 Victims must have a voice in the criminal
23 justice system. I've heard so many horror stories
24 about victims not knowing about a sentencing hearing
25 or not having the chance to speak with the

1 prosecutor about a possible plea deal. I've heard
2 about lost notifications, or even no notifications.
3 I've heard about homicide detectives dropping the
4 ball and cases slipping through the cracks.

5 Some of these cases -- one of the most common
6 threads I hear is how long some of these cases take
7 to get to trial in the State of Florida, some going
8 on 5 and 10 years, with victims having to go to the
9 hearings every few months, only to be met with delay
10 after delay by the defense teams. We are
11 re-victimized every single time this happens.

12 To me and my fellow co-victims, knowing what is
13 happening in our cases is paramount. Navigating in
14 the criminal justice system often makes us --

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ma'am, you need to bring it
16 to a close.

17 MS. MCGRATH: I know. I'm almost there.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

19 MS. MCGRATH: Navigating the criminal justice
20 system often makes us feel unbearably hopeless and
21 powerless, but being able to participate in the
22 criminal court system as someone who matters would
23 make a world of difference to those of us who are
24 suffering.

25 I urge you to support Proposal 96, Marsy's Law,

1 because the victims deserve their rights too.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

3 Vicki Impoco, Tom Bexley, Melanie Marsh, Laura
4 Fausone.

5 Ms. Impoco, did I pronounce that right?

6 MS. IMPOCO: You did not.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Good. I figured that you
8 would correct me.

9 MS. IMPOCO: Welcome to Melbourne. My name is
10 Vicki Impoco. I live in Satellite Beach. I want to
11 thank you all for this opportunity to speak today in
12 opposition to Proposal 22.

13 Our present policy clause protects Floridians
14 from government intruding into many aspects of our
15 private lives. It also protects our right to make
16 personal medical choices, including end-of-life
17 decisions.

18 As a registered nurse, I am concerned
19 Proposal 22 would nullify my patient's end-of-life
20 decisions, including living wills and
21 do-not-resuscitate orders. Proposal 22 could also
22 allow a healthcare worker or family member to get a
23 court forbidding the patient's wishes from being
24 carried out.

25 Thirteen years ago Terri Schiavo, a severely

1 brain-damaged Florida woman, became a national
2 symbol for how not to die in America. A majority of
3 Americans polled agreed, said in a relationship
4 involving physicians and families, politicians
5 should stay clear.

6 Dignity is one of the last things we can give
7 to a person at the end of their life journey. Don't
8 take that dignity away by allowing government to
9 meddle and interfere with those decisions.

10 I commend the Judicial Committee for their
11 conclusion -- consideration of the broad
12 consequences and their rejection of Proposal 22, and
13 strongly urge the full Commission not to reconsider
14 this proposal.

15 Additionally, I, too, request a proposal to be
16 of semi-automatic assault weapons and large capacity
17 feedings, devices. Thank you very much.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

19 Mr. Bexley, Melanie Marsh.

20 Mr. Bexley, thank you.

21 MR. BEXLEY: Mr. Chair, Commissioners, thank
22 you very much for your service. I'm Tom Bexley, the
23 elected clerk and comptroller in Flagler County. My
24 background prior to my career in public service was
25 in the insurance industry, where I was a small

1 business owner.

2 I'm currently in my first term of office and
3 plan to spend the second half of my career serving
4 the public. I'm very engaged with the residents of
5 my county and receive a considerable amount of
6 feedback on my performance.

7 By far the comment I hear the most is, "Thanks
8 for looking out for the bottom line and taking care
9 of our money." This is a daily reminder that one of
10 the most important parts of my job as county
11 comptroller is the prudent and conservative
12 financial management of county funds.

13 As you all know, Proposal 13 seeks to amend the
14 Florida Constitution to require that all county
15 constitutional officers be elected by the electors
16 of the county. The proposal has been portrayed as
17 an attack on home rule government.

18 13 is not an attack on Home Rule, rather a
19 guarantee of it, a guarantee that the citizens of
20 Florida will have a direct choice of who safeguards
21 their tax dollars. Then they can hold them directly
22 accountable.

23 All Floridians deserve a multi-layered system
24 of checks and balances by segregating duties between
25 two independent and trusted entities, county

1 government and county constitutional elected
2 officers.

3 Maintaining or establishing these multiple
4 layers of accountability is integral to earn and
5 keep the trust of residents in regard to their
6 money. This initiative does not seek to target
7 specific counties. It is a big-picture initiative
8 about the citizens of the State of Florida.

9 Bottom line, the proposal works to ensure the
10 continued protection of the public just as
11 originally intended by the Florida Constitution.

12 I ask you to vote "yes" to place Proposition 13
13 on the ballot so the residents of Florida can make
14 this choice.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ms. Marsh, Laura Fausone, Amy
16 Laakman.

17 MS. MARSH: Hello. Thank you for having --
18 being here today and hearing all of us. I'm here to
19 ask for your -- to -- I'm sorry -- to support
20 Proposal 67 that's going to ban the betting on
21 greyhounds. It's very important.

22 They call it a sport, but yet the dogs have no
23 way of comprehending what can happen to them on the
24 track. When you look at human sportsmen, they
25 understand what's at stake. They can get injured,

1 lose their career, become paralyzed, or die. And
2 the greyhounds have no way of comprehending this
3 outcome for them. They're just trained to run
4 around a track. And everyone says, "Well, the
5 greyhounds enjoy running."

6 They're sight hounds. It's a natural ability
7 of theirs that's being abused and -- because some
8 people want to make some money off of them. And
9 that's a huge problem because it's a \$2 bet on the
10 dogs. And it's just barbaric. It's inhumane.

11 And we shouldn't be able to put any dollar
12 value on a life when they didn't sign a contract to
13 be competing against one another. They don't even
14 understand they're competing against one another.

15 And another part I'd like to discuss is the
16 greyhound track is an expansive piece of property.
17 And we need to, in Florida, think about how to best
18 use our land in an intelligent manner.

19 And a lot of folks that I speak to, when they
20 think of the greyhound track, all that comes to
21 their mind is pain and death. So I think we could
22 use the greyhound -- land that the greyhound tracks
23 are on in more important purposes to benefit
24 everybody.

25 And I would just like to close in saying that

1 we need to remember that Mahatma Gandhi said, "The
2 greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be
3 judged by the way its animals are treated."

4 And if we aren't able to have empathy for
5 animals, you can't have empathy for any beings
6 higher. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

8 Ms. Fausone, Amy Laakman, and Joanne Regan.

9 MS. FAUSONE: Good afternoon. My name is Laura
10 Fausone. You're close. And I'm a retired nurse and
11 a 44-consistent-voting resident of Florida, and I'm
12 urging you to uphold Florida Privacy Act and oppose
13 Proposition 22. And, quite frankly, I don't even
14 know that I follow the logic as to why this is even
15 on the agenda.

16 In 2012, over 60 percent of Floridians rejected
17 Amendment VI, which attempted to remove Floridians'
18 privacy. Floridians showed that they do not want
19 this. And to repeat this futility is a waste of my
20 tax dollars and your tax dollars.

21 Now, perhaps you're using the argument that you
22 are attempting to save lives of babies and children
23 by rewriting The Privacy Act, and that women will no
24 longer have autonomy over their body and receive
25 abortions. So, yes, let's think about that: "We

1 must save the children. We must save the children."

2 So may I suggest that a better exercise of your
3 talents and use of our tax dollars would be to enact
4 on legislation that would indeed save the lives of
5 children that attend our Florida schools. We may
6 also save the lives of those individuals using
7 Florida airports and those who are in Florida
8 nightclubs having an innocent evening of fun with
9 their friends.

10 And I think it was Commissioner Stemberger --
11 you said you do not know what it's like to receive a
12 phone call. Well, sir, I do. Except I didn't get a
13 phone call. I had two homicide detectives come to
14 my door. And I am a seven-year widow of someone who
15 died from a gunshot wound.

16 And I can tell you, thoughts and prayers mean
17 nothing. But my thoughts are that you do something
18 to ban assault weapons and that you'll find the way
19 to do it. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Amy Laakman, Joanne Regan,
21 Mary Davie Griffin.

22 Please proceed, ma'am.

23 MS. LAAKMAN: Hi. My name is Amy Laakman, and
24 I am a Gator, I'm an educator, I'm a voter, I'm a
25 proud beachside person. But most of all, I'm a

1 private citizen, with the emphasis on "private." We
2 here in Florida enjoy a higher standard of privacy
3 and we are in danger of losing that.

4 Currently, we are protected by HIPAA laws, but
5 there are ways that we are being eroded, that we are
6 going to have to make sure that we are not standing
7 on a slippery slope. First, they will take away the
8 rights of women. Next, they will take away the
9 rights of end-of-life decisions. We can't just let
10 things go.

11 This proposal is dead. We don't need to revive
12 it. As I said earlier, I'm an educator. I also
13 fear that one day that active shooter is coming in
14 my classroom. And I am told to protect young
15 people's lives. I fear this. This is just
16 something that is not necessary. We also need to do
17 it now.

18 Please ban it now. If not now, when? The time
19 is right to ban assault weapons. Please, please, do
20 something for our future and your legacy as well.

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ms. Regan, Ms. Griffin, Kari
23 Warren. Kari Warren.

24 Please proceed, Ms. Regan.

25 MS. REGAN. Hello, Carlos.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Oh, my God. We went to high
2 school together.

3 MS. REGAN: We're Howie Hawks.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Good to see you,
5 Joanne.

6 MS. REGAN: Hello.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: It's only been 40 years.

8 MS. REGAN: No, I've seen you since then at our
9 reunion.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yeah, our reunion, years ago.
11 Nice to see you.

12 MS. REGAN: I'm here to speak about legacy, and
13 particularly here to speak about your legacy. What
14 you are doing here is not about your agenda. It's
15 not about my agenda. But 20 years is a long time,
16 and what you do will be on you. It will be your
17 legacy and it will be remembered. What an
18 incredible amount of power, responsibility, and a
19 call to action.

20 It should not be what a governor wants. It
21 should not be what a party wants. It should be what
22 is the right thing for the citizens of Florida. How
23 can I make our life better in Florida? What can I
24 do that will make me proud to say I served on this
25 Commission? You will determine that by the way you

1 vote.

2 It's about the next 20 years. Will your
3 grandchildren or children look with pride that you
4 participated, or will they be one day be ashamed
5 that their grandparent rolled back rights and
6 privileges that generations before them enjoyed?

7 Will your grandchild, perhaps faced with a
8 pregnancy, a developmentally unviable pregnancy,
9 have an impediment to reaching a medical decision
10 between her and her doctor? Will you be supporting
11 expanding privacy rights, public education free of
12 religious influence? Will you been supporting Home
13 Rule for municipalities? Will you be supporting no
14 off-shore drilling to protect our environment?

15 I urge you to keep your legacy in mind as you
16 deliberate, and don't do the politically expedient
17 thing. Take action that will support the best
18 interests of all Floridians for the next 20 years.

19 And I also implore you to please take up the
20 call to ban assault weapons. This is your calling.
21 Please do the responsible job you've been appointed
22 to. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

24 Ms. Griffin, Kari Warren, Curtis Hiervo.
25 Curtis. Is Ms. Griffin -- thank you. Ms. Warren

1 and Curtis Hiervo.

2 Please proceed.

3 MS. GRIFFIN: My name is Davie Griffin, Mary
4 Davie Griffin. I live in Deltona in Volusia County,
5 and I thank all of you for letting me have the
6 opportunity to speak with you and let you know our
7 opinions.

8 I'm here to urge you to reject Proposal 4, the
9 repeal of the No-Aid clause. The No-Aid clause, in
10 case anyone has forgotten what it says, states that,
11 "No revenue of the State or any political
12 subdivision or agency thereof shall ever be taken
13 from the public treasury directly or indirectly in
14 aid of any church, sect, or religious denomination
15 in aid of any sectarian institution."

16 This is the Florida Constitution's separation
17 of church and state. Without it, the taxpayers may
18 fund various religious institutions that they
19 disagree with, such as Christian, Jewish, Muslim,
20 Wiccan, Satanist, and so on, private schools.

21 A lot of times people -- and I'm just going to
22 touch on this one a little bit because I thought it
23 was interesting -- mistake this clause, this No-Aid
24 clause to be anti-Catholic. And this provision was
25 adopted in 1885.

1 Since then it's been in the Florida
2 Constitution and the people and courts have found,
3 quote, No bigoted purpose in retaining the No-Aid
4 clause, end of quote. In fact, the first English
5 language Catholic Encyclopedia in 1909 studied the
6 No-Aid clause and found that, quote --

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments,
8 Ms. Griffin. Thank you.

9 MS. GRIFFIN: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Is Kari Warren in the house?
11 Kari Warren? Did I see anybody in the audience that
12 looks like Kari Warren? No? Okay. How about
13 Curtis? Thank you. And Janice Rose and Judy Grim,
14 please.

15 Go ahead.

16 MR. HIERVO: Good afternoon. My name's Curtis
17 Hiervo. I'm the executive director of the Central
18 Florida assisted living facility-CIO. We represent
19 over 70,000 workers from over 100 different union
20 locals in the Orlando metropolitan area.

21 Our workers are the folks that make sure you
22 have a great time when you visit Disney World.
23 They're the educators teaching the next generation
24 of students in the Orlando area. They're those AT&T
25 wire techs that are making sure you have Direct TV,

1 an NFL Sunday ticket when football comes around.

2 Additionally, the identity of many of our
3 workers is that of an immigrant, whether it's a
4 naturalized immigrant, whether it's a legalized
5 permanent resident, or even folks that have
6 temporary protected status which allows them to
7 apply their craft and work.

8 Our labor counsel is here before you today to
9 oppose Proposal 29, which we feel puts a burden on
10 Central Florida's workers that is unjust. We
11 understand that E-Verify has many problems and many
12 errors.

13 A speaker earlier articulated one of those
14 issues that even with 1 percent failure rate, we
15 have an undue burden put upon our workers where if
16 they have legal protective status or they have a
17 right to apply their craft, the burden's on them to
18 be able to prove it. And with E-Verify, it makes it
19 very tough case to make.

20 Additionally, we know with this mandate, this
21 bureaucratic proposal, it would have a chilling
22 impact on businesses interviewing immigrants or
23 folks with immigrant-sounding names, like myself.

24 Our labor counsel stands opposed to this
25 proposal, which we feel is anti-worker and

1 anti-business. Furthermore, it is bureaucratic
2 overreach. It is the job of the federal government
3 to deal with immigration, not the state government.

4 Thank you for your time.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 Janice Rose, Judy Grim, Debbie Smith, and Derek
7 Ganary, please. Thank you.

8 MS. ROSE: Good afternoon. My name's Janice
9 Rose. I live in Ormond Beach in Volusia County.
10 And I just wanted to voice my strong opposition of
11 Proposition 4, which is the No-Aid clause. The most
12 obvious reason that comes to my mind is that it will
13 just further erode funding for our public schools by
14 removing restrictions of sending more tax dollars to
15 religious institutions that are not held accountable
16 to the same academic standards and the same
17 financial standards as our public schools.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

20 Judy Grim.

21 MS. GRIM: Hello. My name is Judy Grim. I'm a
22 40-year resident of Volusia County. I'm also the
23 road and bridge and stormwater director for Volusia
24 County. I'm the vice-president of Florida
25 Stormwater Association. I appreciate the

1 opportunity to speak today.

2 I know CRC 95 is not formally deemed active.
3 However, it's our understanding that the sponsor
4 intends to reintroduce this for consideration. I'm
5 extremely concerned about the CRC 95 with regards to
6 the ability of local government to manage flooding
7 and control water pollution, which are statewide
8 issues.

9 Flooding projects are critical to residents,
10 businesses, and tourists alike. Hurricanes,
11 tropical storms, and other storm events severely
12 impact our state much too frequently. This flooding
13 is going to worsen with sea level rise.

14 Also, clean water matters for our economy and
15 for the quality of life of our residents and our
16 visitors. People who live in or visit Florida want
17 to swim, boat, fish, and drink clean water. Our
18 agricultural sector also relies on clean, reliable
19 water for irrigation and livestock production.

20 From a water quality perspective, all Florida
21 water bodies, such as the Indian River Lagoon,
22 St. Johns River, and springs such as Blue Springs,
23 have water quality standards to meet. Our local
24 governments are required by federal and state
25 permits and also the mandates of our residents to

1 meet these water quality standards.

2 We must maintain the ability of local
3 governments that manage the stormwater systems that
4 Proposal 25 will cripple -- 95, excuse me -- will
5 cripple our local response to address flooding, sea
6 level rise and water quality.

7 We ask for you to withdraw any further
8 consideration of 95 so that we can manage local
9 flooding and water quality conditions and create a
10 sustainable future for Florida residents and its
11 economy.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you.

13 Debbie Smith, Derek Ganary, Joe Trudden.

14 MS. SMITH: Good afternoon. My name is Debbie
15 Smith, and I'm from Seminole County. I'm here today
16 to talk about open primaries and to thank
17 Commissioner Schifino for his Proposal 62.

18 I did watch the Ethics and Election Committee
19 review his proposal, discuss his proposal, hear
20 testimony from supervisors of elections, election
21 attorneys. And at the end of that they voted 6 to 3
22 to move the proposal forward.

23 The General Provisions Committee spent one hour
24 looking at everything that had been presented to the
25 previous committee. They did not hear everyone's

1 support for the proposal. They voted 0 to 7 to stop
2 the proposal. So I am glad that we can possibly
3 resurrect Proposal 62.

4 I have been an NPA since I was 18 years old. I
5 am 58. I'm a lifelong NPA. I will not be bullied
6 into picking a party. And forced association, I
7 believe, is not the answer to building an inclusive
8 and meaningful electorate. In Florida there are 3.4
9 million independent and NPA voters who are locked
10 out of primaries. Over 70 percent of Florida voters
11 agree that primaries should be open.

12 So I suggest we put it on the ballot and let
13 them decide. Those most vocal about open primaries
14 are party loyalists who are married to a system that
15 is dysfunctional. Florida's NPAs have grown from 4
16 percent in 1998 to 27 percent in 2018. In 2016, 13
17 million of our tax dollars went to run closed
18 primaries, which I'm not allowed to vote in.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

20 MS. SMITH: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Dara -- Derek. It's "Derek,"
22 isn't it? I'm sorry. I can't read your writing. I
23 apologize for that, Derek. At least I got the --
24 how about the last name?

25 MR. Ganary: Ganary.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ganary, okay. Please
2 proceed. Thank you.

3 MR. GANARY: Good afternoon, everyone. My
4 name's Derek Ganary. As a Brevard citizen, also a
5 family member of a Florida long-term care resident,
6 I'm also an administrator for a local nursing home
7 here in Brevard. I stand before you to ask that you
8 oppose and vote "no" against Proposal 88.

9 If you look at the details of that proposal,
10 this would not actually add quality to our nursing
11 home and resident care. This could potentially take
12 away money that we would use to do such quality.

13 This would potentially add money to personal
14 injury attorneys. As an administrator I know we can
15 put the money into activities programs, extra labor,
16 amenities, things the patients actually request and
17 need.

18 So I stand before you to urge you, please vote
19 "no" against Proposal 88 in favor of nursing homes.
20 Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

22 Joe Trudden, Frank McCarron, Jack Oliver, Roger
23 Stevens.

24 MR. TRUDDEN: Good afternoon, distinguished
25 panel. My name is Joe Trudden, from Miami, Florida.

1 I own and operate a greyhound kennel in Hialeah. I
2 have handled canines and greyhounds for over
3 30 years, and I am asked here to defend my business,
4 my job, my employees, and my family.

5 I have done nothing wrong. Anything that needs
6 to be defended is not here. We work very hard and
7 we take excellent care of these majestic greyhounds.
8 We treat them like they're our family. We don't
9 employ publicists and we don't fund-raise. We
10 simply take care of our greyhounds.

11 Greyhounds support over 200 small businesses
12 and over 3,000 jobs just in Florida alone. Can any
13 political action group just simply attack and
14 destroy a legitimate business? That's the question
15 here.

16 I am curious. If we are forced to shut down,
17 do these activists simply claim victory and go home?
18 Or will they pick another soft target and attack
19 another business again?

20 Another question. What is their position on a
21 well-trained K9 sitting in the back of a police car
22 all day defending our lives and our communities? I
23 ask them that. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Frank McCarron, Jack Oliver,
25 Roger Stevens. And after Mr. Stevens we will be

1 taking a brief 10-minute break and return to hear
2 more testimony. Thank you.

3 MR. MCCARRON: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
4 My name is Frank McCarron. I'm the owner of
5 Seminole Animal Supply, a business that was started
6 37 years ago with the sole purpose of providing
7 quality kennel feed and supplies to all the dog
8 tracks in Florida.

9 My job allows me to access every kennel in
10 Florida. And every day I see these beautiful dogs.
11 Every day I see how happy, how healthy, and
12 well-treated they are. Every year I collect and pay
13 over \$160,000 to the Department of Revenue from
14 eight different counties.

15 This Commission Proposal 67 is driven by
16 out-of-state activists, and it will destroy my
17 business and force me to lay off my employees, and
18 cost me my livelihood. This proposal is bad for
19 business. It's bad for workers. And it's bad for
20 Florida. Please do not support Proposal 67.

21 Thank you for allowing me to speak.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Oliver, Mr. Stevens. And
23 then we'll take a break.

24 MR. OLIVER: My name is Jack Oliver. I'm the
25 founder and the director of Floridians for E-Verify

1 Now. I'm from North Palm Beach, Florida.

2 Illegal immigration hurts all Floridians,
3 except employers who profit from illegal hiring.
4 But the group most adversely affected is the working
5 poor, a group that has no high-paid lobbyist
6 speaking on their behalf, a group who has no voice
7 in Tallahassee.

8 Now, Florida's Constitution, Article X,
9 Section 24 states, "All working Floridians are
10 entitled to be paid a minimum wage that is
11 sufficient to provide a decent and healthy life for
12 them and their families, that protects their
13 employers from unfair low-wage competition, and that
14 does not force them to rely on taxpayer-funded
15 public services in order to avoid economic
16 hardship."

17 The intent of Section 24 is clearly being
18 undermined by the illegal labor market. Employers
19 and legal workers are both being harmed by illegal
20 labor.

21 Today in Florida we have 557,000 families
22 living in poverty, 950,000 children living in
23 poverty. According to the Center for Immigration
24 Studies, 42 percent of the immigrant households in
25 Florida are receiving public assistance.

1 We should be helping, not hindering the efforts
2 of the working poor and the new legal immigrants to
3 climb up the economic ladder out of poverty. They
4 work hard to achieve the American dream, only to
5 find their efforts are undermined by cheap, illegal
6 labor.

7 When our opponents say E-Verify should not be
8 in the Constitution, they fail to recognize a
9 citizen's right to work in a legal labor market, a
10 right that both the U.S. Supreme Court and the
11 Florida Supreme Court has affirmed.

12 Our E-Verify amendment is a perfect example of
13 the type of issue that should be put forward as an
14 amendment for the voters to consider because it is
15 about the restoration of a citizen's right to work,
16 rights that are currently being infringed. We urge
17 the CRC to place our proposed E-Verify amendment,
18 Number 21, on the 2018.

19 Thank you. And thank you for your service.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

21 Mr. Stevens.

22 MR. STEVENS: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and
23 Commissioners. We appreciate the opportunity to
24 speak to you very much. My name is Roger Stevens
25 from Orlando, Florida. I am the CEO of Westminster

1 Communities of Florida, a faith-based ministry,
2 which is the largest not-for-profit provider of
3 housing and services to senior adults in Florida and
4 the 13th largest in the country.

5 We served nearly 7,000 senior adults every day
6 in Florida, one-third who are low and very low
7 income, and employ nearly 2,800 Floridians. These
8 services we provide include housing, assisted
9 living, short-term in-patient rehab, long-term
10 skilled nursing care, home care and other services.

11 I am here to speak against Proposal 88, which
12 is described by its sponsor as a, quote, bill of
13 rights, close quotes, for assisted living and
14 skilled nursing residents. Stronger laws that
15 include bills of rights as well as legal relief
16 covering both assisted living and skilled nursing
17 residents already exist in Florida law.

18 This proposal is a thinly veiled effort by
19 trial attorneys to add poorly defined wording onto
20 existing law, which will give the trial attorneys an
21 extended base from which to sue, as well as provide
22 for, quote, relief and remedies without limitation,
23 close quote.

24 Proposal 88 is both duplicative and
25 destructive. If there is any merit to any of its

1 issues, the issues should be addressed as
2 legislation to modify existing law. Proposal 88 has
3 no business being in the Florida Constitution.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Stevens.

5 We'll stand adjourned for 10 minutes. Thank
6 you very much.

7 (Recess.)

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: If everyone will take their
9 seats, we'll start reconvening the meeting.

10 At this time I'm going to pass the gavel to
11 Commissioner Donalds.

12 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: I want to go ahead and
13 get started here on the next part of our meeting.
14 We want to make sure as many members of the public
15 are able to speak as possible.

16 If I could have your attention. If I could
17 have your attention, please. I just want to remind
18 you as well that if you simply want to rise in
19 support or opposition of a proposal, you're welcome
20 to do so at your seat and let us know "I rise in
21 support of a proposal" or "I rise in opposition to a
22 proposal" once I call your name.

23 That will save you if you don't care to walk
24 all the way down here and speak for those two
25 minutes. You're welcome to do that.

1 I'm going to call the next few names. Again,
2 there's the two in the front, and there's also a
3 microphone in the back corner, if that's easier for
4 you to get to.

5 Andy Ziegler, Brian Webb, Keith Becher, Holly
6 Dill, and Eric Bishton, if you could please make
7 your way to the front. Be sure to state your name.

8 Andy Ziegler, Brian Webb, Keith Becher, and
9 Holly Dill. Do I have any of those ready to speak?
10 Okay. Eric Bishton, Christine Yurgaites.

11 I'm going to read these again. I see there's
12 some people coming back in from the break. I just
13 want to make sure. Andy Ziegler, Brian Webb, Keith
14 Becher, Holly Dill, Eric Bishton. Come on up.
15 Christine Yurgaites. Any of those please come to
16 the microphone so we can switch out quickly.

17 Please go ahead.

18 MS. DILL: I'm speaking regarding Proposal 67.

19 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Your name, please.

20 MS. DILL: My name is Holly Dill. I grew up in
21 Florida, and I've lived in Sebastian, Indian River
22 County for 30 years. My most important credential
23 to speaking today is that I'm the mother of Madiva,
24 a five-year-old greyhound, whom I adopted from the
25 Melbourne Racetrack. Madiva is my second greyhound.

1 I request that you give the citizens of Florida
2 the rightful opportunity to vote on changes to the
3 Constitution regarding dog racing. In the 50 years
4 that racing was authorized in the Constitution,
5 ideologies and ethics have changed. It's time to
6 revisit the legality of dog racing.

7 It's not my intention today to criticize a
8 greyhound racing-related business. I'll not throw
9 stones at people who are trying to make a living. I
10 have to believe they're doing what they think they
11 need to do in order to make a net profit. It is my
12 intention to ask you to think about the dogs.

13 When I adopted my greyhounds that came to me
14 with blotches of bare skin, even though their thigh
15 muscles bulged, I could count every one of their
16 ribs. Both dogs were shy, unsure of themselves,
17 unused to socializing with people. After a year of
18 loving care, their coats grew in, their personality
19 blossomed, and they were happy. These two
20 greyhounds became what they should have always been:
21 wonderful, outgoing, family dogs, perhaps like
22 yours.

23 We as a society should not perceive a dog as
24 the bottom line of a business, a financial gain. We
25 should not require that greyhounds provide us with

1 entertainment, no matter how financially profitable
2 it is for some people. We should not demand that
3 the lives of these dogs be devoted to making money.

4 Please allow Floridians to stop greyhound
5 racing. Pass Proposal 67. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you, Ms. Dill.

7 Next speaker, please.

8 MR. ZIEGLER: Good afternoon. My name is Andy
9 Ziegler. I'm a member of the Brevard County School
10 Board. I'm in my tenth year, and I'm here to speak
11 against the term limits, not for myself, because
12 honestly I'm not interested in another 10 years, but
13 for my fellow board member who spoke before you
14 against term limits, Matt Susin, an excellent school
15 board member with great, fresh ideas, who happens to
16 be a little frustrated and not be able to get tracks
17 on those ideas because he just doesn't have the
18 experience knowing how to get that done. I wish I
19 could help him, but unfortunately Sunshine doesn't
20 allow that.

21 Interestingly enough, if you speak to him,
22 you'll find out he supports all this old-timer's
23 initiatives, so there's not much to be said for
24 stagnant ideas. Experience is very important.

25 My sixth through eighth year, my experience

1 allowed me to accomplish a few very important things
2 for this county, one of which is including two
3 initiatives that generate us over \$4.6 million worth
4 of revenue in our district, in my eighth year an
5 effort that saved us over \$4 million in healthcare
6 costs, and now in my tenth year I'm working on
7 initiatives that's going to save us 4- to \$5 million
8 a year. That only comes with experience. Maybe
9 three terms or no terms whatsoever.

10 Another thing I'd like to speak to you about is
11 Proposal 71, is charter schools. I don't agree with
12 multiple paths towards authorizing charters. One or
13 the other. I have no desire necessarily to do it.
14 All I know is there needs to be very strict
15 accountability like there is in the public school
16 system.

17 And if you're going to do that through a
18 separate method, take it away from the school
19 boards. Authorize them. Call them accountable.
20 That would work fine. One or the other.

21 And also a little tidbit for those in the
22 audience who are advocating for solutions to that
23 terrible tragedy that happened the other week, I'll
24 let you know that Brevard County School Board
25 brought up our SJ presidents to Tallahassee the week

1 before, and told them they could lobby for anything
2 that they wanted to lobby for.

3 As a group those students decided to lobby for
4 \$100 million for mental health services
5 counselors --

6 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

7 MR. ZIEGLER: -- in all of our schools.

8 Please listen to the children.

9 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
10 comments. Next speaker.

