

STATE OF FLORIDA  
CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMISSION

MARCH 13, 2018

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

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TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: March 13, 2018  
TIME: 1:03 p.m. - 11:31 p.m.  
PLACE: University of South Florida  
Student Center  
200 6th Avenue South  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
REPORTED BY: RUTH A. CARNEY, Notary Public  
State of Florida at large

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

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

7           MR. TADLOCK: I appreciate it.

8           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for having us.

9           MR. TADLOCK: Thank you.

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

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

19          Is Representative Ben Diamond here yet?

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

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

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

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

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

16 David, come on up.

17 MR. THOMPSON: All right. Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 You were hiding back there.

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

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

20 So that rounds the table out for us.

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

23 (Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

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

1 is part of his hometown.

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

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

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

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Commissioner.

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

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

20 Correct.

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

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

4 Thank you so much.

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

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

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

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

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

19 There you go.

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

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

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

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

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

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

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

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

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

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

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

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you.

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

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

8 MR. BRENZEL: Sure.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

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

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: And you are?

13 MR. BRENZEL: My name is John Brenzel.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay.

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

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

1 decisions for themselves.

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

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

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

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

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Brenzel.

2 MR. BRENZEL: Yes?

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

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

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

8 MR. MANALANG: Yes, you did.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

1 real purpose is not to save lives at all.

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

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

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

13 Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

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

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

21 Who's up?

22 MR. GAMIO: Is that me?

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Your name is?

24 MR. GAMIO: Luis Gamio.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Luis. Go ahead, Luis.

1 MR. GAMIO: Yeah, hi.

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

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

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

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

19 Please proceed.

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

25 As an attorney and veteran prosecutor for 25

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

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

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

17 Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

19 MAJOR HARDING: Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Good morning. Welcome.

21 MAJOR HARDING: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Harding.

12 Angela Vick.

13 Is Tony Montalto in the audience?

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

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

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

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

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

1 Anthony's Hospital here in St. Petersburg.

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

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

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

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

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

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

7 Please.

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

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

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

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

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

24 Please.

25 MR. SHOUPPE: I am the state governor relations

1 manager for BayCare and I share --

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Your name is?

3 MR. SHOUPPE: Clint Shouppe.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Thank you for your consideration.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

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

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

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

10 Isn't this a sweet face?

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

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

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

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

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

9 Thank you.

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

14 Katie Cravor. Did I pronounce that right?

15 MS. CRAVON: Cravon.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Cravon?

17 MS. CRAVON: Yes.

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

20 MS. CRAVON: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9           Thank you.

10          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

11          Miss Carnahan, Joanne.

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

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

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

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

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

3           Thank you.

4           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5           Scott Baldwin.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

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

24 Please proceed.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

14 Miss Vick.

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

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

1 the court system.

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

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

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

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23 MS. VICK: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Montalto.

25 MR. SNITKER: Actually, Alexander Snitker. You

1 called my name earlier.

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

3 MR. SNITKER: Okay, thank you.

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

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

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

21 Mr. Montalto.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 Thank you so much.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

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

22 MS. STEVENS: That was me.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Was that Miss Cummings, right?

24 So we have Jennifer Stevens, Daryl Rosenthal.

25 Is Jennifer Stevens here?

1 MS. STEVENS: Yes.

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

4 Go ahead, ma'am. Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

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

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

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

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: No.

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

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 Daryl Rosenthal.

7 MR. ROSENTHAL: Hi.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Michael Liles.

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 MR. ROSENTHAL: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Next speaker, please.

8 MR. LILES: My name is Michael Liles.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

20 Conwell Hooper.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

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

14 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you.

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

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

21 Erica Rodriguez.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 adding insult to my injury.

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

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

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Miss Rodriguez.

14 MS. RODRIGUEZ: Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Harris.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Dr. Perron.

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

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

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

25 With the CON in place, hospitals are more likely

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

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

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

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

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

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 Miss Frank.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1           COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

2           Dr. Williams.

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

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

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

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

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

1 have entrusted their lives to our institution.

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

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

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

18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

20 Rae Claire Johnson.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7           Thank you.

8           COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you, Miss Johnson.

9           Mr. Agostini, followed by --

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

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

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

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

25          So why am I here? Because Senator Blaine is

1 responsible for taking away my inalienable rights.

2 To safe guard one religion, he alienated another.

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

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

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

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

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Claire Rowell.

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

25 MS. AGOSTINI: Good afternoon. My name is

1 Elizabeth Agostini. I am a mother and grandmother.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you, Miss Agostini.

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

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Is Claire Rowell here?  
13 Frederick Walker? Dennis Rees?  
14 Are you --

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

16 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Okay.

17 MR. REES: Is that what you have?

18 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes. You -- yes.

19 MR. REES: Okay.

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

21 MR. WALKER: Frederick Walker.

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

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

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

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

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

17 Thank you.

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

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

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

1 reconsider Proposal 22.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

13          Thank you.

14          COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

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

17          MR. SCHLACHTER: I'm him.

18          COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Rosemary?

19          MS. GRIFFEE: Yes.

20          COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay. Please proceed.

21          MS. GRIFFEE: Okay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

11 Mr. Steve Schlachtin (sic).

12 MR. SCHLACHTER: My name's Steve Schlachter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3           COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

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

8           Mr. Matthews.

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

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

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

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

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

17 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you, Mr. Matthews.

18 MR. MATTHEWS: It was soundly rejected --

19 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you.

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

22 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

23 Millicent Puleo.

24 MR. MATTHEWS: I mean to withdraw it.

25 MS. PULEO: Good afternoon, Chairman Beruff and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

13 MS. PULEO: Thank you for the opportunity.

14 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: David Tilki.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 citizens of our state from this insidious disease.  
2 Oppose Proposition 94.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

5 J. Donald Lynne.

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

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

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

25 Anyone who wants to remove that sentence from

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

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

12 Thank you for your attention.

13 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

14 Peggy Tucker.

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

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

25 Proposal 4 would open the door to my tax dollars

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

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

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

13          COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

14          Debbie Lundberg.

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

18          Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 So please support Proposal 62, and thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

21 Patrick Chan.

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

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

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

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

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

24 I'm being cutoff.

25 With the provision providing for courthouse

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

7 Thank you very much.

8 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

9 Robert Goldstein.

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

12 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Oh, Patrick, okay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4 Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

6 Robert Goldstein, followed by Jennifer Hobgood.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

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

1 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: And Jennifer Hobgood.

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

6 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Two minutes.

7 MS. HOBGOOD: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Yes.

9 MS. HOBGOOD: Go ahead.

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

15 Thank you.

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

19 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Go ahead.

20 MS. HOBGOOD: You called her name up.

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

1 strong support for that proposal.

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

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

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

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

11 Thank you for your time.

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

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

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

20 You may proceed since you're here.

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

23 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Okay.

24 MR. SONKSEN: I forgot my notes.

25 ASPCA --

1 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Would you give your name?

2 MR. SONKSEN: My name is Jeff Sonksen.

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

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

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

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

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Jenifer Gerae. Alex  
21 Barrow.

22 MR. BARROW: Yeah, okay.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 well, wouldn't it?

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

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

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

16 Thank you.

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

19 Is Kathleen Beckman here? Richard Hornsby?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

13 MR. SOWINSKI: -- Proposal 97.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Mary Wilkerson. Anthony  
16 Nieblas.

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

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

1 the side effects of the drug.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you very much.

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

9 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Now Miss Glickman.

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

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

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Is Kathleen Beckman here?

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

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

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

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

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

1 proposition. So please vote yes on 91.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

4 Miss Kathleen Beckman.

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

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

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

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

1 restrict the rights of women is holy unacceptable.

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

15 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

16 Mary Wilkerson.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Please. Please, folks.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you very much.

7 MS. WILKERSON: Please. Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

7           Thank you.

8           COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

9           Miss Fudge.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you. Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

25 Thank you.

1           COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

2           Lee Day.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 to do this, to participate in this.

2 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you, Mr. Day.

3 MR. DAY: Please support Proposal 67.

4 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Kathleen Clark Knight.

5 Kathleen Clark Knight.

6 MS. KNIGHT: Yes, ma'am.

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

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

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

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

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

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

21                 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

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

25                 MS. GALBRAITH: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

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

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

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

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

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

19 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

20 Diane Desenberg.

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

25 Our constitution currently calls out our natural

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

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

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

1 in Florida by moving Proposal 91 onto the ballot.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

4 Barbara Logan. Kelly Noland.

5 Are you Miss Logan?

6 MS. LOGAN: I am.

7 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: You're on.

8 MS. LOGAN: Yes.

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

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

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

1 separation of church and state.

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

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

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

21 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Thank you.

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

24 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

25 Miss Noland, Kelly Noland, followed by Greg

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

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

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

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

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

24          COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you.

25          Mr. Matthews.

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: We'll reconvene this meeting.

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

23 Thank you so much. The meeting is reconvened.

24 Bill, she's all yours.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, Chair.

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

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

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

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

23           Mr. Thompson?

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

1           Mr. Suetterlin?

2           And we have Mr. Thompson. Go ahead.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 Thank you very much.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

18 Mr. Thompson.

19 MR. THOMPSON: Thank you, Commissioner.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

17 Mr. Austin.

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

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

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

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

13 Thank you for your time.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, sir.

15 Mr. Tragos, followed by Mr. deVlaming.

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

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

1 29 to 3.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, Mr. Tragos.

12 MR. TRAGOS: My two minutes are up?

13 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: That's your two minutes.

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

16 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: I'm very sorry.

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

21 Thank you, Mr. deVlaming.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

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

15 Lauren Bobek.

16 MS. BOBEK: Lauren Bobek.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Bobek, I'm sorry.

18 MS. BOBEK: That's okay.

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

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

25 The criminal justice system is designed to

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Thank you very much.

15 MS. BOBEK: -- to Proposition 96.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Robyn Linenberg.

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

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I did.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10           COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, sir.

11           Miss Linenberg.

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

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

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

1 help all of Florida.

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

3 Shelbie Seys.

4 MS. SEYS: Close enough.

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

10 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

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

8 MS. YURKO: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

25 Kevin Quinn. Sandra Diamond.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12          Thank you very much.

13          COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

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

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

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

24          I ask you to support Proposals 41 and 47.

25          Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

25 He was running across the field when the shooter

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

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

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

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

17 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, ma'am.

18 MS. SCOPINO: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

5 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Corey Theil. Corey  
6 Theil.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

19 Hold -- Miss Arcuri?

20 MS. SAVASTANO: Amanda Savastano.

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

23 Commissioner Kruppenbacher.

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

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

9           COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Your turn.

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

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

19          Thank you.

20          COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11          MR. WURTZEL: Thank you.

12          COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Your two minutes are up.

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

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

17          MR. MCDERMOTT: Thank you, everyone.

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

21          Go ahead, sir.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

10 Miss Davis.

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

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

24 Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

21 Judge Minkoff.

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

1 the people in our county.

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

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

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

25 So I want to thank you for bringing this forward

1 and I urge that it passes.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

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

6 MS. SAMPALO: Close enough. Sampalo.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Sampalo.

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

10 Please.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

20 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

17          You might say, how could that happen?

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

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

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

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

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

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

17 Please vote no against Prop. 96.

18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Mr. Riddle.

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

21 Is a Shirley Arcuri here or a Robert Lovett?

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

25 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

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

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

13 Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 local offices.

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

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Mr. Suarez.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

3 Miss Grove.

4 MS. GROVE: Hello.

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

7 Suzanne House. Suzanne House.

8 Empty mic. Come on up.

9 And then Mary Stewart.

10 Go ahead, ma'am.

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

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

25 Prop. 94 also puts the public health of

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

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

10 Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

12 Jen Underhill.

13 MS. HOUSE: Suzanne House.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Okay.

15 MS. HOUSE: Tampa. Prop. 67.

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

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

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

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

17          Thank you.

18          COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, ma'am.

13 MS. STEWART: Okay. Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Appreciate it.

15 Mr. Hood?

16 MR. HOOD: Yes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

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

25 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: We have an empty mic,

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

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

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

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

1 what has been put in front of them.

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

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

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

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

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

1 we're ready to go.

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

4 Please.

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

8 I'm here in support of Proposal 67.

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

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

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

25 Thank you.

1           COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

2           Mr. Oliver.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

8 Mr. Dahill.

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

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

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

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

8 Florida has the nation's highest share of  
9 seniors and we're working to ensure they receive the  
10 best possible care they deserve. Lawsuits do nothing  
11 but take resources away from centers' ability to  
12 continue providing the best possible care to our  
13 residents.

14 I urge you to see Proposal 88 for what it is,  
15 which is a money grab for trial attorneys, and I ask  
16 that you please vote against it.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Let me go through and  
19 just call out a few more.

20 José Vega, Kate MacFall, Jerry Wiles, Kenneth  
21 Morrow and George Fuller.

22 Mr. Vega.

23 MR. VEGA: Yes, I am José Vega. I am an  
24 immigrant who live in the United States for 44 years  
25 and 10 months. I come in here to support E-Verify,

1 Proposal 29.

2 One of the main reasons, I see lot in military  
3 people for the Army, Navy, Air Force, that they been  
4 fight in Iraq, Iran. I got a lot friend over there.  
5 They come back to the state and I see a lot of them,  
6 they don't find a job, and that kind of job is in the  
7 hands of the immigrant, that they -- people call.  
8 That they are -- for me, it's like I feel a little  
9 offense when they say immigrant because they're  
10 illegal alien. Immigrant is the person like myself.  
11 I would say I'm better than person, but I pay my  
12 taxes since 1973, I got my paperwork done, I -- it  
13 took me five years to keep my green card and later  
14 get my citizenship. I take a test, and I don't have  
15 no problem with the immigrants, they are part of  
16 America, but we need to have legal immigrants who we  
17 know who they are, and support first our military and  
18 American people who -- they've been fighting for us.  
19 And I don't agree to spend my taxpayer money to help  
20 illegal immigrants and to -- and the reason they are  
21 over here is because the employers, they hire them.  
22 If nobody hired them because they don't have their  
23 paperwork, I believe we'd be clear, you know.

24 I think E-Verify is one of the best things that  
25 could happen to Florida.

1 Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

3 Yes, ma'am.

4 MS. MACFALL: Thank you.

5 Hi. I'm Kate MacFall with the Humane Society of  
6 the United States and I'm speaking today in strong  
7 support of Proposal 67.

8 We thank President Lee for his leadership on  
9 introducing Proposal 67 for the dogs.

10 Our message in support of 67 is not what --  
11 accusatory or critical of any individual in the  
12 dog-racing industry. Our messaging is about ethics,  
13 morals and right versus wrong.

14 The typical business as usual practices in the  
15 Greyhound industry include extreme confinement up to  
16 23 hours a day, the use of drugs, 4D meat from downed  
17 and diseased animals, frequent injuries, and  
18 sometimes death. A dog dies on the Florida track  
19 every three days.

20 What was acceptable in 1931, which is when this  
21 practice was legalized in the state of Florida, is  
22 far from what's acceptable today.

23 The argument that we've been doing this for  
24 decades and decades or that my ancestors did this  
25 doesn't make it right. Throughout history countless

1 industries have phased out while others have been  
2 born. The cycle.

3 The time has come for Greyhound racing to go in  
4 Florida. Please let the people of Florida decide the  
5 fate of Greyhound racing in this terrific state in  
6 November. We stand ready to fight for this on the  
7 ballot in November.

8 Please vote yes for the dogs, yes on 67.

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Mr. Wiles.

11 MR. MORROW: Hi. My name is Ken Morrow. I'm  
12 from Fleming Island, Florida, and I've been to the  
13 commission meetings before and I thank you for the  
14 opportunity to speak again.

15 In following up with some of the comments made  
16 by my component -- compadres here, allowing Proposal  
17 29 to be included in the general election ballot in  
18 November 2018, it would help the Commission assist us  
19 in fulfilling our goal and objective, for Floridans  
20 through E-Verify to realize the long-term benefit for  
21 all Florida citizens.

22 Again, Proposal 29 assures the workforce of  
23 Florida is a legitimate workforce. Mandatory  
24 E-Verify will eliminate the possibility of ineligible  
25 employees taking jobs away from legal, law-abiding

1 Floridians.

2 Proposal 29 also gives the state of Florida the  
3 opportunity to be a leader among the national effort  
4 to propose a similar type of workforce law. That law  
5 is basically known as Legal Workforce Act, which is  
6 HR 3711, written by Lamar Smith in Texas.

7 According to the Center for Immigration studies,  
8 since the jobs recovery began in 2014, 64 percent of  
9 the employment growth since then has gone to other  
10 than native Floridians.

11 The potential workers in Florida is enormous:  
12 One-half million college native born, as also  
13 includes 1 million with less than college degrees,  
14 and 1.4 million with no -- or less than high school  
15 education.

16 The labor force participation in Florida has to  
17 take care of legal, law-abiding citizens first.  
18 E-Verify will guarantee that.

19 I'd like to thank the Commission for your  
20 effort, and look forward to having this put through  
21 for the ballot in November.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

23 MR. FULLER: Hello. My name is George Fuller.  
24 I'm from Sarasota and I'm here to speak in favor of  
25 Proposition 29.

1           In 1986 Congress promised to require all workers  
2           to be legal to work in the U.S. Instead, Congress  
3           lied and passed the first of seven amendments or  
4           amnesty adjustments through the year 2000.

5           Meanwhile, the Florida legislature has never passed  
6           legislation to protect legal workers' jobs or its  
7           citizens' wallets. Meanwhile, Georgia, Alabama,  
8           Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, North Carolina and  
9           South Carolina all passed mandatory E-Verify, so  
10          illegal aliens are flowing into Florida looking for  
11          American jobs.

12          In 2007 the cost of Floridians to educate,  
13          medicate and incarcerate illegal aliens was \$1.85  
14          billion. Last year it had more than tripled when it  
15          hit an outrageous \$6.3 billion. Anyone want to guess  
16          what the cost will be in another decade if we don't  
17          get mandatory E-Verify to protect legal workers' jobs  
18          and citizens' wallets passed?

19          Adam Putnam, currently Secretary of Ag and a  
20          strong candidate for governor, sponsored an amnesty  
21          legislation when he served in Congress. Do you  
22          honestly think if elected he will push for mandatory  
23          E-Verify or perhaps try to make Florida a sanctuary  
24          state?

25          To protect legal workers' jobs and citizens'

1 wallets, we need Prop. 29 on the November ballot and  
2 passed. I hope you will support the effort.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: We're going to hear  
5 from -- let me just go through the list so we can get  
6 some folks up here: Mr. Wiles, Robert Kunst,  
7 Catherine Walter, Cathy Unruh, Rick Tschantz, Donna  
8 Peterson and Carlos Alfonso.

9 Yes, sir.

10 MR. WILES: Hello. My name is Jerry Wiles from  
11 Boca Raton. I'm the owner and senior master  
12 instructor of Tri-Star Karate in Coral Springs, and  
13 I'm a Greyhound owner. I'm here today to support  
14 Proposal 67.

15 Currently, my wife and I have four Greyhounds,  
16 all of them rescues, and these dogs are a vital part  
17 of our family. Like our children, each of these  
18 Greyhounds have their own independent personalities  
19 full of love, feeling, needs and often times comical  
20 ways. As you and I, Greyhounds need love. They need  
21 daily affection, care, someone to play with, the  
22 freedom to run freely, a warm bed and good healthy  
23 food.

24 No animal should suffer at the expense of those  
25 who would use them for profits through gambling and

1 racing. When people race, they have the choice to  
2 make the decision themselves, Greyhounds do not, and  
3 they were not meant to be misused in this way.

4 Like every other dog, they should have the right  
5 to be loved, not caged, played with, not raced, cared  
6 for, not discarded when they no longer make a profit  
7 for someone.

8 If you spent as much time as we have in the last  
9 10 years with these animals, you will see how loving  
10 and wonderful these dogs are.

11 Now, I have compassion for those who may lose  
12 their job, however, I've seen many dogs retired with  
13 serious injuries despite the quality of care they may  
14 have received during their career. These animals are  
15 among the most beautiful creatures in the world. Man  
16 was given dominion over animals to protect and care  
17 for them, not to use them. Please stop Greyhound  
18 racing.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Robert Kunst.

21 MR. KUNST: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Kunst.

23 MR. KUNST: My name is Robert Kunst. I'm a  
24 native and homeowner from Miami Beach, president of  
25 Shalom International, and from 1977 through 1980 I

1 was head of the gay movement Anita Bryant and Jerry  
2 Falwell opposed.

3 The privacy issue of 1980 was our fifth  
4 election. We had to collect over 60,000 signatures  
5 and go totally crazy. On the other hand, Dade County  
6 had 600 murders, and our priority across the state  
7 was put our police and our limited resources where it  
8 belongs for our own safety, and at the same time  
9 let's stop the bigotry. The license to discriminate  
10 had now led to the license to murder, which has  
11 always been there.

12 Tomorrow I'll be at the Pulse trial in Orlando.  
13 The wife of the killer knew what was going on, kept  
14 her mouth shut, 49 innocents were murdered and 50  
15 were also wounded, and we got nothing from the  
16 legislature, nothing from Congress, nothing from  
17 anybody. I want to say this is my third time coming  
18 before your Commission and the first time I had to go  
19 through a search.

20 What is happening to our country when  
21 Mr. Stemberger thinks that if he comes in through the  
22 side door on the abortion issue, and all of a sudden  
23 we can come out and go into a crazy scene, once  
24 again, on gay rights and every other thing.

25 Miami and Dade County is the holy land of gay

1 rights because we made gay a household word. We won  
2 the cultural revolution.

3 Please look at your Tampa Bay Times crossword  
4 puzzle for gay pride in today's puzzle.

5 But the bottom line is we got millions of people  
6 out of the closet, we saved countless lives, we  
7 formed thousands of organizations, and we did it all  
8 nonviolently. And the bottom line is, why are we  
9 going through this insanity again on Proposition 22  
10 so Mr. Stemberger can have another headline.

11 This is outrageous. We have to protect privacy  
12 rights, which is under assault all across the  
13 country, and Florida has the most radical in the  
14 whole country.

15 I thank you for your time.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: And before we proceed, I  
17 would like to make a comment, please.

18 Let's refrain from any personal attacks of any  
19 of these commissioners. Everyone on this Commission  
20 has worked very hard to do what they believe is in  
21 the best interest, and I said earlier, we can  
22 disagree, but we don't have to be disagreeable when  
23 we do it.

24 Sir.

25 MR. ALFONSO: Hello. My name is Carlos Alfonso

1 and I'm a chair of the Florida Council 100's  
2 Constitution Revision Commission Task Force. I want  
3 to thank you guys all for your service. I know how  
4 time consuming it is.

5 Since 1961 the Council 100 has been a private,  
6 not-for-profit, nonpartisan organization of Florida  
7 business leaders and it exist to promote the economic  
8 wellbeing of the state and its citizens. Florida  
9 Council 100 -- we represent more than 100 companies  
10 and more than a half a million employees.

11 Florida Council 100 has concerns with two CRC  
12 proposals. Those are Proposals 29 and Proposal 44.

13 Proposal 29 we put an E-verification requirement  
14 for businesses in the Constitution. It does not  
15 belong in the Constitution. It should be taken up as  
16 a state statute. It makes it easier to amend.

17 Proposal 29 gives sweeping powers to the  
18 Department of Business Professional Regulation. This  
19 state government power will not require a warrant or  
20 even judicial review before intruding in our state's  
21 companies and corporations, raising serious Fourth  
22 Amendment concerns on expansion of powers. It'll  
23 harm our economy.

24 A similar program in Arizona resulted in a  
25 2 percent annual reduction in Arizona's GDP and in

1 Texas it is projected to shrink the Texas economy by  
2 78 billion and cost 875,000 Texans their jobs over  
3 the next decade, so we are opposed to that, Proposal  
4 29.

5 Proposal 45 would make it more difficult to  
6 raise university tuitions and fees. Our concern is  
7 this infringes upon the principle of local control  
8 that's already enshrined in Article IX of our  
9 constitution.

10 As a 12-year member of the University of Florida  
11 board of trustees, we created -- and a board there  
12 that is really familiar with local conditions and  
13 local control, and that is our government structure  
14 in the state of Florida, and we think that that is  
15 constitutionally the best way to run our universities  
16 in this state. So thank you very much for your time  
17 and for your service.

18 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

19 MS. UNRUH: Commissioners, I am Cathy Unruh from  
20 St. Petersburg speaking in support of Proposal 67.

21 Greyhound racing is a blight on our state. As  
22 you know, it is a burden to taxpayers, and as you  
23 know very well by now from everything you have read,  
24 heard, and learned, it is an act of unconscionable  
25 cruelty.

1           Please do give voice to the many Floridians who  
2           place compassion and ethical enterprise before  
3           chasing unethical profits and move Proposal 67 onto  
4           the ballot.

5           Thank you.

6           COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, sir.

7           MR. TSCHANTZ: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

8           My name is Rick Tschantz. I'm the general council  
9           for the Environmental Protection Commission of  
10          Hillsborough County and I'm here on behalf of the  
11          seven commissioners of Hillsborough County, as they  
12          sit also as the commissioners of the EPC.

13          Our chairman at this time is -- is the former  
14          Senator Less Miller, he's the chairman of EPC at this  
15          time, and on February 21st the commission unanimously  
16          passed a resolution opposing Proposal No. 95, and  
17          they expanded it to say as well: Any effort to amend  
18          Proposal No. 95 that would preempt local government  
19          regulations to the state through the Florida  
20          constitution.

21          Proposal 59 creates constitutional prohibition  
22          against county's or municipality's regulations that  
23          might intrude or impede upon commerce, trade or labor  
24          across the county boundaries, and many, many of the  
25          county and city regulations would probably have that

1 effect under that language, including our  
2 environmental regulations.

3 The version of this commission in 1968 did the  
4 exact opposite. They proposed the Home Rule  
5 provision and the Florida voters voted that into the  
6 Constitution, and it's now Article VIII, and it gives  
7 the county and the cities all powers of local and  
8 self-government, not inconsistent with local law.  
9 The Supreme Court a couple years later heard a  
10 challenge to that and narrowed it, so the legislature  
11 in 1973 came right behind it and adopted the Home  
12 Rule Powers Act that ended all challenges to the 1968  
13 amendment of Home Rule.

14 Local government issues are best handled more  
15 efficiently by the local government. Our  
16 Environmental Protection Commission does biannual  
17 surveys of the regulated community and the citizens,  
18 and one of our questions is always -- and it's  
19 conducted by an independent consultant -- given the  
20 environmental regulations that are in place, would  
21 you rather have the federal government implement  
22 these --

23 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you very much.

24 MR. TSCHANTZ: Oh, okay.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you very much.

1 MR. TSCHANTZ: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. PETERSON: Do you want to call some other  
4 people up?

5 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Oh, I do. Well, thank  
6 you.

7 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Somebody put her in  
8 charge, please.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: All right. What is your name?

10 MS. PETERSON: My name is Donna Peterson.

11 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Donna, you get a star.  
12 Okay.

13 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Two stars.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: You do.

15 Donna, great.

16 And so I'm going to say again, we've called  
17 these names before: Jen Underhill, Catherine Walter,  
18 Cathy Unruh, and then we have Donna.

19 No one, okay.

20 We'll go next to Allie Pass, Sharon Jones, Kim  
21 Bankoff, Tamara Levine and Patricia Kodish.

22 Okay. Thank you.

23 MS. PETERSON: Thank you, Commissioners. My  
24 name is Donna Peterson. I'm Dean of the College of  
25 Public Health at the University of South Florida. I

1 appreciate the opportunity to be here today and thank  
2 you for your time.

3 I'm here on behalf of all of us in academic  
4 public health who work in the schools and colleges  
5 and programs across the state of Florida to conduct  
6 research and educate students and speak out on behalf  
7 of issues that are in the interest of the public's  
8 health.

9 I'm here to propose Proposition 94, which would  
10 divert funding from what is currently devoted to  
11 tobacco education and prevention toward cancer  
12 research.

13 You've heard from a number of my colleagues here  
14 today already, but I will just reiterate tobacco  
15 remains the leading cause of premature mortality and  
16 disease in adults across the United States. It is  
17 entirely preventable. The small amount of money that  
18 Floridians voted to devote to tobacco prevention in  
19 2006 has been tremendously affected. We are one of  
20 only a handful of states to use dollars from tobacco  
21 companies to work toward prevention, so it puts us at  
22 the forefront in a positive way. I think that's  
23 something we would like to maintain.

24 Clearly, prevention is important. No one  
25 chooses to smoke after they reach adulthood, so we

1 really need to work to protect our children from  
2 tobacco promotion, and I would urge you to reject  
3 Proposal 94 and continue to prevent the initiation of  
4 tobacco use among our children.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

7 You're up.

8 MS. PASS: Hi. I'm Allie Pass. Thank you for  
9 this opportunity to speak in front of this  
10 Commission. I'm urging you to support Proposition  
11 67, ending Greyhound racing in Florida.

12 Currently, we live in a time where our moral  
13 standards have increased from where they were at the  
14 time when Greyhound racing was originally instituted.  
15 However, over the past 10 years 419 Greyhounds have  
16 tested drug positive, including 68 cocaine positives.  
17 Roughly 8,000 Greyhounds live in confinement at  
18 Florida tracks, where many of them spend 20 to 23  
19 hours a day in confinement.

20 We have tried to get this through the  
21 legislature for a number of years unsuccessfully, and  
22 at this point I think it's time to let the Florida  
23 voters decide if it's ready to go ahead and end out  
24 and phase Greyhound racing out of Florida.

25 Thank you very much.

1 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

2 MS. JONES: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Good afternoon.

4 MS. JONES: My name is Sharon Jones. I am a  
5 resident of Pinellas County, Florida.

6 I became aware/involved in Greyhound rescue over  
7 20 years ago. I want you and others to know that  
8 this is a very sensitive, highly intelligent and  
9 extremely gentle breed. They are very low  
10 maintenance and, for the most part, undemanding.

11 I am familiar with most breeds, as I operated a  
12 very successful professional pet care service for  
13 over 25 years in Broward County and had the  
14 opportunity to be around hundreds of K-9 companions.

15 Again, Greyhounds are very easy to care for and  
16 are perfect for a busy person or household. This  
17 wonderful K-9 deserves a wonderful life. Because of  
18 it's speed, they have been exploited, used and abused  
19 for way too long. After this cruel industry is done  
20 with them, they are thrown away like yesterday's  
21 garbage.

22 I am here today to plead for those that do not  
23 have a voice. Greyhound racing needs to end. You  
24 are the individuals that can get this done. The  
25 Greyhounds, I and those who love them, will be

1 eternally grateful with a decision to do that.

2 Thank you for allowing us to speak for every  
3 Greyhound past, present and future. Please, please,  
4 please vote yes for Proposal 67.

5 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. BANKOFF: Hi, Kim Bankoff, Westin, Florida.  
7 I am a mother to three boys in the Broward County  
8 school system and an aunt to my niece and nephew who  
9 live in Parkland.

10 I'm here today to support Proposal 3 and the  
11 amendments made this morning. I'm lending my voice  
12 to the fight for comprehensive changes on gun reform  
13 so that no other community has to endure another mass  
14 tragedy like what we've experienced in Parkland a  
15 month ago.

16 I stand truly in awe of your role here on this  
17 Commission. The responsibility and the honor  
18 bestowed upon you as members of this Commission is  
19 truly something unique.

20 We went to Tallahassee a few weeks ago. I saw  
21 firsthand the challenges in putting a piece of  
22 legislation together. We met with folks all over  
23 this -- the city, in our hotel, in the capital, truly  
24 saw firsthand how difficult it is. And there's all  
25 this, you know, wheeling and dealing that goes into

1 putting legislation together. By the time it  
2 actually gets to the governor to be signed into law,  
3 it's not even close to what it started as, and this  
4 last piece of legislation that passed is not even  
5 close to what the majority of Floridians is asking  
6 for when it comes to gun reform.

7 So being that we know the challenges in  
8 legislation, I come back to your role on this  
9 Commission. The safety of our children, their sense  
10 of security in the communities that they grow up in  
11 should not be up for negotiation. It should not be a  
12 piece that's wheeled and dealt with in legislation.  
13 It should be a constitutional right that our children  
14 grow up in safe environments. So I'm asking you to  
15 do what's right in the situation, put this proposal  
16 on the ballot in November, and let the people vote  
17 and decide, because enough is enough.

18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. LEVINE: Sorry, that's my sister. I'm kind  
21 of proud.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Okay. You're up.

23 MS. LEVINE: Hi. I'm Tamara Levine. I urge you  
24 also to support the amendment on Proposal 3 to ban  
25 assault weapons.

1 I'm a Parkland mom. I have a 9 and 11-year-old  
2 who will attend Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.  
3 My best friend is an ER doctor in our town and he was  
4 a first responder at Douglas the day of the Parkland  
5 massacre. He unfortunately sees gunshot wounds all  
6 the time and he said he's never seen anything so  
7 tragic as these children who were gunned down with an  
8 assault weapon. A weapon that imposed mass  
9 destruction that day. A weapon that ripped our  
10 children's bodies apart.

11 We don't live in a war zone. There is no need  
12 for assault weapons on our streets.

13 The public policy polling found that 74 percent  
14 of Floridians would like the opportunity to vote on  
15 an assault weapons ban. I believe it's fate,  
16 actually like perfect timing, that you are here one  
17 month after this horrific massacre, and you have this  
18 opportunity to allow the people of Florida to vote to  
19 rid our schools, our parks, our movie theaters, our  
20 communities of these assault weapons.

21 Please stand with Parkland and let the voters  
22 decide to ban assault weapons.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

25 Before you begin, I'm going to call some more

1 names.

2 Patricia?

3 MS. KODISH: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Okay.

5 Then we're going to have Pam Miller, Jamie  
6 O'Dwyer, Paige Bloch, Vanessa -- I believe it's  
7 Mehew, Rachel Rosas, Valery Lenti, Marilyn Krantz.  
8 If you'll all please come forward.

9 Thank you.

10 Yes, ma'am, please.

11 MS. KODISH: Okay.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

13 MS. KODISH: Thank you.

14 Good afternoon. My name is Patty Kodish and I  
15 appreciate the opportunity to speak to you today. I  
16 was a substitute teacher at Marjory Stoneman Douglas  
17 High School the day of the massacre when we lost 17  
18 precious lives. I'm here to urge you to support  
19 Proposition 3615688.

20 Let me share a moment of my experience with you.  
21 The bell rang at 2:20, a fire drill. I evacuated my  
22 class. As we evacuated, we heard gunshots. I  
23 evacuated my class out to the field and along a  
24 narrow pathway that had a fence on one side, a narrow  
25 dirt path that only one or two students could walk on

1 at one time, and a canal on the left. I had to save  
2 children from trying to throw themselves into the  
3 canal; I had to try to prevent children from trying  
4 to throw themselves over the fences. It was  
5 horrific, and these poor children were so panicked.

6 Once we got to the middle school, we had to  
7 console parents who hadn't found out from their  
8 children or hadn't gotten texts from their children.

9 I never want a student or a teacher or anyone to  
10 go through that experience that we went through that  
11 day. You are uniquely positioned to rise above  
12 politics and move solutions to the ballot. I urge  
13 you to support Proposal 3, bar code 615688, so that  
14 we can have a safer Florida for our children and for  
15 our population.

16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

18 MS. MEHEW: Good afternoon. My name is Vanessa  
19 Mehew, a mother of two at Arecano (phonetic.)

20 Like other parents you have heard today, I share  
21 the sense of urgency in creating legislation to  
22 establish an environment in which our children can  
23 learn and feel safe. In the aftermath of the  
24 shooting at Stoneman Douglas, what upset me the most  
25 is knowing that the shooter got past the background

1 check and obtained a military assault weapon legally.

2 Would you please think of two scenarios where  
3 anybody in Florida needs to have high-capacity  
4 magazines?

5 Please vote for Proposal 3.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Ma'am, what was  
8 your name?

9 MS. MEHEW: Vanessa Mehew.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Vanessa. Thank you,  
11 Vanessa.

12 MS. BLOCH: Hi. My name is Paige Bloch. I'm a  
13 Parkland mother of four kids.

14 What has happened in our community is a tragedy  
15 that should never have happened. During the time of  
16 the Parkland shooting my oldest son was hiding  
17 against a wall with tears in his eyes wondering if he  
18 was going to die.

19 I am here so this never happens again. My  
20 children were afraid to go back to school. I told  
21 them a shooting has never happened in the same place  
22 twice. I told them that to make them feel safe, but  
23 I didn't believe it. I never thought it would happen  
24 in Parkland and it did.

25 This is a community of families and that day and

1 days after mothers lied on the floor and cried and it  
2 wasn't even our children who died. The tragedy in  
3 our community is unfathomable and you don't know it  
4 until you experience it.

5 My heart aches for the parents who will never  
6 see their children again. I don't ever want that, to  
7 be one of those parents, that is why I'm here.

8 I'm in support of Proposal 3 to ban assault  
9 weapons. What I'm asking for is an amendment to ban  
10 assault weapons, high-capacity magazines for firearms  
11 and bump stocks. I'm also asking for an amendment  
12 for universal background checks and mandatory waiting  
13 periods.

14 The answer to this gun problem is so simple.  
15 Let's make a change. The world is watching us. You  
16 can be the leaders and Florida can be the first.  
17 Let's make this happen.

18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

20 Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. MILLER: My name is Pam Miller and I support  
22 Proposal 3. I'm a resident in Parkland and a mother  
23 of two children who both attend the middle school  
24 adjacent to Stoneman Douglas.

25 Prior to February 14 I had typical worries of

1           where -- of raising two children. Now my worries are  
2           different. I have a child who was outside during the  
3           massacre and heard gunshots from an AR-15 that killed  
4           17 innocent children and severely wounded numerous  
5           other children. In addition, my same child had to  
6           come home early from school the following week  
7           because I received a phone call from the principal.  
8           He informed me that a child was threatened -- that my  
9           child was threatened by another student claiming she  
10          was going to bring a gun to school and shoot him.

11                 I have a daughter who is now afraid to walk the  
12          hallways of her school by herself. She recently told  
13          me how she broke into a run in the hallway because  
14          the intercom went on. She feared it was going -- she  
15          feared it was going to be another code red. Four  
16          days ago she told me how bad she felt because a  
17          teacher had a breakdown in the middle of class, but  
18          this does not compare to the 17 families that cry  
19          themselves to sleep because they're never going to  
20          see their child again, or the families that  
21          practically live in the hospital because their child  
22          is suffering from severe gunshot wounds, or other  
23          children that now suffer from severe mental health  
24          issues because they had to witness their friends and  
25          classmates bleed to death right in front of their own

1 eyes.

2 Our children's innocence have been broken. It's  
3 time to take these dangerous weapons of destruction  
4 off the streets of civilians. Please let's start to  
5 follow the country that has banned semiautomatics and  
6 other military weapons across the country.

7 Since Australia has banned these weapons, there  
8 has been a total of zero mass shootings in 22 years.  
9 In the U.S. there has been more than 30 so far this  
10 year. Please vote to add Proposal 3, bar code  
11 615688, to the ballot this November. Let's put  
12 safety in front of politics.

13 Thank you for your cooperation.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

15 MS. O'DWYER: Hi -- oh, I'm sorry.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Go ahead.

17 MS. O'DWYER: Ready?

18 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yeah, please.

19 MS. O'DWYER: My name is Jamie O'Dwyer and I'm  
20 in favor of Proposal 3. I'm a Parkland parent of two  
21 that's come to the realization that the one place  
22 which should be inherently safe for my children is no  
23 more.

24 I support allowing the public to vote on  
25 commonsense gun law reform because the bill Florida

1 passed, one that we were forced to swallow down as a  
2 whim, did not go far enough.

3 I'd like to specifically address the argument  
4 that this would infringe on the second amendment  
5 right, one of many civil liberties that collectively  
6 form the foundation of this country, but all we need  
7 is an interpretation of the law, not removal. I'm a  
8 proponent of the second amendment and in no way see  
9 an assault weapon's ban as a pact to its complete  
10 dissolution.

11 I do see a contradiction in claiming  
12 constitutionality in the defense of assault weapons  
13 while ignoring a primary purpose of the constitution  
14 to ensure domestic tranquility. It's unfathomable to  
15 me that a document written over 200 years ago is  
16 applied verbatim as unwavering law of which we govern  
17 ourselves. Language itself is fluent and words  
18 change over time.

19 We give up our certain inalienable rights in  
20 public locations such as airports and stadiums. This  
21 is today's law. We submit to this for the greater  
22 purpose of public safety.

23 Today the average citizen does not require an  
24 automatic weapon to protect their home or form a  
25 civilian militia in defense of this country. We

1 entrust our military with this duty.

2 As civilians, we aren't trained to operate a  
3 weapon with the capability to swiftly and irrevocably  
4 inflict mass murder and obliterate bodies, these  
5 weapons' intent.

6 I implore you, give us people the platform to  
7 decide what's in our best interest in regard to our  
8 safety. We are voters, not obligated to a caucus or  
9 constituency or at the mercy of a corporation. Vote  
10 for this proposal.

11 And also consider what universal background  
12 checks could mean. It only takes one person buying  
13 one AR-15 or AK-47 at one gun show to take the lives  
14 of countless innocents like lambs to a slaughter, as  
15 in Sandy Hook, Vegas, Pulse and now in Parkland.

16 This isn't a partisan, religious status or race  
17 issue. It's a moral issue.

18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

20 I'm going to call a list so hold on for one  
21 second.

22 MS. ROSAS: Okay.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Rachel Rosas.

24 MS. ROSAS: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Valery Lenti, Marilyn

1 Krantz, Carlos Verney, Martha Persten, Amanda Martin,  
2 and Michael Rajner.

3 I mean, I'll just ask everyone to remember,  
4 we've still got a -- this is the stack left, so we've  
5 got --

6 MS. ROSAS: Talk fast.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: -- a lot to get through  
8 so try to remember the two minutes, okay? I really  
9 don't want to stop anyone if I can avoid it, okay?

10 Thank you.

11 MS. ROSAS: Okay. My name is Rachel Rosas. I'm  
12 a Parkland resident. I'm the parent of a Marjory  
13 Stoneman Douglas student.