11 Did I call your name? Come on up.

12 If I called your name, just come to the
13 microphone.

14 MS. YURGAITES: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
15 I'm Christine Yurgaites, and I thank you for your
16 service and for the opportunity to speak to you
17 today. I am a registered NPA, or independent voter,
18 from Vero Beach. I moved to Florida two years after
19 a lifetime as a resident of an open-primary state.

20 Closed primaries are a barrier to voting for
21 the millions of independents who help fund them.
22 That is not democratic. And so many races are
23 decided in the primary. Doesn't this amount to
24 taxation without representation? I strongly believe
25 that Proposal 62 on the issue of open primaries

1 needs to be brought back by this Commission for a
2 full and fair hearing. Thank you.

3 And it's not on my voter card, on my speaker
4 card, but, please, I beg you to do anything and
5 everything you can to stop greyhound racing in the
6 State of Florida. Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

8 Next speaker.

9 MR. WEBB: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My
10 name is Brian Webb, and I'm from Miami, Florida, and
11 I am opposed to Proposal 67. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

13 Keith Becher, Eric Bishton, Nick Tomboulides,
14 Jere Smith, John Harris.

15 Go ahead, sir.

16 MR. BECHER: Hello. Thank you. My name is
17 Keith Becher. I'm the president and founder of the
18 Humanist Community of the Space Coast, and an active
19 board member of the Central Florida Free Thought
20 Community, the Space Coast Free Thought Association,
21 and the Florida Humanist Association.

22 I'm also a humanist celebrant, legally defining
23 me as ordained clergy. As a tax-paying atheist and
24 secular humanist, I ask on behalf of myself and
25 thousands of members present in these communities

1 and throughout this state that you oppose
2 Proposal 4 and keep the No-Aid clause. This
3 proposal seeks to erase the Blaine Amendment, which,
4 as other states' similar no-aid clauses, has kept
5 government entanglement out of the halls of worship.

6 We are all granted the right to believe or not
7 to believe as we see fit, and I feel confident in
8 assuming that tax-paying Christians, Muslims, Jews,
9 Hindus, and more would not want to or should be
10 forced to give their tax dollars in service of our
11 organizations or schools, nor ours to them, because
12 the government forces them to.

13 We as taxpayers should be allowed to decide
14 what and how much to give these organizations.
15 There are other avenues that mosques, churches,
16 Satanic temples, sectarian schools, and the like can
17 follow to access assistance.

18 Proposal 4 -- you need to keep the No-Aid
19 provision that ensures religion can now -- excuse
20 me -- which ensures that religion can now in essence
21 be under the reins of the State, which is not
22 religious freedom that many expect to come from such
23 a proposal.

24 So, again, I humbly request that each and every
25 one of you oppose this proposal, which seeks to

1 force all of us to fund that which we don't believe
2 or worship.

3 Thank you for your time and attention to this
4 matter.

5 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
6 comments.

7 Next speaker, either side. Go ahead and come
8 on up to the microphone until you're ready to go.

9 MR. TOMBOULIDES: Thank you, Commissioners.
10 I'm Nick Tomboulides. I live right here in
11 Melbourne. I'm also the executive director of U.S.
12 Term Limits. And I'm here in support of Proposal 43
13 for school board term limits.

14 When Ronald Regan ran for governor in
15 California in 1996, he said, "If a man can't get the
16 job done in eight years, what makes you think he can
17 do it in 12?"

18 And the people of Florida have decided that no
19 political office in our state is safe from
20 corruption without 8-year term limits. We've taken
21 the initiative to term limit our governor, our
22 cabinet, our state legislature, all sorts of local
23 offices, so why are school board members still
24 allowed to search for life? It just doesn't make
25 sense.

1 The President of the United States has an
2 8-year term limit, so why would any school board
3 member need more time in office than the leader of
4 the free world?

5 We've seen school boards have tremendous power.
6 They can tax. They can borrow money. They decide
7 to hire district superintendents. Those decisions
8 are too important to be entrusted with cynical
9 career politicians. We need citizen leaders to be
10 making those decisions.

11 School board incumbency is also out of control.
12 School board member incumbents are now getting
13 reelected with reelection rates over 80 percent.
14 The turnover rate is worse than what you saw in the
15 Soviet Politburo. It needs to change. We need
16 turnover on our school boards and we need term
17 limits.

18 And I'll just leave you with this because it's
19 Presidents' Day. You are not the first group of
20 Americans to decide what does and does not belong in
21 a constitution. There's a group of people in
22 Philadelphia that predate you by about 230 years.
23 And I guess it would have been Chairman Washington
24 instead of Chairman Beruff in those days.

25 But Thomas Jefferson, who was our third

1 president, was not at the Philadelphia Convention in
2 1787. But when his friend James Madison sent him a
3 copy of the Constitution, one of the first things
4 Jefferson --

5 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you. Your time's
6 up.

7 MR. TOMBOULIDES: -- pointed out is that that
8 Constitution needed term limits. Heed his advice.

9 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Eric Bishton and Jere
10 Smith after him. If you could come to the mike, go
11 ahead.

12 MR. BISHTON: Good afternoon, and thank you for
13 your service. My name's Eric Bishton. I'm a
14 father, a paramedic, a community volunteer, a blood
15 donor, and a member of the U.S. Military. I am also
16 an atheist.

17 I feel good doing good things for people and I
18 don't believe that religion is necessary to bring
19 goodness into government or society. Proposal 4
20 allows taxpayer money to go towards religious
21 activities and education. Nonbelievers and those
22 who value the separation of church and state will
23 have their money used by religious institutions
24 against their wishes and for purposes that serve to
25 grow congregations rather than the needs of the

1 community.

2 Nonreligious citizens will have no say in how
3 their tax dollars are used by religious groups in
4 matters that could be otherwise handled by private
5 or government agencies.

6 Some say that we need more religion in society
7 and that the world is in more peril than ever. The
8 reality is that crime is down and standard of living
9 has improved, a trend that coincides with the
10 secular shift within society. In fact, the less
11 government gets involved with religion, the less
12 mistreatment occurs for religious minorities.

13 I strongly believe that people should be able
14 to worship in whichever peaceful manner they wish,
15 but may not force me to fund it. The view that
16 preventing public funding of religious institutions
17 is so-called antireligious hostility only unveils a
18 movement to inject religion into government.

19 I don't believe that the separation of church
20 and state is a hostile idea, and neither did our
21 nation's founding fathers. During the age of
22 enlightenment people pushed back against religious
23 institutions allowing the growth of human knowledge
24 and creativity and less suffering.

25 There should be accountability behind

1 government spending. And Floridians need confidence
2 that our political leadership will create
3 legislation that increases accountability for
4 spending rather than a giveaway for already tax-free
5 religious organizations to start receiving free
6 money directly from taxpayers.

7 Proposal 4 does not achieve that purpose and
8 should not be supported. I am thankful for this
9 opportunity to speak, and I appreciate your
10 attention to the wishes of all of your constituents.

11 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

12 Jere Smith, John Harris, Michael Bushey, Randal
13 Agostini, and Emmett O'Dell.

14 Go ahead, sir.

15 JUDGE HARRIS: Thank you, Commissioners. Thank
16 you for being here today. My name is John Harris.
17 I am the chief judge here in the 18th Circuit, which
18 is Brevard and Seminole counties. And I want to
19 welcome you all to Brevard County and speak on
20 behalf of the judicial branch as well as my fellow
21 chief judges in the State of Florida.

22 What I want to talk briefly about today is
23 Proposition 26, the one that creates the Office of
24 Domestic Security under Florida Department of Law
25 Enforcement.

1 As you know at an earlier committee meeting
2 there was an amendment that added language to that
3 proposition that deals with provision of security at
4 our court facilities in the state. We feel that
5 that language does not belong in the Constitution.
6 For that reason we are opposing the proposition as
7 it's currently worded.

8 I am happy to report though that through some
9 significant work on behalf of the sheriffs and the
10 judges in the state, we have reached an agreement,
11 or an understanding, first of all, that the
12 appropriate place for this language would, in fact,
13 be in the statutes. We have also worked out
14 specific language that's agreeable to both sides
15 that addresses the concerns of the judges as well as
16 the sheriffs.

17 So we would certainly -- it's my understanding,
18 in fact, that Commissioner Nocco will be or has
19 already offered an amendment that would delete that
20 language from Proposition 26. We would ask this
21 Commission to certainly follow that amendment.

22 We really want to thank and appreciate Sheriff
23 Nocco -- Commissioner Nocco, as well as the Florida
24 Sheriffs Association for their work with all the
25 judges throughout the state in resolving this issue.

1 We continue to oppose any language in the
2 Constitution dealing with matters of courthouse
3 security. We would ask that this Commission approve
4 any amendment from Commissioner Nocco that removes
5 that language and lets this matter be resolved in
6 the statutes.

7 Thank you all very much.

8 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you, Judge Harris.

9 Next speaker. If I called your name, come on
10 up to the microphone.

11 MR. AGOSTINI: My name is Randal Agostini.
12 Thank you for your time and thank you for giving me
13 the opportunity to speak with you. I'm fortunate to
14 be a citizen of this wonderful country, the only one
15 in the world incorporated to accept me as an equal
16 among all, the only one that places its trust in
17 God.

18 We enshrine these lofty ideals into our
19 Constitution, but sometimes due to our human
20 failings, we create unjust laws. The Blaine
21 Amendment is one such unjust law. It is a wrong, a
22 gross display of power and prejudice against people
23 of faith, a bigoted and arbitrary limit upon the
24 expression of freedom that we so pride in our
25 Constitution, and it needs to be expunged.

1 One concept that cannot be expressed in law is
2 love. God is the source of love, not the secular
3 love of Hollywood, but the agape, selfless love of
4 giving, which we learn through faith. We are simply
5 the channels of the love of God.

6 The Blaine Amendment is an assault on the
7 future of our society for it prevents an investment
8 in our children. It quenches their growth in faith,
9 which has to be nurtured when they are young. To
10 deny this opportunity during their formative years
11 is wrong.

12 Our children, our future, our most precious
13 possessions are not commodities to be processed into
14 meaningless numerals. They are seeds sown by God to
15 be nurtured into individual flowers for His glory.

16 Our laws must provide the environment of
17 freedom for our children to become whole. For this
18 they must have teachers of faith allowed to express
19 their faith. In an age when reason is under attack,
20 it takes courage to recognize and correct what is
21 wrong.

22 But what I am asking is common sense. What is
23 right and just is to remove this Blaine Amendment
24 from our Florida Constitution.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Michael Bushey,

1 Emmett O'Dell, Stephen Brown, and Karen Holland.

2 MR. O'DELL: Good afternoon, Commission,
3 Commissioner, and thank you for the opportunity to
4 be able to speak to you this afternoon. I am Emmett
5 O'Dell. I've lived in Orlando for over 35 years,
6 and I'm a lifelong independent voter, voting for the
7 candidate, not the party.

8 I'm retired, very involved in my community,
9 currently volunteering for a candidate running for
10 Orange County mayor, and a member of the Orange
11 County Watch, and an officer in the organization.

12 Florida currently has 3.4 million in
13 disenfranchised voters, and it's growing. I am sure
14 you know all the statistics, so let me give you some
15 you might not have heard. These 3.4 million voters
16 tally up to more than the population of 21 states in
17 this country. What if those 21 states were
18 disenfranchised?

19 This is what's happening in Florida primaries
20 to 27 percent of its registered voters, and that is
21 growing. We are unable to vote because we did not
22 pledge allegiance to a party. It is not that we did
23 not pledge allegiance to the flag, but to a party
24 system that is using our tax dollars to have their
25 private elections.

1 I ask the full Commission to vote on Florida
2 putting an end to the closed primaries in Florida
3 and putting an amendment on the ballot for 2018 for
4 Floridians to make the decision on full and open
5 primaries.

6 While I've got a just few minutes left, I want
7 to say I support any kind of legislation that you
8 can bring forward that say the rifles -- any battle
9 weapons -- should not be allowed on the streets of
10 the United States.

11 Also I would like for us all to give a round of
12 applause to all the law enforcement officers that
13 protect us on a daily basis. Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
15 comments.

16 Do I have someone at the back that I called the
17 name? Okay. Go ahead.

18 MS. HOLLAND: Hello. I'm Karen Holland from
19 Palm Bay, and I thank you for the opportunity to
20 speak. I would like to have you vote against
21 Proposal 88, Declaration of Rights, Nursing Home and
22 Assisted Living Facility Residents' Bill of Rights.

23 I was fortunate enough through a recommendation
24 of a doctor to go to Melbourne Terrace of Florida,
25 Melbourne, Florida, after I broke my leg last year

1 at the tender age of 76, but I am nowhere near ready
2 to quit living and sit in this chair.

3 And I had opportunity to be there and be taken
4 care of in a wonderful way. I was happy every day.
5 And it was actually one of the best things I've had
6 happen. And my only reason I wanted to go home,
7 because of my wonderful, 99 percent wonderful
8 husband and my two dogs. And my 99 percent perfect
9 husband is my 100 percent caregiver right now. And
10 I'm going to go back to Melbourne Terrace right now
11 for outpatient therapy.

12 And you can't do it at home. I've tried to for
13 the two months that I was home with a temporary
14 health condition. I tried it, and I did exercises
15 up the ying-yang, and they did not work the way that
16 they do when I go to Melbourne Terrace outpatient
17 therapy. And I don't want to see their moneys cut
18 so they can't give us those excellent therapists
19 because I need to get out of this chair.

20 So I thank you very much for the opportunity to
21 ask you to not support Proposal 88. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
23 comments.

24 Michael Bushey, Stephen Brown, Kristen Knapp,
25 and Joseph Smith.

1 Go ahead, sir.

2 MR. BROWN: I'm Stephen Brown of Palm Bay here
3 in Brevard County. Florida's No-Aid provision has
4 served the citizens of the state well for over a
5 century, protecting churches and congregations from
6 government interference and protecting citizens from
7 subsidizing religious practices and viewpoints they
8 do not share.

9 It has been repeatedly upheld by the
10 legislature and the populace, most recently only six
11 years ago. No useful purpose is served to put the
12 question again now.

13 Please vote "no" on Proposal 5. Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

15 MS. KNAPP: Good afternoon. I'm Kristen Knapp.
16 I'm with Florida Healthcare Association, and I'm
17 today representing the thousands of dedicated,
18 long-term caregivers who work in our centers,
19 nursing homes, and assisted living facilities. I
20 want to ask you to vote against Proposal 88.

21 This proposal is about lawsuits, plain and
22 simple. Suing passive investors, and requiring
23 minimum insurance is not going to improve care in
24 our state's nursing homes. The people that are
25 working in those facilities, the dedicated and

1 passionate caregivers, are what makes a difference.

2 I have the privilege of hearing stories every
3 day about the quality care being delivered. These
4 caregivers are families to residents, who many don't
5 have any. Unfortunately, those stories go
6 unreported in the media. And this proposal is going
7 to take resources away from their ability to hire
8 more staff and make improvements and improve the
9 outcomes for their residents.

10 So I ask you to vote against this proposal and
11 support our caregivers who are making a difference
12 in the lives of their residents every day. Thank
13 you.

14 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Joseph Smith, Tim Allen,
15 Bob Asztalos.

16 MR. SMITH: Everyone, I'm Jim Smith, your clerk
17 of the circuit court for St. Lucie County, former
18 county commissioner, and former president of the
19 Florida Court Clerks and Comptrollers.

20 It is often said that Florida's clerks are the
21 front door to the judicial system. But I think a
22 better comparison is more like a preacher at altar
23 call. It doesn't matter if you have needs or not,
24 you all come. It doesn't matter if we get a
25 speeding ticket, a disagreement with your neighbor,

1 or an unthinkable act. You all come and Florida's
2 clerks will serve you.

3 In 1998, the people of Florida approved
4 Revision 7 to Article V, with the understanding that
5 the State was to assume responsibility for funding
6 officers of the court system that were previously
7 funded through local funding sources. But how is
8 the State going to pay for this? They created a
9 user-funded, self-sustaining model for the
10 court-related budgets of clerks, a turnpike for
11 justice, if you will.

12 If you use the judicial system and could pay,
13 you'd be able to pay for those who needed access,
14 but could not. But here's the speed trap.

15 45 percent of the clerks' court-related work load is
16 performed on criminal matters which pay no filing
17 fees. So the revenues we get from traffic citations
18 should cover that, right?

19 Well, not exactly. Revenues and traffic
20 citations have screeched to a halt, down 40 percent
21 over the last 10 years. As a result, clerks are no
22 longer able to fund the costs of a significant
23 portion of the work necessary to serve our judicial
24 partners and the public well.

25 So Proposal 55 makes tweaks to the current

1 funding model in the Constitution that provides a
2 mechanism by which our legislation provides adequate
3 payments for those cases that pay no fee currently
4 so the clerks have the funding needed to keep those
5 courthouses open for business.

6 Proposal 55 does not suggest creating new fees
7 for those who currently pay those fees, but provides
8 flexibility in clerk funding to provide the services
9 that align with the volume in each clerk's office.

10 So I urge you to support Proposal 55 and arrive
11 with a funding model for court access for our
12 citizens. Thank you so much.

13 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

14 After Tim Allen and Bob Asztalos, Rachel
15 Ekeroth and Bob White.

16 MR. ASZTALOS: Thank you, Commissioners, and
17 thank you for your service. My name is Bob Asztalos
18 with Florida Healthcare Association, and I'm here to
19 speak on Proposal 54 and to oppose that which would
20 eliminate the certificate of need process for
21 nursing homes.

22 In the 2014 legislature, it created the most
23 progressive CON process in the country. And what
24 we've seen since then is we've seen new nursing
25 homes being built. Thirty new nursing homes are

1 either built or in the pipeline.

2 We've seen nursing homes rehabbing, and we are
3 seeing nursing homes being built in places where
4 they are needed. Proposal 54 would eliminate that
5 and it would create -- basically, it would allow
6 unbridled building throughout the state.

7 And so let me share with you why that would be
8 bad public policy. First, the CON process, what
9 that ensures is that we don't have the dual system
10 where you have unfunded, just Medicaid-only nursing
11 homes and boutique Medicare and private-pay
12 facilities. So the CON process makes sure that
13 nursing homes are balanced between the two.

14 The other thing that it does is, by eliminating
15 nursing home beds, you promote home-and-community-
16 based care. And so you want to promote
17 home-and-community-based care, and one of the ways
18 to do that is eliminate this care to lower the
19 number of nursing home beds.

20 And then the last thing is nursing homes in
21 Florida are close to full. And you want full
22 nursing homes because they're more efficient, they
23 operate better, they have higher quality. And what
24 I'd share with you is look at Texas. Texas has no
25 CON. They have the same number of seniors as us,

1 just about.

2 They have twice as many nursing homes. They
3 have 70 percent occupancy where Florida nursing
4 homes are 88 percent, and their quality is nothing
5 near what Florida nursing homes are. So please
6 oppose Proposal 54, which eliminates our CON. Thank
7 you.

8 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

9 Come on up. If you all could, when there's an
10 open mike, fill it. And that way we can just go
11 back and forth. So if you're next, if you could
12 come here and -- go ahead.

13 MR. WHITE: Thank you very much, Commissioners.

14 Welcome to Brevard County and thank you for
15 your service to the people of the State of Florida.
16 My name is Bob White and I am the chairman of the
17 Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida, so I'll be
18 speaking today on behalf of our many members from
19 around the State of Florida. I know you have a lot
20 of folks to hear from so I'll be brief.

21 For all of the compelling arguments that you've
22 already heard today on behalf of term limits, we
23 support as an organization this proposal for U.S.
24 term limits and encourage you to move that to the
25 ballot.

1 And also I would encourage you to place the
2 E-Verify proposal on the ballot as well so the
3 people of Florida can have a say on that. The
4 horror stories or the arguments that you've heard
5 that this is somehow an unfair burden on employers
6 is simply not the case.

7 In the states that have already adopted it, it
8 works very well and it can easily work very well in
9 the State of Florida. So thank you very much for
10 being here today.

11 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

12 Go ahead, sir.

13 MR. ALLEN: My name is Tim Allen. I'm from
14 Osceola County, Florida. I am a pastor of a church
15 over there. I am also the president of the South
16 Brevard Ministers Association here. And today I
17 want to speak to you about Proposition 10 on civic
18 liberties.

19 Although as I was just schooled by Mr. Bob
20 earlier, we do have -- recently passed a bill that
21 explains a lot about civic liberties, and places
22 them back within our schools.

23 My issue is this. Your proposal says, "Civic
24 literacy as education is an essential preservation
25 of the rights and liberties of the people. The

1 legislation shall provide the law for the promotion
2 of civic literacy in order to ensure the students
3 enrolled in public education understand and prepare
4 to exercise their rights and responsibilities as
5 citizens in a constitutional democracy."

6 This is good, although we are a republic. It's
7 my hope today, okay, that as we know recent news
8 confirms that our society's in a war of
9 disinformation where enemies from countries other
10 than our own seek to reduce or destroy America's
11 ability to function effectively and cohesively.

12 Our own extreme partisanship with the
13 government provides fertile ground and multiple
14 examples to be used for those who wish to deter our
15 youth from entering into civic service, much less
16 political office.

17 When I was in school, our concern was whether
18 or not when we stepped off campus we would step into
19 a far-off country, only to die there. Today's
20 children concern themselves with whether or not they
21 will die stepping onto campus.

22 The issues can all be helped by relearning our
23 national identity. We do this through civics. A
24 wise man once said, "There are three sure ways to
25 unite a people from a common enemy. That is, a

1 goal, a history, or a common enemy."

2 When we protect our civics within the
3 schoolroom, we teach our children to be the people
4 they can be through a Godly heritage that this
5 country has. Thank you very much.

6 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

7 After Ms. Ekeroth we have Jerry Thorne, Phil
8 Moore, and Diane Wiles.

9 Go ahead.

10 MS. EKEROTH: Good afternoon, CRC members and
11 Chairman. My name is Rachel Ekeroth. I live in
12 Indian River County. I rise to oppose the proposals
13 that weaken our democratic principles and
14 institutions, such as Home Rule, education, and my
15 right to privacy against government intrusion in my
16 most personal decisions regarding my reproductive
17 choices and healthcare.

18 I also strongly support our most fundamental
19 democratic principle, separation of church and
20 state. Any taxpayer dollars averted from our
21 struggling public school system to charter and
22 private schools violate our separation of
23 church-and-state principle. This would open the
24 State's illegal challenge that would erroneously
25 fall on the shoulders of the taxpayers.

1 I'm opposed to the following proposals: 4, 22,
2 29, 43, 45, 71, 72, 96, 97. I support the expansion
3 of Proposal 11 or adding Proposal 62 to make all
4 Florida primaries open elections.

5 I'm from Cincinnati, Ohio. Ohio is an open
6 primary state as are most other states. Florida's
7 one of only nine states that have closed primaries.
8 As a nonpartisan registered voter, I can vote in
9 either major party's primary for the candidate of my
10 choice.

11 Because Florida is a closed-primary state,
12 nonpartisan voters who choose not to align with
13 either major party are disenfranchised in primary
14 elections. I urge the expansion of Proposal 11 or
15 addition of 62 to increase democracy.

16 Finally, I stand in support of protecting land,
17 water, and air with Proposal 91. Lastly, I support
18 rational gun control by banning assault weapons and
19 bump stocks. Thank you.

20 MR. THORNE: My name is Jerry Thorne. I'm from
21 Palm Bay, Florida. I thank you for a chance to
22 speak to you today. Proposition 62 will allow all
23 registered voters of Florida to select their
24 candidate of choice regardless of party affiliation.

25 Closed primaries allow candidates to select

1 their voters just as badly as the gerrymandering of
2 voting districts minimize the power of voters to
3 select a candidate. Voters should select
4 candidates, not the other way around.

5 When the electoral votes were counted for
6 president on election day 2016, the extreme
7 gerrymander of Florida congressional districts was
8 revealed. Suppression of absentee ballots that
9 night added to the crime against voters.

10 Florida has negatively impacted the will of the
11 voters twice to prevent the popularly elected
12 president from taking the highest office in the
13 land. The Federal Election Assistance Commission
14 was created after the 2000 election to help states
15 run elections with voting machines that cannot be
16 hacked. That did not stop the election fraud in
17 Michigan and Wisconsin reported on election night
18 2016.

19 Republicans have tried to kill that agency for
20 years, and they yet do it with the recurrent
21 Republican majority in congress. The Republican
22 governor and state representatives of Florida aided
23 and abetted that negative action in 2016 as a result
24 of how they attained their elected governmental
25 positions.

1 Voter suppression and gerrymandering must be
2 eliminated to give each voter his or her real ballot
3 power to effect change in our state and our country.
4 All of us can vote for the candidate of our choice.
5 A backroom deal of state and federal politicians
6 cannot be allowed to suppress those choices.

7 Our representatives in this republic must
8 represent the true will of the voters. If they
9 shirk their duty, we can remove them. Elections
10 have consequences. Gerrymandering and voter
11 suppression --

12 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you, sir. Your
13 time is up.

14 MR. THORNE: -- and also become a part of the
15 Florida Constitution. Prop 62 on the ballot --

16 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Diane Wiles and Phil
17 Moore. And after him, Randall Blue and Frances
18 Speegle.

19 MS. WILES: Hi. I'm Diane Wiles and I'm here
20 to ask for your support of Proposal 67 to end
21 greyhound racing. I have not worked in the
22 industry. I don't see this as a jobs issue or a
23 gambling expansion preventative issue on what I have
24 seen as how the dogs exit the industry.

25 For ten years I volunteered. I've owned five

1 different greyhounds, and what I have seen is that
2 they come -- my personal five have come with really
3 large scars. Two of them have had really large
4 scars, which can happen really easily with
5 greyhounds because their skin is thin. But when
6 it's treated, it heals very well.

7 So if they're coming out with these large
8 scars, I don't think they're being treated well, or
9 at least not cared for well when they're injured.
10 This one, Velma, this cast was done by the adoption
11 group, not by the industry. She came out with an
12 injured leg that was not treated.

13 Also, my other two I got as puppies because
14 their mother was sent to rescue pregnant. For
15 whatever reason, they didn't want to register the
16 litter, and so she was sent away pregnant. When she
17 had the puppies, they wanted her back.

18 So I question how much they really care for
19 the dogs. I think maybe some folks in the industry
20 do care for the animals while they're in their care,
21 but I don't think they know exactly how they're
22 actually coming out on the other side.

23 Please support Proposal 67.

24 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

25 MR. MOORE: Thank you, Commissioners. My name

1 is Phil Moore. I'm a second generation Floridian
2 and a resident of Brevard County. I want to briefly
3 just talk to you about two issues.

4 Proposal 91, I urge the Commission to vote in
5 favor of this proposal. This proposal will finally
6 keep our beaches safe from potential pollution and
7 drilling disasters. This proposal assures Florida
8 citizens that even with the new administration, our
9 president, our governor, our state officials, that
10 Floridians will have the beaches that we all love.

11 Also I'd like to talk about Proposal 97. I
12 urge the commissioners to vote against this
13 proposal. By changing the manner of abstaining
14 votes as counted as a "no" vote and changing the
15 threshold, it limits Florida citizens to be able to
16 propose amendments and take control of their
17 Constitution and exercise their rights as we're
18 doing now. Thank you very much.

19 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
20 comments.

21 I have Randall Blue, Frances Speegle. Go ahead
22 and come up. And while she's coming, Quinton
23 Herrin, Angela Angel.

24 Go ahead, ma'am. You're recognized.

25 MS. SPEEGLE: My name is Frances Speegle. I'm

1 from Palm Bay, Florida. I thank you for the
2 opportunity to speak. I've been a resident of
3 Florida since 1968. I can remember during the
4 nineties when Jim Bacchus was our U.S. congressman.

5 He told us about when he was a law clerk
6 helping write the current privacy clause in our
7 Florida Constitution. He said he never thought that
8 it would be used to protect a woman's right to
9 choose, but he was very glad it had been.

10 Please do not reconsider any attempt to reduce
11 our rights to privacy or to interfere with a woman's
12 right to make healthcare decisions. It would be the
13 height of irony to bring this proposal back for
14 consideration since Proposition 22 was already a
15 zombie of sorts because voters came out in record
16 numbers to defeat the last attempt to weaken our
17 privacy protection when they voted down Amendment VI
18 by a 15-point margin in 2012.

19 I urge you to uphold Florida's strong
20 protection for privacy rights and oppose Proposal
21 22. Thank you for your time.

22 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

23 Sir?

24 MR. BLUE: My name is Randall Blue, and I
25 oppose Proposition 88. Thank you for having me.

1 I'm administrator at West Melbourne Health & Rehab
2 Center, and have worked in the business of long-term
3 rehabilitation for over 25 years. I love serving
4 the elderly population.

5 I've taken buildings to Five Star, twice to
6 Gold Seal of Excellence, through the governor's
7 award program, and I understand what quality of care
8 and quality of life for our customers is. And it's
9 what we strive to do every day.

10 AHCA, OSHA, CMS, OIG, DCF, EMS, fire marshals,
11 all of those agencies are the ones that govern us
12 and are our coaches. When we do something wrong or
13 we need to improve something, they're the ones that
14 point out what we need to correct, and we fix it.

15 A biathlete in the Olympics, they miss a mark
16 and they have a penalty, and they get better. And
17 they do their penalty and then they improve the next
18 time.

19 When we miss the legislative appointment --
20 coaches, they help us to become better. Those
21 coaches help us to develop a plan and to fix what
22 we've been working on. We are like Olympian skiers
23 bringing amazing efforts daily. Our goal is to
24 improve the lives of our residents and provide great
25 quality of care.

1 What the skiers do not have is someone trying
2 to take away their skis every day. Proposition 88
3 takes away our skis. It is a way to bypass the
4 actions of the legislature and to expand who and how
5 nursing centers can be sued. Lawsuits do nothing to
6 improve our care. They drive up our costs for the
7 facilities and the taxpayers.

8 Proposition 88 is disguised as a residents'
9 rights bill, but is actually designed by and for the
10 lawyers to attack us, not coach us to excellence.
11 It takes away the skis that is making it difficult
12 for us to do our jobs. We strive for excellence and
13 our laws are already there. The residents already
14 have --

15 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

16 MR. BLUE: -- their rights. Thank you so much.
17 I oppose 88.

18 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Ma'am.