14 I would like to speak to you regarding Proposal  
15 No. 3 with the 615688 bar code.

16 When I heard about the shooting at our school, I  
17 rushed to the school, but I couldn't get through.  
18 There were ambulances/police so I waited at Wal-Mart  
19 with hundreds of other panicked parents. We watched  
20 as dozens of police cars, helicopters, SWAT teams and  
21 ambulances raced by. The phones weren't working due  
22 to too much activity so we couldn't reach our kids.  
23 We waited and waited.

24 Finally, my son arrived safe, but we later found  
25 that one of our neighbor boys died, one was injured

1 and many others saw too much.

2 They saw their teachers and best friends get  
3 shot and they walked over dead bodies to get out of  
4 the school.

5 I haven't met anybody in Parkland who wasn't  
6 personally affected by this shooting. There were  
7 about 900 students in the building where most of the  
8 shooting occurred. The gunman went from the first,  
9 second, third floor. Many other students in nearby  
10 buildings listened to the shootings and hid waiting  
11 to be rescued.

12 Now there is an epidemic of PTSD in Parkland.  
13 The parents are not sleeping well either. I've been  
14 to Tallahassee twice in the last few weeks and we're  
15 here today.

16 Thirty-four people were shot in about five  
17 minutes. High-capacity magazines allow a shooter to  
18 keep shooting and shooting without stopping to  
19 reload. It makes it hard to catch them.

20 Many of the 17 injured have endured multiple  
21 surgeries to repair extensive damage caused by an  
22 assault rifle. These are not bullet holes, this is  
23 serious damages.

24 I want my kid to be safe at school and all kids  
25 in Florida to be safe in school. Recent legislation

1 is a good first step, but don't let our kids and  
2 teachers be hunted down with assault rifles. Please  
3 take action to do this. I would like to request your  
4 support.

5 Please stand with Parkland and let the voters  
6 decide.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. KRANTZ: My name is Marilyn Bonilla Krantz.  
9 I too am of a resident of Parkland. I'm the mother  
10 of two daughters who also attended Marjory Stoneman  
11 Douglas.

12 I want to thank those commissioners who put  
13 forth Proposal 3 and those amendments so we can be  
14 here today to speak in favor of that proposal.

15 I'm an attorney. I'm also a holder of a  
16 concealed weapon or firearm license. I support  
17 Article I, Section 8 of the Florida Constitution,  
18 which clearly sets forth that the manner of bearing  
19 arms may be regulated by law.

20 I would like to share with you a message posted  
21 on Facebook by Debra Dixon Hixon, she's the wife and  
22 now widow of Christopher Hixon, the father of four  
23 and the athletic director of Marjory Stoneman Douglas  
24 who was killed in the mass shooting this past  
25 Valentine's Day.

1           She says: "Everyone wants to know what they can  
2 do for me. Here is what I need from you: I need you  
3 to ban the sale, manufacturing and use of any weapons  
4 that are lightweight, magazine fed, gas operated, air  
5 cooled, shoulder fire and capable of semiautomatic  
6 fire such as the AR-15 weapon. Please stop this  
7 insanity and work towards getting these weapons  
8 banned."

9           Reputable polls show consistently that citizens  
10 agree with Mrs. Hixon and want these weapons banned.  
11 Please, on her behalf and the behalf -- on the behalf  
12 of so many victims, their families and other  
13 Floridians, please support Proposal 3. Please use  
14 your unique position in history to provide Florida  
15 citizens the opportunity to ban assault weapons and  
16 consider other commonsense gun control measures which  
17 save lives. Enough is enough, and please never  
18 again.

19           Thank you.

20           COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

21           Yes, ma'am.

22           MS. LENTII: Oh, hello. My name is Valery Lenti  
23 and I'm from South Broward High School. Thank you  
24 for the opportunity to speak today.

25           I remember when I got the news of the shooting

1 at Stoneman Douglas. I remember the looks on my  
2 teachers' faces the day after when they realized  
3 their coworker, their friend, their students and  
4 their family has been taken away from them.

5 I'm only 15, but I believe no child has to come  
6 to school and see their teachers have panic attacks  
7 over the possibility of happening to their school one  
8 day. I'm only 15, but I have seen too many school  
9 shootings, too many deaths that should have never  
10 happened.

11 Ever since the tragedy I've been forcing myself  
12 to be a strong field for my friends and family. I've  
13 had to comfort my 12-year-old brother because he was  
14 scared . . .

15 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Take your time.

16 MS. LENTI: He was scared that he was going to  
17 be shot at his own school.

18 He should be worrying about what lunch he's  
19 going to get tomorrow.

20 I'm standing up for Carmen, for Peter, for  
21 Mr. Hixon, for every child's life that has ever been  
22 taken away from their families by the hands of a  
23 weapon. You are the ones who can listen to us,  
24 listen to the survivors, their families and the next  
25 generation of voters.

1           I urge you to do something. Take that back, I  
2 beg of you to do something. Your thoughts and  
3 prayers are appreciated, but aren't enough. Your  
4 action is.

5           Thank you very much.

6           COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

7           Yes, sir.

8           MR. VERNEY: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My  
9 name is Carlos Verney. I'm the executive director of  
10 the Broward County Charter Review Commission and I'm  
11 also a graduate of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas,  
12 class of 2004. I come here to ask for your support  
13 for Proposal 3, the amendments offered by  
14 Commissioners Coxe, Smith and Martinez.

15           Quite simply, the students have asked for a ban  
16 on assault weapons. The night of the CNN Town Hall I  
17 went over to my AP government teacher, Mr. Jeff  
18 Foster, the same teacher who's grooming these  
19 students, and I said a couple things to him. I said,  
20 Thank you for preparing me and others so well. Thank  
21 you, as an educator, for preparing these students so  
22 well for what will be an unimaginable long road  
23 ahead.

24           There are some questions that need to be asked:  
25 What if the CRC were to put a proposal and consider

1 it to ban assault weapons? What if the voters of the  
2 state of Florida were to approve it?

3 Let me offer some answers to those questions:  
4 Never again would a student be massacred; never again  
5 would a teacher see such horrific things in a school;  
6 never again would a first responder be traumatized  
7 for what they saw; never again would a parent need to  
8 bury their child. Their child. It just doesn't work  
9 that way.

10 We're asking you to join us, because never again  
11 is just not a hashtag, it's a commitment, and we're  
12 asking you never again. We're asking you to allow us  
13 the opportunity in one collective voice to vote in  
14 November to say never gone.

15 Thank you.

16 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. MARTIN: Hi. Amanda Martin here.

18 I stand here today in support of Proposal 3 as  
19 an anxious parent and a concerned citizen, asking you  
20 all to use your unique position to effect change in  
21 our state. Please do not fail our children. We, the  
22 people, are asking you for the opportunity to vote  
23 commonsense gun laws.

24 You've heard and felt the testimony of those  
25 here with me today, but I'm also asking you on behalf

1 of all those affected by the three different mass  
2 shootings that we've experienced in our state in just  
3 the last three years.

4 Special interest groups from both the left and  
5 the right have tried to convince us that we are more  
6 divided on this issue than we really are. By pushing  
7 Proposal 3 to the ballot, you are giving this state  
8 the opportunity to come together from both sides of  
9 the aisle. You are on this Commission tasked with  
10 the very rare chance to give the power to the people.

11 Please do not waste this chance to encourage  
12 progress. Stand with me. Stand with Parkland.  
13 Stand with the children. Let Florida decide.

14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

16 Did we -- before you go, did we hear from Rachel  
17 Rosas?

18 Okay.

19 And so we should have Martha.

20 MS. PERSTEN: Yes, sir.

21 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Martha, and then a  
22 Michael Rajner.

23 MR. RAJNER: Yes, Rajner.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Rajner. Sorry.

25 MS. PERSTEN: Hi. My name is Martha Persten.

1 I'm a housewife, mother of four children and a  
2 resident of Coral Springs.

3 On February 14 the schools of Coral Springs were  
4 on shutdown, lockdown. Code red, active shooter.  
5 Neither my children or I knew where this active  
6 shooter -- in what school was in. And because of  
7 that, my 14-year-old send me a goodbye text.

8 No children should be sending their parents  
9 their goodbyes through a text message from school and  
10 no parent should receive such a text.

11 My 16-year-old son just survived from cancer  
12 after three long years of battle. He went through a  
13 lot of meals, a lot of multiple surgeries, tests, PET  
14 scans, CAT scans, MRIs, radiation therapy, hair loss,  
15 weight loss, and it would be very devastating for me,  
16 my husband and my family to lose my son because of a  
17 bullet, and that's why I'm here. That's why I  
18 traveled four hours, because I don't want my  
19 children's school to be next. I don't want the  
20 school of Florida -- any school of Florida to be  
21 next. And because I'm a woman of faith, I pray, I  
22 beg and I hope that the Commission will see the  
23 importance of banning assault weapons.

24 Thank you very much for your time and for  
25 allowing me to be my children's voice today.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. RAJNER: Good afternoon. My name's Michael  
3 Rajner. I'm from Broward County.

4 "Be a nuisance where it counts; do your part to  
5 inform and stimulate the public to join your action.  
6 Be depressed, discouraged and disappointed at failure  
7 and disheartening effects of ignorance, greed,  
8 corruption and bad politics, but never give up," are  
9 the words of Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

10 You know, several of us that came up from  
11 Parkland this week -- I was up last week with  
12 students from Parkland: David Hogg, Ryan Deitsch,  
13 and several others. They are asking you to stand up  
14 and claim your legacy. Take action and support a ban  
15 on assault weapons, large capacity magazines, and  
16 background checks.

17 Last week I saw the eyes of commissioners on  
18 this dais acknowledge the seriousness of this issue  
19 and how it is tearing apart our communities, how it  
20 is a threat to communities of having military-style  
21 weapons in our communities where they don't belong.  
22 They belong in the hands of law enforcement and  
23 military.

24 You know, as you debate and contemplate the  
25 amendments that are proposed before you, before you

1 go for floor debates, I implore you to visit  
2 Parkland. I implore you to walk through the building  
3 where these youths and teachers were murdered and  
4 gunned down in cold blood. I urge you to see the  
5 blood splattered all over these buildings and ask,  
6 what if it was your child? What if it was your  
7 mother, your sister, your brother, your father?

8 This is an issue of a lifetime for you to stand  
9 up in leadership. I would just ask if this  
10 Commission would by a show of hands show Floridians  
11 that you're willing to do the right thing, not just  
12 as the one commissioner said, trust we'll do the  
13 right thing. Show us. Raise your hand. Will you do  
14 the right thing, what the people of Florida are  
15 asking?

16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: We'll now hear from  
18 Theresa Citti, Jenna Murphy, Christie Dorchak,  
19 Jennifer, I believe it's Leon, Jeff Kremer, and  
20 Connie Rose.

21 MS. CITTI: Am I next up? I'm Theresa.

22 My name is Terry Citti. I live in Seminole,  
23 Florida and I stand with the survivors and families  
24 of Parkland, Florida's shooting.

25 The sale of assault weapons designed for war and

1 high-capacity magazines needs to stop now, today.  
2 The Second Amendment does not protect these highly  
3 lethal weapons, whatever the NRA may say. Seven  
4 states have banned the sale of assault weapons. The  
5 NRA has challenged these laws, but the Supreme Court  
6 has not ruled against them.

7 In the words of former Chief Justice Warren  
8 Burger on the subject of the Second Amendment and the  
9 gun lobby: "This has been the subject of one of the  
10 greatest pieces of fraud, I repeat the word fraud, on  
11 the American public by special interest groups that I  
12 have ever seen."

13 Assault weapons were first marketed to the  
14 public in the 1980s. After the number of mass  
15 shootings began to rise, the sale of assault rifles  
16 was banned in the United States from 1994 until 2004.  
17 The number of people killed in mass shootings went  
18 down.

19 Diane Feinstein said: "This bill won't stop  
20 every mass shooting, but it will begin removing these  
21 weapons of war from our streets."

22 Yes, it will be a long process to reduce the  
23 massive supply of these assault weapons in our  
24 country, but we've got to start somewhere.

25 Since the assault weapons ban ended in 2004, the

1 rate of mass murders has been rising more and more  
2 rapidly. It's time to do something meaningful. End  
3 the madness of placing profits for the NRA and the  
4 gun manufacturers above the lives of children and the  
5 public at large.

6 Please, ban the assault weapons.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. MURPHY: Good afternoon, Commissioners, Your  
9 Honor, and esteemed guests, we appreciate the  
10 opportunity to speak today.

11 My name's Jennifer Murphy and I have worked with  
12 sex crime victims for 30 years. Thirty years of  
13 watching victims not have rights, not have anybody  
14 beside them.

15 Where our friends in the defense community were  
16 very kind enough to mention victims, their job is to  
17 get paid to defend their client, not to support our  
18 victims. We need Marsy's Law and Proposition 96.

19 As a psychologist and therapist, and a person  
20 who has a law degree, not a practicing attorney, I  
21 know you heard testimony today about most of the  
22 rights in Marsy's Law are already in statutes. If  
23 the laws were being followed, we wouldn't need  
24 Marsy's Law. If we had enough victim advocates or  
25 attorneys to stand up for victims, we wouldn't need

1 Marsy's Law.

2 If states like Florida and across the country  
3 are not doing what we need to protect people in terms  
4 of legislation from sex abuse, sex trafficking, we  
5 need Marsy's Law. This is the only recourse that  
6 these victims have.

7 Marsy's Law gives victims the following, and  
8 survivors the following: To be treated with dignity,  
9 respect, courtesy, sensitivity and fairness; to have  
10 information on records protected that could be used  
11 to locate or harass victims, or which could disclose  
12 confidential information about your victims; to  
13 timely dispositions of the case free from  
14 unreasonably delay; to be present at all proceedings  
15 involving cases; to be notified about the case and  
16 whether or not defendants have been released from  
17 incarceration, which we're not doing a very good job  
18 of either; and for reasonable protection from the  
19 accused throughout the entire process.

20 Again, to those who get up here today and talk  
21 legalese about victims' rights, it's garbage. It's  
22 crap. I can tell you because I've been doing this  
23 for 30 years. I have seen atrocities I can't --

24 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you very much,  
25 ma'am.

1 MS. MURPHY: Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

3 Yes, ma'am.

4 MS. DORCHAK: Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman,  
5 Mr. Senate, President, Members of the Commission, I'm  
6 honored to be before you. My name is Christine  
7 Dorchak. I'm the cofounder, president and general  
8 counsel of Greyhound protection groups GREY2K USA  
9 Worldwide and the GREY2K USA Education Fund. The two  
10 groups work together to pass laws to protect  
11 Greyhounds and promote the adoption of ex-racers.

12 I'd like to begin my testimony today by  
13 presenting to you the first 25,000 signatures on the  
14 petition asking that you please put Proposal 67 on  
15 the ballot. I sent you an email today with a live  
16 link to this petition, and at that time there were  
17 about 80,000 signatures on it so far. I just  
18 checked. We're at over 100,000 right now. That's  
19 101,000 people that are standing ready to help get  
20 this important measure passed. Please listen to  
21 their voices.

22 I'm also here to touch on a legal issue that has  
23 been brought up at past hearings.

24 Thank you.

25 Previous speakers have threatened that Proposal

1           67 would implicate recovery under the Bert Harris  
2           Act. To clarify, Bert Harris concerns the taking of  
3           property by government action.

4           In this case there is no taking of property, not  
5           at all. Rather, the licenses to use Greyhounds for  
6           gambling would simply not be renewed. There is no  
7           constitutional right to a license. In fact a license  
8           by definition is a privilege, and it's held as long  
9           as public policy allows it.

10          We -- you will be receiving a full legal  
11          analysis from the firm Broad & Cassel. This is the  
12          firm that represented the pig farmer claimant in  
13          *State versus Basford*, known as the pregnant pig case.

14          In the opinion of council, the phasing out of  
15          racing licenses does not trigger recovery under Bert  
16          Harris. Furthermore, anticipated future profit is  
17          not a property interest --

18                 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

19                 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

20                 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

21                 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Time.

22                 MS. DORCHAK: Thank you. Please support  
23          Proposal 67.

24                 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Jennifer Lenn (sic).

25                 MS. LEON: It's actually Jennifer Leon.

1           COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Leon, I'm sorry.

2           MS. LEON: I have atrocious handwriting.

3           Thank you.

4           Good afternoon. My name is Jennifer Leon. I'm  
5 here today as both a private citizen and on behalf of  
6 Big Cat Rescue with over 2 million followers in  
7 strong support of Proposal 67 to phaseout dog racing.  
8 Even cat people want a better life for dogs.

9           At previous meetings and at some point today  
10 this Commission will likely hear from Jim Blanchard,  
11 president of the Florida Greyhound Association.

12           In an attempt to gloss over and invalidate the  
13 countless documented reports of bad conditions at  
14 racing kennels across the state, Mr. Blanchard and  
15 others will invite the commissioners to visit any  
16 track with an open mind.

17           It's a great offer. It sounds really nice, like  
18 there's nothing these folks have to hide, except that  
19 it's all smoke and mirrors.

20           At this very minute Jim Blanchard has a pending  
21 administrative complaint filed by the Department of  
22 Business and Professional Regulation Division of  
23 Parimutuel Wagering. Of the five counts detailed,  
24 the most telling describes that Mr. Blanchard, and I  
25 quote, has advised his staff to not allow any

1 division investigators into the kennel building and  
2 obstructed the Division's inspection for several  
3 hours.

4 What was he covering up during the several hours  
5 he blocked access to state investigators?

6 It seems Mr. Blanchard's open invitation to  
7 visit any kennel does not apply to state officials.

8 On average a racing dog dies every three days  
9 here in Florida. Citizens want this to end.

10 Proposal 67 would have overwhelming support.

11 Please vote in favor of Proposal 67 and place  
12 Greyhounds on the November ballot.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Let me call some  
15 additional names: Jeff Kremer, Connie Rose, Kathy  
16 Irish, Linda Pickem, Betsy Lamb, Elizabeth either  
17 Rent or Kent, and Michael McQuikin.

18 UNIDENTIFIED MALE SPEAKER: Good afternoon,  
19 Commissioners. We appreciate your service and thank  
20 you for the opportunity to be able to speak today.

21 My wife and I are here today in support of  
22 Proposition 67 for the welfare of Greyhounds and in  
23 loving memory of and tribute to Sammy.

24 We met our boy abandoned on the side of the road  
25 in Clearwater right here in Pinellas County where I

1 was born and raised. He was in very rough shape. He  
2 appeared to have been homeless and hungry for quite  
3 some time, so we took him to the SPCA.

4 Unfortunately, we learned that he had not been micro  
5 chipped. He did have a partial tattoo on his inner  
6 ear, indicating that he was a former racer.

7 After 10 days nobody had claimed him and we were  
8 privileged to have the -- afforded to have the  
9 privilege of adopting Sammy into our family's heart  
10 and home. This is when we first began to learn of  
11 the wonders, the absolute wonders of Greyhounds, but  
12 the absolute horrors of the Greyhound racing  
13 industry.

14 By supporting Proposition 67 for Greyhounds you  
15 will enable amazing dogs like Sammy to enjoy the life  
16 that all domesticated dogs should be afforded within  
17 the comforts of a home and as part of a loving  
18 family. By helping stop the exploitation of the  
19 Greyhound racing industry, you're virtually  
20 eliminating the need for rescue, so thank you very  
21 much for your time and effort.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

23 MS. ROSE: Hi. I'm Connie Rose. I'm from  
24 Tampa, Florida and I'm the founder and president of  
25 Connie Rose Consulting and Victims to Survivors.

1 Thank you, Your Honor, Commissioners, and special  
2 guests, and Commissioner Cerio just left, but thank  
3 you.

4 I'm here to lend my support for Proposal 96 as a  
5 survivor of over 14 years of incest and 4 years of  
6 sex trafficking at the hands of a serial sex offender  
7 father who was also my pimp.

8 You see, I know what it feels like to be  
9 invisible, to have no voice for the abuse I endured,  
10 and for many times I have seen the criminal justice  
11 system re-victimize and re-traumatize the victim.  
12 Sometimes intentional and, yes, sometimes not.  
13 Sometimes the defense team tries to discredit,  
14 intimidate or harass victims.

15 Over the years I have personally worked with  
16 hundreds of victims to help them tell their story,  
17 but more importantly, they've had to tell it over and  
18 over and over again just in order to have their  
19 offender prosecuted. Yet victims are asked, Why do  
20 you wear that dress? Why did you go to that party?  
21 Why did you get in that car? Because, you see, if  
22 you didn't, you wouldn't have been raped and possibly  
23 have not been trafficked and sold for sex.

24 Imagine not knowing when your perpetrator or  
25 your rapist is going to be let go; imagine not

1 knowing that they are now out back on the street, and  
2 for the rest of your life you have to look over your  
3 shoulder because, you see, I know that story also too  
4 well.

5 So thank you, thank you for allowing me to be  
6 the voice, thank you for allowing me to stand in  
7 front of you and say that Proposal 96 is the way to  
8 go. And we are not the solution looking for the  
9 problem, we are the problem looking for a solution in  
10 a justice system that is broken.

11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

13 And if we can please remember, we've got two  
14 microphones.

15 So Kathy Irish.

16 MS. IRISH: Hi.

17 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Linda Pickem, Betsy  
18 Lamb, Elizabeth Kent or Rent, and Michael McQuilken.  
19 If you're here, please let's fill up both mics.

20 MS. IRISH: Hi. My name is Kathy Irish and I'm  
21 asking you to support Proposal 96 today, Marsy's Law.

22 I want to thank you guys for being here today  
23 and for supporting everybody's hard work that they've  
24 done.

25 You've heard many stories today and also I have

1 one, but I'd like to speak mostly in response to  
2 those that oppose the law, that oppose the 96.

3 I understand the role, however, as criminal  
4 defense attorneys, the system -- if the system was  
5 working, I would not be here. They stated many items  
6 that may not be entirely true.

7 Potential abuse of victims' depositions is just  
8 one of the many reasons that the federal government  
9 in 45 other states do not allow victims' depositions.  
10 I come from a state that does not allow that.  
11 Florida is one of only four states that do allow  
12 that, and it does victimize the victims again.

13 We've heard from many victims today. I hate to  
14 see them raked over the coals one more time.

15 So let me finish up real quick. As -- if the 45  
16 other states function just fine, what is wrong with  
17 Florida? Why can't they do what other 48 -- 45  
18 states follow? Why do you have to put the victims  
19 through this; why do you have to keep doing it and  
20 doing it and doing it until they just can't go any  
21 longer and then they just drop it? And can't you  
22 tell people that their abuser is out on the street  
23 and they could possibly be in their front yard  
24 tomorrow?

25 They're not told. It's not right and you need

1 to support this measure.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

4 I'm going to call up -- it seemed like we had a  
5 group that is no longer with us so we'll move on.

6 Samantha Vosloo, Steven Murawski, Sandy Hill,  
7 Jacinda Shapiro, and Bob Asztalos.

8 And we're going to take a break after this next  
9 group.

10 Samantha. Steven Murawski. Sandy Hill.

11 We've got someone, okay. We've got a taker.

12 MS. MURAWSKI: Yes. My name is Steven Murawski.  
13 I'm a professor of oceanography at University of  
14 South Florida.

15 I stand before you to support Proposition 91 to  
16 ban oil and gas drilling in coastal waters of the  
17 state of Florida.

18 The value proposition for oil and gas drilling  
19 in state waters really isn't there. If we look at  
20 the most optimistic estimates, there's likely some  
21 gas and some oil in coastal waters, but when we look  
22 at the -- the marine gas industry in the United  
23 States, the production of gas in the Gulf of Mexico  
24 has dropped by 80 percent in the last 20 years, and  
25 that's because gas produced on land is much cheaper

1 and less environmentally risky.

2 In terms of the other side of the value  
3 proposition, though, it's the coastal economy that's  
4 so important to our state. If you look at coastal  
5 tourism, for example, it's \$57 billion a year.  
6 Fisheries in the state of Florida are worth \$20  
7 billion per year in terms of both commercial and  
8 recreational production. And so when we look at  
9 fisheries, for example, it's worth more than citrus,  
10 farming, ranching and aerospace to our state  
11 combined.

12 So when we look at oil and gas production, its  
13 risky proposition not necessarily in coastal waters,  
14 but in the offshore waters about 125 miles away from  
15 St. Petersburg. That's where the oil and gas  
16 industry wants to drill. A -- oil and gas industry  
17 at two miles deep in the middle of the loop current  
18 would result in a devastating accident to the state  
19 of Florida, and I urge you to pass Proposition 91.

20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

22 Yes, sir.

23 MR. ASZTALOS: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

24 I'm Bob Asztalos with the Florida Health Care  
25 Association, and I appreciate you all spending all

1           this time listening to us. I'm here to speak on  
2           Proposal 54 and to oppose the inclusion of nursing  
3           homes in the elimination of certificate of need.

4                     In 2014 the legislature created the most  
5           progressive certificate-of-need process in the state,  
6           and since then we've seen over 30 nursing homes being  
7           built in different parts of the state where it's  
8           needed. We're afraid that if you eliminate  
9           certificate of need, there's going to be some  
10          unintended consequences. One is what you'll see is  
11          you'll see a dual health care system where you have  
12          boutique nursing homes taking care of high-end  
13          patients and then underfunded Medicaid facilities.

14                    The other thing too is that in the state of  
15          Florida you don't see nursing homes going out trying  
16          to bring people into the community because we're full  
17          and we're efficient. So we don't have competition  
18          for home and community-based care and that promotes  
19          home and community-based care where people should  
20          receive their care.

21                    You know, Commissioners, if you look at Texas,  
22          Texas eliminated nursing home CON. They have the  
23          same amount of elderly population as us. They have  
24          twice the number of nursing homes. Their nursing  
25          homes are 70 percent occupied, ours is 88 percent

1 occupied.

2 So we have efficient nursing homes. Our quality  
3 standards are higher, way higher in every measure  
4 than Texas. So I ask you, please do not include  
5 nursing homes in Proposal 54, and I thank you for  
6 your time.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

8 Is Samantha Vosloo here?

9 Sandy Hill or Jacinda Shapiro?

10 Come on up.

11 MS. SHAPIRO: Hi. Thank you.

12 My name is Jacinda Shapiro and I'm here to  
13 support Proposition 94. I'm a mother and I'm also an  
14 oncology nurse, sorry, and I've worked at Fred Hutch  
15 Research Center in Seattle, Washington, but I'm here  
16 as a mother.

17 We moved here recently to Florida and we were  
18 overwhelmed with the amount of smokers. I'm here  
19 with my one son, I have two other children that were  
20 here recently, and I want to put a face to why I'm  
21 here.

22 We need the funding for our children to prevent  
23 smoking. We do not need the money to go towards  
24 research that is already being done. How we can  
25 prevent cancer is by preventing our children and

1 others from smoking.

2 I don't know if you know, but in 1912 lung  
3 cancer was really unheard of. It was considered so  
4 rare that most people didn't even know it existed.  
5 But by 1940 it was a leading cause of death already  
6 after we promoted the use of smoking. It -- the  
7 tobacco industry and even the government would push  
8 tobacco, even stating that it was -- smoking was as  
9 safe as drinking water.

10 So I believe that Proposition 94 is somehow  
11 related to the tobacco industry wanting to shift  
12 those funds and move it into research instead of  
13 preventing it where we need it today. It would be  
14 unacceptable to take that money away from anything  
15 that would prevent my child and his friends from  
16 smoking.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

19 We're going to take a ten-minute break now.

20 (Recess taken from 5:51 to 6:10 p.m.)

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Would everyone please take  
22 their seats?

23 The meeting is reconvened. Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Okay. Can we please  
25 take our seats? We're going to go ahead and get

1 going in just a minute.

2 All right. A brief announcement. Ready?

3 All right. The news is we have 267 left, okay?

4 We've been working, you have too. Everybody has  
5 been working very hard to say their peace as quickly  
6 as they can, but we've got a lot left. And the  
7 commissioners are doing the best -- as you can  
8 imagine, we are being as attentive as we can and we  
9 will continue to do so, but -- and I know you all  
10 have waited a long time. I want to encourage you and  
11 remind you, we understand if you get up and say I  
12 waive in support of or I waive against a particular  
13 proposal. We've heard some of these quite a few  
14 times on this same subject, and so we're very, very  
15 in tune with your position so -- in several cities,  
16 and, remember, Commissioner Coxe reminded me that  
17 this is our sixth stop. So we're very well versed.  
18 So if you want to waive in support or against, please  
19 feel free to do so.

20 So with that said, Marc Pinied, I think.

21 MR. PINTEL: Pintel.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Pintel, okay.

23 And Chief Judge Ron Ficarrota. He spoke  
24 already.

25 Manley Fuller, Philip Blumel, and Catherine

1 Harrelson.

2 MR. PINTEL: Hi, my name is Marc Pintel. I'm  
3 from Jupiter, Florida and I'm speaking in support of  
4 Proposal 43 for the school board term limits.

5 I just want to say a few things. I think that  
6 everyone should have the right to serve as a school  
7 board commissioner and have the ability to run, and  
8 the way this structure is right now, if school board  
9 commissioners who are there for 20/30/40 years -- and  
10 it's not fair. The average citizen who wants to  
11 stand up and say I want to be on the school board  
12 can't do that because people are in there forever,  
13 and I don't think that's fair, and I think there --  
14 that there needs to be something to make sure that  
15 anyone who wants to represent themselves and say I  
16 want to be on the school board, you know, Mary Jane,  
17 John Smith, or whoever they are, they could go and be  
18 on the school board and effect policy, and I think  
19 everyone should have that right. So that's why I'm  
20 for the amendment, and I think the thing for term  
21 limits, I think the thing to keep in mind, it's not a  
22 Republican thing, it's not a Democratic thing, it's  
23 an American thing, and the population favors term  
24 limits overwhelmingly. It's not a -- it's a  
25 bipartisan thing, so I think it would be great if you

1           guys support that. So thank you very much for  
2           letting me speak.

3           COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

4           Remember, we have two mics so please feel free  
5           to come up and be ready to go.

6           MR. BLUMEL: Who's next?

7           COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: You are.

8           MR. BLUMEL: Okay. I'll be quick.

9           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Because you're right there.  
10          That's the rule.

11          Manley Fuller. Philip Blumel.

12          MR. BLUMEL: Yes, I'm Philip Blumel.

13          COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Catherine Harrelson.

14          MR. BLUMEL: Philip Blumel, West Palm Beach. I  
15          have two kids in the school system here in the state  
16          and I'm speaking in favor of Proposal 43, eight-year  
17          term limits on your school board members.

18          We have eight-year term limits on governor,  
19          cabinet, legislative, all our major counties and a  
20          zillion cities in our state. I think with good  
21          effect and also for good reason. And there's a  
22          couple of aspects of our school board system in the  
23          state which I think is basically pretty good, but I  
24          think that calls out for this kind of reform.

25          Three things together as a piece, I think calls

1           for it: One is that we have paid school board  
2           members in the state. Most states do not, even the  
3           largest school districts in the country do not have  
4           paid school board members. We do. That's okay, but  
5           also we have to keep in mind that that gives a  
6           personal incentive for people to keep this position.  
7           Secondly, we have big money coming to these races. I  
8           just read an article in *The Economist* a couple months  
9           ago about million-dollar school board races that  
10          popped up in a couple different states. We haven't  
11          seen that yet, but we've got six-figure school board  
12          campaigns now here in Florida and it's going -- it's  
13          going to get worse.

14                 Lastly, we have basically unbeatable incumbents.  
15          According to the *Ballotpedia*, we have some of the  
16          least competitive school board races in the country,  
17          and I think these three things together lead to bad  
18          incentives. They put -- allow special interests,  
19          they have too much -- too much control over the  
20          process and they lock citizens out.

21                 So for those reasons, I'd support number 43.

22                 Thank you.

23                 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

24                 MR. FULLER: Manley Fuller, President Florida  
25          Wildlife Federation.

1           We stand in support of Proposal 91. We think  
2           it's -- we think it makes good environmental and  
3           economic sense for Florida to place this on the  
4           ballot. We think the voters will strongly support  
5           it. We appreciate the sponsor and the cosponsors; we  
6           hope that the other commissioners join with  
7           cosponsors in support of this. We think it makes  
8           good sense and urge you to take positive action on  
9           91.

10           Thank you very much.

11           COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

12           Catherine Harrelson, Richard Winning, Austin  
13           Sekel, Karen Lieberman, David Harbeitner, Stephanie  
14           Owens, Less Robison, and Frank Henry, could you  
15           please come forward.

16           First up.

17           MR. HARBEITNER: Hello. Thank you.

18           My name is David Harbeitner. I'm a resident of  
19           St. Petersburg and a member of our -- or a  
20           constituent of Senator Rouson. I'm happy to be here  
21           today. I'm also a father of two adult daughters, a  
22           certified financial planner and an active volunteer  
23           in our community.

24           First, thank you to the Commission for your  
25           service considering our opinions and our prospectives

1 in your final decisions on which proposals will make  
2 it through to the ballot.

3 There are a series of proposals I will waive in  
4 support of. Proposal 91 on offshore drilling, as  
5 well as Proposal 3. We've already heard eloquently  
6 from the people affected directly in Parkland.

7 There are a series of proposals I'd like to  
8 speak against. Specifically, Proposal 95, expanding  
9 preemption. Florida's a large state. It should not  
10 be treated monolithically. Local prospective is  
11 often times the most appropriate one.

12 Second, Proposal 45, expanding vouchers to  
13 include religious schools is a misuse of our tax  
14 dollars and risks publicly funding religious  
15 instruction.

16 Third, Proposal 4, deleting the No-Aid Provision  
17 from our Constitution. The religious freedom  
18 protection should be retained, and, lastly, I'd like  
19 you to not reconsider Proposal 22. Please retain the  
20 strong privacy rights provided by our Constitution.

21 Thank you for your consideration.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, sir.

23 You're up.

24 MR. SEKEL: Good evening, Commissioners. My  
25 name is Austin Sekel. I'm a resident of West Palm

1 Beach. I'm a small business owner and I'm the vice  
2 chair of the Republican Liberty Caucus of Florida,  
3 where we're known as the libertarian wing and the  
4 conscience of the Republican party.

5 I came here today to speak on behalf of my  
6 fellow Republicans and my small libertarians that  
7 believe in, like myself, that barriers to entry of  
8 office should be as minimal as possible. Big money  
9 should not be one of those barriers and should not  
10 prevent parents from running for office. The only  
11 real deterrent from running for office should be  
12 time, not the fear of losing to entrenched incumbents  
13 in office.

14 According to U.S. term limits in 2014, over  
15 95 percent of term limits initiatives passed  
16 nationwide. Ninety-five percent. And in 2016 they  
17 found that 100 percent of term limits initiatives  
18 passed nationwide. One hundred percent. Everywhere.  
19 Not one blemish.

20 And also today I saw an article posted by  
21 *Florida Politics* that showed a study published from a  
22 ClearView Research that showed that the number one  
23 proposal with support for the Florida CRC with  
24 overwhelming 68 percent support is 8-year school  
25 board term limits. Nothing else came close.

1           This is the most popular issue. If you guys  
2 want to have a great legacy, let's give parents the  
3 option to run for office in competitive open-seat  
4 elections instead of keeping the barrier to entry so  
5 high like it is now.

6           Thank you very much and have a good evening.

7           COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

8           Yes, sir.

9           MR. WINNING: I'm Richard Winning, president of  
10 Derby Lane, and I'm here to speak against Proposal  
11 67.

12           We at Derby Lane do feel that this is something  
13 that should be -- not really be on the ballots. We  
14 believe that the Commission has other things and  
15 better constitutional amendments that need to be  
16 looked at than a business. A business -- regardless  
17 is that Derby Lane has been here 93 years, but the  
18 business itself has provided entertainment for  
19 millions of people throughout the state of Florida,  
20 residents and tourists alike. Not only here, but all  
21 over the state.

22           It's not all about cruelty and it's not about  
23 the industry starting to wane. We've had a lot of  
24 competition. In this area we have the casinos. We  
25 have the sixth -- the second -- fourth largest casino

1 in the United States in our backyard in Tampa. It's  
2 the sixth largest in the world. Is also, though, the  
3 most profitable casino of all of them.

4 We face a lot of obstacles, entertainment value  
5 and entertainment dollars. People that choose not to  
6 go to racing, they don't go, but there are people  
7 that do still choose to come, and they enjoy it and  
8 it's their time off. And businesses should be  
9 allowed to work their business models, and if that  
10 model doesn't coincide with business, then they  
11 should be able to adjust. And so over the years  
12 Greyhound racing -- the Greyhound tracks have been  
13 trying to ask for new product through the legislature  
14 and we'll try to continue to do that.

15 And thank you for your time to let me speak, and  
16 I hope you get a chance to hear about the many  
17 employees that are out there that would love to tell  
18 you about how much this means to their jobs, their  
19 families and the charities that are around here that  
20 this has helped over the years.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

23 Yes, ma'am.

24 MS. OWENS: Thank you for the opportunity to  
25 speak. Thank you for your service, and welcome to my

1 hometown of St. Petersburg, Florida.

2 I'm Stephanie Owens. I'm the legislative  
3 advocate for the League of Women Voters and I want to  
4 speak in part in opposition to Proposals 97, 95, 74,  
5 71 and in support of Proposal 3.

6 While many of the proposals are positive,  
7 they're overshadowed by those that seek to strip away  
8 constitutional protections, gut our public school  
9 system, blend church and state, tie the hands of our  
10 local municipalities, making it harder for people to  
11 engage in gainful work and suppress the people's  
12 voice, and, therefore, I also speak to ask that you  
13 seize this moment of tremendous opportunity with  
14 tremendous responsibility.

15 It is important that you take the opportunity to  
16 move forward the will of the people. I would ask  
17 that you not move forward Proposal 74. The ballot  
18 initiative for ballot 4, for felons' rights, has  
19 already made the ballot. I think if you move this  
20 forward, it would be confusing for those who want to  
21 vote on that issue.

22 I will also share just a couple of data points  
23 from a recent pole: 60 percent of Floridians oppose  
24 making it more difficult versus sense to amend the  
25 constitution; 69 percent overwhelming support local

1 municipalities' rights and self rule; and 68 percent  
2 of Floridians across party lines, gun owners and  
3 non-gun owners alike, approve commonsense laws,  
4 including a ban on military-style assault weapons.

5 Citizens have lost much of their influence in a  
6 day and age where money and politics rule.

7 I thank you again for your service, and I ask  
8 that you please let the citizens' voices continue to  
9 be heard on the ballot. Thank you for your time.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

11 MR. ROBERSON: Hello, my name is Less Roberson.  
12 I'm from St. Petersburg, and I am an animal lover and  
13 will be for the rest of my life, especially dogs.

14 I first happened upon Greyhound racing in 1971  
15 at Derby Lane here in St. Pete along with my family.  
16 I heard quite a bit of horror stories about the  
17 treatment of Greyhounds and everything like that, so  
18 I attended with my family and I was fascinated by  
19 those animals. They're just amazing, graceful,  
20 powerful.

21 I stood around for about 10 races that evening.  
22 I went down to where they stop at the end of the  
23 races and they were just wagging their tails and  
24 everything, just happy as can be about doing their  
25 job, performing. And so fast forward to right now, I

1 am still fascinated by these Greyhounds. I love  
2 them, I'm going to adopt one when I retire and -- but  
3 in the meantime, I'm really, really concerned if this  
4 legislation passes about the -- you know, what's  
5 going to happen to these Greyhounds.

6 I think a speaker before me said there were  
7 about 8,000 current Greyhounds. How are they going  
8 to be taken care of if there's no money coming into  
9 the people taking care of them.

10 So that being said, I also am concerned about  
11 the employees, the people that take care of the dogs,  
12 some of them this is all they've ever known, and the  
13 employees of the Greyhound tracks, vendors that  
14 supply the tracks. Again, all I'm asking is you look  
15 a little bit deeper into this situation, try to go to  
16 the track and experience some of the Greyhounds, take  
17 a look at the kennels, and let's keep those dogs'  
18 tails wagging, okay?

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

21 Before you go, sir, we're going to hear from  
22 Karen Lieberman, Catherine Henderson, and Frank  
23 Henry, Dr. Sy Woon, and Nicole Sutton.

24 MR. HENRY: Frank Henry.

25 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Frank Henry?

1 MR. HENRY: Right.

2 My name's Frank Henry and I've lived in Florida  
3 for 40 years as a year-round resident. I'm here to  
4 advocate for the Proposal 62, a recommended open  
5 primary revision for the Florida Constitution.

6 This propert -- proposed revision has been  
7 discussed in several meetings of the ethics and  
8 election committee. Proposal 62 was written by one  
9 of your commissioners, and in fact, as I think it's  
10 Mr. Schifino, and it was approved. Six days later it  
11 went before the General Revision Committee, was  
12 rejected after less than an hour of discussion, and  
13 if you need a copy of it, I have one.

14 Personally, I have voted as a Democrat and a  
15 Republican to try to vote for the people I thought  
16 best qualified and represented my ideas.  
17 Unfortunately, neither party has all the best  
18 qualified candidates or totally represent my ideas.  
19 In my frustration of the Florida's closed primary  
20 system, I registered as an NPA, or Independent. I  
21 felt the major parties were in charge and there was  
22 nothing that my vote could do to change that.

23 There are 3.4 million taxpayers registered as  
24 no-party affiliation or Independents. That's  
25 27 percent of the electorate. If they're not

1           allowed -- although they help pay for the primaries,  
2           which the taxpayers do, they're not allowed to vote  
3           for the candidates of their choice. That reason  
4           alone is enough to put open primaries on the ballot.

5           Eighty-four percent of our elections are decided  
6           in the primary, not the general election. Florida's  
7           normal turnout for the primaries is in the 20  
8           percentile or less. Please review the General  
9           Provision Committee's decision.

10           Thank you.

11           COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

12           MR. ROBERSON: Do you need the copy?

13           Do you have it?

14           COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: We -- the lady to your  
15           left. Thank you.

16           MS. SUTTON: Good evening, Commissioners. Thank  
17           you so much for this opportunity to testify today or  
18           to speak today, and also thank you for all of the  
19           work that you do on this committee.