19 MS. ANGEL: Hi, my name is Angela Angel. I'm
20 in support of Proposal 67 to phase out greyhound
21 racing in Florida. Hockey Puck was raced until she
22 was almost three years old when she broke her leg
23 and was then considered useless because she could
24 not longer make money.

25 It's more cost effective to leave her in her

1 crate without food or water and let her die, or if
2 she's taking up precious crate real estate, to go
3 ahead and kill her. Luckily, she ended up getting
4 adopted.

5 Hockey Puck didn't know her name. We'd call
6 her and it didn't even register to her that that was
7 her name, so we changed it to Gabrielle. Gabby
8 spent her first three months in our home hiding,
9 usually behind furniture.

10 One day I reached in the closet for a coat
11 hanger and she stood up, started shaking and
12 cowering because of the coat hanger. Having lived
13 on the track her entire life she shouldn't have even
14 known what a coat hanger was.

15 We would pet her. She would stand rigid,
16 staring forward, shaking. I realized then that
17 she'd never been touched with any kindness or care.
18 She was handled -- her body was only handled for
19 examining for the next race.

20 We tried taking her on walks. First day we
21 made it to the driveway. She stood frozen, shaking.
22 Fur actually was falling out in clumps from fear.
23 The next day we'd walk a little bit further until
24 she would freeze again. And then it took us over a
25 week to get her to walk down to the driveway where

1 it met the sidewalk. We were very proud of her.

2 At almost three years old, three years, her
3 teeth were thick with tarter and were decaying and
4 rotten. They'd never been cleaned, which led to
5 many illnesses, primarily heart disease and kidney
6 disease. But our local vet, he had to pull out most
7 of her teeth and he said her poor health was due to
8 her racing diet, grade 4 raw meat, and overall lack
9 of care, and abuse.

10 Gabby eventually learned her name. She could
11 go on walks and she trusted us enough to push us off
12 of our sofa so she could sleep. We loved Gabby.
13 And I'm here in her honor.

14 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

15 MS. ANGEL: Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Quinton Herrin, Rolando
17 Rodriguez, David Stroker, and Ute Stroker. Any of
18 those? If you could go ahead and come down, if I
19 called your name, come straight to the microphone.

20 Quinton Herrin, Rolando Rodriguez, David
21 Stroker, Ute Stroker, Donna Karolick, Fran Baer,
22 Thomas Evans, Russell Fortunato. We're going to
23 have a winner here shortly.

24 Mechelle Renee Vaisey, Carol Rizzo, Sonia
25 Strateman, and Carey Theil.

1 MS. BAER: Good afternoon. My name is Fran
2 Baer, currently co-chair of the Education Committee
3 of the League of Women Voters of the Space Coast and
4 a retired public school teacher and proud mother of
5 three and grandmother of seven, all successfully
6 educated in our traditional public schools.

7 I visit our schools often and see how creative,
8 innovative, and productive our public schools are.
9 They are valiantly performing despite attempts to
10 undermine their efforts. Specifically, I refer to
11 Proposals 43, 45, and 71, which the league
12 vehemently opposes and asks you to do the same.

13 Already regarding Proposal 43, Florida Statutes
14 require school board members reside in their
15 district with no limit on their terms of service.
16 Certainly we can agree that government closest to
17 the people is better able to respond to the needs,
18 allowing voting parents and local citizens to decide
19 the length of the service.

20 Proposal 71 also would move charter schools
21 from the responsibility of the local school boards
22 to the State. And, of course, Proposition 45, would
23 take needed money away from our public schools to
24 our private schools and religious schools.

25 We ask you to please remember what Mark Twain

1 said. "Out of the public schools grows the
2 greatness of a nation." Let's pledge to keep
3 growing the greatness we so desperately seek.

4 Vote "no" on Propositions 43, 45, and 71.

5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

7 Ma'am, you're recognized.

8 MS. KAROLICK: Donna Karolick, and I would like
9 to encourage you to vote against Proposal 88. I am
10 the daughter of William and Alberta Stapleton, who
11 lived their final years in Melbourne Terrace's
12 long-term care facility. I was a visible entity
13 that came and went in no particular pattern on no
14 specific days and at no specific time.

15 What I witnessed on my many visits was quality
16 care, a clean facility, and staff that loved its
17 residents. I always felt the lines of communication
18 were open and my parents were a priority.

19 Spontaneous hands-on care is essential to the
20 quality of life of our loved ones. To have a
21 caregiver second guess their hugs, help with
22 dressing, and using the facilities, bathing or doing
23 their hair for fear of a lawsuit is an invitation to
24 neglect.

25 As I understand, Proposal 88 is a reaction to

1 Hurricane Irma and the 12 nursing home residents
2 that died in Hollywood, Florida. Proposal 88 can no
3 more guarantee safety during a disaster in an ALF or
4 nursing home than I can in my home or the county can
5 in a public shelter.

6 By allowing a broader lawsuit based to include
7 investors, you are discouraging the creation of
8 quality facilities for the elderly and infirmed.
9 You are also creating more overcrowding due to the
10 lack of quality choices. There are more than enough
11 laws in Florida's Constitution to ensure safety and
12 quality of care in these facilities. I urge they be
13 enforced instead of creating new ones.

14 And, finally, I suggest you follow the money.
15 Is this about the safety of ALFs and nursing homes,
16 or who makes the most money when arbitration is
17 taken away and lawsuits are encouraged? Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

19 Next speaker.

20 MS. VAISEY: Hi, my name is Mechelle Renee
21 Vaisey and I am a Seminole County Winter Springs
22 resident. The ancient breed was not put on this
23 earth, the greyhounds, to live their lives locked up
24 in cages, never sleeping on a soft sofa, eating
25 damaged food, and being disposed of because they

1 become injured and can't keep up.

2 Just like the Yorkie and the golden retriever,
3 greyhounds should bring out the humanity in all of
4 us. Instead, they seem to have brought out the
5 worst in an industry that's ending has been long
6 overdue. Our society has become way too advanced to
7 use animals for our own entertainment.

8 From time to time people ask me, "Lighten up.
9 It's just a dog" or, "That's a lot of money and time
10 to spend to help just a dog." They don't understand
11 my distance traveled, time spent, or costs involved
12 for just a dog.

13 Some of my proudest moments have become my
14 proudest because of just a dog. Many hours have
15 passed with only company from just a dog. And some
16 of my saddest moments have been brought by just a
17 dog. In those days of darkness, the gentle touch of
18 just a dog provided me comfort and purpose to
19 overcome that day.

20 If you think it's just a dog, you might as well
21 probably understand the phrases like "just a
22 friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise."
23 Just a dog brings into our life the very essence of
24 friendship, trust, and unbridled joy. Just a dog
25 brings out compassion and patience that makes me a

1 better person.

2 Because of just a dog I will rise early, take
3 long walks, and feel peaceful love that can only
4 come from just a dog. For me and folks like me,
5 it's not just a dog. This is the embodiment of all
6 the hopes and dreams of our future, the fond
7 memories of our past, and the pure joy of this
8 moment. Just a dog brings out what's good in me
9 and --

10 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

11 MS. VAISEY: Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Go ahead, sir.

13 MR. FORTUNATO: My name's Russell Fortunato.

14 I'd like to speak in opposition of 67. I'm 48 years
15 old and I've been involved with greyhounds my entire
16 life. My father raised dogs and my grandfather
17 raised dogs. It pains me very much to hear the
18 things that these people say. Most of it is very
19 untrue.

20 And I'm also a business owner. I'm also a
21 father. I own property here. I own a small
22 business. And I employ people. I think those
23 things should matter also. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
25 comments.

1 Go ahead, ma'am.

2 MS. RIZZO: My name is Carol Becker Rizzo.
3 I've been a Florida resident for 40 years, and I'm
4 arguing in opposition of Proposal 67. I'm the
5 president of God's Greyts, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit
6 greyhound adoption group in Orlando, Florida. I've
7 been involved with greyhound adoptions since 1994, a
8 total of 24 years.

9 In my 11 years with God's Greyts, I've placed
10 more than 1,500 greyhounds from Sanford-Orlando
11 Kennel Club. Five years prior to that I co-founded
12 Gold Coast Greyhound Adoptions and helped to place
13 another thousand dogs in that time.

14 I'm allowed to enter the kennel compound where
15 the dogs are housed, and I typically visit there two
16 or three times a week to take retired dogs, take
17 photos, or just see what dogs are available.

18 I've been visiting the Sanford-Orlando Kennel
19 Compound in this way for 16 years. I see firsthand
20 how these dogs are kept and treated. I can tell you
21 with absolute certainty that no healthy dogs are
22 euthanized at Sanford-Orlando. In the past 15 years
23 conditions have improved dramatically for these
24 dogs, and with the management of Penn National
25 Gaming, things have gotten even better.

1 It was not always this way. In the 1990s dogs
2 were being put down because there were simply not
3 enough options for adoption, and the management at
4 the time put little importance on that. It's no
5 wonder that dog tracks and dog racing in general got
6 a bad reputation in those days. But the situation
7 is much different now. Now, every dog gets taken in
8 by an adoption group and eventually gets a home,
9 even the injured ones.

10 However, the people who don't like dog racing
11 continue to use examples of situations that are 10
12 to 20 years in the past. The trainers at
13 Sanford-Orlando love their dogs, and it shows in the
14 way they treat them. The dogs have thick carpets to
15 lie on and roomy crates that are bigger than the
16 crates in many greyhound adoption kennels.

17 Trainers often give their dogs bones and
18 biscuits to help maintain their teeth. The dogs are
19 in good condition at healthy weights --

20 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

21 MS. RIZZO: -- that seem meticulously up to
22 date.

23 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
24 comments.

25 MS. RIZZO: Thank you for your time.

1 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Quinton Herrin, Rolando
2 Rodriguez, David Stroker, Ute Stroker, Thomas Evans,
3 and Sonia Strateman.

4 Go ahead. You're there. You are recognized.

5 MS. STRATEMAN: I'm still nervous after all
6 these times. My name's Sonia Strateman. I've been
7 doing greyhound rescue for a little over 14 years.
8 In that 14 four years I did not have the same
9 experience as Carol.

10 I've taken dogs from all over the county, from
11 the puppy farms in Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, to
12 mainly Palm Beach Kennel Club. We've taken in over
13 2,000 dogs, hundreds of them with broken legs. I
14 was the "broken-leg lady adoption group."

15 People from other tracks that -- actually one
16 of the dogs I have pictures of. If their owner said
17 to euthanize the dog, they could call me because I
18 never said a word. I took the dog because I knew
19 what was going to happen.

20 I have email upon email from trainers asking
21 me, "Please, can you take the dog? The owner said
22 to kill it." Literally says, "Kill it."

23 Over Christmas, my husband and I for Christmas
24 gifts, we spent over \$10,000 on three dogs that --
25 and I'm not kidding you -- I'm sorry -- I have --

1 \$10,000, three dogs that were taken in to a vet to
2 be euthanized. \$10,000, my husband and I alone.

3 My daughters are actually at home right now
4 taking care of them, 18 and 20 years old, and that's
5 what they do for their free time, is take care of
6 these dogs. We have 12 at home right now.

7 Friday, we had two dogs come in off of a farm.
8 One had had puppies. One did not. Their legs --
9 and I have videos of them -- are so mangled. I
10 watched the races where they broke their legs at
11 Palm Beach. They didn't fix them. The legs are --
12 we're probably going to have to amputate their legs,
13 they are so bad. Never treated. And actually sent
14 to have puppies like that.

15 The males, most of the males that we have come
16 in, you know, went to a vet to be euthanized, the
17 males mostly. The females they'll send back like
18 that to have puppies. It is disgusting. I have
19 taken so many of these dogs.

20 You know, the crates, they have cutout carpet
21 that they dump into bleach water, hang it on a
22 fence. That's the dog's bedding.

23 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
24 comment.

25 MS. STRATEMAN: Thank you very, very much.

1 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Next speaker, please.

2 MR. THEIL: Commissioners, Carey Theil with
3 Grey2K USA, the greyhound protection group. I want
4 to specially thank Commissioner Heuchan for his
5 leadership on this issue. I'm here to support
6 Proposal 67. I just want to make two brief points.

7 First of all, I know this is an emotional
8 issue, but our case in support of Proposal 67 is not
9 based on individuals or individual acts of cruelty.
10 We believe the evidence shows that this industry
11 relies on standard practices such as the confined
12 housing issue, the use of anabolic steroids on
13 female greyhounds, the use of 4-D meat. These are
14 things that are used to reduce costs and they're
15 animal-welfare shortcuts.

16 And when you look at all those things together,
17 we believe this is an industry that's cruel and
18 inhumane. But it's not about the individuals.
19 We're not here to claim that every individual in
20 this industry is a bad person that harms greyhounds.

21 We have empathy for the people in this
22 industry. That's why our proposal includes a
23 14-month phase-out and will continue to listen and
24 find ways to make this a successful transition.

25 Finally, just to touch on the economic issues,

1 this is a dying industry. The tracks themselves
2 report losing more than \$30 million a year on
3 greyhound racing. When the State invests in
4 something that is losing interest, it's a missed
5 opportunity.

6 And you only have to look at the middle school
7 in Jacksonville to look at a former dog track, a
8 failing dog track, that has instead been turned into
9 a successful part of a vibrant community. So
10 there's an opportunity here, when these tracks
11 close, for good things for the community.

12 And I would urge you to support the dogs. Vote
13 "yes" for the dogs. And vote "yes" on this good
14 proposal. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

16 This is the last time I'm going to call these.
17 Quinton Herrin, Rolando Rodriguez, David Stroker,
18 and Ute Stroker.

19 Thomas Evans, Dominick Montanaro, Judy Ponce,
20 and Katherine Lacasse.

21 MR. EVANS: Hi. How are you doing? My name is
22 Thomas Evans. I'm a member for the FICO 15
23 [phonetic]. I live in Orlando and I'm a citizen. I
24 worked at McDonald's. I make \$9.55 an hour. I am a
25 dad for three beautiful girls. If you a parent like

1 me, you should understand what I go through.

2 I make minimum wage, not that much to feed my
3 family. So at the end of the day, that's my one
4 goal in life. I travel here from Orlando,
5 outstanding for the -- sorry -- say the word -- and
6 many number. 4, 28 -- no, sorry. 4, 29, 45, 43,
7 71, 72, and 96, and 97. And I add, I hope to bring
8 back the version of Props 22 and 95.

9 I just heard that the reason enter the --
10 moment -- that would change and stronger more
11 conclusive Florida that the proposal before the
12 commissioners instead offer a darker future that
13 will encourage discrimination through taxpayers --
14 reducing an individual's rights and limited the
15 ability of -- ability -- I'm sorry. And abilities,
16 and invest in healthcare, housing, and public
17 education. And that just name a few.

18 All right. You all have a good day. Thank
19 you.

20 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
21 comments.

22 Go ahead, sir.

23 MR. MONTANARO: Good afternoon. Thank you for
24 having me here. My name is Dominick Montanaro. I'm
25 the vice-mayor in Satellite Beach here in Brevard

1 County. I'm also the president of the Space Coast
2 League of Cities. And I'm also here representing
3 the Treasure Coast League of Cities.

4 And I'm here to talk to you about Home Rule.
5 There were two proposals that basically came before
6 your Commission, one of whom was Proposition -- or
7 Proposal 61, which went through your committees and
8 basically went by the wayside.

9 The other that I'm concerned with, and I'm
10 going to follow up on the speaker that has already
11 spoke on Proposition 95, Proposal 95. And I would
12 like to echo her comments that we would not support
13 you taking that back to the full Commission. There
14 are unintended consequences that come with this
15 particular proposal. It very much is similar to
16 House Bill 17 from last year.

17 The unintended consequences really weren't
18 visible when that bill was put on the table, and we
19 feel the same way with Proposal 95. There is
20 unintended consequences.

21 I'm also a state-certified contractor, and from
22 my perspective looking at Proposal 95, what happens
23 locally is important. Local Home Rule is paramount
24 to how our cities and counties operate. And we
25 would like to be able to do the things that we do

1 locally. What works in Miami doesn't work in
2 Satellite Beach. So we would encourage you to
3 understand the Home Rule that's already in our
4 Constitution.

5 What's been going on in Tallahassee these last
6 few years has not been what our Constitution says
7 Home Rule should be. So if you would, please don't
8 entertain bringing Proposition 95 back.

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

11 You're recognized, ma'am.

12 MS. PONCE: I'm Judy Ponce. I'm here to have
13 you support Proposition 67, to end greyhound racing.
14 I don't want to put anybody out of business. I
15 don't want to put anybody out of a job. I can only
16 speak from my own experience.

17 For 10 years I have been volunteering in Palm
18 Beach County with the woman that just spoke,
19 bringing home rescues for 14 years. I have seen
20 these dogs come from the breeding farms, from the
21 racetracks, out of dog haulers. I have been there
22 volunteering when she's gotten a call that there's a
23 greyhound at a local vet that's going to be put down
24 because it broke its leg.

25 She spoke about spending her money. We have

1 done fundraising for broken legs in our
2 organization. Those dogs that came in, three in one
3 week -- they can't say it doesn't happen. Maybe the
4 industry that's here, it doesn't happen in their
5 little circle, but these dogs are coming from
6 somewhere.

7 They come in with fleas, infested with fleas,
8 ticks between their toes. When we pull them out,
9 their feet bleed. Their teeth are black from the
10 meat that they feed them. It's called 4-D meat:
11 down, dying, disease, and dead. That's what these
12 animals are fed at the racetrack. Their teeth are
13 awful. Their ears are full of gunk. They don't
14 have no idea what it's like to have their ears
15 cleaned. They have no idea what it's like to play
16 with a toy. We throw a toy and they run in fear.

17 But give them a chance in a home. They're a
18 dog. The only reason why greyhounds are racing is
19 because it's the fastest dog. If it was a poodle,
20 it would be poodle racing because they're the
21 fastest dogs.

22 They deserve to have this industry end. They
23 deserve to open the doors, get those racing kennels
24 opened up. There's organizations all over the
25 country that will take these dogs to find them

1 homes. It's time. It's time.

2 Forty other states in this country have done
3 away with it. It's time for Florida to do it too
4 for these dogs. I'm the voice for these dogs.

5 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
6 comments.

7 Katherine Lacasse. And then we're going to
8 have -- excuse me, let's keep it moving. Thank you.
9 Sue Kiley, Kari Warren.

10 Go ahead.

11 MS. LACASSE: Hi, I'm Katherine Lacasse, and
12 I'm a greyhound trainer from Longwood, Florida. I
13 moved to Florida over 12 years ago specifically to
14 work at Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club. I've had the
15 same job since two days after I arrived here. I
16 loved the area so much, I bought a house there.

17 My question is, what will happen on
18 Proposition 67 if you go through with it to my 110
19 dogs? On a good month we can pet out four to five.
20 That's without 8,000 other dogs looking for some
21 place to go. It costs over a thousand dollars a
22 week to feed those 110 dogs, and that's just their
23 food. That's not medication, vet care that we do
24 give them, as well as cleaning supplies. That
25 doesn't even involve the labor.

1 What will happen to me? I'm 53 years old, no
2 college education. I have a mortgage, car
3 insurance, health insurance. What am I going to get
4 for a job? 26-hour-a-week minimum-wage job, if
5 that? Because you have to remember there's going to
6 be thousands of other people out of work.

7 I'm a law-biding tax-paying citizen of Florida.
8 My dogs and I and thousands more like us are not
9 just statistics on someone's clipboard. When making
10 your decision on 67, please keep in mind the
11 thousands of lives you'll turn upside down and/or
12 destroy, the animals, greyhounds, and the people in
13 the racing industry that call Florida home.

14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
16 comment.

17 Terry LaPlante, Mark Bolton "Tambert," Gilbert
18 and A.J. Grant are after Sue Kiley and Kari Warren.

19 Go ahead, ma'am.

20 MS. WARREN: Good afternoon. My name is Kari
21 Warren. I work as a sexual assault victim advocate
22 with The Women's Center. I'm a survivor of child
23 sexual abuse and domestic violence. Excuse me.

24 My life and my daughters' lives are living
25 examples of what happens when a victim is not

1 informed of services and resources available after a
2 crime has been committed. Like so many survivors of
3 child sexual abuse, the cycle of violence continued
4 in my adult years.

5 I was in a physically violent relationship
6 eight years after leaving him. I was stalked,
7 strangled, and nearly killed. This man was finally
8 arrested, but my trauma wasn't over. That time no
9 one told me about services available for victims. I
10 remember standing outside the courtroom, not having
11 a voice in the plea agreement for that case. I
12 never felt so alone.

13 Again, like so many survivors, I began to feel
14 the effects of the crime soon after. And I was so
15 lost in my torture, I didn't see the abuse my
16 daughters suffered from their father. My daughters
17 survived a very dark and painful past. Today they
18 are thriving, but that is by no means a testament to
19 the justice system that let us down. It was always
20 just us, not justice.

21 My experiences have led me to the work I do
22 today where I see countless women who are
23 struggling, fighting, and searching for their
24 voices. These women and all victims should have the
25 right to be in the courtroom, to speak out at

1 sentencing hearings, and to be considered when plea
2 deals are made.

3 Where's the justice in overlooking the abused
4 and vulnerable? We have to consider the whole
5 equation, not just the crime and punishment. We
6 must move forward with Proposal 96, Marsy's Law.
7 That would be true justice. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

9 Next speaker.

10 MS. LAPLANTE: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
11 Thank you for the opportunity to speak. My name is
12 Terry LaPlante. I've lived in Brevard County most
13 of my life. I'm a semi-retired financial consultant
14 and an environmental activist.

15 I'm here today representing the League of Women
16 Voters to thank you for voting down Proposal 95,
17 which would have allowed the State to preempt any
18 local ordinances a big business can claim interferes
19 with commerce between counties and other
20 jurisdictions.

21 We also want to thank you for voting down
22 Proposal 61 as it relates to transparency and Home
23 Rule. We ask to oppose any efforts to bring these
24 bills back, to respect the Committee process, and to
25 allow the Committee actions to stand as final.

1 The League of Women Voters has worked hard for
2 almost a hundred years to register voters, to
3 encourage people to vote, and to encourage people to
4 get involved with their local government to create
5 the kind of communities that they want to live in.

6 The League of Women Voters of Florida fought
7 hard to amend the Florida Constitution giving local
8 government the authority to respond to
9 community-based needs, and to protect the welfare of
10 its citizens.

11 The idea of big business dictating what is and
12 isn't allowed in our communities is contrary to
13 protecting the welfare of the people as big business
14 has proven time and time again that they will only
15 protect the health and welfare of the people when
16 forced to do so.

17 An example of this is the refusal of the State
18 to allow counties to ban Styrofoam containers with
19 taxpayers picking up the bill to clean up this
20 litter from our beaches, storm drains, and
21 waterways.

22 Another case is taking away Home Rule would
23 open the doors to fracking in Florida with our water
24 supplies being further depleted and polluted as has
25 been evidenced in other states.

1 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
2 comments.

3 After Sue Kiley we have Marva Tolberts, A.J.
4 Grant, and Andrew McKinley.

5 Go ahead.

6 DR. KILEY: Good morning. Good afternoon. My
7 name is Dr. Sue Kiley. I'm the director of programs
8 for The Women's Center here in Brevard County. I'm
9 speaking in support of Proposal 96. I'm here to
10 read a victim's story. Her story is not uncommon.
11 In essence, it's the story of many victims. This is
12 the shortened version of what's happened to her.

13 "I was verbally, emotionally, physically, and
14 sexually abused by my husband of seven years. He
15 would prevent me from leaving the home. On numerous
16 occasions he would grab one of our children and
17 disappear for hours at a time.

18 "I was not aware that he had downloaded a
19 key-logger program onto my computer so that he could
20 monitor my computer use, and had a cell phone clone
21 so that he could monitor my calls and messages.

22 "After enduring years of abuse, I went to a
23 domestic violence shelter. However, the stalking
24 and terrorizing continued. When I went to the
25 courthouse for the DV injunction hearing, he would

1 simply wait outside and follow me when I left.

2 "He was eventually incarcerated. So finally
3 peace for myself and my children? No. Six years
4 later he was released without notification to me.
5 And he hired an investigator, found my new home. He
6 would send packages, and eventually showed up
7 unannounced, and would rant and rage and terrorize
8 us from outside the door when I wouldn't open it.

9 "Whenever I'd leave my home he often would be
10 there following me. Now he's in prison again and I
11 go to therapy every week to deal with the flashbacks
12 and triggers I have from the abuse and the stalking.

13 "Having notification of a release from prison
14 would allow me some relief because I still live in
15 fear of him ending my life."

16 So let's listen to this victim's voice, to the
17 voices of all victims. I urge you to support
18 Proposition 96 on the ballot. It's time for
19 victim's rights to be equal to the rights of the
20 perpetrators. Victims must be heard, must be
21 notified of hearings, be given victim services, and
22 have a voice.

23 Thank you for those who support this prop.

24 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

25 Next speaker.

1 MR. GRANT: Hello. I am A.J. Grant. I'm the
2 owner of Celtic Hounds Kennel in Sanford-Orlando
3 Kennel Club, and I'm here against Proposition 67.
4 I've heard a lot of nice stories today. And the
5 thing that people need to understand is, we get
6 inspected three times by various entities.

7 We get inspected by the State, we get inspected
8 by the track, and we get inspected by the vets. So
9 if any of this was going on, we would be out of
10 business. I would be out of business if my dogs
11 were in the condition that they say they were in.

12 I spend over \$80,000 a year to feed these dogs.
13 I don't feed them junk. If I fed them junk, they
14 would not run and I would be out of business, okay.
15 I went into the track yesterday. I went into the
16 track a couple days ago, and I asked them, "Is this
17 industry going?" because I don't know. I'm on the
18 other side of that.

19 And I asked them what the mutual handle was for
20 one month in January. They got the mutual guy in.
21 He said, "Here's the figure. \$7.2 million was bet
22 through Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club in the month of
23 July." So how is this a dying business? I don't
24 get it. I asked him, "Where's my cut?" but he
25 didn't answer it.

1 But anyway, you know, if we're bad to these
2 dogs, my business would not flourish. I have
3 employees that I employ. They're my family now. I
4 support businesses. I support politicians, you
5 know. So it just makes no sense.

6 If we're abusing these dogs, they wouldn't run.
7 Barbara Massey runs a very good outfit. All my
8 dogs, a hundred percent of them get adopted out.
9 She takes my dogs, my adopted dogs, and she trains
10 them to be service dogs for the American Veterans,
11 okay. They take my dogs and they put them with the
12 American veterans so --

13 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

14 MR. GRANT: -- if they were mistreated, they
15 wouldn't be American veterans' dogs.

16 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Our next speaker,
17 Bolton -- "Jilbert," I believe, is the last name,
18 Andrew "McKinley." Come on up to the microphone,
19 please. After him, Kate MacFall, Karen Moser,
20 Nicolene Junkins, and Linda Cuthbert.

21 Go ahead, sir.

22 MR. MCKILLOP: My name is Andrew McKillop. I'm
23 the administrator emeritus of the Okeechobee
24 Healthcare Facility, 180 beds, soon to be over 200
25 beds, Five Star, subacute skilled facility, that is

1 the recipient of both the bronze and silver American
2 Healthcare National Quality Awards, and one of only
3 37 facilities in the State of Florida that has
4 received the governor's gold seal.

5 This is my 58th year as an administrator. We
6 do not need additional or more regulations. Some
7 15 years ago we exceeded the Nuclear Regulatory
8 Agency for regulations. Regulations increase
9 reports. Reporting requires additional staff, which
10 requires additional funds.

11 Those funds are taken away from what we're
12 committed to doing, and that's providing care.
13 51 years ago Medicare became law, and I believe
14 residents' rights were included in it. Since then
15 several times there had been revisions to these
16 regulations, which make them -- gives more benefits
17 and protection to the residents.

18 A rose by any other name still looks and smells
19 like a rose. Proposal 88 doesn't. It gives
20 residents -- it doesn't give residents additional
21 rights as they currently enjoy, but rather is a
22 method to complicate the delivery of care, make us
23 more vulnerable to failure to perform, and subject
24 us to lawsuits largely profiting trial lawyers.

25 I'm also opposed to Regulation 54, the

1 certificate of need. Last year I had the privilege
2 of being against it, and we got the senate of the
3 State of Florida --

4 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you, sir. Thank
5 you for your comments.

6 Kate MacFall, Karen Moser, Nicole Junkins --
7 Nicolene, I'm sorry -- and Linda Cuthbert.

8 MS. JONBERT: Good afternoon. Maria Bolton
9 Jonbert. So speaking today -- just myself, he can't
10 talk yet. We're going to train him. But speaking
11 in favor of Proposition 67, I thank you for your
12 time. I came from Orlando with my four-month-old.
13 He only cried half the time.

14 But we are in favor and asking to you vote
15 "yes" on CRC Proposal 67 for the greyhounds. You
16 know, our economy shouldn't be tied to cruelty to
17 dogs. And 80 percent of the population, or so, has
18 a cat or dog, so I do feel that a good part of this
19 board will have empathy for these animals. And, you
20 know, it's man's best friend.

21 We just had to put down our dog of 10 years,
22 and she wasn't a greyhound, but she was a rescue.
23 And it's like losing your family. And I know we
24 gave her a really good life.

25 And I've seen some of the images and I've heard

1 some of the stories of these dogs on the track. And
2 it's not right. These are God's creatures. I think
3 we can do better. And I'm not for taking anybody's
4 job. I'm just concerned for the well-being of these
5 animals again.

6 I think a lot of people in this room have
7 empathy and can feel bad for those dogs because of
8 what they go through. And it's not right. And I
9 just want Florida to emulate what other states are
10 doing. And I think we can do better.

11 So I thank you for your time today.

12 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

13 Next speaker.

14 MS. MOSER: Good afternoon. I'm Karen Moser
15 from Malabar, Florida. I want to thank the
16 commissioners. I'm here to speak in opposition to
17 any attempt to resurrect P-22 because Floridians
18 value their privacy.