20           I'm here today, Nicole Sutton is my name. I've  
21           reached out to all of you individually by phone as  
22           well as by email. I'm here in several capacities.  
23           I'm a public health professional. I'm here to speak  
24           in opposition to 94, which concerns tobacco control  
25           funds.

1           In addition to being in public health, I'm also  
2           the mother of a two-year-old and I'm also the  
3           daughter of a woman -- sorry, of a man who died at 59  
4           years old, it's my father, from a tobacco-related  
5           disease.

6           I want you to know, I think you already do,  
7           there were several people who spoke before me, that  
8           these funds are being used appropriately. They're  
9           being used for effective, meaningful and needed  
10          services across our state for services that prevent  
11          addiction, disease, suffering and death. Prevention  
12          efforts also save our state millions and millions of  
13          dollars in future health care costs, but most  
14          importantly, I ask you to consider that protection of  
15          tobacco settlement funds for its intended purpose, as  
16          part of the legacy that we leave to every child in  
17          this state. Children like my son, who's only two,  
18          and children who are yet to be born. So thank you  
19          for this time.

20                COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

21                Yes, ma'am.

22                DR. SY WOON: Hello. My name is Dr. Sy Woon. I  
23                am a veterinarian and medical director of Justin  
24                Bartlett Animal Hospital in Royal Palm Beach,  
25                Florida, and I'm also the Florida State

1 Representative for the Humane Society Veterinary  
2 Medical Association.

3 I'm here imploring you to support and say yes to  
4 Proposal 67, which is the phaseout of Greyhound  
5 racing. As a veterinarian I have no ulterior motive  
6 to be here speaking on behalf of the Greyhounds,  
7 other than the fact that I care and want to save God  
8 the welfare and health of these exploited animals.

9 The Greyhound racing industry has proven time  
10 and time again they cannot follow basic regulations,  
11 and that's why it is so important that we transition  
12 to a phaseout of this unethical industry instead.  
13 They're not being held accountable for the many  
14 undocumented injuries that occur, the fractures, the  
15 lacerations. There's an unacceptable level of death  
16 that occur on the racing tracks, as you've heard the  
17 statistics mentioned by multiple people so far.

18 The fact that this industry exist is unethical  
19 in itself. I mean, the drug positive tests that have  
20 been revealed, the exposé of the multiple injuries  
21 that occur.

22 Greyhounds are just like any of my other K-9  
23 patients that I see. They are just like Malteses,  
24 poodles, Labradors, they deserve to be treated in the  
25 same manner, and currently they are utilized and

1 exploited as disposable tools in the Greyhound racing  
2 industry.

3 They are actually considered by most vets that  
4 I -- I'm pretty sure every vet around the world who's  
5 ever met a Greyhound would agree that they make the  
6 perfect pets. They're docile, they're sweet, they're  
7 incredibly easy to handle. As you've heard, many  
8 people own them as pets. It's not okay for these  
9 dogs to be treated in such a way that we would never  
10 allow for our own pets to be treated. So I beg you  
11 and implore you to support Proposal 67 to phaseout  
12 this industry.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Karen Lieberman,  
15 Catherine Harrelson, Nicole Sutton, are you here?

16 Carol Rizzo, Frank McCarron, James Phillips,  
17 Brianna Auker/Oker.

18 The floor is yours.

19 MS. RIZZO: Good evening. My name is Carol  
20 Becker Rizzo. I'm a 40-year Florida resident and  
21 president of God's Greys Greyhound Adoptions. I am  
22 against Proposition 67, and here's why: Over the  
23 past 16 years I've placed into adoption more than  
24 2500 Greyhounds from Florida Greyhound tracks. I  
25 have handled each and every one of these dogs myself

1 personally. I'm allowed to enter the kennel  
2 compounds and I typically visit there two or three  
3 times a week. I've seen firsthand over many, many  
4 years how these dogs are kept and treated with care,  
5 love and compassion.

6 But it wasn't always this way. Conditions have  
7 improved dramatically for these dogs over recent  
8 years, however, people who don't like dog racing  
9 continue to use examples of situations that are 10 to  
10 20 years in the past. Most people here today who  
11 have spoken who want to end Greyhound racing have  
12 never been to a race kennel, have never seen for  
13 themselves how the dogs live, have never even seen a  
14 dog race or seen how happy these dogs are when they  
15 get off the dog tracks with their tails wagging, just  
16 loving what they do.

17 Dog tracks have capable and caring veterinarians  
18 present at every race and on call 24/7. If a dog  
19 gets injured, it's treated immediately, and if the  
20 injury is serious, adoption groups like myself are  
21 called and we make arrangements with our own vets to  
22 get the dog in right away for surgery and to a foster  
23 home.

24 At Sanford Orlando Kennel Club, where I live,  
25 every retired racing Greyhound gets a home. The last

1 thing adoption groups want to have happen is to have  
2 Greyhound racing end abruptly. We think it would be  
3 far better to let the industry continue to decline as  
4 it has been all on its own. If anyone thinks it's  
5 bad for those dogs now, imagine 8,000 great racing  
6 Greyhounds all trying to get adopted at once. That  
7 is my worst nightmare.

8 Please vote no on Proposition 67.

9 Thank you for your time.

10 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. AUKER: Hi.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Just go ahead.

13 MS. AUKER: Hi. My name is Brianna Auker. I'm  
14 a sophomore at Freedom High School. I stand before  
15 you today to ask that your committee adds an assault  
16 weapons ban to the proposal list, that you show your  
17 support for Proposal 3.

18 I ask that you allow the destroyed communities,  
19 the devastated families, the heartbroken friends and  
20 me, the frequent concert goer, the attendee of LGBTQ  
21 establishments, the student, decide what should be  
22 done with these weapons. The facts are and in fact  
23 is there was never any question. Assault rifles are  
24 weapons used to viciously take the lives of everyday  
25 people. They're used to create hate crimes, murders,

1 slaughters and mass executions in public spaces.

2 In school we are taught to learn from our  
3 mistakes. We memorize events in history in hopes  
4 that we won't repeat our ancestors' poor choices,  
5 however, it's hard to focus when you become the  
6 example. When our schools become the war zones that  
7 ignite temporary change, when our classrooms become  
8 the history we never want to happen again, and our  
9 survival of rebellion all in its own. These aren't  
10 the interactive lessons we asked for.

11 Now is your opportunity to learn from our tears  
12 and our cries for help. Here is the opportunity to  
13 pass a new kind of state assessment. Committee  
14 members, I encourage you to be on the right side of  
15 history. Your final exam is simple: Add an assault  
16 weapons ban and let our people decide. Follow in the  
17 footsteps of your mentors, the traumatized high  
18 school students, and make change through actions.  
19 Thoughts and prayers will not be accepted as extra  
20 credit, and attendance is a part of your final grade.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Yes, sir.

23 MR. PHILLIPS: James Phillips, and I'm against  
24 Proposition 67.

25 If safety were a reason to accept Proposition

1           67, then why have only two out of all the Florida dog  
2 tracks even adopted one of my safety protocols, one  
3 of seven? They're not accountable. They're not held  
4 accountable for these kind of things.

5           If the revenues generated by the dog racing  
6 industry were a concern, then more revenues would be  
7 allocated for the improvement of the conditions  
8 that -- for the public to attend these places. If  
9 cruelty to the animals were a concern, then why  
10 aren't conditions approved at the facilities  
11 themselves. They're not being held accountable.  
12 There's no governing body that can -- that is holding  
13 them accountable.

14           Then I just find out from this man from  
15 Massachusetts during this 10-minute break, he called  
16 me a liar twice and then threatened me that -- that  
17 I'm going to be put out of business: Just face the  
18 consequences. This is what's going to happen.

19           He gets to talk to you guys in Tallahassee, but  
20 nobody talks to me in Tallahassee. Nobody asked to  
21 talk to me.

22           I know more about the racing industry than  
23 anybody out here. This has been in my family since  
24 1942. Please, just get in touch with me. It's very  
25 easy. I can tell you everything -- answer every

1 question you have about this.

2 I thank you very much.

3 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Frank McCarron -- once  
4 again, we have the cards. That's going to speed  
5 things up, please.

6 Frank McCarron. Sahyyah Ameer, and Julize Diaz.

7 Yes, sir.

8 MR. MCCARRON: Good afternoon, Commissioners.  
9 My name is Frank McCarron. I'm the owner of Seminole  
10 Animal Supply.

11 For the benefit of those commissioners not  
12 present at the Melbourne venue, I would like to  
13 repeat my opposition to Proposal 67.

14 For 37 years my business has supplied quality  
15 kennel feed and supplies to every kennel in Florida.  
16 No one, no one in this state sees more Greyhounds  
17 than I do. Every day I see these beautiful dogs  
18 healthy and happy in their kennels. Every year I  
19 collect over \$160,000 in sales tax revenue from eight  
20 different Florida counties. I'm going to repeat  
21 that. Every year I collect over \$160,000 in sales  
22 tax revenue from eight different Florida counties.

23 I believe Proposal 67 is funded and driven by  
24 out-of-state activists. This proposal will destroy  
25 my business and force me to layoff all my employees

1 and cost me my livelihood. This proposal will cost  
2 thousands of job losses across the state and does not  
3 belong in this constitution. This proposal is bad  
4 for business, it's bad for people, and it's bad for  
5 Florida. Please do not support Proposal 67.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Is Sahyyah Ameer here?

8 Julize Diaz, Jerry Berger, Cynthia Kahn, Elise  
9 Bennett, Carol Lerner, Vera Jackson, Carol Levinsky,  
10 Lauren Harkins, Jessica Sanchez, would you all make  
11 your way down, please?

12 Yes, ma'am.

13 MS. KAHN: I'm Cynthia Kahn. I'm not an  
14 out-of-state activist. I'm from Sarasota, Florida,  
15 15 years. I own property and I vote.

16 Regarding Proposition 67, in my limited time  
17 here I will not be addressing the unspeakable  
18 exploitation and deaths of racing dogs. I'm sure the  
19 Humane Society of the United States and the ASPCA has  
20 provided you with the proper documentation. My  
21 remarks today pertain to the culture that we live in  
22 and how we aspire as a society to be.

23 In the 1950s my grandparents retired to Miami  
24 from New York, spending every day where? At the jai  
25 alai or at the dog track. They took me to the circus

1 and they took me to Sea World, and on the old Tamiami  
2 Trail before the interstate we stopped to view a live  
3 bear living in a pit.

4 When we know better, we do better.

5 Ringling has now put its elephants out to  
6 pasture; Sea World will no longer breed orcas and  
7 it's phasing out its shows. Hopefully, bear pits are  
8 gone for good. Inexplicably, we still have dog  
9 racing.

10 FYI, dogs were our first domesticated species  
11 thousands of years ago. We train dogs to trust us.  
12 Dog racing is a betrayal of that trust. Let me  
13 repeat that. Dog racing is a betrayal of that trust.

14 Now we know better and now is the time we should  
15 do better. The people here want to see Proposition  
16 67 on the ballot.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: This is going to take a  
19 really long time if I have to pause every time you  
20 all clap, okay?

21 I mean, we've got about 230 left.

22 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I'm not going anywhere.

23 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Well, we're getting  
24 awful tired. We're doing our best.

25 Yes, sir.

1 MR. BERGER: Hi.

2 Commissioners, my name is Jerry Berger. I work  
3 at Stanford Orlando Kennel Club. I'm a judge and  
4 sharp writer.

5 I've worked in the Greyhound business for 22  
6 years. I worked at Orange Park, Melbourne and  
7 Sanford Orlando, and all this proposal will do would  
8 cost me my job and cost people all around the state  
9 the loss of their jobs. Please vote no on 67. Use  
10 your commonsense.

11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you, sir.

13 Yes, ma'am.

14 MS. LERNER: Hi, my name is Carol Lerner. I'm a  
15 resident of Sarasota. I'm a retired public school  
16 social worker and I'm here to represent Protect Our  
17 Public Schools Minnesota, which is an organization  
18 that's been set up to fight privatization of  
19 education and to work for quality public school  
20 education.

21 I have a number of proposals that I've been a --  
22 that I'm opposed to and I came thinking I would just  
23 be in an anti-way, but then I learned today about  
24 Proposition 3, so I'd like to start my remarks by  
25 saying that I very strongly support a assault weapons

1           ban in particular, and that has become a mission of  
2           my organization, protect our public schools. After  
3           the 14th, we actually decided to expand our mission  
4           to not just protect public education, but to protect  
5           the children of public education, so I very strongly  
6           support that.

7           I just want to say real quickly, I am opposed to  
8           quite a number of proposals that are actually  
9           supporting privatization: Number 4, number 45,  
10          number 71 and number 93.

11          I'd like in particular to zero in on Proposal 4,  
12          which would eliminate the Blaine Amendment, which has  
13          kept the separation of church and state, and what  
14          that really means and what that's going to translate  
15          is school vouchers, which I'm very strongly opposed  
16          to.

17          Voters have twice before rejected this, so why  
18          try a third time? Let's expend our energy on  
19          proposals that improve public education, not  
20          proposals that destroy it.

21          Thank you very much.

22          COMMISSIONER SCHIFINO: Thank you.

23          Do we have Elise Bennett, Vera Jackson, Carol  
24          Levinsky, Lauren Harkins, Jessica Sanchez?

25          Commissioner Rouson, it's all yours.

1           COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much. I've  
2 lived all my life for this moment.

3           UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: That's why you get paid the  
4 big bucks.

5           COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Next on deck: Dan Hicks,  
6 Steve Grabarczyic -- I'm sorry -- Tina --

7           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Tina Braungardt. I don't know  
8 how bad I did that.

9           COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Kelli Hammer Levy.

10          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'm his wingman.

11          COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Marilyn Weaver.

12          Dan Hicks.

13          MR. HICKS: My name is Dan Hicks and I am in  
14 support of Proposition 67. Thank you for hearing me  
15 today.

16          I would like to read an article that was  
17 published on Jacksonville.com July of 2017: "The  
18 recent discovery of cocaine in a dozen racing  
19 Greyhounds has focused attention on a mostly  
20 forgotten practice that in Florida is being  
21 perpetuated by politics."

22          The state's twelve dog tracks took in \$240  
23 million at bets during the year that ended June of  
24 2016, half the amount that was wagered a decade  
25 before. The state says it now spends more money

1 regulating the Greyhound industry than it receives in  
2 tax revenues from the races. First Coast News  
3 reported that a trainer at Bet Best Orange Park had  
4 his license suspended after 12 dogs under his care  
5 tested positive for cocaine. The head of a nonprofit  
6 that monitors dog tracks around the country called it  
7 the largest Greyhound dog drug -- drug case in  
8 American history.

9 Another trainer's license was revoked in May  
10 after cocaine was found in the urine of five dogs  
11 that raced at Derby Lane right here at St.  
12 Petersburg. Earlier this year folks -- First Coast  
13 News reported that 367 dogs had died at Florida  
14 Greyhound tracks since 2013, including 52 in Orange  
15 Park.

16 I'm quoting: "If you isolate decoupling of  
17 dogs, I think that you probably would have a majority  
18 of legislators who believe it makes little sense to  
19 require under law an activity that no one wants to  
20 watch and many people consider inhumane," quoting  
21 Senator Rob Bradley.

22 Senator Dana Young states: "The issue is  
23 disturbing because unlike so many other decoupling  
24 issues in terms of jai alai and saddle racing, in  
25 this situation you have dogs that are being bred

1 solely for the purpose of racing and no one is  
2 watching."

3 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

4 MR. HICKS: They're racing -- all right. Thank  
5 you.

6 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Steve Grabarczyic. Did I  
7 say that --

8 MR. GRABARCZYIC: Steve Grabarczyic, Cape Coral,  
9 Florida. I'm here today -- I have no financial  
10 interest in the racing industry. I'm just a regular  
11 citizen who happens to own three retired racers. Two  
12 of them never raced. They're not dead; they're not  
13 trashed; they're in my house; they're great. Another  
14 racer I did adopt in December.

15 I'm here to address all the lies. I'm a  
16 financial advisor. If I told one one-hundredth of  
17 the lies that are coming out from these people, my  
18 license would be barred. I'd be barred and  
19 suspended.

20 GREY2K, they like to throw stones when they live  
21 in the glass house. It's a fact, the founder was in,  
22 either purposely or accidentally, a trained accident  
23 many years ago. She then sued the MBTA. In her  
24 testimony she said, and I quote, "I don't remember  
25 anything from that day of the accident. I was

1           knocked unconscious."

2           She goes around telling a story about an  
3           accident, which drives donations. This is akin to  
4           the gentleman who went on GoFundMe, said he had  
5           cancer to get donations.

6           So which story is correct, the one she tells  
7           about her epiphany to save dogs or the court  
8           testimony where she says she doesn't remember  
9           anything about that date. Somebody's lying here, and  
10          it's all about credibility, of which GREY2K has  
11          known.

12          Even when they were in Massachusetts, the *Boston*  
13          *Harold* said they defamed people and it was just a  
14          bunch of lies and they were called out on advertising  
15          that they had.

16          The cocaine issue, I discussed this in Cape  
17          Coral. Commissioner Thurlow-Lippisch, you were here,  
18          I'm the grain of sand guy, if you remember correctly,  
19          and, Commissioner Stemberger, I think you were in  
20          Cape Coral as well.

21          When they come up and say the dogs are drugged,  
22          that's not true. Please look at my packet of  
23          information from actual experts, not these people  
24          coming up here repeating the same.

25          UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

1           COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

2           Tina Braumgardt. Kelli Hammer Levy.

3           MS. BRAUMGARDT: Hi. I'm gonna waive in support  
4 of 91 and I would like to speak against Proposal 95.

5           I'm a resident of Pinellas County. I'm the  
6 director of Pinellas County's Environmental  
7 Management Division and I serve on the executive  
8 committee and board of directors of the Florida  
9 Stormwater Association, so thank you for this  
10 opportunity to speak today.

11           I know Proposal 95 is not normally active,  
12 however, we understand that it may be reintroduced  
13 for a consideration.

14           I'm extremely concerned about Proposal 95 with  
15 regard to the ability of local governments to manage  
16 flooding and water pollution. Flooding and water  
17 quality are critical to our residents, businesses and  
18 our tourists. People want to swim, boat, fish, dive  
19 and drink clean water. All Florida waters have water  
20 quality standards to meet and most local governments  
21 hold federal Clean Water Act permits that require us  
22 to address pollution. It's a very complex problem  
23 and we need a lot of tools in our toolbox to respond.

24           Proposal 95 would eliminate the ability of local  
25 governments to respond to communities' specific

1 pollution issues, address flooding, implement  
2 stormwater fees, and choose the management efforts  
3 that are most cost effective and supported by our  
4 citizens.

5 The Bayway right outside that window is a great  
6 example. There are years ago when you sit out there  
7 you couldn't breathe and you couldn't -- you couldn't  
8 even stand to be out there, but today that Bay that  
9 we sit on today contributes \$51 billion to our Tampa  
10 Bay economy, and one in five jobs in our region is  
11 dependent on a healthy Bay.

12 Proposal 95 will cripple our efforts to sustain  
13 progress we have made in restoring the Bay and other  
14 local waters, and also our efforts to address local  
15 flooding issues and sea level rise. So we ask you to  
16 withdraw any further consideration on Proposal 95 so  
17 that we can manage local flooding and water quality  
18 conditions and create a sustainable future for our  
19 residents and our economy.

20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

22 Marilyn Weaver up --

23 MS. WEAVER: Yes.

24 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: -- and then on deck we  
25 have Robin Jones, Kelly Nelson, Roger Crescentini,

1 Clay Connolly.

2 MS. WEAVER: Commissioners, I'm Marilyn Weaver,  
3 I'm the executive director of the League of the  
4 Humane Voters of the Florida chapter.

5 Hi, Chris.

6 And I'm speaking from my many thousands of  
7 fellow voters throughout Florida, and I'm speaking in  
8 support of proposition -- of Proposal 67.

9 The people you hear from today asking you to  
10 support Proposal 67, as I am, have no financial  
11 interest in this request. The breeders do,  
12 regardless of their claims of love for their animals.  
13 Increased profits, reduced cost, that's the monitor  
14 of business.

15 For the racing industry Greyhounds have been  
16 losing money and are recognized as a dying business  
17 due to decreased betting attendance. The racing  
18 gaming industry wants to use more lucrative ways to  
19 make money. Why should they be forced to continue  
20 racing dogs because the state mandates it?

21 Florida's losing a million to three million  
22 yearly because regulatory costs cost -- exceed  
23 revenues. I thought the idea was to get government  
24 out of business as much as possible.

25 I'm asking that you support Proposal 67 so that

1 the voters have a voice in our democracy. We who  
2 care about dogs know what the life of a racing  
3 Greyhound is; mostly confinement for 20 to 23 hours a  
4 day in stacked metal cages, fed meat from downed  
5 animals that don't pass the smell test.

6 How do I personally know this? An employee at  
7 the Race Track told me so.

8 Racing is already -- they're not em -- well,  
9 they're paid.

10 Racing is already outlawed in 40 states. I  
11 don't want to take the time going into details about  
12 the use of steroids and drug dogs, injuries not  
13 reported, and sick and dying from so-called food. I  
14 am sure you are hearing these things from others. I  
15 am requesting that you do the right thing by allowing  
16 the citizens to vote via ballot initiative on this  
17 issue that will give equal voice --

18 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

19 MS. WEAVER: -- to those for or against the  
20 continuation of Greyhound racing.

21 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you, Miss Jones.

22 MS. WEAVER: Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Kelly Nelson.

24 I'm sorry, your name?

25 MS. JONES: Robin Jones.

1 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Robin Jones, you're up.

2 MS. JONES: I'm Robin Jones from St. Petersburg  
3 and I urge you to vote no on Proposition 43, which  
4 dictates how local communities structure their school  
5 board elections by imposing term limits. It's a  
6 solution without a problem.

7 A review of school board races since 2010 show  
8 that 65.15 percent of the races were competitive with  
9 a 41-percent turnover rate. So the parents and  
10 taxpayers of our school districts are electing school  
11 boards with a combination of experienced and  
12 knowledgeable leaders, as well as those with new  
13 perspectives.

14 Could this proposal actually be addressed in  
15 another so-called problem that existing school boards  
16 are exerting too much oversight over charter schools?  
17 That problem is addressed in Proposal 71, which takes  
18 charter school approval away from locally elected  
19 boards. Ironically, both 43 and 71 were proposed by  
20 the same commission member, a charter school advisory  
21 board founder and a supporter of school  
22 privatization.

23 We know the charter school lobby groups are  
24 pouring millions of dollars into political races,  
25 first at the state level and now in local school

1 board races. A threat was recently made in  
2 Hillsborough by a charter lobbyist that a candidate  
3 should withdraw since \$100,000 would be spent on the  
4 opponent.

5 The churning caused by term limits would make  
6 this campaign funding very significant. Vote no on  
7 43 and also 71.

8 Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Kelly Nelson. Roger  
10 Crescentini.

11 And what is your name, sir?

12 MR. CONNOLLY: Clay Connolly.

13 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: You're next after Roger.

14 MR. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

15 MR. CRESCENTINI: I don't have the microphone.  
16 What, do you know something I don't know?

17 I'm here to speak in favor of Proposition 91.  
18 My name is Roger Crescentini. I've been a resident  
19 of the Bay Area since 1958. I was a graduate of the  
20 University of South Florida before there was a St.  
21 Petersburg campus, and I am a Vietnam veteran who was  
22 schooled very well in the use of the M16.

23 Decisions that affect our economic and  
24 environmental future should be based on the best  
25 information possible. Only yesterday a new study

1 from a group calling itself 50/50 Climate Resource  
2 Project was released to the public, and that provides  
3 credible information that clearly supports a ban on  
4 oil drilling off Florida's coastline.

5 The 50/50 Climate Project publishes an annual  
6 Key Climate Votes Survey that identifies how the 30  
7 largest money managers by assets under management  
8 voted on Key Climate Votes during their preceding  
9 annual board of directors meetings. These are  
10 corporations that mostly are in the utility and oil  
11 fields, and this is the report that was released just  
12 yesterday.

13 The information topics covered include such  
14 things as lobbying activities and other corporate  
15 activities designed to influence political decisions.  
16 The asset managers and climate-related shareholder  
17 proposals report on Key Climate Votes, that's what  
18 it's called, is strong evidence that the promise of  
19 fossil fuel investments is becoming less valuable  
20 than the industry is apparently willing to admit. A  
21 min -- a major point is that shareholders in oil and  
22 utility companies are proposing more climate-related  
23 projects, but mainly of -- because of their asset  
24 managers those --

25 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much, sir.

1 MR. CRESCENTINI: -- are not being -- I have a  
2 copy if somebody would like it.

3 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Clay Connolly.

4 MR. CONNOLLY: Good evening. Thank you. My  
5 name is Clay Connolly. I'm deputy chief with the  
6 Williston -- can you hear me?

7 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: And on deck we have David  
8 Johnson, David Caras, Ken Pelton, Lauren Brenzel.

9 Thank you.

10 MR. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

11 I'm deputy chief of the Williston Police  
12 Department and I thank you for your opportunity  
13 today.

14 I'm here to support, I said support, Proposition  
15 88. My office just spent the last three months of  
16 2017 investigating and prosecuting cases of neglect  
17 at Good Samaritan Retirement Home in Williston that's  
18 an assisted living facility. In a nutshell, Good  
19 Samaritan was understaffed, undertrained and under  
20 supervised. They've been under scrutiny by AHCA  
21 since 2007, under three different owners, who between  
22 themselves have a litany of violations, 63  
23 complaints, 16 fines, \$103,000, and investigations  
24 resulting in an agreement in 2013 that removed the  
25 owners from the management of the facility.

1           The owners continue to own the property to this  
2 day. The culture of violations has continued.

3           Between October 3rd, 2017 and December 15th,  
4 2017 the Williston Police Department investigated  
5 seven events of neglect, arrested two administrators,  
6 and filed sworn complaints on two more employees for  
7 criminal neglect. One client died.

8           The Levy County EMS made 97 ambulance runs to  
9 the facility in 16 months. The police department  
10 became so concerned we notified 911 dispatch to send  
11 a Williston police officer for every ambulance run to  
12 that ALF. We brought the activities of the past  
13 three months to DCF and AHCA. It wasn't until  
14 December 19th that the ALF license was suspended.

15           My question is, why so long?

16           Good Samaritan was managed by the Andrada  
17 Sunshine Corporation of January 13 when they entered  
18 into a revocation agreement to sell the business and  
19 its assets in lieu of paying a \$72,000 fine. What  
20 they did was transfer the property to their realty  
21 company and sold Good Samaritan business name to  
22 different LLCs. They've been hiding behind a shell  
23 game of LLCs ever since.

24           It's willfully apparent that AHCA is not up to  
25 the task of policing these violations effectively,

1 and if not them, then who?

2 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

3 MR. CONNOLLY: Folks of elder abuse, our elder  
4 population, need Proposition 88.

5 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

6 MR. CONNOLLY: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: David Johnson. David  
8 Caras.

9 MR. PELTON: Good afternoon, Commissioners.  
10 Thanks for being here. I admire your --

11 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Your name, please.

12 MR. PELTON: I admire your work you're doing.

13 Ken Pelton from Cooper City, Florida, which is  
14 by Hollywood.

15 Kathy, my wife, worked to free the Greyhounds.  
16 She worked her heart out for 15 years on this issue,  
17 and I'm here for her and the Greyhounds because she  
18 died last October from cancer, but it was her passion  
19 to free the Greyhounds.

20 There's a reason that 40 states have banned  
21 Greyhound racing, commercial Greyhound racing. They  
22 recognize it as an industry based on animal abuse and  
23 exploitation of the Greyhounds.

24 On Florida tracks a dog dies every three days,  
25 but we don't know how many dogs are injured and taken

1 to the vet and euthanized. That could be quite a  
2 high number of dogs. We also don't know how many  
3 dogs are injured because the Greyhound industry  
4 refuses to make -- put those figures in the public  
5 domain.

6 If any private person did to dogs what the  
7 Greyhound industry does or let's happen to their  
8 dogs, that person would be arrested and put in jail.  
9 There's a big discrepancy there.

10 Florida legislatures have proven time and time  
11 again that they are incapable of implementing any  
12 legislation for this very recalcitrant industry that  
13 refuses to reform itself.

14 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much, sir,  
15 for your comment.

16 MR. PELTON: So I'm asking you to vote for the  
17 amendment.

18 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Your name, please.

19 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening. I'm Detective  
20 Sergeant Dave Johnson, Williston Police Department,  
21 and I'm picking up from deputy chief here.

22 I was the chief investigator on the Good  
23 Samaritan situation, but it's not safe for a moment  
24 that there aren't really great ALFs, nursing homes  
25 around. Let me predicate that.

1           However, in this situation we're looking for  
2 enforcement of the wonderful regulations already  
3 intact. Being that during my investigation the  
4 ownership of the Good Samaritan Retirement Home,  
5 located in Williston, Florida, I discovered that not  
6 only does the Andrada Corporation own such assisted  
7 living facility, which they have switched corporate  
8 names on several times to avoid legal entanglements,  
9 but also owns several others in the Apopka and  
10 Kissimmee, Florida area.

11           Deputy Connolly has named you three other  
12 business names that they have cleverly used to  
13 describe the business. It appears as though  
14 transferring personnel to their other locations to  
15 avoid issues also takes place.

16           During my investigation of numerous incidents of  
17 gross neglect of residents at the mentioned facility,  
18 I was continually shocked by the lack of care and  
19 concern for the residents by the staff, as well as  
20 poor conditions that they resided in. I couldn't  
21 help but reflect on my own parents, would I have to  
22 have them housed in that kind of facility, how I  
23 would have been enraged over it.

24           None of us have the total assurance about what  
25 our circumstances will be when we reach that kind of

1 age and condition, and there's no guarantees that  
2 we'll not require living in a facility of that  
3 nature. Please try to put yourself in that kind of  
4 situation and fathom how you'll feel to be neglected  
5 as such, should you have to be in that mentality  
6 about that.

7 While investigating the criminal investigation,  
8 the criminal violations that took place in the  
9 mentioned facility, I became curious as to why  
10 nothing was being done by the governing agencies, as  
11 we had, in one situation, four people carried out  
12 unknowing to AHCA, who was on site.

13 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.  
14 Thank you very much for your comments.

15 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you very much for your time.

16 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Lauren?

17 MS. BRENZEL: Yeah.

18 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: And on deck Diana Stem,  
19 Cindi Kinch, Annie Filkowski, and Timothy Gee.

20 MS. BRENZEL: Hi, Commissioners. My name is  
21 Laren Brenzel. I'm coming to you from St.  
22 Petersburg, Florida today. Thank you for being here.

23 I'm speaking out against Proposal 22. I believe  
24 that as a thank you for your patience here today, one  
25 thing that I can do for you is keep my testimony

1 short.

2 I hope that going into this next phase of the  
3 CRC process you reject any attempts to bring Proposal  
4 22 forward again. We know that Floridians respect a  
5 strong right to privacy and we want to keep that  
6 going.

7 Thank you and have a wonderful day,  
8 Commissioners.

9 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Diana Stem, Cindi Kinch,  
10 Annie Filkowski.

11 MS. FILKOWSKI: Hi, guys. Thank you for being  
12 here. I wish you had the chance to see my beautiful  
13 campus. I'm a student here. I don't think you will  
14 have that chance before the sun sets.

15 I'm sorry to disappoint, I'm not going to talk  
16 about the Greyhounds; I'm going to talk about  
17 Proposal 22.

18 I'm just really scared that if this is brought  
19 back to the Commission again, it's going to really  
20 threaten my right to privacy. It's a thinly veiled  
21 attack on abortion access to Florida women, so I  
22 please urge you to reject Proposal 22.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Timothy Gee. Alton . . .

25 MR. GEE: Hello. My name is Timothy Gee. I

1           oppose Proposition 65.

2                     At the age of 10 I started stealing my mother's  
3           cigarettes and I consumed and I smoked them, and I  
4           went to as many lengths as picking up cigarette butts  
5           from ashtrays and off the ground, and I was fully  
6           addicted by the age of 12.

7                     February 2nd, 2015 I was introduced to vaping  
8           technology and I have not consumed a cigarette since  
9           that day. I lost my father at 17 from emphysema and  
10          heart disease from smoking cigarettes. I've tried  
11          patches, nicotine gum, I've tried to work it into my  
12          twelve-step program, and I was unable to quit until  
13          the technology of vaping was introduced to me, and I  
14          want you to be a part of the solution and not the  
15          problem.

16                    Thank you.

17                    COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

18                    MR. LABRECQUE: Hello. My name is Alton  
19          Labrecque. I live in Clearwater, Florida. I'm going  
20          to try to keep this short.

21                    First I would like to thank Commissioner Joyner,  
22          Commissioner Schifino has left, Martinez, Coxe, all  
23          of you for voting down -- striking down Proposition  
24          22 in committee. I request all of you to make sure  
25          that it's not brought up again. It is the thinnest

1           avail of attacks on a woman's right to choose and you  
2           have an opportunity to propel this state towards  
3           justice right now. Passionately so. This bill is --  
4           proposition doesn't do that.

5           Thank you.

6           COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Dianne Lebecdeff, Karen  
7           Mullins, Sheila Burnhard, Jalessa Blackshear, Joanne  
8           Wuelfing, Ken Wuelfing, Dara Cooley, Joel Elsea, Lisa  
9           Tanaka.

10          MS. WUELFING: Hi, I'm Joanne Wuelfing,  
11          cofounder of the Greyhound Advancement Center. I'm  
12          very much against Proposal 67 to end Greyhound  
13          racing.

14          Here's why: First of all, we've had about 450  
15          Greyhounds participate in our Greyhound and inmate  
16          prison training program. We have a partnership with  
17          Hardee Correctional. It's a reentry program. We are  
18          also involved with the department of corrections  
19          credential program that helps find good jobs for our  
20          inmate trainers. We produce companion service and  
21          therapy dogs. We are racing neutral. We also head  
22          up Gold Coast Greyhound Adoptions in Southwest  
23          Florida. We place about a hundred dogs a year into  
24          good homes to Southwest Florida. We personally own  
25          two Greyhounds, Copper and Sweet Tray.

1           Here's why our experience matters: We know when  
2 we love Greyhounds and we know what they can do. We  
3 necessarily deal with most entities involved in the  
4 racing industry at the working level. We know a good  
5 cross-section of its people. We necessarily deal  
6 with multiple adoption organizations in and out of  
7 Florida. As intake to our organizations, we see  
8 many, many dogs, so we are in a position to judge  
9 their good position.

10           We see in enough facilities across the industry  
11 to have a sense of its good condition. We have some  
12 sense of capacity of the organizations involved, how  
13 much they handle and how much they could handle. We  
14 are comfortable speaking about the industry from the  
15 outside through our involvement.

16           What about the Greyhounds? They're one of the  
17 few breeds to grow up in their natural family with  
18 all siblings and usually at least one parent. To a  
19 dog they're treated professionally in terms of  
20 nutrition and health care. Their mortality rate  
21 during racing ages, up to five, is inarguably  
22 dramatically lower than an average U.S. dog and  
23 probably as good as any breed.

24           Most of them do love to run and eat and to  
25 compete. They are professional athletes, and as

1 such, they're prone to injury, a small percentage of  
2 which are serious. Very few dogs are good enough to  
3 race for very long.

4 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

5 Ken.

6 MR. WUELFING: Ken Wuelfing, about 20 years in  
7 Florida, Bradenton.

8 We didn't quite get to finish the setup here,  
9 but my part is about what's worst for the dogs.

10 We're here for the dogs. We are very aware of  
11 the industry and we certainly don't speak for it, and  
12 I'm sure they would not want us to speak for it.

13 The dogs that we get are in good condition. We  
14 turn out terrific dogs. The worst thing that could  
15 happen here is anything -- any plan that takes  
16 thousands of dogs and tries to put them on the street  
17 overnight. That will result in the death of  
18 thousands of dogs. That's our primary concern.

19 With our other aspects, we're going to have  
20 people who lose jobs, we're going to have lost  
21 revenue, not just the racing industry, but the  
22 supporting industries. On top of that we're going to  
23 lose a breed of dogs that's a wonderful breed that --  
24 you know, we've turned out service dogs and therapy  
25 dogs, emotional support animals. People are going to

1           lose the opportunity for that as well.

2                     We do think the status quo is acceptable.

3           Coupling has -- whether it was intended or not, and  
4           probably wasn't, has kept this industry dwindling at  
5           a rate that's sustainable for us to place these dogs.  
6           So that's great. If the market's not there, the  
7           industry can go away and that's fine.

8                     By the way, one plug here, that the Greyhound  
9           should be made the Florida state dog.

10                    Okay. You may have noticed that most of the  
11           people who come up here who actually see the dogs in  
12           their environment, both before and after racing, are  
13           against 67. I'm there too. You may see a lot of  
14           hands with red behind me. That's very appropriate,  
15           because anything that passes --

16                    UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

17                    COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much, sir,  
18           for your comments.

19                    Dara Cooley.

20                    MS. COOLEY: Good evening. Dara Cooley.

21                    I stand in support of Proposal 88. I'm a local  
22           attorney here with my colleagues. We work together  
23           advocating on behalf of Florida nursing home  
24           residents. We urge you to vote for Proposal 88.

25                    Based on our experience and concerns, we support

1 Proposal 88 for the following reasons:

2 Unquestionably, no person should have his or her  
3 constitutional rights denied, abridged or infringed  
4 upon simply because he or she has been admitted to a  
5 nursing home or assisted lived facility. No  
6 reasonable Floridian disagrees with that statement,  
7 yet the current statutory scheme which governs  
8 nursing home and assisting living facility litigation  
9 in Florida does exactly that.

10 As it stands, residents of nursing homes and  
11 assisting living facilities who have been abused or  
12 neglected do not retain many of the individual rights  
13 that all other law abiding citizens have. Needless  
14 to say, the current system must be fixed and fixed  
15 quickly; otherwise, the injustices against Florida's  
16 most vulnerable individuals will continue to  
17 accumulate for years to come.

18 Most, if not all, Floridians are familiar with  
19 the concept of equal protection. Even if they don't  
20 know it by name, simply stated, the right to equal  
21 protection guarantees every law abiding citizen will  
22 be treated equally by the laws of Florida.

23 Another similar right guaranteed to all  
24 Floridians is the right to access to our Florida  
25 courts. Unfortunately, the current legal framework

1 governing nursing home and assisted living facility  
2 litigation abridges these two fundamental rights in  
3 various ways. Under chapter 400 and under chapter  
4 429 nursing home residents may only bring specific  
5 statutory claims and not your negligent common law  
6 claims.

7 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you for your  
8 comments.

9 MS. COOLEY: Thank you. We urge you to vote for  
10 Proposition 88.

11 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Joel Elsea, and on deck  
12 Lisa Tanaka, Joseph Ficarrota, Bennie Lazzara, Lydia  
13 Wardell, Laura Weiss, Linda Stoller, Donna Pol --  
14 Polhamus, Guddy Scheider.

15 MR. ELSEA: Thank you.

16 Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, my name is Joel  
17 Elsea and I urge -- I stand before you in support of  
18 Proposal 88. Picking up where Miss Cooley left off,  
19 I want to talk with you about some deficiencies in  
20 the current framework. I support Proposal 88 for  
21 many years, three of which I'm going to speak with  
22 you about.

23 The first is that chapters 400 and 429  
24 substantially infringe upon the equal protection and  
25 access to court of nursing homes and assisted living

1 facility residents respectively by requiring these  
2 residents to go through a mandatory presuit process.  
3 Unlike most Floridians holding statutory and common  
4 law claims for negligence, residents of nursing homes  
5 and assisted living facilities must delay the filing  
6 of their negligence actions for at least 75 days.  
7 Most Floridians are free to file any lawsuit at any  
8 time within the statute of limitations period, but  
9 nursing home and assisted living facility residents  
10 don't have that same freedom.

11 Next, nursing home and assisted living facility  
12 residents are required to attend a mandatory  
13 mediation within the presuit process. It's attended  
14 with the defendants before they're even allowed to  
15 file a suit, if one is filed at all. These mandatory  
16 mediations, practically speaking, serve no purpose  
17 other than increase the cost of litigation. These  
18 mandatory mediations never resolve the claim, but  
19 it's something that residents of nursing homes and  
20 assisted living facilities must go through, and it  
21 violates their equal protection and the right -- and  
22 it delays their access to court.

23 And finally, members of nursing homes and  
24 assisted living facility residents there have to --  
25 before they sue or bring claims against the types of

1 corporate entities that you heard about before from  
2 the law enforcement officers here, they have to go  
3 through a special evidentiary hearing, an evidentiary  
4 hearing that other claimants in Florida do not have  
5 to go through. They have to go through that extra  
6 step, and Proposal 88 is needed.

7 Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

9 Lisa.

10 MS. TANAKA: Good evening. Mr. Chairman and  
11 Commissioners, my name is Lisa Tanaka. I'm a local  
12 attorney who represents nursing home and assisted  
13 living facility residents, and as you heard from the  
14 previous two speakers in support of Proposal 88, the  
15 laws in Florida currently do not provide equal  
16 treatment and equal access of courts to nursing home  
17 and assisted living facility residents. The laws in  
18 Florida provide statutory causes of action under  
19 chapter 415 to every natural person in Florida whose  
20 rights are violated in the ways outlined therein.  
21 Nursing home and assisted living facility residents,  
22 however, are not able to sue their abusers for  
23 negligence under chapter 415. This is not equal  
24 treatment under the law.

25 To make matters worse, chapter 415 provides for

1 an award of attorneys' fees and costs to parties that  
2 prevail on their lawsuits under that chapter.

3 Residents of nursing homes and assisted living  
4 facilities may only sue for injuries arising out of  
5 negligence under chapters 400 and 429, but they are  
6 unable to obtain an award of attorneys' fees and  
7 costs when they prevail on their claims for those  
8 damages.