19 While this is no doubt some kind of misguided
20 aim of Roe v. Wade eventually being overturned,
21 please keep in mind that the other major
22 underpinnings of the right to privacy at the federal
23 level are Griswold v. Connecticut and Lawrence v.
24 Texas. So what is the end game? Outlawing birth
25 control? Driving gays back underground or what?

1 Antiabortion amendments that didn't even attack
2 other aspects of privacy have gone down in flames
3 recently in recent election cycles when put to the
4 voters. So I think the people of Florida have
5 spoken. I would like to thank the Judicial
6 Committee for voting it down. And please keep it
7 that way.

8 And by the way, if the legislators want to be
9 considered to be pro-life, maybe they should ban
10 assault rifles and large-capacity magazines and --

11 (Audience interruption.)

12 MS. MOSER: Oh, by the way, strengthen
13 background checks for other gun purchases while
14 they're at it. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

16 We cannot hear the speakers when there are
17 outbursts. So let's keep that to a minimum and just
18 stick with the signs, please.

19 Go ahead.

20 DR. JUNKINS: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
21 My name is Dr. Nicolene Junkins, and I'm a 40-year
22 resident and voter of DeLand, Florida. I would like
23 to begin by thanking each of you for your service on
24 this Commission and for the opportunity to speak
25 before you today.

1 I am here to urge you to vote "no" on Proposals
2 43, 45, and 71 as I strongly believe those proposals
3 will seriously undermine and weaken our children's
4 identification. I specifically want to speak to 45
5 and 71.

6 Proposal 45 would divert public education
7 dollars through a voucher system to religious or
8 private schools. Such a scheme is designed to
9 create a publicly funded system of education that is
10 separate from our public school system. Let us be
11 reminded that separate is not equal and is
12 inherently un-American.

13 Funding for public schools is already woefully
14 inadequate without shifting funds to a private
15 system, which is not accountable to the public and
16 which is -- also has no oversight by the public.

17 Proposal 71 would shift control of charter
18 schools from locally elected school boards to the
19 legislature, which is situated miles away in
20 Tallahassee, thus bypassing the will of the local
21 voters.

22 Decisions about our children's educational
23 needs are best met at the local level. And I oppose
24 any proposal that seeks to shift power to the state
25 government, particularly proposals impacting our

1 public schools.

2 Again, I thank you for the opportunity to speak
3 before you today. And in closing, I urge you to
4 protect the future of our education in Florida by
5 voting "no" to Proposals 43, 45, and 71. Thank you
6 for the opportunity to speak.

7 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

8 Kate MacFall, Linda Cuthbert, Nancy Vaughn,
9 Carla Christianson, Jeanne Tanke.

10 Go ahead.

11 MS. CUTHBERT: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
12 I'm Linda Cuthbert. I'm presently the chairman of
13 Volusia County School Board. I'm here in opposition
14 to Proposal 71, which would allow the legislature to
15 create alternative processes to authorize the
16 establishment of public schools within the State by
17 general law. The aim is to take control of a school
18 district's charter schools from local school boards,
19 thus allowing Tallahassee to make their
20 administrative decisions.

21 But how can they more effectively govern them?
22 The fact is, the Orlando Sentinel's in-depth study
23 conducted and published several months ago
24 discovered Florida's ineffective supervision.

25 As an elected official, I must conduct myself

1 in the sunshine. So must our tax dollars be
2 distributed in the sunshine, because most all
3 charter schools are run by privately owned charter
4 school providers, and governed by unelected school
5 board members.

6 I cannot help my constituents who send their
7 children to charter schools. There should be local
8 control of school boards over leveling of mileage
9 rates. There should be local control over the
10 opening and closing of charter schools.

11 We know our schools and communities best. I
12 have two excellent charter schools in my district,
13 that I don't want them to go away. I want them to
14 flourish and grow. But, however, let's make all
15 public schools equally accountable and transparent
16 to our taxpayers.

17 Florida should not allow shadow school
18 districts. I am for school choice, but please do
19 not usurp the power of the local school board and
20 hand it over to Tallahassee. "No" to Proposal 71.
21 Thank you so much.

22 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

23 MS. MACFALL: Hi. Thank you. My name is Kate
24 MacFall. I'm representing the Humane Society of the
25 United States, our nation's largest animal

1 protection organization. Thank you for your time
2 today, and thank you, Commissioner Heuchan, for your
3 leadership on Proposal 67.

4 We support 67 because of several
5 well-documented animal welfare problems in the dog
6 racing industry. State records show 438 deaths at
7 tracks since 2013. In Florida, a dog dies on the
8 track every three days. Injuries are not reported
9 statewide. But one Florida county passed an
10 ordinance, and in just a few months reported 40
11 injuries, 32 broken bones, and 2 deaths, 78 notable
12 cases of neglect in the last decade.

13 There have been over 400 drug positives in the
14 last decade, including 70 cocaine positives. Racing
15 dogs are confined for up to 23 hours a day. Female
16 dogs are given anabolic steroids regularly to
17 prevent the loss of race days. They are fed 4-D
18 meat from downed animals which is not fit for human
19 consumption.

20 There is an extensive coalition including
21 countless local animal welfare groups around
22 Florida. We are all united in our work to protect
23 greyhounds and to oppose greyhound racing. This is
24 a very popular issue.

25 In fact, the gaming industry holds us hostage

1 in the legislature because our issue makes their
2 issues more popular. Floridians don't support an
3 industry that's cruel to the dogs.

4 Respectfully, I urge you to support Proposal 67
5 for the greyhounds. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

7 Go ahead, next speaker.

8 MS. VAUGHN: Good afternoon. My name is Nancy
9 Vaughn. I live in Port Orange in the county of
10 Volusia. I'd like to start, ladies and gentlemen of
11 the Commission, for thanking you for being here and
12 thanking you for your time and patience.

13 I also would like to thank you for putting
14 Proposal 91 on your docket, the prohibition for
15 drilling for oil and natural gas off our coastlines.
16 Our tourism industry has an economic impact of \$67
17 billion on our economy. Thank you for seeing that
18 this needs to be protected.

19 On another matter, I would like to urge the CRC
20 to preserve the current ability of Floridians to
21 amend their Constitution and oppose Proposal 97.
22 Florida already has one of the highest thresholds in
23 the country to amend our Constitution, and the
24 change in 2006 from 50 to 60 percent led to a sharp
25 decline on successful amendments.

1 This proposal, 67 [sic], to have that
2 60 percent calculated from the total voters in the
3 election, not the number of people voting on the
4 ballot, doesn't represent the true intent of the
5 voter. To pass a new constitutional amendment you
6 would be counting electors who don't pass a vote as
7 disapproving of that amendment.

8 Many people skip voting on particular issues
9 because they don't understand them, especially
10 amendments which historically have been worded to
11 obfuscate their true meaning. Case in point, last
12 November's Amendment I, the purported pro-solar
13 amendment, which indeed was anything but a pro-solar
14 amendment.

15 Voting on constitutional amendments is the only
16 means of direct democracy that Floridians have.
17 With all of the special interest money tarnishing
18 our government, citizens need a voice now more than
19 ever. I urge you to vote "no" on Proposition 97.

20 Additionally, I'd like to say please vote
21 against threat to Home Rule because --

22 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

23 We have Linda Cuthbert, Carla Christiansen,
24 Jeanne Tanke, and Rachel Sines.

25 MS. CHRISTIANSEN: Good afternoon,

1 Commissioners. I'm Carla Christiansen. I reside in
2 Volusia County. I want to thank you for your
3 attendance and for your attention. It's been a
4 long, impassioned conversation that we've had today.
5 And I would ask you to vote against Proposal 72.

6 For 20 years I was an entrepreneur. I owned my
7 own small business. And one of the things I
8 realized is you can't be successful in a business if
9 you can't make decisions quickly. Things over those
10 20 years changed, and my need to adjust my business
11 style, my decisions, my choices were always quick.
12 I needed to be nimble.

13 When you look at what Proposal 72 is doing,
14 it's tying the hand of those people who we elect to
15 office. It's asking those people who seldom agree
16 with each other to raise the bar to a supermajority
17 before they can do what needs to be done in Florida.

18 We just had two hurricanes that strongly
19 affected Volusia County back to back. Why tie the
20 hands of those people who are elected so that when
21 the next thing comes along, they can't adjust?

22 Economically, we need to be able to be highly
23 funded for education for a quality of life that
24 brings in good businesses. Businesses don't go
25 where the quality of life is diminished.

1 Please, I ask you to look at Proposition 72 and
2 reject it. Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

4 Next speaker.

5 MS. TANKE: Jeanne Tanke, Daytona Beach,
6 Volusia County. I urge you to vote against
7 Proposal 4. As others have said, the No-Aid
8 provision has safeguarded Floridians' religious
9 freedom and rights for 130 years. It applies and
10 protects all faiths and beliefs.

11 In 2012, the majority of people of Florida
12 voted overwhelmingly to keep the constitutional
13 provision when the question appeared on the ballot
14 then. And I urge you to vote against Proposal 4
15 now. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

17 Linda Cuthbert, Carla Christiansen, Rachel
18 Sines, Suze Peace, Courtney Barker, and Arthur
19 Marcoux.

20 Go ahead. If I called your name, come on up.
21 Tell us your name.

22 MS. SINES: Hi. My name is Rachel Sines. I'm
23 here today in support of Proposal 96, also called
24 Marsy's Law. Eleven years ago I was sexually
25 assaulted at gunpoint inside of my own home.

1 As someone who has experienced the court
2 process firsthand, I can tell you a victim's
3 suffering does not end with the attack. It
4 continues as we navigate a very complicated criminal
5 justice system, which works for the criminal and not
6 the victim.

7 Marsy's Law would ensure crime victims are
8 afforded similar constitutional protections to the
9 accused. Although the criminals' rights are not
10 changed or weakened, the two parties will finally be
11 considered equal in the eyes of the law. That means
12 everything to crime victims.

13 We deserve to be seen as someone with real
14 emotions who went through a very painful ordeal we
15 did not ask for, rather than simply a third party in
16 the case. One of the rights afforded to crime
17 victims under Marsy's Law is the right to privacy.

18 I am, unfortunately, all too familiar with
19 privacy rights because my own right to privacy was
20 compromised. By acting as his own counsel, my
21 attacker was afforded access to all of my personal
22 information as well as those of my witnesses. He
23 made harassing phone calls to me and my witnesses
24 from jail, asking us not to testify against him. He
25 also used my information to steal my identity.

1 There is nothing anyone could do. The state
2 attorney and sheriff's department's hands were tied.
3 His right to identify his accuser trumped my right
4 to privacy and to be free from intimidation.

5 Marsy's Law would also provide crime victims
6 with a voice, which is something I wish I had in the
7 court process. After all, I certainly did not have
8 a say in being attacked, so shouldn't I have at
9 least had a voice in deciding what happens?

10 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
11 comments.

12 MS. PEACE: Hello, Commission. My name is Suze
13 Peace. I reside in DeLand, Florida. I've lived in
14 Florida about 40 years. I've always cared about the
15 environment, and I'm here as a member of Florida
16 Wildlife Federation.

17 And we recently celebrated Commissioner Jacqui
18 Thurlow-Lippisch's -- is that right? Is she here?
19 Hi. Shout out to you. Thank you very much for
20 proposing the proposal, Number 91, which would
21 protect our coast from drilling and gas and oil
22 explorations.

23 I think all of us love Florida for our amazing
24 coastline and, of course, tourism, and our health
25 and well-being. And all of our wildlife and so on

1 depend on that. And I think that's a very
2 far-reaching idea, that you proposed that.

3 And, of course, you all will have the next
4 20 years -- you know, whatever you decide we live
5 with the next 20 years, all of you as well as us.

6 So, anyway, thank you for hearing us all today
7 and good luck.

8 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

9 Courtney Barker, Arthur Marcoux, Keila
10 Villegas, Jeff Sonksen. Go ahead.

11 MS. BARKER: Thank you. Courtney Barker, city
12 manager for the City of Satellite Beach. I'm here
13 to request that you stick to your own rules and not
14 bring back a proposal that was clearly defeated in
15 the Committee, and that would be primarily Proposal
16 95, which would remove local government control over
17 businesses.

18 And I think there's just so many differences
19 between the communities in Florida and so many
20 nuances that there is no state law that can address
21 all the issues that would come up with business
22 regulations. So we urge you to allow us to keep our
23 Home Rule authority.

24 And we agree with the previous speaker about
25 stormwater. We all have -- a lot of times we have

1 different stormwater laws simply because we have
2 different ecology and geology.

3 We also urge you to oppose Proposal 72, which
4 requires a supermajority vote to raise taxes. And
5 while this only affects State taxes, I can assure
6 you when the State can't pay for something, that
7 will trickle down to the counties and cities, which
8 means we'll be left to address the State issues, on
9 which we find more is falling onto our shoulders.
10 So we would appreciate you opposing that.

11 Additionally, a supermajority, by the way, is
12 really allowing the minority to control, and kind of
13 goes against the local tenet of majority rule of a
14 democracy.

15 We also want to address Proposal 91. We
16 strongly support Proposal 91. We'd really
17 appreciate you putting that in. Our city passed a
18 resolution regarding offshore drilling about three
19 years ago, so we really appreciate that. And we
20 hope that you all put that onto the ballot for our
21 voters. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

23 Go ahead, sir.

24 MR. MARCOUX: My name's Arthur Marcoux. I am a
25 greyhound trainer at Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club for

1 Celtic Hounds. I'm a grandfather, I'm a father, and
2 I'm a husband. I stand here opposed to Proposition
3 67 because it will significantly damage my family's
4 finances.

5 We just recently purchased a house up in the
6 Longwood area that we are moving into. And ending
7 greyhound racing would significantly cripple us
8 financially, as well as -- I've listened to all the
9 horror stories that have gone on today, and that
10 they talk about greyhound racing as if demonizing
11 greyhound racing.

12 I have worked in the industry for over
13 30 years. Any one of you can pull up my record and
14 there's not one abuse complaint on my record. I
15 love my animals, and I would do anything to make
16 sure they have everything and -- everything they
17 need.

18 And Grey2K and all these other animal rights
19 organizations, they want to end racing, which will
20 lead to the extinction of the American racing
21 greyhound. Is that really the answer? If the
22 extinction --

23 (Audience interruption.)

24 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Excuse me. Let's
25 respect the speaker. Thank you.

1 MR. MARCOUX: I respected everyone as they
2 spoke. And bringing -- making these animals extinct
3 is not the answer. I don't know what more we can do
4 on our part to make these animals more comfortable.

5 If anybody wants to come to my kennel and see
6 how my animals live, they can feel free to do so.
7 But for them to stand up here and judge me just
8 because I work in the industry is ridiculous. They
9 don't know me. They don't know the hours I put in.
10 They don't know the love that I show to these
11 animals. And for them to judge us, it's not even
12 for them.

13 Grey2K is not even based out of Florida. They
14 should have nothing to do with this process.

15 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

16 MR. MARCOUX: Thank you for your time.

17 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Go ahead, ma'am.

18 (Audience interruption.)

19 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Let's allow the speaker
20 to speak.

21 MS. VILLEGAS: My name is Keila Villegas. I'm
22 from Osceola County. Thank you for having me here.
23 I'm asking for you guys to vote "yes" on Proposal 67
24 to phase out greyhound racing. It's time for
25 Florida for join the other 40 states that have

1 already made the ban on commercial greyhound racing.
2 It's time we think about the welfare of the
3 greyhound. They deserve a better life than what
4 they have right now. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

6 Sir, go ahead.

7 MR. SONKSEN: My name is Jeff Sonksen. I'm
8 opposed to 67. I don't have anything to do with the
9 racing industry per se. I'm an artist, and I was
10 invited to a kennel at Longwood. And I made a video
11 and posted it on my Facebook page and got a big
12 response from the followers I have.

13 And that led to a string of other people
14 inviting me to visit their kennels. And I've
15 visited over half the tracks in Florida, going
16 behind the scenes and focusing mainly on the dogs.
17 And what I found, I just -- whatever I experienced,
18 I just filmed it with my GoPro and posted it.

19 Greyhound Chronicles on Facebook is the page,
20 if you ever wanted to go look at it. You can see
21 for yourself. I got nothing to gain, nothing to
22 lose from this. I'm just more interested in the
23 truth. And I'm afraid that you guys might be making
24 a law based on a bunch of propaganda.

25 I mean, how can you know the truth? I think

1 the closest thing that you might find is the truth
2 is watching my videos, Greyhound Chronicles. Thank
3 you.

4 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

5 Riley-Paige Leaming, Carla Wilson, Landon
6 Leaming, and Evan LeFevre, Michael Leaming, William
7 Birmingham, Shannon Blair, and Pam Dirschka.

8 If I call your name, just come on up. Don't
9 worry about the order. Everyone will make their
10 way. Go ahead.

11 MS. DIRSCHKA: Hello. I'm Pam Dirschka, from
12 Titusville. I'm a candidate for House District 50,
13 and I'm here to oppose Proposal 72, which would
14 require a supermajority vote to impose, authorize,
15 or raise state taxes or fees.

16 I'm going to refer to a statement made by the
17 League of Women Voters, which I thought was very
18 good. "It would tie the hands of future elected
19 leaders and severely limit Florida's ability to
20 invest in public education, mental healthcare,
21 affordable housing, roads and bridges, parks and
22 beaches, and workforce training programs by
23 requiring a supermajority vote of the legislature to
24 raise taxes or fees."

25 I can refer you to two states that have done

1 similar tax cuts and had a plan for growth. Please
2 take time to review what happened in Kansas and in
3 Oklahoma. In 2012 Kansas rolled back their taxes
4 and after they had drastic results, they repealed
5 that by the Republican legislatures in 2017.

6 Oklahoma tried the same thing. They've now
7 slashed education funding, so many districts are
8 just having 4-day schools in their areas.

9 In our county -- I'll tell a little bit more
10 locally. Brevard County, after the charter cap --
11 I've been attending a program that our county has
12 called The Citizens Academy. And as the directors
13 speak to us, we see the charts of how their funding
14 has gone down after the charter limits.

15 I'd also like to make one more statement. I
16 stand with Parkland. And if you are representing
17 the people of Florida, you would be making proposals
18 and not telling us that you're out of time. So
19 please --

20 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
21 comment.

22 Go ahead, young lady. Is it your turn?

23 MS. LEAMING: Hi. My name is Riley Leaming
24 from Animal Hero Kids, and I believe that dogs
25 should be free. Dog racing is dying, is very sad.

1 I believe that they are scared. I would not do what
2 they do to their dogs.

3 If you think dog racing is right, then you are
4 wrong. If you think dog racing is wrong, then you
5 are right. I think dogs should be free. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

7 I have quite a few Leamings, so you all just go
8 in whatever order you'd like.

9 MR. LEAMING: Hi, my name is Landon Leaming,
10 from Animal Hero Kids. I'm nine years old, and I
11 think greyhound racing is wrong. These greyhounds
12 don't deserve not to get fed often, not be free, and
13 have to race.

14 They also have cement and metal cages that they
15 are in for hours, 20 to 23 hours a day. Up to 8,000
16 greyhounds are held in these conditions. And these
17 people don't report injuries to the public. There
18 has been 259 greyhound injuries between 2008 to
19 2016, including the 124 greyhounds that died or were
20 euthanized.

21 Since the State tracking began, there has been
22 438 greyhound deaths since 2014. From May to
23 October 2017 SOK [phonetic] team has reported 26
24 injuries, including 3 deaths and 18 fractures.
25 There are documented injuries from broken bones to

1 heart attacks.

2 In 2011, a three-year-old brindle greyhound
3 named "SZ We Are Cool" died shortly after racing at
4 the Daytona Beach Kennel Club. In 2011, a
5 two-year-old black greyhound named "Hank Allen"
6 broke several bones during a race.

7 I have dogs at home. I would hate for this to
8 happen to them. How can you expect them to win a
9 race when they don't get all the nutrients they
10 need? I know you might think this is a sport, but
11 in sports you should be able to pick if you want to
12 do that sport or not.

13 Thank you for your time. And I hope we can
14 stop greyhound racing and animal cruelty in all.

15 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

16 MR. LEFEVRE: Hello. My name is Vegan Evan and
17 I'm the co-president and spokesperson for Animal
18 Hero Kids. And Animal Hero Kids is an
19 all-volunteer, nonprofit organization that reaches
20 over 30,000 kids a year.

21 I am also a volunteer spokesperson for
22 Solutionary Speaks. A "solutionary" is someone who
23 is part of the solution and not the problem. I'm
24 also a Space Coast Animal Rights volunteer. And I
25 don't think it's right what they do to the

1 greyhounds.

2 I think that it's abuse, it's torture, it's
3 enslavement, and it's cruel and plain old wrong.
4 And I'm here representing Animal Hero Kids all over
5 the nation, but especially in Florida.

6 And I would like everyone to close their eyes
7 for a few moments and, please, imagine that you're a
8 family dog and your family's coming home, you're all
9 happy, and you hear them pull in, and the keys are
10 jingling, and you're barking for joy, and your
11 tail's wagging, and the kids will come home soon and
12 play with you.

13 Now, imaging that you're a racing greyhound,
14 kept in a cage for 20 to 23 hours of your day, so
15 small that you can hardly turn around. And for the
16 two minutes that you're out of that cramped cage you
17 could get hurt or even die.

18 Now, I don't think that's right. So please
19 stop greyhound racing because the greyhounds don't
20 want to race. We should be able to ask them if they
21 want to, but we can't. So why do we force them to?

22 And, please, imagine that you're one of them.
23 Imagine being forced to do that. All right. Bye.

24 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

25 Go ahead, ma'am.

1 MS. WILSON: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My
2 name is Carla Wilson. In 1996 I adopted my first
3 greyhound. His name was "Allen" and he was three
4 years old. Allen raced at Sanford-Orlando Kennel
5 Club in Longwood, and when he was finished racing he
6 and his sister were dumped at a local vet by their
7 trainers to be killed.

8 I was being trained as a tech. I watched his
9 sister as she was carried out in a body bag and
10 decided Allen wasn't going to follow. Allen opened
11 my eyes to the plight of greyhounds and greyhound
12 racing.

13 While working with the local adoption groups I
14 saw how greyhounds live at the track and quickly saw
15 that it was impossible to find homes for them all.
16 There are just too many dogs being bred to be the
17 fastest dog, and not enough homes.

18 I've since devoted my life to educating the
19 public about these amazing and gentle dogs. I
20 routinely volunteer at outreach events throughout
21 the State. I have worked to pass human legislation
22 for greyhounds and promote adoption.

23 Allen loved to curl up on the couch beside me
24 with his muzzle in his leg. He loved stuffed
25 animals, especially the big floppy ones. And he

1 loved to go for walks and he loved Mr. Pugsly's
2 peanut butter bones, all the things that our dogs
3 deserve and love as part of our families, yet all
4 the things that most racing greyhounds never know.

5 I'm asking each of you to please let the voters
6 speak. Vote "yes" for the dogs. Thank you so much.

7 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Is there a Kayla
8 Leaming? Thank you.

9 MS. LEAMING: Hello. My name is Kayla Leaming,
10 and I represent the Save Movement USA. I was born
11 and raised in Orlando, Florida. And I'm here today
12 in support of Proposal 67. As a resident of
13 Florida, I find it very concerning that we're one of
14 those very few states that still allow this very
15 cruel form of animal exploitation.

16 These dogs are individuals, no different than
17 your animal companions at home. Greyhound
18 racetracks go against all the values we should be
19 teaching our children. Let's raise our children in
20 a world where animals are treated with respect.

21 Proposition 67 is so important because we are
22 not talking about objects. We are talking about the
23 lives of (indiscernible) beings. There will always
24 be another way to make money, but these dogs will
25 never get another life. Their lives are wasting

1 away, and there's nothing they can do about it. But
2 we can.

3 Money is no excuse to treat these sensitive and
4 loving animals as nothing more than things. Let's
5 use this proposal to set an example and make a
6 difference. Compassionate humans make compassionate
7 choices, and we all know this world can use more
8 compassion.

9 Today I'm asking you to use your hearts and
10 make a decision, to put yourself in the animal's
11 position, and base your decision off of that.
12 Please use this time to make a love-based decision
13 and to take a step to make Florida a more
14 compassionate state. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

16 Michael Leaming. After him, William
17 Birmingham, Shannon Blair, Bryan Wilson, and Timothy
18 Kimes.

19 Go ahead.

20 MR. LEAMING: Hello. My name is Michael
21 Leaming, and I represent the Save Movement USA, and
22 I'm from Orlando, Florida. I support Proposal 67, a
23 ban on greyhound racing. Animals for human
24 entertainment is wrong. They are treated like
25 money-making machines, not the individuals that they

1 are. No one deserves to be treated like that.

2 The golden rule that I teach my kids is to
3 treat others how you would want to be treated. No
4 one wants to be forced into confinement and abused.
5 I don't think anyone on this panel would treat your
6 companion animals this way.

7 Greyhound racing breeds thousands of dogs into
8 existence for the sole purpose of making money on
9 them, which is wrong. We have so many dogs in
10 shelters that breeding them is unnecessary. Only a
11 small fraction of these greyhounds get to be rescued
12 and live their full lifespan. Most of them die
13 early when they are not profitable.

14 If these greyhound racers really cared about
15 their animals, they would give them free access to
16 food and water and the outdoors. They would give
17 them vet care when they are injured, not kill them.

18 But we all know those things take a lot of
19 money to do, and that would cut into their profit.
20 And the bottom line of greyhound racing is to make
21 as much money as you can as fast as possible, not
22 the well-being of the animals. These animals have
23 emotions just like ours. They feel pain, love,
24 sadness, and have the ability to suffer.

25 When we ban greyhound racing, what are we going

1 to do with the tracks? We could turn those tracks
2 into a track-and-field community center for our kids
3 and have a more positive place for our kids and
4 children to go to. We can make a positive place for
5 kids instead of getting into addiction, abuse, and
6 violence.

7 We need to create as many positive places as we
8 can to help make a loving, caring, and peaceful
9 world. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

11 William Birmingham, Shannon Blair, Bryan
12 Wilson, and Timothy Kimes.

13 MR. BIRMINGHAM: Chairman, Commissioners, my
14 name is William Birmingham, and I'm here on behalf
15 of Proposal 67 to ban greyhound racing. I do not
16 agree on exploiting animals in any case. This takes
17 dogs for people's gambling habits.

18 You want to vote on casinos? Let's do it. I'm
19 all for cards, machines, tables. That's human
20 choice. Leave the dogs and the abuse alone in
21 greyhound racing. Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Next speaker.

23 MS. BLAIR: Hello. I'm Shannon Blair. I am a
24 Melbourne, Florida, resident. I'm also Vegan Evan's
25 mom. I'm the volunteer coordinator for Animal Hero

1 Kids. As Evan said, it's an all-volunteer,
2 nonprofit reaching over 30,000 kids and teens every
3 year with a message of being kind to all kinds.

4 Basically, I just feel that there's no
5 justification that's good enough to cause this
6 unnecessary harm to animals. Even if you don't love
7 animals, you should still be able to see that this
8 is not right. These animals are being oppressed.
9 As my son said, they're in place. They don't have a
10 choice, and -- I mean, this is about the ways that
11 we're using animals in society. All use is
12 exploitation, all exploitation is a form of abuse,
13 and all abuse is immoral and it's wrong.

14 And what are the reasons that we're doing this?
15 For entertainment, so that people can bet on the
16 animals? I mean, these are their lives. They
17 deserve a right to their life, and no living being
18 deserves to be the slave or the property of someone
19 else.

20 It's extreme to say that as a society we love
21 animals and that we're against animal cruelty and
22 abuse, but then to do unnecessary things such as
23 greyhound racing. Why are we doing this? I mean,
24 we need to do the right thing. We need to set
25 examples for our children.

1 People are wondering why all these school
2 shootings and things like this are happening. If
3 our children can look at cows and pigs and dogs and
4 chickens -- and like my son, insects -- as all being
5 individuals, then you don't have things like this
6 happen. You can never have a situation, like, where
7 five children watch a man drown and not one of them
8 have the decency to call 911.

9 You couldn't have these things happen if the
10 children are being raised to see things the way that
11 these children see them. And greyhound racing is
12 not setting that example. It's disgusting and it
13 needs to be stopped. Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

15 Bryan Wilson, Timothy Kimes. Thank you, sir.

16 MR. WILSON: Bryan Wilson. Some of you
17 commissioners were at the Committee meetings so this
18 will be a little bit of a refresher. The Seminole
19 Greyhound Act was signed by more than 14,000 voters
20 just in Seminole County. More than 100 volunteers,
21 many of whom you hear here today, spent their time,
22 energy, money, time away from their families, time
23 away from their occupations even, to gather enough
24 signatures to require that the greyhound racing
25 industry report injuries from just one track, report

1 where the dogs go from just one track.

2 And the Seminole County Commissioners also were
3 very supportive of this endeavor and they signed it
4 into law. And yet, no sooner did we get this passed
5 when the greyhound racing industry chose to sue
6 Seminole County rather than comply with this very
7 limited, very transparent requirement.

8 So we've seen the truth based on greyhound
9 racing. We've seen its true nature. More than 400
10 dogs have died since 2013 just on the tracks. These
11 are just the dogs that we know about. The numerous
12 injuries that have occurred since we required them
13 to report the injuries to greyhounds in Seminole
14 County and the investigative work that was done by
15 the local television station that said, even though
16 we don't have a law in Seminole County, we still
17 have injuries that are going unreported.

18 And Seminole County animal enforcement had to
19 go out and actually tell them, "Hey, you guys, we
20 have a rule. You need to start sticking to it.
21 You're making us look bad."

22 We have seen the true nature of dog racing.
23 It's time to let the voters make the decision to let
24 this be part of Florida's dark past. Thank you so
25 much.

1 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: After Timothy Kimes,
2 Patty Farley, Kari Warren, Ryan Vescio.

3 Go ahead.

4 MR. KIMES: Thank you. My name is Timothy
5 Kimes, and I've worked as a nursing home
6 administrator for the past 30 years. I'm currently
7 at Martin Nursing Restorative Care Center in Stuart.
8 This is a 120-bed skilled nursing facility. It's
9 rated Four Star with a focus on rehabilitation of
10 the elderly that have suffered a traumatic event.