9 The ability of Floridians who prevail on claims  
10 under 415 to obtain an award of attorneys' fees and  
11 cost is vital to ensure their access to the courts.  
12 Without an award of attorneys' fees and costs, many  
13 Floridians would not be able to afford a lawyer to  
14 even bring their lawsuits in the first place.  
15 Nursing home and assisted living facility residents  
16 cannot obtain an award of attorneys' fees and costs  
17 in the same way as all other Floridians. Thus,  
18 currently their access to courts is diminished and  
19 sometimes denied. Therefore, we urge you to support  
20 Proposal 88.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

23 MS. WARDELL: My name is Lydia Wardell. I  
24 support Proposal 88, but I'm not just here as an  
25 attorney whose practice is centered around our

1 elderly, a protected class who deserve protections in  
2 hopes of minimizing their vulnerability. I also  
3 speak to you today as a daughter, the determined  
4 daughter of an individual whose father has suffered  
5 the crippling effects of diseases of the aging, the  
6 diseases of the elderly. I am his voice too, and  
7 this is why we need Proposition 88.

8 Nursing home residents are required under  
9 Florida statutes to show evidence that a potential  
10 defendant owed them a duty of reasonable care before  
11 even being able to sue that potential defendant. All  
12 other Floridians in almost every other situation are  
13 allowed access to the courts without any such  
14 requirement.

15 This section also requires nursing home  
16 residents to make an evidentiary showing that  
17 establishes causation as to their potential  
18 defendant. These two requirements in effect create a  
19 trial before the trial. Nursing home residents are  
20 required to establish through evidence that certain  
21 potential defendants owed duties, breached those  
22 duties, and the breach has legally caused the  
23 resident's injuries before even being able to allege  
24 the same.

25 These exact showings are then required to be

1           made at the actual trial on the merits, all other  
2           plaintiffs in Florida can simply allege these  
3           elements in a complaint without any other necessary  
4           requisite showing. This is not equal treatment under  
5           the law. These additional requirements hamper or  
6           restrict the nursing home residents' constitutional  
7           right to access the courts.

8           Similarly, nursing home and assisted living  
9           facility residents are required to make a showing of  
10          their entitlement to plead a claim of punitive  
11          damages at a full evidentiary hearing. All other  
12          plaintiffs in Florida must simply proffer evidence to  
13          show an entitlement to plead such punitive damages.  
14          In most cases this is as simple as filing an  
15          affidavit. Nursing home residents, however, are  
16          required to participate in a full evidentiary  
17          hearing. With that, I request that you support  
18          Proposal 88.

19                 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

20                 MR. LAZZARA, JR.: Good evening, Commissioners,  
21                 and Your Honor. My name is Bennie Lazzara, Jr. I'm  
22                 an attorney who for the last 20 years has represented  
23                 the families of residents and residents who have been  
24                 abused and neglected in nursing homes. I want to  
25                 thank you for your service on this Commission. It's

1 a beautiful thing to see democracy working.

2 Wise leaders, both men and women, throughout  
3 history have said that we judge a society by how that  
4 society protects and provides for its elderly, its  
5 enfeeble and its helpless, and those are the people  
6 that we're here speaking on behalf of.

7 That's what Proposal 88 is for. I urge you to  
8 give the citizens of Florida an opportunity to vote  
9 to show that the voters in Florida, the citizenry of  
10 Florida, respect our elderly, our enfeeble and our  
11 helpless. Give them a chance to permanently ensure  
12 that these people, these residents, will have the  
13 same protection as anybody else and they won't lose  
14 their rights, as have been described to you, just  
15 because they end up where no one wants to end up, but  
16 it's inevitable sometimes, in a nursing home or an  
17 ALF.

18 Proposal 88 simply levels the playing field as  
19 it should be. We're not asking for anything here  
20 that all other citizens aren't entitled to. You  
21 shouldn't lose those rights when you're in a nursing  
22 home or an ALF.

23 You have the chance to level the playing field  
24 by your vote when you consider what provisions, what  
25 proposals go up for referendum. I urge you to

1 support this one so we can all do our part to protect  
2 those who cannot protect themselves.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you, sir.

5 Laura Weiss.

6 MS. WEISS: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Linda Stoller.

8 MS. WEISS: Laura Weiss.

9 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: And Donna Polhamus, Guddy  
10 Scheider, Bonnie Bollenback, Susan Bass, Sarah Copel.  
11 Please.

12 MS. WEISS: Okay.

13 Good evening, Honorable Commissioners. I'm in  
14 support of Proposal 67. I'm here today because I'm a  
15 huge animal lover and I'm a voice for all animals,  
16 and Greyhound dogs are no exception.

17 And a person who unnecessarily torments,  
18 deprives of necessary sustenance or shelter or  
19 unnecessarily mutilates any animal in a cruel or an  
20 inhumane manner commits animal cruelty, and there's  
21 no exception for Greyhound racing, and yet the very  
22 definition of animal cruelty describes this sport.

23 As a society, we are supposed to be civilized  
24 and more cultured and intelligent than the past  
25 decades. Greyhound racing is a despicable, cruel and

1 often barbaric practice and its end is long overdue.

2 Please support Proposal 67 and let voters decide  
3 on Greyhound racing in Florida.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Folks, as soon as your name is  
6 called, would you raise your hand as you're coming up  
7 so that we can see how many people are responding and  
8 how many people are here so we can keep calling the  
9 roll?

10 Thank you so much.

11 MS. BOLLENBACK: Good evening. My name is  
12 Bonnie Bollenback and I'm here to provide input in  
13 support of Proposal 88.

14 I had to make one of the most difficult  
15 decisions in my life to place my dad in the care of a  
16 nursing home. I did research, and like so many  
17 others in the situation, felt I had chosen a nursing  
18 home that I could trust to provide the level of care  
19 he needed in a safe setting. My dad's experiences in  
20 a nursing home environment were unfortunately like  
21 many stories we read and hear about every day. The  
22 facility he resided in employed people who did not  
23 have the skills and training to carry out their  
24 responsibilities. There were staff shortages,  
25 particularly on the weekends, and frequent turnover.

1           Staff frequently did not respond timely to his  
2 needs and failed to treat him with the dignity,  
3 respect and courtesy he deserved. Prescribed  
4 medications were often not dispensed timely and  
5 medical records regarding care were often incomplete  
6 and incorrect. Basic needs regarding nutrition and  
7 basic hygiene were not met. Communication from the  
8 nursing administrator down through all levels of  
9 facilities were poor, inconsistent, nonexistent and  
10 inexcusable.

11           There was frequent finger pointing and no  
12 resolution for the resident and the family. Unknown  
13 and unobserved by anyone at the facility, my dad was  
14 let out the front door. He suffered a fall from his  
15 wheelchair onto the pavement, sustained a significant  
16 head injury, and after several months of trauma and  
17 debilitating decline, died as a result of that fall.

18           These nursing homes organize themselves with  
19 layers of management and ownership. Emission  
20 paperwork is often unclear and deceiving to families  
21 during a time of great stress when trying to find  
22 care for a loved one. These are some of the factors  
23 that make it difficult to hold these facilities  
24 accountable when abuse, negligence, neglect, injury  
25 and death, as what happened to my father, occur on

1 their watch.

2 Residents in nursing homes, and one day that  
3 could be you or me or a loved one of yours, need  
4 protection. They need access to the courts and a  
5 jury system. Too often these incidents are buried  
6 and there are no consequences for the facility and  
7 all involved.

8 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you so much for your  
9 comments.

10 MS. BOLLENBACK: I urge you to support Proposal  
11 88.

12 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

13 Ma'am, please state your name.

14 MS. COPEL: Hi. I'm Sarah Copel and I live in  
15 St. Petersburg. Thank you all for being here.

16 I'd like to voice my support for Prop. 3 and 91,  
17 and in addition I'd like to speak on Proposal 67,  
18 which I'm in favor of.

19 I volunteer at Big Cat Rescue in Tampa, Florida  
20 and I live -- I work at Southeastern Guard Dogs in  
21 Palmetto, Florida. I'm not familiar with any  
22 lobbying organization and I receive no money from  
23 them.

24 My heart goes out to anyone who would lose their  
25 job, I do not wish job loss on anyone, however, to

1           respond to previous comments, I'd like to say that if  
2           there were no demand for Greyhound racing, they would  
3           not be bred at such a high rate, and thus in the  
4           future we would not need a place for all those dogs.  
5           Whether or not they are well taken care of by the  
6           breeders does not justify their exploitation later on  
7           in their life.

8           As someone who works firsthand with -- firsthand  
9           with service and guarddogs and has for years, I  
10          oppose the state mandate that forces dogs to perform  
11          for human entertainment. Dogs should only work when  
12          they are willing and they are able.

13          At Southeastern Guard Dogs they do not sustain  
14          any sort of injury that they are forced to work with  
15          and they always receive medical treatment.

16          Also, dogs that work should only be doing it to  
17          help others. Greyhounds do not have a choice, and  
18          when they sustain injuries, whether or not they  
19          receive medical treatment, it is on the shoulders of  
20          Floridian citizens and legislators that the dog was  
21          injured in the first place.

22          Thank you guys so much for listening.

23          COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Sandra Kearney, Naomi  
24          Charboneau, Brittany McNaughton, Shannon Helton, Mimi  
25          Osiason, John Kearney, Nathaniel Anderson, Gladys

1 Moore, Calvin Holland, Jim Peake.

2 MS. MCNAUGHTON: Good evening. My name is  
3 Brittany McNaughton. I thank the Chairman and the  
4 Commissioners, I thank you all for being here,  
5 hanging in here with us. I think we're just as tired  
6 as you all are.

7 Tonight I'm not speaking to a specific  
8 proposition.

9 Can you hear me?

10 Great.

11 Tonight I'm not speaking to a specific  
12 proposition, but rather to the process that typically  
13 would happen after today's hearing and the collection  
14 of hearings.

15 The role of the style and drafting committee is  
16 typically to combine as many proposals as possible  
17 into fewer amendments with the intention of, of  
18 course, reducing voter fatigue.

19 Many people are not aware of that process and  
20 wherein the issue lies is there's a lot of people out  
21 here tonight standing in either opposition or in  
22 support of certain amendments, and it's kind of hard  
23 to really feel that you're doing a good job as a  
24 citizen when you're having to chose between a  
25 proposal that you may really want to support and one

1 that you may not necessarily want to support.

2 In '98 34 proposals were pro -- excuse me --  
3 were combined into about 9 amendments, which really  
4 forced the voters to have to chose between which ones  
5 meant the most to them, rendering other ones that may  
6 not have meant the most to them.

7 Combining these proposals could mean only one  
8 vote to cast on an amendment that contains proposals  
9 that I strongly support with proposals that I may  
10 strongly oppose, and that is concerning to me.

11 I urge you to let the citizens of Florida vote  
12 up or down on the specific issues that they care  
13 about so that we can continue to be productive  
14 citizens of this state and have the voice that we  
15 would like to have. So thank you for your time.

16 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

17 Ma'am, please state your name.

18 MS. MOORE: Good evening. My name is Gladys  
19 Moore. I am here against Proposal 67.

20 I'm a homeowner and a registered voter. I am  
21 married to a racing Greyhound kennel owner. I invite  
22 you to come see a racing Greyhound kennel for  
23 yourself so that we can dispel the myths, untruths,  
24 exaggerations and hyperbole written and quoted by  
25 anti-racing people.

1           Please do educate yourself about our beautiful  
2 racing Greyhounds; come and see for yourself how they  
3 are raised, raced and live prior to their retirement  
4 from their racing control.

5           I urge you to vote no pro -- oppose --  
6 constitutional amendment 67. I cannot believe that  
7 you want to put everyone who is working with our  
8 racing Greyhounds out of a job without considering  
9 the financial impact it will have in the state of  
10 Florida and in other states.

11           I ask you, what are your plans for the  
12 Greyhounds should Proposal 67 be passed? How are you  
13 going to find homes for the thousands of Greyhounds  
14 left homeless and without a racing career? Are you  
15 just going to dump them in on us to clean up the mess  
16 you will create by voting yes on 67? Are the  
17 anti-racing people going to help support the  
18 Greyhounds until a new home is found for the  
19 thousands of them left homeless?

20           I ask you, do not vote yes on 67.

21           Thank you.

22           COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

23           Ma'am, please state your name.

24           MS. HELTON: Hi. I'm Shannon Helton. I'm from  
25 Pinellas County and my title's not important.

1 I'm here for proposals that I made: Numbers  
2 700577, 700666 and 700718.

3 In 2016 the Florida Supreme Court found in the  
4 case of the *Atwell versus Florida* that Florida's  
5 parole system is broken, yet nothing has been done to  
6 fix it. To make a long story short, as you can see  
7 in the Leon County case, 2016-CA-002007, the parole  
8 system is making over \$80 million a year. With my  
9 proposals to reform this system and let DOC take over  
10 the parole system responsibilities, this will save  
11 the state of Florida 15 million in just the first  
12 year.

13 Next, the parole system government -- Governor  
14 Rick Scott and every innocent project in this country  
15 has not been able to help my personal issues. My  
16 innocent husband was granted his habeas by one state  
17 and four federal judges. An innocent man, he was  
18 ordered discharged, but he is stuck in prison for 26  
19 years now because his lawyer failed to file his  
20 habeas correctly, and because he is stuck in prison,  
21 I was told the only way to get him home is to change  
22 the laws, and that's why I'm here. And these are  
23 numbers 700606, 700607, 700608, 700609, 700659 and  
24 700660, and I beg you to please help me get my  
25 husband home.

1           And last I propose 70065, 700720 and 700658 to  
2           help the actual innocent, the wrongfully convicted  
3           and unjustly incarcerated, because it's an epidemic  
4           that people don't know about.

5           COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much for  
6           your comments.

7           Sir, please state your name.

8           MR. ANDERSON: Hello. My name is Nathaniel  
9           Anderson. I'm here on behalf of Fishing for Freedom,  
10          Manatee Chapter, and East Coast of Florida Fish  
11          Harvesters, Sellers and Transporters to speak about  
12          public proposal 700500, to strike Article X, Section  
13          16, limited marine net fishing out of the Florida  
14          constitution.

15          Thank you for being here today.

16          It has been brought to the citizens of Florida  
17          attention that this legislation was passed illegally.  
18          The democratic process was designed to protect  
19          Florida citizens. Having been placed onto the ballot  
20          using false information and the legislation written  
21          without using due process or utilizing the  
22          science-based research provided, the process has  
23          clearly failed the citizens, effective while  
24          violating our civil rights.

25          The rules have been challenged many times in

1 state court and overturned once. The laws were  
2 promptly put back into place by the attorney general  
3 after influence from sport fishing groups and  
4 activists with political interest over true  
5 conservation.

6 Please consider this testimony while reviewing  
7 this case and strike this language from our state  
8 constitution.

9 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much for  
10 your comments.

11 Sir, please state your name.

12 MR. PEAKE: Good evening. My name is Jim Peake.  
13 I live in St. Petersburg. I am a homeowner, a  
14 taxpayer and a registered voter. I work at Derby  
15 Lane Greyhound track. I am a track announcer there,  
16 and I've called the races for the past 23 years. I  
17 am here to ask you vote no on Proposal No. 67.

18 I have called over 100,000 races at Derby Lane,  
19 and I know one thing, these Greyhounds love to run  
20 and they love to compete.

21 I hear from Greyhound owners and racing fans  
22 from all over the country and the world that plan  
23 their vacations to Florida to meet, see our track and  
24 enjoy our Greyhounds. I speak for the hundreds of  
25 employees at Derby Lane and the thousands of

1 employees from around the state, and racing fans from  
2 all over the country and around the world to, again,  
3 ask you to vote no on Proposal No. 67.

4 Thank you. Thank you for your time.

5 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

6 Sir, please state your name.

7 MR. HOLLAND: Yes, my name is Calvin Holland.

8 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Okay. One moment, please.

9 On deck we have Jayden Collier, Allyssa  
10 Williams, Phillip Williams, Loukin Thompson, Peggy  
11 Johns, Susan Morgan, Mark Coarsey.

12 Please continue.

13 MR. HOLLAND: Good afternoon. My name is Calvin  
14 Holland and I'm against Proposal 67. I am a  
15 homeowner and a registered voter in Florida.

16 I own a racing Greyhound kennel at Derby Lane  
17 Greyhound track. You have all been invited at any  
18 time to come and see my kennel. I've only had two  
19 people, Senator Lassa came and went through my kennel  
20 and he was amazed on how everything was -- how all  
21 the dogs were treated, the condition of my kennel,  
22 the condition of my dogs, and so I guess this is why  
23 he was always one of my friends and I could always  
24 count on him.

25 But I am president of the Tampa Bay Greyhound

1 Association, I am vice president of the Florida  
2 Greyhound Association. I'm not here to defend how I  
3 take care of my dogs. I've been racing dogs for 55  
4 years, mainly ever since I was just a young boy. My  
5 grandfather, my father, my son and myself have all  
6 trained Greyhounds for over five generations.

7 But right now there is 12 active Greyhound  
8 tracks in Florida with a large race support and staff  
9 with the tracks and the trainers. People with  
10 mortgages, bills and expenses to pay.

11 My minimum expenses is \$10,000 a month, so I  
12 spend over \$102,000 a year on my Greyhounds for my --  
13 for the well kept of my dogs, but this does not count  
14 the -- the utilities, the veterinarian service, the  
15 bedding, the equipment, and not to mention how much  
16 we give for our adoption kennels when the dogs are  
17 ready to retire. But, anyway, if you put this --

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

19 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much for  
20 your comments.

21 Please state your name.

22 MS. JOHNS: Good afternoon, or early evening  
23 I'll say.

24 Thank you, Commissioners. My name's Peggy  
25 Johns. I'm here on behalf of the American Heart

1 Association and as a lifelong K through 12 health  
2 educator.

3 The Tobacco Free Florida proposals that are on  
4 board are -- are wrong. I've seen firsthand as a  
5 health educator in our schools what's working and  
6 what's not working, and three things that made the  
7 biggest impact with me as a health teacher were,  
8 first, having students be able to be part of SWAT,  
9 Students Working Against Tobacco. It made a huge  
10 difference to empower these students to advocate not  
11 just for themselves, but for their families and  
12 entire communities. Second, the media messages they  
13 are able to receive through Tobacco Free Florida on  
14 how they're being duped by the tobacco companies and  
15 what they can do to empower themselves to be  
16 advocates for tobacco nonuse, and lastly, Tobacco  
17 Free Florida has given these students options for  
18 where they can get resources for themselves and for  
19 their families.

20 These three things together have made a huge  
21 difference. The tobacco use rates are way, way, way  
22 down. We are a benchmark for the nation. I see no  
23 purpose in trying to tinker with what's working, and  
24 in fact, I implore you to reject Proposal 94 as  
25 unneeded for best practices, unrequested by the

1 American Cancer Society, and it would be a dilution  
2 to the processes that are working and are effective  
3 so that we can have health and wellbeing for all  
4 citizens of Florida.

5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you for your  
7 comments.

8 MR. COLLIER: Good evening. My name is Jayden  
9 Collier. I'm currently a junior at Osceola High  
10 School. I'm just here to say thank you all for  
11 coming here today. I know you're all tired from  
12 sitting in this room all day listening to everybody  
13 talk, but thank you for having the time to listen to  
14 me.

15 I'm just here in opposition of Proposal 94. I  
16 know we all have things that bring out the best in  
17 us. But as for myself, I can say Osceola County  
18 School is definitely one of the many things I partake  
19 in that allows me to advocate, educate and help those  
20 who aren't aware of the dangers of tobacco and  
21 harmful products used in.

22 Growing up in a minority community where a  
23 cigarette ad is being advertised as something normal  
24 and positive on every corner, a lot of kids don't  
25 know the harmful effects of it. I know a lot of kids

1 brought up in smoke-infested homes, being peer  
2 pressured into smoking or thinking smoking is cool.  
3 Smoking being something they think is normal because  
4 they see it being done daily around them, until they  
5 find out what it could do to them and those around  
6 them.

7 Without tobacco prevention programs like SWAT,  
8 youths aren't aware of the dangers of tobacco and the  
9 things it can do to family, friends and loved ones.  
10 Less than half of this Board represents people that  
11 look like me, so why would people that look like  
12 others in my community not want to help.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much for  
15 your comments.

16 Phillip Williams, then Allyssa Williams, and  
17 then . . .

18 MR. THOMPSON: My name's Loukin Thompson. I'm  
19 born and raised in St. Petersburg, Florida.

20 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: You're right after them.

21 MR. THOMPSON: Oh, okay.

22 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

23 MR. WILLIAMS: Hello. My name is Phillip  
24 Williams and I am a high school --

25 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Speak closer to the

1 microphone, please.

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Hello. My name is Phillip  
3 Williams and I am a high school student from Osceola  
4 County. SWAT is a very important part of my  
5 community. A lot of teens aren't born into that  
6 perfect family setting, such as teens that live in  
7 low-income neighborhoods or teens that don't have  
8 that person or support system in their life to guide  
9 them in the right direction. SWAT is an outlet for  
10 teens like me to get support and learn about how  
11 tobacco companies think that kids like me,  
12 minorities, are not smart enough to know what is  
13 going on.

14 Youth prevention programs have been proven to be  
15 very effective, but past legislation has been proven  
16 if left open for interpretation, youth prevention  
17 programs funding could be cut.