11 I speak in opposition to Proposal 88. Upon
12 admission to every nursing home in Florida, the
13 resident receives a copy of the Nursing Home
14 Resident Rights that is written into Florida statute
15 already. This document is prepared by the long-term
16 care ombudsman program which is administered by the
17 Department of Elder Affairs.

18 The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid also
19 outlines in detail the rights of a resident admitted
20 to a nursing home noting that the facility is
21 required to provide at the time of the resident's
22 admission written information concerning the
23 resident's rights.

24 The determination of a resident's knowledge of
25 these rights is a part of every unannounced annual

1 complaint survey conducted by the Agency for
2 Healthcare Administration in every nursing home in
3 Florida.

4 Proposal 88 is an attempt to not only duplicate
5 these documents mentioned above but in the guise of
6 a noble statement related to resident rights allows
7 for the imposition of expensive insurance and legal
8 costs should any nonmember, nonfamily member wish to
9 be compensated in the event of loss, injury, and
10 damage suffered because of abuse, negligence,
11 exploitation, or violation of a resident's rights.

12 The imposition of insurance coverage levels
13 under Proposal 88 penalizes those homes with few or
14 no claims in their history. That additional cost
15 merely takes resources away from resident services
16 in order to pay for the increased cost of insurance.

17 Proposal 88 also misleads the public into
18 thinking that the nursing home can simply walk away
19 from an imposed judgment. In 2014 the legislature
20 enacted a statute that required a nursing home to
21 pay that judgment or lose their license to operate,
22 even in the event of a change of ownership.

23 Proposal 88 desires to hold accountable not
24 only all people that own and operate facilities
25 involved in such violation, but also creates a path

1 to pursue any person, private equity firm, or even
2 a mutual fund that might own stock or other assets
3 in a --

4 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Sorry, sir. Thank you.

5 MR. KIMES: Thank you.

6 MR. VESCIO: Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, my
7 name is Ryan Vescio. And for the past 13 years I've
8 worked as an assistant state attorney including
9 handling capital homicide and violent crime cases
10 for over the past decade in the Ninth Judicial
11 Circuit for the Office of State Attorney in Orange
12 and Osceola counties.

13 Today I am here on behalf of the Executive
14 Council of the Florida Bar's criminal law section to
15 speak in opposition to Proposal 96. The criminal
16 law section of the Florida Bar and its Executive
17 Council is comprised of judges, prosecutors, defense
18 attorneys, both private and public, and law
19 professors.

20 All of us agree that victims have and should
21 have rights within the criminal justice system, and
22 that those rights should absolutely be honored.
23 Today Article I, Section 16, of the Florida
24 Constitution guarantees those rights, and the
25 legislature has enacted enabling legislation

1 assuring that those rights are protected.

2 At its January meeting, the Executive Council
3 of the criminal law section discussed Proposal 96
4 and voted 29 to 3 to recommended opposition against
5 its inclusion in our Constitution. While different
6 members voted against the approval for different
7 reasons, there was almost unanimous agreement
8 against the proposed amendment as currently written
9 by those of us who work daily to ensure the rights
10 of Florida's victims are adequately protected in our
11 courts.

12 As the voice of criminal law practitioners in
13 Florida courts, we rise in opposition to Proposal
14 96. Thank you for your consideration.

15 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

16 Go ahead.

17 MS. FARLEY: Thank you. My name is Patty
18 Farley. I'm the president of the Democratic Women's
19 Club of Florida, which has over 3,500 members, and
20 I'm a retired public school teacher that has taught
21 over 9,300 plus students. And I'm dressed in black
22 today because today is the 50th anniversary of when
23 teachers walked out in this State to protect our
24 public schools. And teachers are still trying to
25 protect our public schools.

1 I'm here to speak in opposition to the
2 following proposals, some no longer active, but I
3 don't want them to come up again, and many still
4 active. 59, 4, 45, 71, 90, 93, and 43.

5 It's obvious that these are all designed in one
6 way or another to hurt public schools. This program
7 would not benefit Florida's families who desire
8 their child have a quality, free public education.
9 There are many proposals here that give State funds
10 to private schools, churches, or charter schools, or
11 delete current language that prevents it from
12 happening from our current Constitution.

13 Some want to change class size. But the way
14 that it tallies now, you need to average just
15 classroom teachers if you change anything about how
16 class size is tallied, and not the administrators
17 and whatever, in the schools.

18 Proposal 43, which puts term limits on our
19 school board takes the right of the local community
20 away from determining who's left. These proposals
21 do not benefit Florida's families and the children
22 of Florida.

23 I beg you to put your interests above the
24 interests of charter schools and their lobbyists and
25 consider the children of Florida. And I thank you.

1 Thank you very much.

2 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

3 Kari Warren. Last name is, I think, Lamers,
4 from Melbourne Terrace, Satellite Beach. Can't read
5 the first name. Reed -- would you like to use the
6 microphone there? Great.

7 And while she's making her way, Janet Winikoff
8 and Donna Stark will be next.

9 Go ahead in the back. Just a moment. For some
10 reason that microphone is not on. Okay, if you
11 could start again.

12 MS. LAMERS: I'll try again. Hello. My name
13 is Helen Lamers from Satellite Beach, Florida, and I
14 thank you, Commissioners, for being here all day
15 with us. I am here representing Melbourne Terrace
16 Rehabilitation Center that has changed my life. I'm
17 also here to ask you to oppose Proposal 88.

18 Four years ago I took a fall and I thought it
19 was a tumble, but soon afterwards I realized I lost
20 the use of my legs so I had to have emergency
21 surgery to prevent permanent paralysis.

22 I had the surgery. It went well. And I was
23 taken to another facility for a few months while
24 they discovered I had MRSA in my surgery site, which
25 prompted three more back surgeries.

1 So after the four back surgeries I was moved to
2 Melbourne Terrace Rehabilitation Center. And this
3 was the most amazing and outstanding experience of
4 my life. It was life-changing.

5 The moment that I was wheeled in on a gurney,
6 because I had totally lost all movement in my legs
7 after the fourth surgery, I was overwhelmed by the
8 beauty, by everything around -- the whole
9 environment of Melbourne Terrace was so uplifting.

10 There was music playing, and I was emotionally
11 overwhelmed and so happy to be there. At the time I
12 was taken there I couldn't even move my toes. I
13 couldn't move my legs, but I knew I was in a place
14 that was going to help me.

15 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you, ma'am. Thank
16 you. Your time is up. You're in opposition to 88;
17 is that correct?

18 MS. LAMERS: That's it. But I've been healed
19 through the wonderful care at Melbourne Terrace.

20 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Next speaker down here.
21 Thank you.

22 MS. WINIKOFF: Good afternoon. My name is
23 Janet Winikoff, and I'm the director of education at
24 the Humane Society of Vero Beach in Indian River
25 County. I serve on the board of the Florida

1 Association of Animal Welfare Organization, and I'm
2 also a resident of Vero Beach.

3 Today I'm here to kindly ask the CRC to support
4 Proposal 67, to phase out greyhound racing in
5 Florida. Racing greyhounds are dogs who are just as
6 deserving of the same protections, compassion, and
7 care as the dogs living in homes throughout the
8 State of Florida. Racing greyhounds spend up to
9 23 hours a day in cages, are fed meat unfit for
10 human consumption, and suffer from horrendous
11 injuries resulting from accidents.

12 I know. I've been to Palm Beach Kennel Club.
13 I've been to the kennel club that's here. And I've
14 seen some of the dogs that have been injured. I've
15 also seen in Palm Beach County where some of the
16 dogs have been dumped in the shelter.

17 On average, one racing greyhound dies on a
18 Florida track every three days. It's shameful that
19 our State provides strong anticruelty laws for other
20 dogs, but allows racing greyhounds to become
21 injured, suffer, and die. Over the years animal
22 advocates have tried every possible way to address
23 concerns. However, the dogs' welfare continues to
24 be ignored so gaming interests can benefit.

25 There is an authorization in the Constitution

1 pertaining to greyhound racing. Therefore, we must
2 take this issue before the CRC so we can end the
3 suffering. Please give Florida voters the chance to
4 vote for compassion by allowing Proposal 67 to be
5 included on the ballot. Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

7 Donna Stark, Kari Warren, Wendy Trimarche, and
8 William Haskell.

9 MS. STARK: Good afternoon. My name is Donna
10 Stark. I reside in Indian River County, Florida. I
11 support Proposal 67 to phase out and end greyhound
12 racing in Florida.

13 Greyhounds in the dog racing industry have been
14 exploited, have suffered inhumanely, and many have
15 died in Florida during the last 87 years. This is
16 the year to put the issue to end dog racing on the
17 ballot. The end of dog racing is long overdue.

18 Please give your support for Proposal 67.
19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

21 MS. TRIMARCHE: Good afternoon. My name is
22 Wendy Trimarche. I'm a resident of Indian River
23 County and I'm also on the executive committee of
24 the board of directors of The Humane Society of Vero
25 Beach and Indian River County.

1 I see on a daily basis the trickle-down effect
2 of industry-bred animals, including greyhound dogs
3 and what it costs Indian River County to handle all
4 these animals and the costs that they incur to help
5 The Humane Society.

6 Greyhound racing is only in existence because
7 it is tied to other gaming entities. Forty states
8 have put a stop to greyhound racing and its abuses.
9 It's time that Florida do the same. If the only way
10 to stop the cruelty and abuse to these beautiful
11 companion animals is Prop 67, then please vote "yes"
12 and send that on to the voters. I appreciate it.
13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

15 William Haskell, Choice Edwards, Sean Orr,
16 Heather Jackson, Michelle Carroll, John Titkanich,
17 Shirlene Stuckey.

18 If I called your name, come on up to the
19 microphone on either side.

20 Go ahead.

21 MS. JACKSON: Good afternoon. My name is
22 Heather Jackson, and I'm the administrator at
23 Parkside Health and Rehabilitation Center, a
24 122-bed, skilled nursing facility in DeLand. We are
25 a CMS, Five Star-rated center, and an American

1 Healthcare Association Silver National Quality Award
2 recipient.

3 I am here to urge you to vote against
4 Proposal 88, which claims to be about nursing home
5 residents' rights, but Florida's senior citizens are
6 already ensured those rights through state and
7 federal law, and are enforced by state surveyors and
8 local ombudsmen.

9 When you read what Proposal 88 is, you'll see
10 it is more about suing nursing homes and less about
11 improving the quality of care. This proposal is
12 asking us to put money aside for lawsuit and
13 litigation costs instead of putting this money into
14 staffing and equipment upgrade.

15 I urge you to vote "no" on Proposal 88 as it
16 will hurt the residents in Florida's long-term care
17 centers and undermine the hard work of thousands of
18 Florida's compassionate caregivers that care for our
19 residents.

20 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

21 MS. CARROLL: Good evening. My name is
22 Michelle Carroll. I run a 190-total-bed skilled
23 nursing facility in Daytona Beach, Florida, Seaside
24 Health and Rehab. And in the interest of time,
25 please vote "no" on 88. Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

2 On this side, go ahead.

3 And you can come on up to the microphone so
4 you're ready also.

5 MS. STUCKEY: Hi. My name's Shirlene Stuckey.
6 I live in Apopka. I want to tell you I appreciate
7 this opportunity to speak to you. I'm here in
8 support of Proposal 67. Last year I was at a vet --
9 waiting in a vet's office, a veterinary hospital,
10 when a rescue person came in with a greyhound that
11 had just been rescued from the track.

12 It was, of course, injured. And, of course,
13 since it can't run and make money anymore, they
14 didn't want it, so the rescue lady brought the dog
15 in. It was severely injured.

16 And the rest of us who were waiting there, we
17 waited while the vets and the technicians
18 struggled -- they took it behind, you know, in a
19 room and struggled to get the dog stabilized. None
20 of us minded that.

21 The dog was so injured that it would be miracle
22 if it lived. So when they say the dogs don't get
23 injured, that's just not true. So I'm just asking
24 you please, please -- I support Proposition 67 to
25 end greyhound racing in Florida. Thank you very

1 much.

2 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

3 Go ahead, sir.

4 MR. TITKANICH: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

5 My name is John Titkanich. I'm the city manager for
6 the City of Cocoa. One, thank you for your service
7 to the State and for your time today. I can only
8 imagine going across the State, how much this takes.
9 I might want to bring Evan back up to give my
10 comments because it's kind of a hard act to follow.

11 Respectfully, I'm requesting you to oppose
12 pulling Proposal 95, the local government regulation
13 of commerce, trade, labor from the local government
14 committee where it failed -- after it did fail
15 before in its first committee hearing and then was
16 subsequently voted down in the second committee
17 hearing.

18 I could share many reasons why I think it's bad
19 for the State and local government. A couple that
20 come immediately to mind the way it was construed
21 would be the ability for local government to
22 regulate sexually oriented businesses where an adult
23 entertainment company establishes and operates
24 multiple locations throughout our state, and local
25 communities would not have the ability to do that.

1 Contractors who are located outside of our city
2 but operate within the boundaries, this is
3 especially critical and concerning in the aftermath
4 of hurricanes of 2004. The legislature saw fit to
5 go back and address the issue of occupational
6 license versus local business tax because you had
7 contractors preying on unsuspecting homeowners, and
8 they're saying, "Oh, I'm licensed with the State."

9 Yes, but it would also clarify that they were
10 paying to transact business in the State, but it was
11 also a dual purpose to ensure that people would know
12 that they were not licensed with the State.

13 Another one local to us is the fertilizer ban
14 pretty much across the State. Millions of dollars
15 are being spent on the Indian River Lagoon, both at
16 the State and the county level. And if you have a
17 commercial applicant that has a business location
18 somewhere outside of Cocoa, or Brevard County, no
19 ability to regulate.

20 With that, I'm just going to request you please
21 respect the committee process and allow the local
22 government committee action to stand final for
23 Proposal 55 [sic]. Thank you for your time and
24 service.

25 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

1 Go ahead, sir.

2 DR. ORR: Good afternoon, Commissioners,
3 Chairman. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.
4 I'm Dr. Sean Orr of Jacksonville. As a former
5 hospital-employed physician with extensive
6 administrative experience, I come today in support
7 of Proposal 54 as it pertains to hospitals. I come
8 forward today not only as a physician, but as a
9 member of the community who's likely to be a patient
10 one day, as is everyone in this room.

11 Proposal 54 aims to eliminate the current
12 certificate of need scheme, which limits the number
13 the healthcare facilities that can be built in
14 Florida. The current regulatory environment
15 essentially grants near monopolistic powers to large
16 regional not-for-profit health systems jeopardizing
17 the public health.

18 In my opinion, eliminating this scheme should
19 bring about the following benefits. First, it would
20 eliminate the current, unhealthy constraint on
21 competition. Megasystems have become regional
22 monopolies by unfairly consolidating services and
23 physicians. This scheme amplifies the problem.

24 Looking (unintelligible) better solutions, and
25 that should be abolished.

1 Second, Proposal 54 would lead to improved
2 quality of care. With currently constrained
3 competition, megasystem administrators effectively
4 dictate patient care with impunity. Government
5 regulations are being abused, creating an
6 impenetrable wall behind which these administrators
7 hide, worsening quality.

8 If a jumbo jet crashed every day in this
9 country, the FAA would shut down all flights
10 immediately. But currently a jumbo jet's worth of
11 patients die in our nation every day due to
12 hospital-related medical mistakes, now the third
13 leading cause of death in this country. Eliminating
14 the CON scheme is the first step of many needed to
15 bring greater transparency and accountability to
16 healthcare.

17 Third, Proposal 54 would help to reduce the
18 cost of healthcare. Contrary to what hospital
19 administrators would have you believe, under CON
20 means their ever-growing clout to demand higher
21 prices for their services. Eliminating the CON
22 scheme will provide patients with better choices and
23 keep megasystems in check.

24 Finally, like so many physicians who've been
25 constrained and silenced by monopolistic healthcare

1 systems, I support a strong balance to improve the
2 lives of healthcare workers who currently are
3 burning out in unprecedented numbers.

4 I urge the public to support Proposal 54, which
5 would make room for new solutions to emerge and hold
6 megasystems accountable to a higher standard. Thank
7 you.

8 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: William Haskell, Choice
9 Edwards, Tami Litvak, Susanna Lewis, Heather Hayes,
10 Dr. Sue Kiley, James Phillips.

11 If I call your name, come on up to the
12 microphone. Don't worry about the order.

13 Rivki Beer, Barbara Bingnear.

14 Yes, sir. There are plenty more. There's
15 plenty more. Go ahead. You see why we're trying to
16 keep it moving here. Want everybody to get a chance
17 to speak.

18 Sir?

19 MR. PHILLIPS: My name is James Phillips. I
20 represent Greyhound Equipment Company. We build
21 most all the dog tracks here in Florida and actually
22 around the entire country. I've been from one end
23 of the country to the other.

24 I would like you to strike down Proposition 67.
25 My aunt and my great grandfather was involved in the

1 first forming of the greyhound tracks. If you stop
2 greyhound racing in Florida, it will end not only my
3 career and my job, but all my employees who've been
4 with me for 30 years plus.

5 I've heard stories about abuses from certain
6 people, and I've been from one end of the country to
7 the other. I've seen it all. There's abuses of all
8 kinds. There's human abuses constantly. If you're
9 going to pick a sport and say because it's dangerous
10 and hurts others and you want to ban it, well, then
11 we wouldn't have any sports at all.

12 Why don't we try regulating an unregulated
13 sport at the moment and punish those who do abuse?
14 Because I've seen plenty -- there's a lot of
15 animal -- there's a lot of greyhound people who love
16 their animals as they do their own children.

17 They take care of them as you would take care
18 of your own animals. So to say that they're all bad
19 is not a very good idea.

20 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
21 comments.

22 Next speaker?

23 MS. HAYES: Hi. Good afternoon. My name is
24 Heather Hayes. I'm from Seminole County, Florida.
25 I'm not here with an issue. I'm just here as a

1 citizen, as a voter. I became involved with the
2 greyhounds because basically I live five minutes
3 from the track and I see every day how those animals
4 are treated.

5 They're put in the little trucks. And they
6 live right behind the junkyard, and they're
7 transported to the tracks -- and those rusty kennels
8 that pretty much no animal should live in, in that
9 condition on an 80-degree weather in Florida. And
10 they're yanked out of trucks to be able to go to the
11 races. So if you tell me this is loving care, I'm
12 not exactly sure what loving care is.

13 I'm not here being paid. I can say that I'm a
14 well-educated person and I can make my own
15 decisions. And I'm here to say "yes" to Proposal
16 67. Thank you very much.

17 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

18 Go ahead, ma'am.

19 MS. BINGNEAR: My name is Barbara Bingnear. I
20 am from Melbourne, Florida. Shortly after moving to
21 Melbourne almost 30 years ago I joined an
22 organization called Brevardians Against Racing
23 Canines, also known as BARC. So now here I am still
24 fighting for the same issue and in support of
25 Proposal 67 to ban greyhound racing.

1 Many have discussed the many inhumane aspects
2 of this so-called sport. And I would like to talk
3 about the economics of it, which often override the
4 compassion.

5 Almost 30 years I heard Pat Biddix, who is the
6 general manager of the Melbourne Greyhound Park,
7 which was then Delaware North, advocate for racing
8 dogs in Melbourne. I have here a copy of a
9 newspaper article that was printed in Florida Today
10 on August 27th, where Pat Biddix was interviewed.

11 The lead paragraph in the article says, "The
12 money flowing through Melbourne Greyhound Park and
13 Club 52 as a result of the live dog races fell
14 nearly 30 percent in the past year. All across
15 Florida, tracks like the Melbourne Greyhound Track
16 are facing steep revenue losses. In Florida's 13
17 greyhound tracks, they're losing a combined \$35
18 million a year on dog races."

19 And also in this article it says the Naples
20 Fort Myers Track owner, Izzy Havenick, is saying
21 they don't want to lay people off so they're trying
22 to figure how to deal with the losses until the
23 legislature acts.

24 So I will present this paper, leave it with
25 your gentleman here. And I thank you very much for

1 your time.

2 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

3 Joyce Edwards, Tami Litvak, Susanna Lewis,
4 Dr. Sue Kiley, and Rivki Beer. Are any of those
5 here? Okay.

6 John Mandala, Claudia Thomas, Leigh Bergstrom,
7 William Fisk, Linda Dolphin. Come on down. I'll
8 just keep going.

9 Soozy Katzen, Demetrius Tsigas, Bernice Bird,
10 Ann Rendon, Stephanie Elrod. If I call your name,
11 come up to the microphone in any order.

12 You got here first. You're first.

13 MR. MANDALA: I want to say first thank you for
14 being here. But you serve at our pleasure and I
15 think you need to listen to what people are saying,
16 number one.

17 Number two --

18 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Could you say your name,
19 please, for us?

20 MR. MANDALA: Yes, I'm sorry. John Mandala.

21 I think you should support 91, stop the oil and
22 gas drilling. Our estuary is already dead. There's
23 no clams, there's no oysters. We really need to
24 think about it.

25 You should support 95, which is going to stop

1 some of the developers from putting nitrogen and
2 oxygen and phosphorus into our river.

3 You should support 96. Victims have a right.
4 They have a big right. If you've never gone through
5 the court system, you should try it, see what
6 happens. We need to think differently.

7 You should support 43 for term limits in our
8 school buildings, in our schools, term limits for
9 our boards because things become very, very
10 "everyday." We have people that don't support
11 different ways of doing things in our schools.

12 We just saw 17 people get killed in a school.
13 We've seen kids get killed in the last five years,
14 and all we talk about is gun control. What about
15 people? What are we doing with how they're
16 thinking?

17 When our own superintendent of Brevard County
18 says we don't need schools that teach kids the
19 difference between anger and violence, something is
20 wrong. We need to start really listening to what
21 people are saying. Forget about this politics
22 stuff.

23 Independent proposal? We need to think about
24 that. We need change. You're going to be here for
25 another 20 years. I think we should do this every

1 ten years. It's important. Things can't wait
2 20 years.

3 Listen to what the people are saying. Thank
4 you.

5 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

6 Anyone else whose name I called? If I called
7 your name, come on up to the microphone, please, and
8 just give us your name for the record.

9 FATHER TSIGAS: Commissioners, thank you so
10 much for your time, for your patience, and for your
11 willingness to serve in this capacity. I am
12 thrilled to be here. And I'm thrilled that all of
13 you are here, even though I disagree with probably
14 most of you.

15 My name is Father Demetrius Tsigas. I have
16 proposed Public Proposal 700334. I'm a naturalized
17 American citizen born in Greece, the home of
18 democracy, western civilization, and the propagation
19 of (indiscernible).

20 Somebody earlier quoted the preamble to the
21 Florida Constitution, but they used the ellipsis --
22 dot, dot, dot -- to leave something out, "almighty
23 God." That's been done since the early 1900s in
24 this country. In our kids' textbooks they use "dot,
25 dot, dot" to say "God" and "Christianity," in our

1 kids' textbooks. We've been lied to. We need to
2 return to the original intent of our nation's and
3 our states' Founding Fathers.

4 In the 1960s the Bible and prayer were taken
5 out of our public schools and we've been paying the
6 consequences in increased immorality, lawlessness,
7 corruption, poverty, imprisonment, breakdown of
8 marriage, and increase in divorce ever since.

9 My proposal reads as the preamble but with just
10 a few more words added to it. "In gratitude and
11 recognition to Almighty God, we return the use of
12 the Bible and prayer to our public schools and the
13 original Christian foundation our Founding Fathers
14 intended for our nation to our public school
15 textbooks.

16 "This will enable our people to restore and
17 maintain our constitutional liberty, secure our
18 benefits, perfect our government, ensure domestic
19 tranquility, maintain public order, and secure equal
20 civil and political rights for all of our citizens."

21 That is awesome. I also am in support --
22 because I have no dog in the race -- I'm neither a
23 Protestant nor a Catholic. The Blaine Amendments
24 were put in place in 40 of our states by Protestants
25 who were fearful of Catholics coming in and using

1 their Bibles.

2 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

3 FATHER TSIGAS: Thank you. God bless you all.
4 Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Claudia Thomas, Leigh
6 Bergstrom, William Fisk, Linda Dolphin, Soozy
7 Katzen, Bernice Bird, Ann Rendon, and Stephanie
8 Elrod. If any of those are here -- obviously,
9 you're one of them. After that we're going to take
10 a 10-minute break.

11 Go ahead, ma'am.

12 MS. ELROD: Hello. My name is Stephanie Elrod,
13 and I was born and raised in Longwood, Florida. I
14 graduated from Lyman High school, home of the
15 Greyhounds. I would like the panel to please vote
16 "no" on Proposal 67.

17 I was started -- I've been in greyhound racing
18 for five years. I started out as a helper in my
19 dad's kennel. My fiance shortly joined us. We both
20 went on to train from my dad, Jimmy Goodman, for two
21 years.

22 Eric and I opened our own kennel, Larson
23 Kennel, in January of 2017. We are now in our
24 second year, and we work 7 days a week, 365 days a
25 year, taking care, and loving our hounds. We don't

1 take sick days. We don't take holidays off.

2 Hurricanes come. While you were hunkered down
3 in your homes, us greyhound owners and trainers were
4 sleeping in crates with our dogs in the kennels.
5 Our track, SOKC, is one of the first in the country
6 to install a safety lure. In addition, when and if
7 injury occurs, Sanford-Orlando Kennel Club has a
8 no-kill policy and helps with the vet expense for
9 each dog.

10 I also volunteer in the pet kennel with ACT
11 Greyhound Adoptions ran by Kathy Ford. The dogs are
12 well cared for and loved until the day they leave to
13 become loving pets. This program has adopted
14 thousands of homes in America and Canada.

15 The dogs are kept in large crates that two
16 humans can fit in. They are let out multiple times
17 a day. The kennels are air-conditioned and heated,
18 and our dogs are kept in great condition.

19 How do we stay in business running sick and
20 unhealthy dogs? We wouldn't. This is our life and
21 how my family makes a living. It would be
22 devastating to have this great sport taken away as
23 well as our livelihood. Thousands of families would
24 be affected. These dogs are our life, and I hope
25 you can see that.

1 Thank you for your time, and please vote "no"
2 on Proposal 67.

3 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you. We will be
4 back in ten minutes.

5 (Brief recess.)

6 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: All right. We are going
7 to get started again here. I'm going to start
8 naming off a few names so that people can start
9 lining up on either side of the stage here as the
10 commissioners are returning as well.

11 Kathy Ford, Michael Weinbaum, Kathleen Skambis,
12 Todd Byers, and LaDonna Hampton.

13 All right. Go ahead.

14 MS. FORD: Hi. My name is Kathleen Ford, and
15 I'm here to ask you for a "no" vote on Proposal 67.
16 I currently run a greyhound adoption group, which
17 was started in 2009. Since that time I have
18 facilitated the placement of 2,142 pets. I can tell
19 you their names and where they went.

20 I started out in the early '90s with greys as
21 pets, and then owned a few racers that retired to my
22 home. I even worked in a racing kennel for three
23 months while the kennel owner recuperated from
24 surgery, so I have a fairly good knowledge of
25 racing.

1 Greyhounds are not abused. A greyhound needs
2 to be in top condition to run a race, and abused or
3 neglected greys would not be competitive. Look at
4 the pictures of greyhounds and check out the muscles
5 and conditioning of these dogs. They are athletes
6 in great shape.

7 I have seen injuries on the track. But get on
8 any greyhound Facebook forum and you will see more
9 deaths and injuries than anything that happens on
10 the track. Lots of the greys who suffer minor
11 injuries continue racing once healed up.

12 Contrary to what some believe and contrary to
13 what some profess, greys with broken legs are not
14 routinely put down. I have fostered many broken-leg
15 greyhounds, and they have become someone's beloved
16 pet.

17 Besides the greyhounds, please keep in mind the
18 many individuals that would be displaced and out of
19 work if this should pass. Not just the kennel
20 owners, trainers, and workers, but all the
21 additional people that work within the industry and
22 provide services to the industry. As a resident and
23 registered voter in Florida, I feel we need to focus
24 our intention on more pressing issues facing our
25 State.

1 I would also like to say that I've been
2 listening to some of the animal activists today.
3 And Carey Thiel tried to stop me from sending dogs
4 out of state. He contacted the State of Florida and
5 said I was sending dogs to be euthanized in Canada.
6 That's the type of people he is.

7 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you for your
8 comments.

9 Next speaker, please.

10 MR. WEINBAUM: My name is Michael Weinbaum. I
11 have lived in Florida all my life. I've been a
12 registered Republican in Florida for ten years. On
13 February 1st the General Provisions Committee here,
14 chaired by Commissioner Thurlow-Lippisch, considered
15 Proposal 62 for top two of the primaries.

16 But Commissioner Schifino, who proposed it, had
17 to step out, and no one was there as some of the
18 other commissioners gave some good but skeptical
19 questions about how that would work, and why. So,
20 hopefully, I can answer maybe two of them.

21 One question was, What about the freedom of
22 association? Well, that works both ways. I
23 recently went to a Republican party meeting in
24 Orange County. It was the first time I've done that
25 in Orange County.

1 They were making decisions about bank accounts
2 and which upcoming city and county elections to
3 focus on, but I wasn't recognized. They don't know
4 me there. I was not permitted to vote. They had a
5 freedom to disassociate with me.

6 But I voted in every primary election,
7 Republican primary, and none of them have been able
8 to stop me. So the freedom of association clearly
9 works for some aspects of the Republican Party in
10 Florida, but not all. There are some parts that are
11 public, some parts that are private. Proposal 62
12 would not change any of that.

13 Another question was, Why don't these victims
14 just pick a party? Well, I did pick a party. But I
15 was still not getting a chance to cast a meaningful
16 vote. You see, democrats seem to win in my district
17 for State legislature by 40 points. But there's
18 either a write-in candidate or a republican who pays
19 for petitions for their name to be on the ballot,
20 even though they have no chance.

21 I would like to be able to cast a vote for the
22 least bad democrat in these districts without
23 sacrificing my chance to vote for a favored
24 republican for senator or governor. Only Proposal
25 62 gives me that chance consistently and gives a

1 candidate in a district like that an incentive to
2 sell themselves as a democrat who sometimes
3 compromises.

4 We need more candidates --

5 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

6 Go ahead.

7 MS. SKAMBIS: Good afternoon. My name is
8 Kathleen Skambis. I'm a lifelong citizen of the
9 State of Florida. I'm speaking on behalf of myself
10 and also as a volunteer at the local regional and
11 national levels for the American Lung Association.
12 And I'm here to speak about something that nobody
13 has spoken about yet, which is opposing Proposal 94.

14 Proposal 94 affects Article X, Section 27 of
15 the Florida Constitution, which was passed by
16 citizen initiative overwhelmingly in 2006. It
17 establishes tobacco-free Florida, using a percentage
18 of the money from the tobacco settlement, tobacco
19 litigation settlement.

20 It has been tremendously successful in the
21 State of Florida. It is mandated under the terms of
22 Article X, Section 27 currently to comply with best
23 practices established by the Centers for Disease
24 Control.

25 In 2006, the adult smoking rate in Florida was

1 21 percent. In 2016, it's 15.5 percent, the lowest
2 ever. Youth went from 10.6 percent to 3.8 percent
3 in 2015.

4 According to Florida Department of Health, it
5 has saved Florida, Florida state government, more
6 than \$3.2 billion. Don't gut that program. And
7 that is what Proposal 94 would do.

8 I'm a lung cancer survivor, very lucky. Many
9 of my friends have passed. I understand the value
10 of cancer research, but I also understand that you
11 don't ditch a program that works in favor of taking
12 money from that for research. It saved you more
13 than \$3.2 billion. Take some of that money and
14 invest it in research.

15 Please oppose Proposal 94 and support 65, which
16 adds electronic cigarettes to the Indoor Smoking
17 Act. Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

19 MR. BYERS: Hello. My name's Todd Byers. I'm
20 here against Proposal 67. I've been in the
21 greyhound industry for 33 years. I've been to
22 Tallahassee multiple times for many years, defending
23 my industry and livelihood against out-of-state
24 radical lobby teams.

25 Out of state, as I said, they're trying to put

1 in-state, your in-state -- your taxpayers out of
2 work, out of business. Many businesses -- all the
3 kennel owners are all owned. We're not employed by
4 the track. We all own our own business. You're
5 looking at about probably 80 kennels in the State of
6 Florida. You're going to put all of them out of
7 business, their employees, their help, everything.

8 I urge you to visit your kennel. Visit a
9 kennel near you. You are listening to all these
10 stories. You can either believe them or me. I'm
11 asking you to believe none of us. I want you to
12 come to a kennel and see for your own eyes how my
13 dogs are taken care of, how any of these other dogs
14 are taken care of in any of these other kennels,
15 these other people that are representing us here.

16 My door's open. Any time you want, you're more
17 than welcome to come in unannounced. You'll see how
18 good these dogs are taken care of, how happy they
19 are, how well they're fed. And I have no problem
20 with taking some of that meat out of that feed tub
21 and cooking it up and eating it myself. There is no
22 problem with that meat at all. 4-D meat? That's
23 not 4-D meat. There's nothing wrong with that.

24 So I urge you, please, visit a kennel. You are
25 representatives of the people of the State of

1 Florida, right? You represent us. You're our
2 lawmakers. You're getting paid by the State. Maybe
3 some of you didn't get paid from the State for this
4 job, but in the long run, you work for the people of
5 the State of Florida.

6 If you do not come and see for your own eyes
7 how our businesses are run and how well we take care
8 of our dogs, you're failing the people of the State
9 of Florida. That means you are believing these
10 out-of-state radical activists on what's going on in
11 your state and our businesses.

12 All I ask, you come and visit, see for your own
13 eyes, then make your decision. Don't vote against
14 this -- I mean, don't vote for this bill if you
15 haven't seen our business with your own eyes.
16 That's all I ask. There's bad apples all over the
17 place. If we shut down an industry because of a bad
18 apple, might as well shut down Congress. Corrine
19 Brown. That's all I'm going to say.

20 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

21 MS. HAMPTON: Hi. My name's LaDonna Hampton,
22 and I'm using my little one -- I believe you have a
23 comment card for Kryzta Miller, my oldest daughter.

24 I want to thank you all for your time here
25 today, and I'm here to oppose Proposition 67.

1 Actually, because of things that have been said
2 here, I've taken my youngest out of here three times
3 because she's cried, because it's not true.

4 My kids are at the kennel with us every day.
5 This is a family job. This is something that we all
6 embrace together. And I really don't know what I'm
7 going to do if we lose that.

8 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

9 Kryzta Miller, come on up.

10 MS. MILLER: Hello. My name is Kryzta Miller,
11 and I -- like my mom said, we come to work with her
12 every day. And I know what it's like beyond the
13 kennel doors. I haven't walked -- and I've seen
14 every dog happy. I don't think I've ever walked
15 into a kennel without seeing wagging tails or
16 smiling dogs. I've always heard them sing every
17 day.

18 And I think the best part about this job is the
19 fact that I have every single one of them and --
20 wait, where's dad? All right, up there. You see
21 these? And those -- every single one of those dogs
22 are my family.

23 Now, there's a lot of people that depend on --
24 that depend on us to get back on their feet. But
25 this is important to me and, hopefully, I can follow

1 in my mom's footsteps and become a trainer at my
2 dad's kennel too.

3 Thank you for listening to what I have to say.
4 And all of you have a nice day.

5 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Thank you.

6 I'm going to pass the gavel now to Commissioner
7 Thurlow-Lippisch.

8 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Hello,
9 everybody. And thank you to Commissioner Donalds,
10 who did a very efficient and good job over the past
11 couple of hours. I'll try to do the same.

12 I'm Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch from the town of
13 Sewall's Point in Martin County, which is just south
14 of here along the beautiful Indian River Lagoon.

15 I'm going to call the names, between three and
16 five. Please don't be shy. Come up as far as you
17 can. I see that it's kind of awkward to walk here.
18 Jeff Ramsey, Sue Holland, Joyce Wasserman, Alycia
19 Corpiel, and Matthew Corpiel.

20 Please come forward as fast as you can. I know
21 it's tough. And we are coming upon our 7:00 time,
22 and we will go later. But I do ask anybody, if you
23 feel comfortable to speak less than two minutes,
24 please do so. But you have your full two minutes to
25 speak. Thank you.

1 Say your name, please.

2 MS. HOLLAND: My name is Sue Leyrer Holland,
3 and I've been a resident here for 24 years in
4 Brevard County. And I am a retired schoolteacher.
5 I mean, naturally board-certified. And I taught at
6 Endeavor, which is a wonderful school, but
7 unfortunately, we have, you know, a large population
8 of immigrants, which I think is wonderful. And the
9 kids are wonderful. And people criticize them all
10 the time.

11 Anyway, I just want to say I am for a lot of
12 things. I'm for Proposal 88, you know, for senior
13 citizens. I'm not there -- I am a senior citizen
14 but I'm not, you know, incapacitated or anything.
15 But, I mean, we have rights too.

16 So -- also I am for 45 and 71. And I just, you
17 know, I'm for the people. I think public school
18 education is very, very important. We shouldn't
19 have private schools -- I mean, we could have them,
20 but they shouldn't come out of taxpayer dollars.

21 So thank you for your time.

22 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
23 much.

24 Jeff Ramsey or whoever is next, please.

25 MR. RAMSEY: Yes. Good afternoon. My name's

1 Jeff Ramsey. Thank you, Commissioners, for hearing
2 me today. I am a retired Air Force officer, and
3 I've taught ROTC for 17 years in the college and
4 high school level. So I've been teaching civics
5 basically for a decade and a half. And I'm also a
6 candidate for the Florida House of Representatives,
7 District 51.

8 And I come before you today to talk about the
9 Florida Constitution. It should lay out our
10 framework of government, a process where amending
11 the Constitution has been used by out-of-state
12 special interests to advance their agendas without
13 going through an informed legislative process.

14 If a legitimate need for the Constitution to be
15 changed arises, it should be amended, but it should
16 not be easy. But it should be by popular demand due
17 to true governance crisis.

18 That's why Proposition 97 is important for your
19 consideration. It will ensure that 60 percent of
20 the electorate truly wanted to amend the
21 Constitution. It's a high threshold and tough to
22 pull off. But that's not unreasonable, given the
23 impact that changes to the Constitution have on both
24 taxpayers and consumers.

25 These kinds of decisions are best left to

1 legislators who are better equipped to consider all
2 of the potential impact of changing even one
3 sentence of our Constitution. Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you,
5 Mr. Ramsey.

6 Hi.

7 MS. CORPIEL: Hi. My name's Alycia Corpiel,
8 and thank you for having me. I'm a resident of
9 Brevard County, Florida, and the founder and
10 president of Space Coast Animal Rights, Brevard
11 County's only 501(c)(3) animal rights organization.
12 Today I will be speaking on behalf of the members
13 and volunteers of Space Coast Animal Rights.

14 Thank you for this opportunity again to express
15 our opinions on behalf of our organization regarding
16 the issue of greyhound racing and Proposal 67. We
17 fully support Proposal 67 to phase out greyhound
18 racing in Florida by the end of 2019, and will be
19 voting for it in November when it makes it on the
20 ballot.

21 Greyhound racing is incredibly cruel and,
22 honestly, such an outdated practice that people are
23 often surprised that it is even still legal here.
24 To make matters worse, Florida has a subserving lack
25 of concern for the safety of greyhounds. On average

1 a racing greyhound dies every three days in Florida.

2 Our State is not required to report injuries
3 publicly, and has a reputation for drugging racing
4 dogs. Seminole County is the only county in Florida
5 that is required to report injuries to these dogs.

6 Since this began in May of 2017, 40 greyhound
7 injuries have been reported. Just a reminder, that
8 number just represents Seminole County. The state
9 of the dogs in other counties remain unknown.

10 Just last year greyhound tracks in Florida made
11 headlines when a multitude of racing dogs tested
12 positive for cocaine. At least ten of these dogs
13 were owned by the president of the National
14 Greyhound Association, an association that claims to
15 improve and develop the greyhound breed.

16 Our question for the National Greyhound
17 Association is, How is drugging man's best friend an
18 improvement or a positive development to the breed?
19 Last Saturday our organization held a protest
20 against Melbourne Greyhound Park. The event
21 resulted in endless honking and thumbs up from
22 passers-by, and two crude comments to the ladies
23 protesting the track, yelled from truck windows of
24 track employees.

25 Through outreach events we have seen that the

1 amount of support to end greyhound racing is much
2 larger than the opposition.

3 On behalf of these dogs, please support
4 Proposal 67. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
6 much.

7 Matthew -- and while Matthew's coming up, I
8 don't see -- I'm sorry -- Joyce, if Joyce is here.
9 And then the next speakers will be Stephanie Wall,
10 Ben Abramowitz, and Katherine S. Rudloff.

11 MR. CORPIEL: Good afternoon, Commissioners.
12 My name is Matthew Corpiel. I'm a resident of
13 Brevard County, Florida, and vice-president of Space
14 Coast Animal Rights. Thank you for taking the time
15 to listen to our support for Proposal 67 that ends
16 greyhound racing in Florida.

17 Today I want to speak not only for the
18 greyhounds, but for the safety of my community. As
19 you have heard and will continue to hear throughout
20 the day, greyhound racing is an incredibly cruel
21 industry and has no place here in present day
22 society.

23 However, I also want to address the threat the
24 industry brings to our local community. Besides the
25 fact that the greyhound industry has seen a

1 tremendous decline in bets since 1990, 74 percent to
2 be exact, this industry has been known to bring
3 crime to our communities.

4 As the vice-president of Space Coast Animal
5 Rights, I often attend peaceful demonstrations
6 against greyhound racing in front of Melbourne
7 Greyhound Park. Each time I've attended one of
8 these events, the track workers will taunt us with
9 threats, use sexual slurs when attempting to
10 converse with our women activists, and make crude
11 remarks to the children who attend these events.

12 Many studies have shown a link between animal
13 abusers and community violence. To quote an article
14 by the Animal Legal Defense Fund entitled, "Animal
15 Cruelty is Linked to Other Forms of Community
16 Violence," a study undertaken by the MSPCA and
17 Northeastern University, found that 70 percent of
18 people who committed violent crimes against animals
19 also had records for other crimes.

20 Comparing a control group of their neighbors,
21 animal abusers are five times more likely to commit
22 violent crimes against people, four times more
23 likely to commit property crimes, and three times
24 more likely to have a record for drug or disorderly
25 conduct defenses.

1 Last year Melbourne Greyhound Park and our
2 organization made headline news locally because our
3 members were assaulted by track employees. Even in
4 the presence of children these men used vulgar
5 language, screamed in our faces, and waved their
6 arms dangerously close to us to the point that we
7 felt that we were in danger.

8 This incident resulted in us calling for police
9 response and putting a stronger plan into place to
10 protect our activists. I do not feel safe with this
11 violent community.

12 Please support Proposal 67, not only for the
13 dogs, but for the safety of our neighbors. Thank
14 you.

15 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
16 much.

17 Next speaker, please. State your name.

18 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: Ben Abramowitz. You came
19 close.

20 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you, sir.

21 MR. ABRAMOWITZ: I want to give you a gold star
22 because you dropped Proposal Number 40, which
23 provides attorneys for every kid under DCF care.
24 I'm a guardian ad litem. I'm a volunteer. I've
25 been doing it for six years. And the proposal as

1 stated, was really redundant.

2 We have guardian ad litem attorneys -- it's
3 part of the system -- that step up to the plate.
4 They're advocates, as well as I. I'll give you just
5 one short example.

6 Last week I had a young boy at a group home
7 with a fine director there, and she wanted to take
8 him to Georgia for the Easter vacation with a couple
9 of other kids. Well, you need a court order for
10 that. I had the court order in 11 hours, because I
11 called the GAL lawyer. It got done.

12 There are 10,000 volunteers like me in Florida
13 who have anywhere from 1 to sometimes 15 children
14 that they spend time with as volunteers,
15 court-appointed. So I want to commend you, and keep
16 Prop 40 off the ballot.

17 Thank you very much.

18 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
19 much, sir.

20 Next speaker, please.

21 MS. WALL: Hello. My name is Stephanie Wall,
22 and I'm here to represent myself and the Florida
23 Immigrant Coalition, who is led by a base of over 50
24 of our organizations across the state.

25 Proposal 29 mandates that all Florida employers

1 use the error-prone E-Verify program to determine if
2 new employees are eligible to work under immigration
3 laws. This would include U.S. citizens and lawful
4 permanent residents.

5 The Florida Legislature has rejected this
6 system on numerous occasions because they recognize
7 that this is bad for business and they recognize
8 that it intentionally or unintentionally harms those
9 who look like immigrants, such as myself.

10 We strongly urge you to opposed Proposal 29 so
11 we can be sure that authorized workers are not
12 wrongfully denied the ability to work. Implementing
13 mandatory E-Verify would be costly and burdensome to
14 Florida businesses.

15 E-Verify opens the doors to discrimination.
16 And because of this, employers may feel obligated to
17 refuse to hire those with foreign-sounding names or
18 to those that -- maybe because of the color of their
19 skin. Imposing flawed regulations onto our
20 workforce would only bury employers in unnecessary
21 paperwork and foster an environment of fear and
22 separation in our communities.

23 Commissioners, please oppose Proposal 29.

24 Thank you for your time.

25 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very

1 much.

2 I'm going to call a few more names before our
3 next speaker starts. Judy Worm, Tim Anthony, Leslie
4 Spurlock, Nick Supuran, and Rachel Sine. Please
5 come forward and get in line if you are here to
6 speak.

7 And next speaker, thank you.

8 MS. RUDLOFF: Thank you so much. And thank
9 you, Commissioners, so much for allowing us all the
10 opportunity to address you in person today. I
11 greatly appreciate that. My name's Katherine
12 Rudloff, and I'm the executive director of Brevard
13 Business Voice. I engage a group of about 45 local
14 businesses to provide a cohesive voice and political
15 advocacy at the State and local level.

16 We have investors, such as the Home Builders
17 and Contractors, the Melbourne regional chamber and
18 the Titusville chamber, giving us a large reach and
19 hopefully speaking on behalf of a large number of
20 these businesses today.

21 The business community founded this
22 organization because they believe there's a need for
23 common sense leadership and a pragmatic approach to
24 policy. And that, Commissioners, is exactly what we
25 are asking of you today.

1 We greatly appreciate your efforts to thus far
2 have open discussions and hearings surrounding a
3 number of issues that are very worthy of public
4 consideration and comments.

5 Your efforts to narrow down the proposals to
6 the now 37 remaining active was no doubt very
7 time-consuming, but a very productive exercise. But
8 37 is still too many. Some of the well-intentioned
9 proposals would be much more appropriately handled
10 by the legislature, a body designed to create,
11 update, and remove statutes as time and circumstance
12 dictate.

13 The Constitution is meant to be a more
14 consistent document outlining the rights of people,
15 defining the structure of government, and
16 establishing the limits of powers to government.
17 For example, for this reason we oppose
18 Proposal 29. And for this reason we would support
19 97 in its administrative nature.

20 I'd also like to speak personally on behalf of
21 a group home for children, residential group home,
22 and articulate our thanks that you have taken
23 Proposal 40 off the table.

24 The Haven for Children sees countless ways
25 where -- when every child, because many children are

1 already assigned an attorney, it can actually impede
2 those who are given to be their caretakers, to act
3 as parents to them, to do what is in the best
4 interest of the child.

5 If every time they try to put -- I'm going to
6 get told to leave. Thank you for taking it off. I
7 hope it stays off.

8 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
9 much. Thanks for keeping an eye on the clock. It
10 is getting late, folks. We appreciate everything.

11 Next speaker.

12 MS. SPURLOCK: Hi. I'm Leslie Spurlock and
13 I've been a lifelong Florida resident and voter.
14 I'm here today to ask you to say "no" to Proposal
15 94. This proposal actually would violate the
16 current Florida Constitution by forcibly diluting
17 funds for an effective tobacco prevention program.

18 The high school rate of smoking has dropped by
19 66.5 percent in the past ten years. The tobacco
20 industry would like nothing more than for you to
21 dilute the money going to tobacco prevention and so
22 we really ask that you please vote "no" on Proposal
23 94.

24 Thank you very much.

25 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very

1 much.

2 Next speaker. I don't see some of the others I
3 called, so I'm going to call a few more people.
4 Frank Campana, I believe Janiece Davis, Rinaldo
5 Brown, Bernard Garcia, and Liliana Alvarez.

6 Next speaker. Thank you very much.

7 MR. SUPURAN: Hi. My name is Nick Supuran. I
8 live in Melbourne. And, first, I would like to
9 start with Proposition 3, it's the first one.
10 Please do not allow visitors or non-U.S. residents
11 to buy homes or register cars or boats in Florida.
12 That's not what the United States is all about,
13 about letting anybody in.

14 I didn't move into the United States to have
15 Russians or the Chinese and North Koreans or Indians
16 or whatever move in and live next to me and control
17 what goes on on the street or what goes on in my HOA
18 or whatever. So that's the first thing.

19 We should pay attention to who comes into this
20 country. I do believe in immigration control
21 because not everybody should be welcome here if they
22 don't have the right democratic values.

23 Second, Proposal Number 13, I do believe in
24 county offices, they should have term limits. I've
25 seen too much corruption locally in the City of

1 Melbourne and county of Brevard just because people
2 think that politics is a lifestyle. And it's not.
3 It should be something that you do for your people
4 to help your neighbors and everyone else and then
5 get on with your life and go back to your normal
6 life.

7 Number 29, I would like to implement the
8 E-Verify because it's absolutely abused by the large
9 corporations, and those are the corporations that
10 give money to the elected officials, which they then
11 expect to give them privileges.

12 I also know that the State-elected officials
13 from the State of Florida are different than the
14 U.S.-elected officials from the State of Florida.
15 And that's ridiculous where I cannot tell my
16 U.S.-elected official --

17 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you, sir.
18 Thank you very, very much.

19 I think quite a few people are going home
20 because I've got many cards where people have not
21 come up. So after the next speaker, I will call
22 some more names.

23 Thank you for introducing yourself.

24 MR. CAMPANA: Yes, ma'am. My name is Frank
25 Campana. I'm a father of nine. I live in Palm Bay,

1 Florida. I'm an ambassador of the Lord Jesus
2 Christ, and I support Proposal 22 for this reason,
3 and any proposal that will abolish abortion.

4 I believe when Towfield [phonetic] came here to
5 this country -- that's a -- Proposal 22 is the one
6 where they want to amend it. I believe that in its
7 initial intent, it meant what it meant, but I
8 believe that I -- I support the fact that bringing
9 back to the original amendment -- I believe when
10 Towfield came to this country, he came to this
11 country and saw it was good. When he saw it was
12 good, he wanted to find out why America was so good.

13 America was so good because -- America was so
14 great because it was good. The schools were full.
15 The homes -- the industrial home looked beautiful
16 because they worshipped and served the living God.

17 We've fallen away from the living God. We've
18 fallen away from the fear of the Lord. The Bible
19 says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of
20 wisdom." We've lost that wisdom. We've added
21 knowledge to our children, but we do not fear the
22 Lord anymore.

23 We don't fear God. We don't have wisdom or
24 understanding. Understanding is knowing what is
25 good and evil based on the Bible, and departing from

1 evil, and doing good.

2 Abortion is an evil and is a stench to the
3 nostrils of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a smell
4 and it is a -- what I consider it, it is murder of
5 the 6th commandment. When we had this tenth
6 commandment on our walls, when a child saw "Thou
7 shall not murder," it understood what it meant.

8 And abortion is murder of the innocent child.
9 The Bible says that the God hates the hands that
10 shed innocent blood. And God cannot bless this
11 nation if we continue to murder our children.

12 If you want to know why a man could go and
13 shoot 17 children in the schools, let me express to
14 you this. If they murder inside the womb and life
15 is not valuable, what do you think he's going to do
16 outside the womb? He doesn't see it. We become
17 hypocrites when we tell our children we should not
18 murder, but yet we kill our children in the womb,
19 the most innocent victims. What do you think we're
20 teaching our children?

21 That's why it's so easy for them to take --
22 it's not the gun that's killing them. It's the god
23 that they're serving. And I want to teach our
24 children to serve the living God, the one that made
25 America great, the one why we came to this country

1 to begin with.

2 So serve God and Jesus Christ, as raised. God
3 gave us a moral law. And there are His ten
4 commandments. They are not God's suggestions. God
5 loves his people, all people. All life is valuable,
6 whether they're a dog or a child. What about the
7 baby children? What about them? They are murdered,
8 ripped from their mother's womb piece by piece.

9 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
10 much, Mr. Campana.

11 As our next speaker is coming down I'm going to
12 call some more names. Jim Turney, R. Llewellyn,
13 Lucas and Emily Bellairs, Richard Alves, and Thomas
14 Brandon. Please come down, and if you are here, let
15 me see you in the aisles because otherwise I don't
16 think anyone's here.

17 Welcome.

18 MR. BROWN: Good afternoon. My name's Reginald
19 Brown. I'm a resident in Palm Beach County. I
20 realize the hour's late. I'm going to waive my
21 right to speak. But I would like it noted that I am
22 in opposition of Proposal 94. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
24 much.

25 And you can do that. You can come up here and

1 just say what proposal you're for or against.

2 Next speaker, please. Thank you.

3 MR. TURNEY: I'm Jim Turney from Altamonte
4 Springs, Florida. I really love democracy, and I
5 would like it to be close to the people. I like the
6 idea that people will vote on issues, so I like what
7 you're doing here.

8 I also like Home Rule for the same reason. So
9 I look for every opportunity to increase and defend
10 and protect Home Rule for our municipalities and our
11 counties. And I know you put some propositions
12 aside that are about Home Rule, and if there's a way
13 to bring back 61, I'd love to see that.

14 But I know there are too many issues to put
15 them all on the ballot. I'd love to see more than
16 are possible. So you have to be selective.

17 There's some issues that I personally support
18 that I don't think should be on the ballot because
19 they don't -- the issue doesn't belong in the
20 Constitution. It belongs in the legislature or in
21 the municipality, even better.

22 But there are some issues where you might not
23 agree with them, but they should be on the ballot
24 because the people should speak to those issues.
25 They're national issues that people are talking

1 about for decades. And I'm referring specifically
2 now to adult use of cannabis.

3 This is a civil right that people should decide
4 on, not the legislature. That's an appropriate
5 issue for the Constitution. You have one public
6 proposal that's my personal favorite. It's Number
7 700000, and there are others.

8 But that's the kind of issue that you should,
9 whether you agree or not, put on the ballot. The
10 issue is not whether you agree. The issue is
11 whether the people should decide. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
13 much, Mr. Turney.

14 Next speaker. I'm going to call some more
15 names. Jim Blanchard, Rich -- I think it says
16 Chardonnay, but might just be wishful thinking.
17 Shiloh Dragon, Kathleen Kennedy. And our next
18 speaker after that would be Rhonda Waterstradt.

19 Thank you for being here.

20 MR. ALVES: Richard Alves from Daytona Beach.
21 Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, I urge you to oppose
22 Proposal 67. I'm a greyhound owner for over
23 35 years. I came here -- I wasn't going to speak.
24 I was just going to sit in the back, show my
25 support, sign in.

1 But listening to these lies by radical
2 activists who oppose this business to even go so far
3 as to brainwash their children -- and these people
4 have not even set foot in a kennel. It's just too
5 much to stand without saying a few words.

6 Thank you for your time and all. As you know,
7 the State would lose thousands of dollars in jobs,
8 thousands in the local economy.

9 The dogs don't need help. These dogs are in
10 air-conditioned kennels, spacious crates, thick
11 carpeting. They have daycare around the clock.
12 They're continuously in and out, exercised, fresh
13 water. We're inspected weekly by the State and
14 every day by the track vet.

15 After racing, the dogs are all set for homes.
16 There's a hundred percent adoption, no kill. If the
17 dogs are injured, they are rehabbed and then they
18 find a home. If you don't believe that, I wish you
19 could come to Ravenwood, and pay my medical bills.

20 As far as -- I see a few people here, The
21 Humane Society -- can they state they have a hundred
22 percent adoption? And I also see Grey2K here.
23 They're not even from the State of Florida. They're
24 just trying to put us out.

25 Have they disclosed anything, like how much

1 money have they donated to greyhound adoption and
2 how many dogs do they have in their homes as pets
3 and stuff? You know, that's all I'm going to say.
4 Thank you for your time.

5 If you have any questions, please come visit.
6 You're always welcome. Thank you very much.

7 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you,
8 Mr. Alves.

9 MS. BELLAIRS: Good evening. My name is Emily
10 Bellairs. I drove from Geneva, Florida. I'm here
11 to support Proposal 67 and end greyhound racing. I
12 was here to talk about how the gambling aspect of it
13 financially ruined some family members,
14 specifically, my grandfather.

15 Unfortunately, I have to spend this important
16 time begging you to send words to Governor Scott,
17 Senator Rubio, and others to protect my son's life
18 and to stop taking blood money from the NRA.

19 My son was in first grade when the Sandy Hook
20 slaughter occurred. He's now in fourth grade.
21 Between that time, 239 school shootings have been
22 reported. I have done a great job shielding him
23 from all the violent coverage, but I cannot shield
24 him from an AR-15 or any other weapon brought into
25 his elementary school.

1 I don't want your thoughts. I don't want your
2 prayers. I just want action. I want my son alive.
3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
5 much.

6 MR. BLANCHARD: My name is Jim Blanchard.

7 I'm president of the Florida Greyhound
8 Association. I've taken care of greyhounds for over
9 50 years. No one has more emotions than I do about
10 it, but I would like to speak against CP-67.
11 Governor Scott's message for eight years has been to
12 create jobs, jobs, jobs.

13 If CP-67 were to pass, we would lose 3,000
14 direct and up to 10,000 indirect jobs, and many of
15 those being small Florida business owners including
16 myself, also close to 15,000 greyhounds. Many on
17 farms being raised to race the next three or four
18 years will have nowhere to go. You cannot adopt
19 that many out in a reasonable timeframe.

20 I also would like to talk about what the
21 economic impact and taking of our property would
22 mean to us, including me. It would be financial
23 ruin for many who have invested heavily in our
24 businesses and would have to look to the State under
25 the Bert Harris Act for some relief. Early

1 estimates have been in the mid hundreds of millions
2 of dollars taxpayers would be held accountable for
3 it if that would go through.

4 Please vote "no" on CP-67. It does not belong
5 in our Constitution. Please don't allow CP-67 to
6 become another pregnant pig amendment for
7 out-of-state animal rights activists.

8 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you, sir.
9 Young man, please go ahead.

10 MR. ROMERO: Good evening. My name is Lucas
11 Romero. If we could have guns in our Constitution,
12 we can have dogs in our Constitution. Please help
13 end greyhound racing in Florida. Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you for
15 being succinct and to the point.

16 Next speaker, please.

17 MS. KENNEDY: I'm a lot taller than him so I
18 hope you can hear me. I'm Pat Kennedy, and I'm not
19 from out of state. I'm from Orlando, Florida, and
20 I'm here to respectfully ask you to vote "yes" and
21 support Proposal 67.

22 Greyhounds in our state, as you heard, suffer
23 deplorable conditions at the hands of the greyhound
24 racing industry, including intense confinement,
25 forced drug and steroid abuse, a diet comprised of

1 downed, diseased, and dead animals unfit for human
2 consumption, and both documented unreported injuries
3 and deaths.

4 I keep hearing how healthy and loved these
5 racing greyhounds are. But as you've also heard, on
6 average a greyhound dies at a Florida racetrack
7 every three days. That's a fact. And that doesn't
8 sound like a healthy industry that loves its animals
9 to me.

10 In addition to those who are injured or die,
11 many greyhounds simply disappear. There is no
12 record of where they go or what happens to them.
13 This was independently investigated and uncovered by
14 the Orlando area news media. To some, they are
15 ghosts, discarded and forgotten by the greyhound
16 racing industry, but remembered and fought for by
17 supporters of Proposal 67, so many of whom you've
18 seen here today.

19 The greyhound racing industry consistently puts
20 profits above welfare, and the greyhounds pay the
21 price with their lives. It is time to let Florida
22 voters decide whether they support this rampant
23 animal abuse in their state by allowing them to vote
24 on Proposal 67.

25 Thank you for the opportunity to be heard

1 today.

2 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
3 much. And as our next speakers come forward, if I
4 call your name, please come forward where I can see
5 you in the aisle.

6 Stuart Wilson, Jill Wilson, Sue Kiley,
7 Catherine Ely, and Dagmar Gatell.

8 Next speaker. Thank you.

9 MS. WATERSTRADT: Good evening. My name is
10 Rhonda Waterstradt, and I appreciate this
11 opportunity to speak to you today in opposition to
12 Proposition 40, and to express my appreciation that
13 you did not allow that to move forward out of
14 committee.

15 It is as an educator and a guardian ad litem
16 that I speak today. On the surface, this proposal
17 appears to protect children in the throes of being
18 removed from their homes. It seems to make sense.
19 Our kids should be entitled to representation by an
20 attorney.

21 What it proposes, however, is expensive,
22 unrealistic, and unnecessary. You see, I'm here to
23 tell you that these kids' best interests are already
24 represented in court when they become dependents of
25 family court.

1 First, they have a guardian ad litem. Their
2 guardian learns all about them, sees if their needs
3 are being met in their current placement, and
4 communicate the child's concerns as well as their
5 wishes to the judge.

6 Second, shelter kids are assigned a
7 best-interest attorney from the guardian ad litem
8 program. These attorneys focus only on the children
9 assigned to them and have a keen understanding of
10 the law as it applies to sheltered kids. Like
11 guardians, the best-interest attorney advocates for
12 children.

13 I believe this collaborative approach works
14 best for children. We all work as a team to make
15 recommendations to the judge as to what is in the
16 best interest of the child, and not just what the
17 child wants.

18 Unfortunately, some children say they want to
19 go back with a parent, even if that parent hurts or
20 neglects them. Additionally, some children are
21 unable to articulate what they want.

22 So I ask you, Why would we provide each child
23 with another attorney, who only represents the
24 child's wishes, when we now have a knowledgeable and
25 caring team who lets the judge know what the child

1 says he or she wants, but also makes recommendations
2 based on knowing the child and their situation well?

3 The proposition is a bad idea. It's expensive
4 and it's redundant. Please do not reconsider it.
5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
7 much. As I don't see that many people in the aisle,
8 please come forward if I call your name.

9 Colby Wise, David P. Henry, Arthur Agganis,
10 A-g-g-a-n-i-s. Sorry. That must be you. Kurt
11 T-r-z-e-c-i-a-k. Thank you. And Becky Stebbins.
12 Thank you.

13 Next speaker. I appreciate it.

14 MS. DRAGON: Hi. I'm Shiloh Dragon, and I'm
15 17. I wasn't going to speak today. I was just
16 coming to listen and be supportive, but I saw all
17 the people who were standing up for dog rights, and
18 I agree with that. I agree that all the dogs should
19 be treated fairly and with love and care.

20 But I've only seen a couple stand up for human
21 life, and that's what I'm representing here. So I
22 would like to see 22 come back to life, and I would
23 like to see that human life is respected, not only
24 just the human lives that I see outside of the womb,
25 but the human lives inside of the womb.

1 I'm 17, like I mentioned. I don't want to see
2 my friends going somewhere and making irrational
3 decisions without support. I've been doing birth
4 work for the last two years. I'm a doula, and I see
5 first hand how much support is needed in raising
6 children and going through birth and seeing the life
7 that you have.

8 And when you're taking away -- it's not about
9 privacy. It's about taking away that support that
10 you young women, you young girls, these children
11 need to raise a child, helping and aiding them to
12 making irrational decisions that will not end well,
13 and they'll end in despair and sadness and
14 depression.

15 So I would please ask all of you -- thank you
16 so much for spending all this day listening to us.
17 I'll ask you to consider and take 22 back.

18 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
19 much.

20 Next speaker, please.

21 MR. WISE: Hello, Commissioners. Thank you for
22 this opportunity to speak to you today. My name is
23 Colby Wise. In from Manatee County, Bradenton and
24 back. I speak today in support of cannabis,
25 marijuana rights for adults, as well as the Public

1 Proposal PUB 700000.

2 The civil liberty issue of cannabis is one of
3 the most important overlooked issues submitted to
4 the Constitution Revision Commission. No active
5 proposal currently under your consideration will
6 benefit Floridians as much as giving adults the
7 right to possess, use, and cultivate cannabis.

8 My proposal will end the arrest of 30,000
9 people yearly while simultaneously saving lives,
10 healing our communities, improving our economy and
11 environment.

12 Again, no other single subject will have such
13 far-reaching benefits as establishing cannabis
14 rights for adults. I urge you all, please set aside
15 any personal bias you may have about cannabis and
16 advance Public Proposal 700000 into the active
17 category and properly debate this important issue.

18 I believe, as many Floridians here, we should
19 have an equally protected right to the life-saving
20 benefits of cannabis as we currently have to own
21 something as dangerous as firearms. Following
22 recent events, I think it's important to mention
23 over the past thousand years cannabis has never
24 killed or seriously harmed anyone.

25 Cannabis does not take lives. It saves lives.

1 Currently, the most dangerous aspect of possessing,
2 using, or cultivating cannabis is getting caught
3 with it. Fortunately, this Commission has the power
4 to finally eliminate the true dangers of cannabis:
5 prohibiting it.

6 I trust this Honorable Commission will use your
7 power wisely and reconsider this proposal and
8 present Public Proposal 700000 to voters for
9 themselves to either approve or reject in November.
10 Thank you very much.

11 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
12 much.

13 MR. HENRY: Commissioner Gainey, Commissioner
14 Jonathan -- Commissioner Joyner, I left you guys
15 messages --

16 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Would you say
17 your name? I'm sorry, sir.

18 MR. HENRY: My name is David Henry, and I
19 wanted to say Happy Black History Month. I'm a
20 democrat, a father's rights advocate, a Brevard
21 County, Florida, father's rights movement.

22 I propose a proclamation recognizing April as a
23 "Friends Alienation of Use" month. It is sweeping
24 the other states.

25 Broken homes, wrong men, and dads are causing

1 many of the perpetuating dysfunctions in our
2 society. Prior service, Army, and a student here at
3 Eastern Florida State College, I've known violence
4 all throughout my life professionally and
5 environmentally. Arm our teachers and hire veterans
6 to protect our schools.

7 Department of Children and Families and
8 guardian ad litem, I believe, are committing federal
9 and state fraud, exacerbating dysfunctions on
10 American families by preying on at-risk families and
11 children.

12 Keith Parks, the Florida DCF director, I caught
13 on the step-down, for preventing the school shooter
14 from getting the help he needed as to not interrupt
15 the foster care systemic fraud abuse that has been
16 occurring. Law enforcement agencies are prevented
17 from investigating crime in homeless shelters unless
18 they give authorization to agencies due to
19 confidentiality of children, which is used as a
20 shield against liability for those shelters.

21 I believe all elections should be open to other
22 parties for healthy debate and let special
23 interests -- along with restoration of felon rights.

24 Florida Department of Law Enforcement is
25 ineffective in investigating law enforcement

1 agencies, most of which are previous members of the
2 subordinate agency and reflect collusion.

3 Law enforcement agencies should not investigate
4 their own wrong, forced shooting deaths. Please
5 raise the minimum wage to \$15. This comes out of
6 companies' top end.

7 Go watch the Black Panther. It was an amazing
8 movie. Kara [phonetic] and Nalla [phonetic], I love
9 you. And I wanted to end it on a good note.

10 (Music playing.)

11 MR. HENRY: That's from the Black Panther
12 movie.

13 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you.
14 Thank you very much. No music, but thank you very
15 much.

16 I'm going to call a few more people. Thank
17 you, sir.

18 Monica Smith, Crystal Carroll, Joseph Rumore V,
19 Karri Warren, and Henry Chin.

20 Thank you, sir. Next speaker.

21 MR. AGGANIS: My name is Arthur Agganis, and I
22 am against Proposal 67. I've been racing greyhounds
23 for 43 years. It's amazing that people who come up
24 and speak have no idea what they're talking about.
25 Some of them haven't even seen a greyhound close up,

1 nevermind talk about their needs.

2 Greyhounds love to race, plain and simple.
3 They don't want to be home on a couch without any
4 contact from their owners for 8 to 10 hours while
5 they're at work. If they had their way, they would
6 race every day at the racetrack.

7 A greyhound runs for approximately 30 to 40
8 seconds 4 or 5 days. After the race, they are
9 whirlpooled, massaged, and walked until the next
10 time they go to the racetrack.

11 Both the State of Florida and the kennels do a
12 good job making certain of all the needs the
13 greyhounds require. Greyhounds are let out every
14 morning at four a.m. and let out five times a day
15 after. Whether it's Christmas or any other holiday,
16 greyhounds come first. The kennel owners and
17 trainers work very hard and strive their very best
18 for the greyhounds.

19 Please, don't take the word of others. I would
20 love for the legislation and commissioners to come
21 visit the kennels and see for yourself how happy and
22 content the greyhounds are.

23 And no need to let us know when you're coming.
24 We do a great job every day. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you, sir.

1 Next speaker.

2 MR. TRZECIAK: I'm Kurt Trzeciak. That's
3 T-r-z-e-c-i-a-k.

4 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you.

5 MR. TREZECIAK: I'm a registered voter in Palm
6 Beach County and proud to be a greyhound trainer for
7 over 25 years. And obviously I'm opposed to 67.

8 You heard testimony from people here who have
9 actually been there and visited the kennels, and
10 they said the care of the greyhounds are happy and
11 healthy because of the excellent care provided by
12 myself and my associates.

13 Greyhounds love to run, just like Mother Nature
14 intended. They're not forced to run as some have
15 suggested. Greyhounds are born with that desire.
16 Activist groups and their followers would have you
17 believe greyhounds are neglected, mistreated, and
18 unloved. That is a lie.

19 We greyhound people have dedicated our lives to
20 these dogs, their care, and their well-being. This
21 is not a job to us. It is a way of life. And as I
22 said before, our dogs always come first.

23 Activists will tell you greyhound racing is
24 banned in 40 states. That is a lie. The betting on
25 dog racing is banned, as are other forms of

1 gambling. But competitive dog racing is legal and
2 it occurs on an unregulated amateur level in many
3 states.

4 Activists say dogs are locked away for up to 23
5 hours a day with no human interaction. That is a
6 lie. Greyhounds are walked, sprinted, exercised,
7 whirlpooled, groomed, massaged on a daily basis.
8 All that on top of being let outside five or more
9 times a day to play and relieve themselves.

10 As others have said, I urge you to do your own
11 research. Go to a greyhound farm or a racing kennel
12 and see what goes on with your own eyes. Any of you
13 would be welcome in my kennel or any of my
14 associates' kennels. Don't believe everything the
15 activist organizations have brainwashed their
16 followers with. They need their donations to pay
17 themselves hefty salaries.

18 Come see the care we provide. Please, come see
19 the truth.

20 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you.
21 Thank you very much.

22 I'm going to call some more names. Timothy
23 Allen. It's a hyphenated name. Goodin, I believe
24 it's "Stan" Goodin. Pam Gould, Mary Ann Dituro, and
25 Chey Kuriata. Thank you.

1 And just so everyone knows, we have -- I've got
2 a pile of people who don't seem like they are here,
3 but they might be. And then we've got 40 left. And
4 it's 7:00, and we will stay, but we do appreciate
5 everything. Thank you.

6 MS. SMITH: My name is Monica Smith. I moved
7 to America 30 years ago from Switzerland to train
8 racing greyhounds here. Since then I worked on
9 several Florida greyhound tracks and I founded a
10 very large adoption program called "Greyhound
11 Support Transport."

12 These people are lying. We not abusing
13 greyhounds, and I urge you to vote "no" on Proposal
14 67. And just an aside, Switzerland and Austria and
15 Germany running all these dogs for fun and nobody
16 says they're being abused. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
18 much.

19 Next speaker.

20 MR. CHIN: My name is Henry Chin. I'm from
21 West Palm Beach. I wish I had a Bible in front of
22 me so I could put my hand on it because for the last
23 six hours I hear people coming up describing the
24 conditions of our greyhounds, the way they live, the
25 way they eat. But yet, they never visit a greyhound

1 kennel but they know all about it. How is that
2 possible? That's why I wish I had a Bible in front
3 of me for all of us to "held" up.

4 Another thing I worry about is, you know, these
5 people describe these horrific things here, but yet
6 they don't report. Why don't they report it to
7 their local authorities or their animal control
8 department? I believe that animal abuse is a crime
9 in this state here.

10 So these people are turning a blind eye and
11 telling you how much they're being abused, but they
12 don't report it to nobody. So they make us look
13 like the bad people. So, you know, couple months
14 ago there was a video of the dairy cows we abused.
15 What happened to those guys? They were arrested,
16 and they're going to be prosecuted. That's the way
17 it works.

18 So why we have these laws? That's what it's
19 defending for. So greyhound racing can profit if
20 you had better laws and regulations. Listen, I
21 heard somebody say it was a dying industry.
22 Whatever the case, if it's dying, let it die on its
23 own. I don't want somebody pushing me off the cliff
24 and being in my industry. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very

1 much.

2 I'm going to call some more names. Please come
3 forward. Phillip S-t-a- -- Stasik, Phillip E.
4 Stasik, Zachary Brandon, Owen Letzinger, Lauren
5 Roub, R-o-u-b, and Elizabeth Watkins.

6 Thank you for making your way to the front.

7 MS. GOODIN: I'm ready. I'll start.

8 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you.

9 MS. GOODIN: Hi. My name is Sara Goodin. I'm
10 the president of the Brevard Chapter of the Florida
11 Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. I also
12 serve the State of Florida as an assistant public
13 defender. And in my prior career I was a police
14 officer for the United States Army.

15 And with all that experience, I'm asking you to
16 vote "no" on Proposition 96, which covers victim
17 rights. Let me tell you why. First, I want to tell
18 you that victim rights are very important. That's
19 why they're already covered under the Florida
20 Statutes, Florida Statute 960.

21 And I would implore those who are here today,
22 especially some of those victims who spoke, to see
23 all the hard work that has been done in the
24 legislature to draft that, which covers a lot of
25 issues that are already right in this proposal.

1 I think that the statute is the appropriate
2 place to address that because that statute has been
3 amended multiple times. That statute more closely
4 tracks the Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure than
5 this constitutional proposal does. So I think the
6 appropriate place is the statute.

7 The most egregious issue in that proposal is
8 that the victims could opt out from deposition and
9 interviews. I don't think that would serve the
10 criminal justice system, and I honestly don't think
11 that would serve the victim. A lot of pleas and a
12 lot of case resolutions occur from the deposition.

13 As we know domestic violence cases, a lot of
14 times the abuser will say, "She's not going to
15 testify against me" or in a sexual assault case
16 there's a he said/she said, maybe involves drugs or
17 alcohol, and there's conflicting stories.

18 The truth is flushed out a lot of times in
19 depositions. And then I can go to my client and
20 say, "You know what? She came to that deposition.
21 She was firm in her story. She said you did do
22 this, and we need to resolve this case."

23 To not allow defendants through their attorney
24 to do depositions would result in more trials and
25 more expense, and also the State demand for speedy

1 trial.

2 I would implore the Commission to check the
3 Florida Rules of Criminal Procedure and under the
4 Victims Rights Act under Florida Statute 960. That
5 closer tracks the Florida Rules of Criminal
6 Procedure.

7 The timelines that you guys have put in are
8 absolutely unreasonable for the State's right to
9 demand a speedy trial. They already have a
10 statutory right to it, and I ask that you review
11 those rules and make the appropriate changes. Thank
12 you.

13 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
14 much.

15 MS. DITURO: Good evening. My name is Mary Ann
16 Dituro, and I'm in strong opposition to Proposal 67.
17 I've been involved in all aspects of greyhound
18 adoption since 2001. I also seen firsthand how dogs
19 are cared for in the racing industry, so in 2016 I
20 purchased a racing puppy. He's now actively racing.

21 Many other adopters have done likewise in the
22 last couple of years for the same reasons I did.
23 They've seen the good care given to the dogs by the
24 vast majority of those in the industry. Greyhounds
25 make wonderful pets and I believe it's because of

1 the care that these animals receive, not in spite of
2 it at all.

3 In fact, greyhounds are now being used as
4 service animals. It would not be possible with
5 abused dogs. Those who support Proposal 67 have
6 told you that their mission to end greyhound racing
7 is overwhelmingly supported by adoption groups.
8 This not true.

9 Last week an attempt was made by Mr. Field's
10 organization to list all adoption groups to their
11 web site, and within four hours on Friday I counted
12 over 50 groups in North America who either contacted
13 them directly or had attorneys send cease and desist
14 letters to be removed from the list immediately.

15 They do not want to be associated with banning
16 racing because they have seen firsthand that the
17 care given to the dogs is in direct contradiction to
18 the claims of abuse.

19 Furthermore, using track attendance as an
20 indicator of racing popularity is not completely
21 valid. Just as brick-and-mortar stores have seen a
22 decrease in foot traffic and a boom in online sales,
23 wagering has been affected likewise.

24 Proposal 67 seeks to decimate an entire
25 industry leaving over 3,000 people jobless who work

1 directly with the dogs, another 10,000 affected in
2 affiliated industries, and over 10,000 dogs in need
3 of relocation to either homes or tracks in other
4 states.

5 This proposal makes no provisions for either
6 human or hound. A proposal so flawed that it can't
7 even make it through the legislative process does
8 not belong in our Constitution.

9 Please do not support Proposal 67. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you,
11 ma'am.

12 MR. STASIK: Good evening, Commissioners.
13 You're hanging in there with us. Thank you for
14 being here all night. I'm Phil Stasik, north
15 Merritt Island. I'm speaking as president of the
16 Space Coast Progressive Alliance. We stand in
17 support of the League of Women Voters and its
18 opposition to 4, 22, 29, 43, 45, 71, 72, 95, 96, and
19 97.

20 They call them the "Terrible 10." I know a
21 couple are already off the table, but the essence is
22 that we strongly oppose them. We defend public
23 schools. We believe that people have a right to
24 reproductive rights, civil rights, and support of
25 the separation of church and state. Those are all

1 very important.

2 We also strongly believe that you should vote
3 "yes" on Proposition 67 and 91, defending the earth,
4 defending these animals. We believe that's very
5 important. But we understand that you have a very,
6 very heavy burden.

7 Those of you sitting at these tables have
8 tremendous power, tremendous power, maybe more power
9 than you should have. And you must wield that power
10 very wisely.

11 We ask you to tread lightly on our
12 Constitution. The power that you have is greater
13 than the power of virtually everyone else in this
14 State. To place something directly on the ballot,
15 this is something I know that you take seriously.
16 And we understand that you all have a conscience.

17 But remember, what you do in making these
18 decisions would be a legacy that you will leave
19 behind, a legacy, a decision. These are decisions
20 that you cannot take back, and these are a legacy
21 that we, the rest of us citizens in this State, must
22 live with.

23 So we ask you, tread lightly on the
24 Constitution. We know that you've heard us, but we
25 ask that you listen again. "No" on 4, 22, 29, 43,

1 45, 71, 72, 75, 95, 96, 97. "Yes" on 67 and 91.

2 Thank you. Good night.

3 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
4 much.

5 I'll call a few more names. Please come
6 forward and please stand in the aisles if you are
7 here so I can judge things.

8 Linda Scales, Sara Elizabeth Kenney-- with the
9 best handwriting ever -- Judith Weaver, Pat Milone,
10 and Lorena Dugan.

11 Next speaker.

12 MR. KURIATA: Hello. My name is Chey Kuriata
13 and I vote "no" on Proposition 67. I've been doing
14 this since I was the age of 17, and I'll be turning
15 39 this year. Because of these dogs, they've kept
16 me out of trouble. I haven't been to jail since I
17 was 23, when I got in the business because I started
18 as a leadout.

19 And I been around the whole country and I love
20 my dogs. I get there about 5:00 in the morning and
21 I don't leave until 10:00 at night. I hug, I kiss,
22 I cry. I just love my dogs.

23 So I would like you to vote "no" on
24 Proposition 67. Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very

1 much.

2 Next speaker.

3 MS. WATKINS: Hi. Thank you so much. My name
4 is Elizabeth Watkins, and I'm here on behalf of the
5 The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network to
6 speak on Proposal 94. ACSCAN knows about the
7 importance of funding cancer research. However,
8 diverting money from an effective cancer prevention
9 program to cancer research is not the way to do it.

10 If adopted, Proposal 94 will do irreparable
11 harm to our program that has consistently delivered
12 on its promise of driving down the smoking rate,
13 saving the State of Florida money and preventing
14 death from tobacco-related diseases.

15 Let's remember where the funding for this
16 program comes from. These are not taxpayer dollars.
17 They're tobacco settlement dollars, paid by the
18 tobacco industry as a consequence for the deadly
19 products they sold to citizens of our state all
20 while lying about the health effects.

21 I'm asking the members of this Commission to
22 protect the citizens of Florida rather than
23 protecting the profits of big tobacco. As program
24 funding decisions are left in the legislature rather
25 than the experts that know what works to combat

1 tobacco addiction, history has proven that the
2 program will suffer and smoking rates will rise.

3 I also want to speak in support of Commissioner
4 Lisa Carlton's Proposal 65, which would include
5 e-cigarettes in the Florida Clean Indoor Act. I'd
6 like to encourage her to continue working with
7 public health advocates to bring a meaningful and
8 strong Amendment IV that would work to protect all
9 Floridians from the dangers of both secondhand smoke
10 and chemicals emitted from e-cigarettes and similar
11 devices.

12 Thank you guys so much.

13 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you.

14 Next speaker.

15 MS. MILONE: Pat Milone from Dade County.

16 Thanks for staying so late. Regarding religious
17 freedom, we already have religious freedom. In this
18 country we are free to contribute toward any
19 religious church, temple, synagogue, mosque, or
20 indigenous sacred site that we choose.

21 Our Constitution prohibits our public revenues
22 to aid religious establishments and with good
23 reason: separation of church and state.

24 No matter what our beliefs, we citizens have
25 the right not to have our taxes and revenues

1 diverted to aid to any groups that support religious
2 enterprises. Please uphold the separation of church
3 and state and vote "no" on Prop 4.

4 Regarding privacy rights, I oppose Prop 22.
5 Our Florida Constitution currently protects us from
6 government surveillance and government intrusion
7 into our personal lives. Prop 22 insinuates the one
8 phrase that would remove those protections by
9 specifying only privacy of information and
10 disclosure.

11 This is a blatant attempt to weaken our privacy
12 rights regarding marriage, sexual relations,
13 parental decisions, reproductive and medical
14 decisions. Please vote "no" on Prop 94.

15 Taking money from cancer prevention to divert
16 it to cancer treatment is counterproductive. If you
17 walk for the cure, you need to march against the
18 cause, which is toxic chemicals in our food and
19 water system, and tobacco.

20 Also I want to thank Commissioner
21 Thurlow-Lippisch for proposing Proposition 91 to
22 protect our coastal waters, which are in danger, not
23 only from offshore drilling, but from sewage leakage
24 from bad infrastructure. And that is because
25 funding has been diverted to other county things.

1 Also -- I think that's it. Thank you very
2 much.

3 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Great. Thank
4 you so much. You all are doing a great job.

5 I'm going to call a few more names, and I'm
6 glad you're here. Ashley Berke, Matt Barringer,
7 R.T. Platt, Lori Knerick, and Karen Greb. Thank
8 you.

9 MS. DUGAN: Good evening. My name is Lorena
10 Dugan, and I appreciate the opportunity to be here.
11 I too came as a spectator. I did not plan to speak.
12 But as I am learning, Proposal 88 would add a
13 nursing home, assisted living facility residents
14 bill of rights to the Florida Constitution to
15 establish a situation where rights of residents in
16 long-term care facilities are at least on par with
17 the rights of people everywhere.

18 I fear that this is going to be a battle
19 between two lobbies, and I want you to realize that
20 there are people out there that count on your
21 support because families that are aging out -- as
22 you know, our insurance industry and the new
23 healthcare facilities that are coming online, some
24 of them don't take insurance. Many of these people
25 have not planned for long-term healthcare.

1 Three years ago my mother's husband was
2 diagnosed with dementia and Alzheimer's -- the
3 sweetest man that ever lived -- but in the year and
4 a half that he was in a facility that we researched,
5 that we thought was wonderful, that halfway through
6 went from an older facility near Shands to a brand
7 new, beautiful facility, we realized after a while
8 that he was being abused, that he was being
9 attacked, that he was not given medication that he
10 should have been given.

11 Every person out here, it is your nightmare.
12 And I watched my mother live through it. She
13 visited him every three days. Many of these folks
14 have no one. I speak to you today because we did
15 consult an attorney.

16 These businesses have positioned themselves
17 into many businesses and so they cannot be sued. It
18 is very difficult for a family that is going through
19 something like this to navigate the right way
20 through the legislature, through the laws. And
21 they're not going to police themselves.

22 Please consider the quiet majority of people in
23 facilities that are not Five Star. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
25 much.

1 Next speaker.

2 MS. KENNEY: Hello. My name is Elizabeth
3 Kenney, and I'm here representing myself for a
4 standpoint on Proposal 4. I want you all to ask
5 yourselves, What is the point of education? It's to
6 educate.

7 Now to ask yourself, What's the point of
8 history? Well, if you don't know, it's to prevent
9 the repetition of the horrible things that we've
10 done in the past. Today I believe that history is
11 more relevant than ever. Our country is more
12 divided than it's ever been in decades, and you
13 cannot deny the pattern that it's displayed between
14 our history books and what is displayed in our media
15 today.

16 In our Founding Father's farewell address,
17 George Washington not only addressed his foreign
18 policies, constitutional changes, and religion, but
19 he also predicted the negative impact of removing
20 things, such as religion and the separation of state
21 and church.

22 Religion is the glue that's held us together
23 for nearly 230 years, whether it's Christianity,
24 Catholic, or anything, Judaism. Maybe if it was
25 more included, there wouldn't be mass shootings in

1 our nation. Maybe if Nikolas Cruz was raised to
2 believe "thou shall not kill," there wouldn't be 17
3 innocent kids and adults dead.

4 Stop trying to take religion out of school, and
5 instead of hiding your children, teach them. That's
6 the point of education and that's the point of going
7 to school. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
9 much.

10 I'm going to call a few more names. I'm glad
11 we have people coming up. Maryellen Garamone, David
12 Jantz, Suzanne Jantz, Christina Keshishian, Glenn
13 Pinfield.

14 Please start. Thank you.

15 MS. BERKE: My name is Ashley Berke. I'm here
16 to support Proposal 67 to end greyhound racing. I'm
17 not a radical. I'm not a paid protester. I'm a
18 lifelong Florida resident, and I live here in
19 Melbourne. I worked in animal rescue with an
20 organization who has investigated illegal animal
21 fighting rings, which are tied to extreme animal
22 cruelty and illegal drug activity. This industry
23 keeps underground activities like that in business.

24 They claim that they are held accountable, but
25 the USDA and State agencies do not effectively

1 enforce the Animal Welfare Act. For example, of the
2 10,000 puppy mills in this country, only 3,000 are
3 inspected. USDA inspectors have a record of
4 leniency towards commercial breeders. Auditors have
5 found that many inspectors took little or no action
6 against most violators of the Animal Welfare Act,
7 including many which have repeat violations.

8 If greyhound racing was a harmless industry, a
9 majority of the states would not have made it
10 illegal. It's simple. Personal financial interests
11 and family tradition do not justify a cruel
12 business.

13 And I would like you to please allow the voters
14 to make a decision on Proposal 67.

15 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
16 much. And I want to commend all of you for coming
17 up and speaking. Thank you.

18 Next speaker, please.

19 MS. GREB: Good evening, Chairman and
20 Commissioners. Thank you so much for all of your
21 service and for hearing all of us out. I'm here in
22 support of Proposal 67, and I humbly ask for your
23 unanimous support in moving this to the November
24 ballot. Thank you very much.

25 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thanks. What's

1 your name, please?

2 MS. GREB: Karen Greb from Stuart, Florida.

3 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you,
4 Ms. Greb.

5 MR. BARRINGER: Good evening. My name is
6 Matthew Barringer. I'm the vice-mayor of the City
7 of Titusville. The following was brought as an
8 adopted presentation for you all, one by our
9 council.

10 One would be to ensure that Proposal 95 not be
11 brought back before the full Commission; Proposal 61
12 be left for dead; "no" to Proposal 72 as that
13 impedes funding to local government; "yes" to
14 Proposal 91 to reduce drilling.

15 But the two overreaching concepts of 1, please
16 do not impede or reduce Home Rule. We'd like to see
17 more language like "shalls" and "musts" instead of
18 reducing Home Rule.

19 Additionally, anything that might -- that may
20 be a detriment to the Indian River Lagoon we
21 strongly are against, the 60 percent of its
22 shoreline on the coast. And to be frank, I still
23 don't eat any shrimp that come out of the gulf. So
24 there's a reason why we don't want to do that,
25 additional impact to our tourism industry.

1 As an individual no longer speaking for the
2 citizens of Titusville, but for myself, I'm also an
3 educator as well and I educate in special education,
4 specifically teaching with emotional and behaviorial
5 disorders, or disabilities.

6 One, anything to do with class size amendments,
7 we tried that and it was manipulated where the
8 intent was to reduce class sizes. There still was
9 40-something children. So whatever you put in
10 there, make sure the language, the "shalls" and
11 "musts" -- not "to be determined."

12 Additionally, as a teacher, "yes" to 97. As an
13 individual, I also believe that "yes" to 97, as I
14 think the amendments to the Constitution is a
15 serious deal and shouldn't be made lightly.

16 Specific as an educator would be a "no" to
17 Proposal 45. I'm a "no" to Proposal 71. I'm a "no"
18 to Proposal 93, specifically the reduction of
19 funding to public schools by the creation of
20 charters. My kid goes to a charter school and --

21 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you.

22 MR. BARRINGER: Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
24 much. Thanks for your service.

25 You can come up to the mike even if you're not

1 ready yet.

2 MS. KNERICK: Hi. My name is Lori Knerick and
3 I would like to thank all of you for coming down
4 here to Melbourne and giving us this opportunity to
5 talk about these important issues. I'm from
6 Melbourne, Florida, and I am here to respectfully
7 ask you to please support Proposal 67 to phase out
8 greyhound racing.

9 I'm not paid by any organization. I'm just
10 here speaking from the heart. And I think if we all
11 look into our heart and soul and think about what is
12 right and wrong, we know it is simply cruel to use
13 dogs in this way. I know gambling is a big
14 industry, but there are many other things to gamble
15 on, many other ways to gamble.

16 I hear the families talking and I do feel bad
17 for anyone that would lose their income, but I'm
18 sorry if you have put your income on the backs of a
19 bunch of dogs and relied on that. And I just
20 personally think that's sad. And anyone that deals
21 with dogs and any animals might feel that way.

22 So anyway, just thanks again. And please do
23 support Proposal 67. Thanks for your time.

24 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you,
25 ma'am. Thank you very much.

1 I'm going to call some more names. Please, we
2 have about 25 forms left. Maryellen Garamone, David
3 Jantz. Did I call these? I'll call them again,
4 sorry. Susan Jantz, Christina Keshishian -- I
5 messed that up the first time -- and Glenn Pinfield.
6 I'm sorry.

7 So I'll call a few more. Pamela Sotelo,
8 Katherine Heron, Cheryl Lankes, Leslie Mahoney -- or
9 Maloney -- and Melissa Martin. And that means we
10 have 20, not 25.

11 Thank you, sir. Please start. I'm sorry.
12 You're next.

13 MR. JANTZ: I'm David Jantz, a Florida resident
14 for 35 years living in Mount Dora. I wish to thank
15 you for all this long, long day that you've been
16 involved in on the important issues. And we really
17 have a job ahead, I guess.

18 I'm hoping that the full Commission will
19 revisit a vote to approve Proposal 62 for open
20 primaries. I was disappointed that this proposal
21 was tabled by the General Provisions Committee after
22 it was approved by the Ethics and Elections.

23 Because nominees are selected in the primary
24 election, it's vitally important that all Floridians
25 have a voice in this process. Polls show that about

1 73 percent of voters want this amendment -- and
2 that's irrespective of political affiliation -- on
3 the ballot.

4 Independent or NPA, or not affiliated,
5 registered voters that make up 27 percent of
6 Florida's voter registration are prohibited from
7 voting in these party primaries, forcing party
8 affiliation in order to participate.

9 Please enable Florida to advance democracy by
10 giving the 3.4 million independents a better voice
11 in their representative government with open
12 primaries by supporting Proposal 62. Open primaries
13 would promote better voter participation as
14 candidates would need to speak to a broader
15 electorate and campaign on ideas and solutions
16 versus narrow party ideologies appealing to small
17 core constituencies.

18 Thank you very much.

19 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you, sir.

20 MS. KESHISHIAN: My name is Christina
21 Keshishian. I'm here to ask you to support
22 Proposition 91. Florida beaches are our number one
23 attraction. Offshore drilling would put us at risk
24 for tar balls on the beach, eyesores on our horizon,
25 and the potential destruction of priceless natural

1 habitat. Nobody comes to Florida to look at oil
2 rigs.

3 I'd like to also thank you for voting down
4 Proposal 95. I would hope that that does not
5 reemerge at any time. Home Rule has been under
6 attack in Florida, and we need to protect our
7 ability to govern at the local level.

8 Lastly, I didn't want to leave without honoring
9 my old greyhound, "Blazing on a Paw." I adopted him
10 several years ago and he's since passed on, but I
11 adopted him as a two-year-old. He was going to be
12 destroyed because in the six races that he ran, he
13 either failed to run or came in last place.

14 And I looked up his record back when I adopted
15 him off the Melbourne track. So please give us a
16 chance to vote on Proposition 67. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you so
18 much.

19 Ma'am.

20 MS. JANTZ: Hi. I'm Suzanne Jantz. I've been
21 a voter and Florida resident for 35 years. I'm
22 retired and live in Mount Dora. I'm disappointed
23 that Proposal 62 was tabled. I'm grateful to
24 Commissioner Schifino for proposing 62 for open
25 primaries.

1 Please revisit Proposal 62. U.S. democracy is
2 experiencing challenging times. Foreign powers are
3 influencing the process. Voters are
4 disenfranchised. Voter turnout is shamefully low.

5 People say they're disgusted for these reasons.
6 They say government is too partisan; the system is
7 corrupt and rigged; their vote doesn't matter; they
8 don't like either candidate; they moved here from a
9 state with open primaries and didn't know they would
10 be disallowed.

11 You have the power to change this by
12 reconsidering Proposal 62 to authorize all qualified
13 electors to vote in primary elections regardless of
14 party affiliation. It's important that you cast as
15 broad a net as possible to keep people in the
16 process and to moot the influence of special
17 interest and foreign powers in our elections.

18 Please help engage more voters in a process
19 that they consider fair. This is an opportunity
20 that I hope you will take. And I thank you so much
21 for being here today and listening to us in
22 consideration.

23 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
24 much.

25 MR. PINFIELD: My name is Glenn Pinfield. I

1 live here in Melbourne. And I wanted to ask you to
2 add a couple of things onto -- for a vote, to be
3 added to the Constitution.

4 In 1988 Judge Francis Young -- he was an
5 administrative law judge for the DEA -- said that
6 cannabis is one of the most benign therapeutically
7 active substances known to man, and he recommended
8 that it be rescheduled.

9 You guys have an opportunity here to be ahead
10 of the curve and put up for a vote on the ballot the
11 legalization of cannabis for all adults. And what
12 you would be accomplishing at the same time would be
13 making up for the atrocious ridiculous medical
14 marijuana system that has been set up in the State
15 of Florida.

16 Having gone through that system, I can tell you
17 it's pretty much a waste of time. It costs too much
18 money, and you don't actually get access to any
19 cannabis that you actually need. It seems like it
20 was put into place primarily to obstruct access for
21 people who have a medical necessity.

22 As somebody who's been suffering from
23 Parkinson's disease for a number of years, I would
24 have appreciated that the legislature and the Scott
25 Administration would honor this 70-some percent of

1 the people that voted for medical marijuana.

2 Well, they didn't. So you guys have a chance
3 to be ahead of the curve and do what obviously is
4 going to happen eventually anyway. You can do it
5 now instead of waiting.

6 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
7 much, sir.

8 Please come forward if you're going to speak.
9 I'm going to call a few more names. We're getting
10 down to the end. Bart Gaetjens, Dale C. Young, Mark
11 Ryan, Claudia McCaskill, and Maria M.L. Thompson.
12 Please, let me see you in the aisles if you are
13 here.

14 Thank you, ma'am, for starting.

15 MS. SOTELO: Good evening. My name is Pamela
16 Sotelo. For the past six years I've served the
17 Brevard community as a volunteer, trained guardian
18 ad litem. I wanted to thank the Declaration of
19 Rights Committee for voting down Proposal 40 earlier
20 in January.

21 Children that are removed from their homes do
22 have an attorney representing them in dependency
23 court. They are called the child's best-interest
24 attorney. Their commitment to the safety and
25 welfare of vulnerable children is second to none.

1 In 2015 I was a guardian of a young girl who
2 was removed from her mother's care due to substance
3 abuse. The child was placed with her grandmother,
4 and the mother entered a drug treatment facility in
5 Tennessee. Unfortunately, things here unraveled
6 rather quickly.

7 Despite only being four, the child was asked to
8 leave not one, but two preschools because of her
9 angry outbursts. And it was also clear that her
10 grandmother was quickly growing weary of the
11 childcare and the restrictions it was imposing on
12 her life.

13 It was the guardian ad litem team of the
14 guardian ad litem, myself, and the attorney, who
15 recognized that the child would be better off placed
16 with her mother. The treatment center that she was
17 attending had facilities to allow them to live
18 together where they could both receive counseling
19 and repair their fractured bond.

20 Fortunately, because of the relationship,
21 communication, and the accessibility I had to our
22 attorney, she was able to prepare the motion for
23 change of placement rather than wait for Child Legal
24 Services or a parent's attorney to identify this
25 child's needs.

1 I'm happy to say that this little girl was
2 reunited with her mother in a matter of weeks rather
3 than six months to a year, which is what it can take
4 sometimes to move a child. And it was done because
5 of this attorney's proactive work on behalf of the
6 child.

7 I am here to ask you to recognize the
8 commitment and the advocacy of these incredibly
9 dedicated and passionate best-interest attorneys by
10 not allowing the reconsideration of Proposition 40.

11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
13 much.

14 MS. MCCASKILL: Good evening. My name is
15 Claudia McCaskill. It was a difficult and arduous
16 task to find the right dog to help me with my
17 disability. I tried local shelters but none had a
18 dog with the right temperament to be a service
19 animal.

20 When I came upon Awesome Greyhound Adoptions in
21 Palm Beach County, they educated me on how wonderful
22 greyhounds are as service animals. I knew nothing
23 of the breed, and the president, Barbara Masi, made
24 sure to educate me on how different they are than
25 all other dogs.

1 This is Coral. Coral has helped me with many
2 tasks on a daily basis. I am lucky to have a
3 lifesaver by my side. What I can say about
4 greyhounds like her, former racers, is that she and
5 many like her have been well taken care of while
6 they are racing. I have seen it.

7 To shut down greyhound racing, it would rob
8 them of their love to race. It would flood the
9 streets with unwanted dogs. There aren't enough
10 fosters or adopters in this country to fill their
11 homes with these beautiful dogs. They would fill
12 kill shelters, and dogs like Coral wouldn't be able
13 to live out the rest of their lives in loving homes
14 as pets, or get to assist, or save humans like me
15 who need them.

16 A racing greyhound is worth thousands of
17 dollars. A retired racing greyhound pet is worth
18 millions to his or her owner. A retired racing
19 greyhound service dog in the hands of a military
20 veteran or a civilian like me is priceless.

21 Please consider what a travesty it would be if
22 you were to end their racing. Please vote "no" on
23 Prop 67.

24 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you.
25 Thank you very much.

1 MS. HERON: My name is Kathy Heron and I'm a
2 Brevard County resident and a local business owner.
3 I'm here to thank you for not moving forward on
4 Proposal 40. I understand that Florida Children
5 First has asked you to reconsider your vote, and I
6 believe it is a mistake to put Proposal 40 on the
7 ballot, and I urge you not to reconsider your
8 decision.

9 I've been a guardian ad litem volunteer for
10 five years. In one of my cases an 18-month-old
11 child had his skull cracked by his mother's
12 boyfriend, and his mother then delayed medical
13 treatment for the child for two days. The child's
14 older brother wanted to return home to his mother.
15 At the time his mother's home was not a safe place
16 for him.

17 If these children had received an appointed
18 attorney instead of a best-interest attorney, this
19 child's attorney would have been bound to ask the
20 court to reunify him with his mother. This child
21 would have had the final say in what his attorney
22 would tell the dependency judge.

23 It's my opinion that very few guardian ad litem
24 volunteers would continue to volunteer without the
25 help and support of the best-interest attorneys with

1 the guardian ad litem. I believe if we move forward
2 on Proposal 40, we will put more children at risk by
3 returning them to their parents before it is truly
4 safe. Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
6 much.

7 MR. YOUNG: Dale Young in opposition of
8 Proposal 11.

9 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: I'm sorry.
10 Your name again, sir?

11 MR. YOUNG: Dale Young.

12 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you.

13 MR. YOUNG: The party primary is for the
14 candidates of the party of the same affiliation, and
15 they can't be opposed by candidates from any other
16 party. The voters, all registered voters, get to
17 vote in the general election.

18 Party members belong because of agreeing with
19 the party stance a candidate or other choices of
20 party affiliation often denotes a candidate's
21 position. If a political party is unable to field
22 candidates, it might well be due to an unpopular
23 position or deficiency in the party.

24 The entire purpose of party primaries is to
25 select the most popular party candidate, a proven

1 process that would be meaningless if open to
2 opposing parties. This would be similar to the
3 Gators saying, "I want to play in your Seminoles
4 game." This revision would be a recipe for election
5 corruption, disruption, and political skullduggery.

6 A political party too unpopular for popular
7 adoption or so bereft of an acceptable political
8 position as to be unable to field a candidate could
9 orchestrate a large enough vote as to deny the
10 legitimate candidate to win.

11 This is a proposal for the purpose of allowing
12 otherwise ineffective political organizations a way
13 to subvert the popular election. It's kind of like
14 doing your homework. I didn't do mine, so I want to
15 use yours. Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you, sir.

17 MS. THOMPSON: Good evening. My name is Maria
18 Thompson, and I'm a child's best-interest attorney
19 with the guardian ad litem program. I'm here on my
20 own time and of my own accord to advocate against
21 the reconsideration of Proposal 40. The
22 consequences of a child in the dependency system
23 unilaterally directing his or her own legal advocacy
24 could put that child at great risk of ongoing abuse,
25 abandonment, or neglect, and in the most severe

1 cases could have life or death consequences.

2 For example, if a four-year-old child who had
3 been egregiously physically abused and malnourished
4 by her parents said to her attorney, "I want to go
5 home to Mommy and Daddy now," there's no ethical
6 rule or legal provision that I'm aware of that would
7 allow for an attorney ad litem to do anything other
8 than zealously advocate against termination of
9 parental rights and for the immediate return of that
10 child to her parents.

11 For that four-year-old child, successful legal
12 advocacy by the attorney ad litem would result in
13 this child returning home and potentially being
14 subjected to ongoing abuse or even death at the
15 hands of her parents.

16 Children in the dependency system are often
17 under tremendous pressure from their parents and
18 caregivers. Some children are threatened with
19 repercussions if they testify against their parents
20 or take a position other than the one they're told
21 to take. These children often fear the consequences
22 of saying the wrong thing.

23 Children deserve to simply be able to be
24 children rather than be required to make
25 life-altering decisions in order to tell their

1 attorney what position to take and then left to
2 worry about the consequences of those decisions.

3 Alternatively, best-interest advocacy of the
4 GAL program allow for a child to have an attorney in
5 their corner in and out of the courtroom ensuring
6 their voices and wishes are heard, and then fighting
7 for their best interest based not solely on the
8 child's wishes, but also on information gathered
9 about the child and the family.

10 This model allows children to be present and
11 involved in the proceedings to the extent that they
12 wish to be involved, while also giving them the
13 freedom to simply be children.

14 Please let Florida's most vulnerable children
15 be children and do not reconsider Proposal 40.
16 Thank you so much.

17 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
18 much. I'm going to call a few more names. Thank
19 you for waiting.

20 Lorisa Svechin, Catherine Durkin Robinson,
21 Thomas Carter, Tracy Stover, Chase Hansel, and Mary
22 Ann Grzybowski.

23 Thank you, sir.

24 MR. GAETJENS: Good evening. Bart Gaetjens. I
25 will be brief. I speak in favor of Proposal 97,

1 which will add consistency to Florida's
2 Constitution. It will protect Florida's sacred
3 foundational document particularly from out-of-state
4 interests.

5 As a Floridian I want to see the Florida
6 Constitution protected. Other citizens have spoken
7 and approve this language for the taxing amendment,
8 and that is why I ask your consideration for
9 approval of Proposal 97.

10 And I thank you for your extra time and all
11 your efforts. Good evening.

12 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you, sir.
13 Thank you very much.

14 MR. CARTER: Good evening. I am Thomas Carter
15 speaking for Proposal 67. I was one of the original
16 street fighters collecting petitions for the
17 Seminole County ballot initiative, which eventually
18 led to the adoption of the Greyhound Protection Act.
19 It was as a result of a tremendous all-volunteer
20 effort.

21 I'm not going to argue the merits or demerits
22 of greyhound racing. Suffice to say, I strongly
23 oppose greyhound racing as I personally believe it
24 is unnecessary exploitation and suffering of
25 innocent animals without a voice. For what?

1 Amusement and money. I find that offensive and
2 pathetic. I say find something else to amuse
3 yourself and gamble on something benign that does
4 not hurt animals.

5 I urge you to place Proposal 67 on the ballot
6 and let the voting public be the judge and jury on
7 this issue. I believe Seminole County is a
8 representative sample of the mood in the State of
9 Florida and accordingly this amendment will pass
10 handily.

11 The greyhound racing industry desperately
12 opposes this measure from being decided by the
13 people of Florida. I ask why. If racing greyhounds
14 is good for the dogs and positive for the State of
15 Florida, then the industry should welcome validation
16 as such by the voters of Florida.

17 However, they know this not to be the case, and
18 thus, fear and mistrust other people to decide this
19 issue. I implore this Committee to recommend
20 approval of the measure before them and allow the
21 voting citizens of Florida to decide this important
22 issue.

23 Let's bring Florida in alignment with most of
24 the rest of the nation which finally recognizes the
25 malignancy of greyhound racing.

1 In closing, let's just get this done now. I
2 say, power to the people. Let us decide. Thank
3 you.

4 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you,
5 Mr. Carter.

6 Sir.

7 MR. RYAN: Good evening. Mark Ryan, city
8 manager, City of Indian Harbour Beach. I probably
9 stand between you and your choice of beverages, and
10 I thank you for your service for many hours today,
11 throughout the year, all your committees.

12 I support Home Rule and urge you to continue
13 supporting Home Rule as we go through this process.
14 If a proposal has died in committee, leave it there.
15 Don't resurrect it.

16 All of God's blessings. Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
18 much.

19 MS. STOVER: My name is Tracy, and I'm here for
20 Proposal 96.

21 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: What's your
22 last name, Tracy?

23 MS. STOVER: Stover.

24 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Yes, thank you.

25 MS. STOVER: I was assaulted when I was a

1 teenager by two of my stepbrothers, but I was too
2 terrified to tell anyone. I buried it and went on
3 with my life. Years later after therapy I realized
4 I had to say something because I needed to reclaim
5 my voice.

6 I've never spoken publicly about my story, but
7 I believe it's time to speak out, especially because
8 my abusive ex-boyfriend has been stalking me. This
9 past week he showed up drunk and tried to break into
10 my house. He had a knife with him and said he
11 planned to rape me.

12 I believe him because of the things he's done
13 in the past when he was drunk. I finally got him to
14 leave after five hours, but as he left he threatened
15 to come back and kill me. Later I reported it to
16 the police as I was afraid to go home, and he was
17 arrested in front of my house that night.

18 I filed for a temporary injunction, which was
19 granted today. Next, I will have to go through a
20 hearing. I wish we already had Marsy's Law because
21 I'm afraid I won't be informed about the case or
22 when he might be released. I'm terrified he's going
23 to come back and do what he said. But I want to be
24 strong this time, and I'm using my voice. Proposal
25 96, Marsy's Law, would help me so much.

1 Thank you very much for your consideration.

2 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
3 much. Thank you.

4 MR. HANSEL: Hi. My name is Chase Hansel, and
5 I'm a Melbourne resident. I'm speaking today in
6 opposition of Prop 4. The Blaine Amendment prevents
7 our State from directly funding churches, and has
8 served us well for over 130 years. Prop 4 seems to
9 remove our State's Blaine Amendment. 36 other
10 states still currently have their no-aid clause, or
11 Blaine Amendment it's sometimes called, and with
12 good reason.

13 Jewish taxpayers shouldn't have to pay for a
14 mosque, and vice versa. Christian taxpayers
15 shouldn't have to pay for somebody else's temple.
16 Let me be clear. This doesn't discriminate against
17 religious organizations. Any of them can open a
18 501(c)(3) and qualify for state funding. Catholic
19 charities and The Salvation Army are both excellent
20 examples of this.

21 If the government starts to fund our churches,
22 then they can dictate on how that funding is spent.
23 Please do not put Prop 4 on our ballot. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
25 much. I'm going to call a few more names too.

1 Is there anybody in the audience -- there
2 aren't that many people left -- who feels like
3 you're -- if after I read these names -- I'm sorry,
4 there's just four.

5 If after I read these names you feel like your
6 name was not called, feel free to come up because
7 I've got a pile of people who did not come up. And
8 maybe it's because I mispronounced it.

9 Judge Fred Lauton, Kayla Wall, Karen Wade, and
10 Teresa Clifton. That is the last card I have for
11 the night.

12 Who's next? You're next.

13 MS. GRZYBOWSKI: Hi. I'm Mary Ann Grzybowski.
14 Since 2001 I have adopted 13 greyhounds. Every one
15 of them were in very good health. I became involved
16 in greyhound adoption in 2010. To promote greyhound
17 adoption, we often take our very own greyhounds to
18 the track for people to meet.

19 I took my seven-year-old Smoky and my
20 eight-year-old Slick to the track one day, and both
21 of them, all they did the whole time we were there
22 is try to pull to get back out on that track. These
23 dogs love to run.

24 Smoky and Slick are now 10 and 11 and I no
25 longer take them to the track. They make wonderful

1 pets. If they were abused as everyone has said here
2 today, they would not be the loving, amazing pets
3 they are.

4 Also as president of Greyhound Adoptions, I run
5 a kennel that holds 9 retired -- 9 to 11 retired
6 racers looking for forever homes. This has also
7 helped me to help my family who helps take care
8 of -- my daughter and my son -- who help take care
9 of the greyhounds we have available for adoption.

10 Please vote "no" for Proposal 67. Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you so
12 much.

13 MS. ROBINSON: Hi. My name is Catherine Durkin
14 Robinson. I'm executive director of the Florida
15 Parent Network. We're here to support Proposal 71.
16 The Florida Department of Education says that there
17 are about 107,000 children on waiting lists for
18 charter schools in Florida. One of those parents is
19 here with me tonight.

20 Some of those parents can leave their
21 neighborhoods. Most of them cannot. They cannot
22 afford to move. They cannot afford private schools.
23 They cannot qualify for scholarships. They're
24 desperate for options for their children.

25 If this proposal can get on the ballot and get

1 the support of the people in Florida, those children
2 can get into the schools that they desperately need.
3 So please consider that.

4 And thank you so much for your time.

5 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you.

6 You all are so respectful of each other
7 tonight. Thank you so much.

8 MS. CLIFTON: Good evening. My name is Teresa
9 Clifton. I'm the executive director of the Brevard
10 Humane Society. We've been in operation since 1952
11 in Brevard County, and I'm a fifth generation
12 Brevard County resident. And it's kind of sad that
13 I would have to come up here and ask you to allow
14 people to decide whether or not they think that dog
15 racing is a good thing for dogs.

16 Unfortunately, we have seen over the 65 and a
17 half years a lot of the bad side of the dog racing.
18 I'm sure there's plenty of good side of dog racing,
19 and there are also people that take care of their
20 dogs. Unfortunately, there are that many more and
21 then some that do not.

22 And so all we're asking is that you at least
23 let the people of Florida decide. Let them consider
24 and support Proposition 67, particularly after a lot
25 of the cases that we have seen.

1 And it is sad that a system would have to
2 create support mechanisms to take care of those
3 animals that are no longer usable that they throw
4 away because that's what they are, throwaways.

5 I see throwaways in my shelter all the time,
6 whether they're in dog racing or they were in
7 fighting or there were other abuses that people do
8 to animals.

9 It's not fair, and the dogs can't come up and
10 tell you. They love to run. Yes, they do. But
11 they love to run on their own terms, not make it
12 dependent upon them getting fed or loved or cared
13 for or sitting in an empty cage. I'm sure you all
14 have heard all about it today. I just ask that you
15 give the voters a chance to make that decision.

16 Also, I am a guardian ad litem. I've been a
17 guardian ad litem for 25 years. So I would like to
18 also throw a pitch, if I may, to vote "no" on
19 Prop 40 because the attorneys in the courtroom are
20 very, very helpful.

21 In more than one way they have helped someone
22 like me, who is a novice at law, help a child's
23 future because children are our future and it would
24 be a shame not to have the best interests of the
25 attorneys there in the courtroom with them. Thank

1 you.

2 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
3 much.

4 Sir. Thank you.

5 JUDGE LAUTON: My name is Fred Lauton. I'm the
6 chief judge in the 9th Judicial Circuit, and I feel
7 guilty keeping you here late, but I left work as
8 early as I could. I drove as fast as I could to get
9 here while driving legally.

10 I know my colleague, Judge Harris from the 18th
11 Circuit, spoke to you. I'm here to talk about
12 Proposal 26. It creates the Office of Domestic
13 Security and Counterterrorism for the Florida
14 Department of Law Enforcement.

15 I think as you know Proposal 26 was amended in
16 the Committee to add the subject of sheriffs'
17 responsibility for courthouse security. And the
18 court opposes that language residing in the
19 Constitution as opposed to Florida Statute.

20 I'm glad to report to you that the court and
21 the sheriffs association have agreed that the
22 appropriate place for this language is in statute,
23 and we have worked together and have agreed upon
24 statutory language to address the issue of
25 responsibility for security within a courthouse

1 structure.

2 And as a result, we understand that
3 Commissioner Nocco will offer an amendment to remove
4 the language that was proposed earlier and return
5 the proposal to its original subject, which is the
6 Office of Domestic Security and Counterterrorism.

7 And I can tell you that the chief judges around
8 the State support the removal of the language in
9 Prop 26. They support the agreed-upon statutory
10 language, which is pending in the legislature. We
11 very much appreciate the work that all of you do,
12 that Commissioner Nocco does, and we appreciate
13 working with the Florida Sheriffs Association on
14 this statutory change.

15 So while we oppose putting this language about
16 courthouse security and sheriffs and judges in the
17 Constitution, we would appreciate your support of
18 Commissioner Nocco's amendment to Proposal 26 in
19 favor of the statutory solution when you're meeting
20 at the full Commission.

21 And thank you for staying so late tonight.

22 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you, sir.
23 Thank you.

24 And I believe our last speaker. Saved the best
25 for last maybe, hopefully.

1 MS. WADE: That's what I'm going to go with.

2 My name's Karen Wade, and I'm here to speak to
3 support -- for you to vote "yes" on Proposition 91
4 and to ban offshore drilling. For offshore
5 drilling, we all know how destructive it can be.
6 And that's when things go well. When things go
7 well, you have the seismic testing, you have the
8 drilling operations, you have the oil transport.
9 And all those things create incredible environmental
10 harm.

11 But we also are, unfortunately, here in
12 Florida, very well aware of how things go when they
13 go bad. And when they go bad, we have destruction
14 of our beaches and destruction of a lot of our
15 industries, and just overall our tourism.

16 Now, nowadays it makes no sense to even
17 consider this operation and consider this movement
18 because it takes anywhere from years up to decades
19 to get a drilling platform up and running. You have
20 to do the seismic testing, figure out where to put
21 it, then start the operation to do it. It takes
22 years and even decades to do it, when we're sitting
23 here on a grand movement of going towards clean
24 energy.

25 We're making technological advances every day,

1 leaps and bounds, moving towards clean energy. When
2 clean energy has a problem, you don't have any
3 spillage. You don't have any damage. You don't
4 have any harm.

5 And we're seeing this movement across with
6 people, we're seeing it with countries, we're seeing
7 it with counties and cities and countries, we're
8 seeing corporations every day, and we're seeing
9 people signed up to commit to clean energy. This is
10 a movement that's happening.

11 And we are, as a society, in a same position in
12 this world. We are moving away from green energy
13 [sic]. So why would we commit to something to have
14 a platform come up in five to ten years from now to
15 drill for fuel, fossil fuel, in which we are
16 completely moving away from.

17 It just doesn't make any sense to make that
18 kind of investment, doesn't make sense to tie up our
19 shores and for us to do that. We need to focus on
20 clean energy and move with our technology and what's
21 available out there to do that.

22 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you.
23 Thank you very much.

24 And I do believe there's another gentleman.

25 MR. LLEWELLYN: I would like to suggest that

1 you --

2 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: What's your
3 name, please? I'm sorry.

4 MR. LLEWELLYN: I'm sorry. Bob Llewellyn.

5 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you.

6 MR. LLEWELLYN: Thank you.

7 This would be a constitutional amendment, the
8 Civil Rights Reconciliation Act.

9 "Whereas public conflicts and civil rights
10 litigation may pit religious liberty and freedom of
11 conscience against civil rights, protecting sexual
12 orientation and gender identity concerning access to
13 various goods and services, the Constitution of the
14 State of Florida is hereby amended to include the
15 following means of reconciling such competing civil
16 rights claims while avoiding cases in which some
17 civil rights are protected only by denying
18 protection to other civil rights.

19 "This amendment is designated the Civil Rights
20 Reconciliation Act, and it provides as follows:
21 When a claim is made before an administrative or
22 judicial body in the State of Florida on the basis
23 of alleged violations of a person's civil rights,
24 when the actions of the alleged violator are
25 motivated by that person's religion or conscience in

1 order to state a valid claim, the claimant must
2 first provide convincing evidence that equivalent
3 goods or services were not available on comparable
4 terms from other local sources that do not raise
5 religious or conscientious objections."

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you very
8 much.

9 MR. LLEWELLYN: I have a copy for each.

10 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you, sir.
11 You can turn them in to the CRC helpers at the
12 front.

13 And I want to thank Chair Beruff allowing me
14 the honor of running this meeting along our
15 beautiful Indian River Lagoon.

16 And at this time I will turn the meeting back
17 over to him.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Good evening. Thanks,
19 everyone for staying through a long day for all of
20 you. We appreciate it. The Chair will entertain a
21 motion to adjourn.

22 UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Motion to adjourn.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Adjourned. Thank you.

24 (These proceedings were adjourned at 7:50 p.m.)
25

1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2
3 STATE OF FLORIDA)
4)
5 COUNTY OF BREVARD)

6 I, STEPHANIE MCGRAW, Registered Professional
7 Reporter, do hereby certify that I was authorized to and
8 did stenographically report the foregoing proceedings,
9 and that this transcript, pages 1 through 294, is a true
10 and correct record of my stenographic notes.

11
12 Signed this 6th day of March, 2018.

13
14 

15 _____
16 STEPHANIE MCGRAW
17 Registered Professional Reporter
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25