18 When left to voters, people of the state of  
19 Florida overwhelmingly voted for youth prevention  
20 programs. This proposal doesn't guarantee funding or  
21 protection for youth prevention programs. I feel  
22 that it is my responsibility, as well as every person  
23 in this room, to help ensure that the future  
24 generations are protected and educated with a youth  
25 tobacco prevention program, and the only way that can

1 be guaranteed is by saying no to Proposal 94.

2 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Allyssa Williams.

3 MS. WILLIAMS: My name is Allyssa Williams and  
4 I'm 16. I'm from Osceola County.

5 Tobacco use remains the leading cause of  
6 preventable death and disease. Through the master  
7 settlement agreement, tobacco prevention programs  
8 like SWAT are funded. The impact of SWAT has been  
9 proven to be effective through social media campaigns  
10 and policy work. Without programs like SWAT, the  
11 teen smoking -- teen tobacco use rate will skyrocket,  
12 undoing years of hard work to get the tobacco rate  
13 down to the lowest it has ever been.

14 The CRC amendment states: "Comprehensive  
15 statewide tobacco education and prevention program.  
16 In order to protect people, especially youths, from  
17 health hazards of using tobacco, including addictive  
18 disorders, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, lung  
19 diseases and to discourage use of tobacco,  
20 particularly among youth, a portion of the money that  
21 tobacco companies pay to the state of Florida under  
22 the tobacco settlement each year shall be used to  
23 fund a comprehensive statewide tobacco education  
24 and prevention program."

25 By adding cancer research, which is not a CRC

1 best practice, it has been proven in the past by  
2 legislation that prevention funding would be cut,  
3 taking away the order to protect the people of the  
4 state of Florida.

5 I disagree with proposition -- Proposal 94 for  
6 the reason because it can potentially have a dramatic  
7 effect on the funding of youth prevention programs,  
8 which would directly affect me because I'm the target  
9 of big tobacco since 90 percent start before the age  
10 of 18.

11 Cancer research is a great thing for those who  
12 have already been diagnosed with cancer, but it's not  
13 beneficial for prevention. Taking away funding from  
14 already underfunded prevention programs does not make  
15 sense. The only person who has spoken out in support  
16 of Proposal 94 is the same person who proposed it and  
17 who has not shown up to any meetings prior to hear  
18 any constituents or public opinions on it. I think  
19 that the potential ties between her, her husband and  
20 his law firm, who represents R.J. Reynolds, is a huge  
21 conflict of interest that should be questioned.

22 We would like to thank our local delegates  
23 within our regions, especially our representatives,  
24 that listen to us youths.

25 Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much --

2 MS. WILLIAMS: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: -- for your comments.

4 Loukin Thompson, and on deck we have Susan  
5 Morgan, Mark Coarsey, Tammy Shorter, Cynthia Rennick,  
6 Nora Nelson, Dr. Carol Deatricks, Renee Rivard,  
7 Natalie -- Natalia Lima, and Marty Lee.

8 MR. THOMPSON: My name's Loukin Thompson. I'm  
9 from here in St. Pete, Florida, born and raised,  
10 native. I'm here in opposition to all oil  
11 extraction, not just the state of Florida, but I  
12 speak in reference to the Proposition 91.

13 I found a Florida statute that seems to protect  
14 all state waters as of July 31st, 1990, and on  
15 November 3rd, 2017 Proposition 91 was written to  
16 protect the people of Florida and their environment.

17 "Oil drilling for exploration or extractions  
18 prohibited in and beneath all state waters between  
19 the mean and high tide line and the outermost  
20 boundaries of the state's territorial seas. The  
21 prohibition does not apply to transportation of oil  
22 and gas productions produced outside of such waters."  
23 This section itself -- I must have messed that one  
24 up.

25 On December 15th, 2017 these terms were adopted

1 to make an exception for lands that are alienated.  
2 By legal definition, this means land and property  
3 that has been transferred from one group to another.  
4 It's not included to protect land and waters. This  
5 proposition has the potential to open state waters  
6 for drilling.

7 I am greatly concerned under this Proposition 91  
8 we are potentially being exploited to assume that we  
9 are not already protected. I urge you to change this  
10 proposition to exclude the revision for alienated  
11 areas, to focus on the purpose, to protect us against  
12 air and water pollution and punish those who pollute.

13 Please and thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you for your  
15 comments.

16 Sir, please state your name.

17 MR. COARSEY: My name is Mark Coarsey. Good  
18 after -- good evening, Commissioners.

19 I am the president of Fishing for Freedom of  
20 Manatee County. I'm here on Proposal 700500, the net  
21 limitation act. It's been 20 years since the net  
22 limitation act, Article X, Section 15, which the  
23 people of this state voted in. They call it the net  
24 ban now. It was voted into existence, but the  
25 change -- it did change the commercial fisherman/net

1 fisherman's life and our fishery, not for the good --  
2 not for good. It opened the door to foreign imports  
3 when our resource -- seafood resource could not be  
4 filled.

5 The problems that exist today are the net act --  
6 the nets that we were made to use are not  
7 commercially feasible: More -- more body catch, the  
8 net is not letting the smaller fish targeted swim,  
9 and the fact that they don't let us connect our nets  
10 together anymore.

11 We can't catch these fish. We need this  
12 fishery. We need you all to look at this net  
13 limitation act. We need it to come back and let the  
14 people of this state, the fresh from Florida  
15 seafood -- Fresh from Florida Seafood Campaign is  
16 hurting. We can't supply the fresh Florida seafood.  
17 That opens this door to all this foreign seafood.

18 Most of you people eat that seafood. When you  
19 start eating this seafood and you ask what it is  
20 because it ain't come from this country, it really  
21 makes you think.

22 Every time we come up with an idea to help get  
23 our nets back, it changes. They change the law on us  
24 the next -- within a couple of months. We need you  
25 alls help. We need the people of this state. I've

1           talked to -- the past couple seafood festivals we've  
2           had I've collected, over a four-day period, 500  
3           people have signed a petition to get our fishery back  
4           and give it to the hands of the fishermen.

5           Let the fishermen run our fishery. Let the FWC  
6           control our fishery, but let the fishermen who run  
7           it, let these guys -- they know what they need to do.  
8           They're more environmentalist than anybody. That's  
9           their livelihood.

10          I thank you.

11          COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Please state your name.

12          MS. MORGAN: Yes. Hi, my name is Susan Morgan.  
13          I'm a social worker in the Tampa Bay Area. Thank  
14          you, everyone, for all your time and patience to  
15          allow us to speak.

16          I would like to ask that you oppose Proposition  
17          94 and retain those dollars for prevention in the  
18          tobacco prevention and education. Of the money only  
19          15 percent of those dollars of the tobacco industry  
20          is required to pay the state of Florida, only  
21          15 percent goes to prevention, and to my knowledge,  
22          since you've been holding these hearings across the  
23          state, not a single person has stood up and spoken in  
24          favor of this, however, stakeholders of the cancer  
25          research have spoken in opposition.

1           So the very -- you want to move these dollars to  
2           cancer research and the folks in cancer research are  
3           saying, hey, we need dollars in prevention. In  
4           addition, the results of Tobacco Free Florida have  
5           been outstanding. Rarely do you have a prevention  
6           program that has the outcomes that Tobacco Free  
7           Florida has and you've heard from many students here  
8           and the young people today that have seen the  
9           benefits.

10           I also humbly and respectfully ask that  
11           Representative Nunez recuse herself from voting on  
12           this measure, as her husband does work for the law  
13           firm that represents the tobacco int -- the interest  
14           of the tobacco industry here in the state of Florida.  
15           That could be seen as a conflict of interest, and I  
16           don't think anyone on this committee would want to be  
17           a part of that.

18           I again thank you for the opportunity to speak  
19           before you today.

20           COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you.

21           Ma'am, your name?

22           MS. LIMA: Hi, I'm Natalia Lima and I'm here to  
23           speak on behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

24           COMMISSIONER ROUSON: I'm sorry, say that again.

25           MS. LIMA: Natalia Lima.

1           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Get a little closer to that  
2 microphone.

3           There you go. Pull it up.

4           MS. LIMA: All right. I feel like I'm on  
5 American Idol.

6           Okay. So I'm here to speak on behalf of the  
7 Animal Legal Defense Fund and, as a resident of St.  
8 Petersburg, to express our strong support of Proposal  
9 67.

10           The Animal Legal Defense Fund has more than  
11 25,000 members and supporters just in the state of  
12 Florida, all of whom support the end of the  
13 exploitation of animals for entertainment purposes.

14           Greyhound racing is an inherently cruel form of  
15 entertainment that abuses these animals. These  
16 Greyhounds are kept in small cages that they can't  
17 even turn around or fully stand up in for 20-plus  
18 hours a day.

19           I urge you to think about your family pets,  
20 about the dogs that you have at home. Would these be  
21 acceptable conditions for them?

22           How about drugging them, because the Greyhounds  
23 in the industry are often drugged with anabolic  
24 steroids and even cocaine to improve performance.

25           Four hundred and eighty-three dogs have died in

1 the state of Florida in the last five years because  
2 of Greyhound racing. That's one dog dead every three  
3 days because of Greyhound racing. But let's put the  
4 gross and obvious mistreatment of animals aside for  
5 just a second, because financially this industry  
6 makes no sense at all.

7 Greyhound racing is already illegal in 39 states  
8 and demand for this type of entertainment has  
9 dwindled so much in the last few years that race  
10 track owners are actually losing \$30 million a year  
11 on the endeavor. The state is actually having to  
12 spend millions of tax dollars to prop up this dying  
13 industry because regulatory costs exceed revenues.

14 It's about time for Florida to follow the lead  
15 of the rest of the country and outlaw Greyhound  
16 racing. I urge you to vote to put Prop. 67 on the  
17 ballot so that people of Florida can make the  
18 decision on the future of this industry.

19 Thank you.

20 MS. RIVARD: Hello, Commissioners. Renee  
21 Rivard. I support Proposal 67. I'm a founding  
22 member and legislative representative of the League  
23 of Humane Voters, Florida chapter.

24 Taxpayers are losing money. Greyhounds are  
25 dying and Greyhound racing is illegal in 40 states.

1 Greyhound kennel workers say they will lose jobs.  
2 Right now there are at least 30 animal-related jobs  
3 on Indeed.com from kennel assistant to dog walker to  
4 dog groomer to vet tech.

5 Greyhounds are bred by the tens of thousands to  
6 find the fastest ones. According to the National  
7 Greyhound Association, Champion Kiowa Sweet Trey  
8 sired over 16,000 puppies, Dodgem By Design 11,000  
9 puppies, and Gable Dodge 11,000 puppies. That's over  
10 38,000 puppies from just three dogs.

11 These are Greyhound puppy mills. A friend of  
12 mine saw with her own eyes a Greyhound breeding  
13 operation in Marion County. Three hundred female  
14 dogs on dirt mounds giving birth. The breeder told  
15 her only a few would be used to race and the rest  
16 would be called.

17 Who is regulating these types of operations?  
18 There is no way these tens of thousands of Greyhounds  
19 are getting adopted.

20 The AKC ranks dog breeds by order of popularity.  
21 Greyhounds are ranked 151. They are not easy to get  
22 adopted at that rank, so where are these tens of  
23 thousands of Greyhounds going?

24 Thank you for your time and your service.

25 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much.

1           Elise Mysels, John Banyas, Alan Sayler, Lynn  
2           Sayler, Lisa Vanover, Vera Rasnake, Edward Trow.

3           Please, ma'am.

4           MS. MYSELS: Hi. Elise Mysels, Land O' Lakes,  
5           Florida. We meet again.

6           Addressing all of you reminds me of a medieval  
7           movie, the peasants addressing the king's court.  
8           Despite your signage, "Floridians speak, we listen,"  
9           you have been hearing over and over again throughout  
10          the state of Florida the peasant's call for open  
11          primaries and closing the write-in loophole, but only  
12          two CRC members were listening so I repeat it again:  
13          Over 70 percent of voters, including majority of  
14          Democrats, Republicans and Independents, want the CRC  
15          to place open primaries on the ballot. If the two  
16          major political parties want to leave the primaries  
17          to their good old boys club, so be it, but then you  
18          have to stop using our taxpayers' dollars to fund  
19          those primary elections. You can't have it both  
20          ways. It is unethical and you are allowing it.

21          Moreover, by not closing the write-in loophole,  
22          you are allowing the good old boys club to manipulate  
23          our elections and you are supporting corruption.  
24          Hence my vision of the medieval movie. The only  
25          difference is that I'm not being carried off so that

1 you can literally cut off my head, but instead this  
2 panel is cutting off our heads. Cutting off our  
3 heads by numerous proposals stripping our rights,  
4 such as P 97, which will make it virtually impossible  
5 for citizens' initiatives to pass.

6 The entire CRC process has been to service the  
7 agenda of the political establishment, not the  
8 people. They know our only recourse is at the ballot  
9 box, and you are intentionally wielding their power  
10 to silence our voices there, as if we were still  
11 in -- in operating in medieval times.

12 I remind you that while you have been appointed  
13 to this Commission, our representatives were elected  
14 to represent all of us, all of the people, and your  
15 actions will indeed be remembered at the ballot box.  
16 P 62, P 11 please support --

17 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you very much for  
18 your comments.

19 MS. MYSELS: -- and 97 stricken. Thank you.

20 MR. SAYLER: I'm Alan Sayler from St.  
21 Petersburg, and for the record, I do not envy any of  
22 you your jobs on this commission.

23 I'm a Florida native and I've owned a small  
24 business here in Pinellas County for over 40 years  
25 now. I've employed as many as 15 employees, and I'm

1 speaking to you this evening in opposition to  
2 Proposition 29.

3 On the surface this reads really good, really  
4 nice, and certainly, no one can argue with the goal.

5 Presently, and for about 20 years now, we've had  
6 to fill out a form I-9, which documents everything on  
7 an employee we hire that they are eligible to work in  
8 the United States. So we have that right now that's  
9 going on, but there's several issues with the  
10 Proposition 29.

11 First of all, E-Verify has a long and documented  
12 history of glitches and software malfunctions. There  
13 is no provision in this amendment that provides  
14 protection for businesses that use the system in good  
15 faith but are unable to comply due to software  
16 glitches. Secondly, the E-Verify system requires all  
17 its users to sign a document holding the federal  
18 government harmless for any glitches. Next, we have  
19 the proposal treats small businesses like myself the  
20 same as large businesses like Wal-Mart.

21 You are looking at my HR department right now.  
22 I don't have anybody besides me. I don't -- I try  
23 not to employ attorneys so --

24 COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Now you just --

25 MR. SAYLER: Well, I think it's very American

1 not to do that. I did want to qualify to say that I  
2 am not a board certified attorney.

3 And this proposal creates a rigid mandate that  
4 any employer who fails to check a new employee within  
5 3 days of hiring them would potentially be shut down  
6 for 10 to 30 days. You shut me down for 10 to 30  
7 days --

8 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Thank you for your time,  
9 sir.

10 MR. SAYLER: -- my employees are out of  
11 business.

12 Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Please state your name.

14 MS. VANOVER: Lisa Vanover.

15 Good evening. I'm Lisa Vanover. I live here in  
16 Pinellas County. I'm a resident, a homeowner, a  
17 citizen, former business owner and educator, so I've  
18 been very involved in this area for a long time, for  
19 14 years.

20 I want to thank you for coming here today to  
21 listen to the voices of concerned Floridians.  
22 Whatever their opinions, it's been really great, I  
23 think, to have everyone express their opinions so  
24 eloquently.

25 Proposal 95 would harm our ability to protect

1 the future of your children and mine. This June my  
2 husband and I will welcome our first grandchild, Lyla  
3 Marie, and it's important to me that she can grow up  
4 in a safe and healthy environment, that she can drink  
5 the water. Our children, our grandchildren and our  
6 water, these are all precious resources, and like  
7 you, I want to protect them. I want her to have a  
8 clean, unpolluted Bay, a gorgeous Gulf and delicious,  
9 safe drinking water.

10 To get there we must put pressure on local  
11 governments to ensure proper safeguards are in place  
12 and they're effective. Our local governments must  
13 have the authority to act to protect our  
14 grandchildren's future. Home rule is critical.

15 If Proposition 95 is in place, we would not be  
16 able to pressure local governments to protect the  
17 water, to protect health and wellbeing.

18 I call on you today not to move forward with  
19 Proposal 95 or any other proposal that would preempt  
20 and limit our local government's ability to put  
21 careful regulations into place to protect all  
22 children.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Sir?

25 MR. BARRON: Hello. My name is Arnold Barron

1 (phonetic). I'm a resident of Sarasota. I think you  
2 called my name. I'm not positive.

3 Okay. I'll just keep going. How's that? I've  
4 really cut back my comments.

5 Thanks for the opportunity to speak today.  
6 Thank you for the public service you're doing, for  
7 hanging in here. I know this is a rare --

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Move a little closer to the  
9 microphone.

10 MR. BARRON: I know this is a rare  
11 responsibility and opportunity for you all.

12 I've cut back my comments, as I've said.

13 We've heard about the human tragedy regarding  
14 Proposition 3 so I won't repeat that, but I am in  
15 favor of the ban of assault-type weapons and  
16 magazines. I've also read all the red herrings about  
17 the -- that have raised the complexity of the issue  
18 and how they're going to do definition of a weapon.

19 I don't think it's that hard. Other states have  
20 banned assault weapons and I think we can do it too  
21 here in Florida. Bottom line, if it's a weapon that  
22 can be easily modified for mass killing, then let's  
23 ban it.

24 I'll waive Proposition 91, but I am for it, for  
25 banning on oil and drilling offshore.

1 I'm also for Proposition 67, the prohibition on  
2 wagering on Greyhound racing.

3 You've heard about Greyhounds as pets, I won't  
4 go over that. You've also heard from the industry  
5 today referring to them not as pets, but as  
6 entertainment, products, and dogs doing their job.  
7 But let's cut to the nut of the problem. We all know  
8 racing is a ruse. People who like to gamble prefer  
9 other means, so let's be practical, and if you want  
10 to gamble, okay, but let's cut the monetary losses  
11 and get the gambling, the entertainment and, quote,  
12 product off the backs of these Greyhounds.

13 Thank you very much.

14 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Ma'am.

15 MS. SAYLER: My name is Lynn Sayler and I'm here  
16 to speak on Proposal 88, but from a little bit  
17 different perspective. I'm speaking about something  
18 that few people know about, guardianship abuse and  
19 how the probate courts drag the elderly through the  
20 court system and rip them of their constitutional  
21 rights, take away their powers of attorneys and their  
22 health care surrogates and take all their assets.  
23 Take over their homes, take over every aspect of  
24 their life, and at some point they get where they  
25 don't want them in their home, don't want to put up

1 with pets, so they throw them in ALFs, and then they  
2 strip them of their resident's right there.

3 The statutes are ignored, the judges totally  
4 ignore the statutes; they're left there flinging  
5 without -- they're not allowed visitors or isolated,  
6 and I want everybody here when they go home, if they  
7 have a chance, to get on their computers and google  
8 Adam Wasler, Wasler, of ABC Investigates, I-Team. He  
9 did a number of stories on guardianship abuse that he  
10 won huge awards for and he did one on Willie Berchau  
11 in particular here in Pinellas County where he was  
12 locked into a lockdown and there was nothing wrong  
13 with the gentleman.

14 He was eventually freed, but it took a ton out  
15 of him. It's great stories. Look at them.

16 There's an organization that my mother's story's  
17 on. It's called NASGA, N-A-S-G-A, National  
18 Association to Stop Guardianship Abuse. You could  
19 read my mother's story there and many other stories  
20 of Floridians and in other states, and there's  
21 another organization that's been put up throughout  
22 Miami, it's called AAAPG, Americans Against Abusive  
23 Probate Guardianship, and it's there and it will tell  
24 you the stories of how they ripped them of their  
25 constitutional rights and then place them in

1 facilities and rip -- take away their resident  
2 rights. The statutes are -- there's no due  
3 process --

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 MS. SAYLER: -- and the statutes are ignored.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

7 Yes, ma'am.

8 MS. RASNAKE: Okay, good evening. My name is  
9 Vera Rasnake. I am a Florida resident for 23 years.  
10 I've worked in the Greyhound industry for 40 years.

11 I am here as the voice of the racing Greyhound  
12 to ask you to please stop this madness and vote no on  
13 number 67. It has no business being on our  
14 constitution. I'm only on -- I'm sorry that  
15 Commissioner Lee isn't here to hear this.

16 I have been to other meetings and I'm appalled  
17 that an animal extremist group and its members  
18 continue to outright lie about how Greyhound racing  
19 kennels are operated in Florida by responsible people  
20 like myself. The out-of-state extremists have taken  
21 racing anomalies and manipulated data to make it  
22 appear as if isolated incidents are everyday  
23 practices.

24 Over and over again I have heard the dogs live  
25 in crates for 22 hours. Come on, do the math.

1           There's 24 hours in a day. Most of us are there 15  
2           hours a day, seven days a week. When we're not in  
3           the kennel, we're at the track, and we're back in the  
4           kennel.

5           Those dogs have to go outside. They need to be  
6           let out, as they are, and they are taken care of. I  
7           don't know where they keep getting this 22 hours and  
8           why they are not held accountable for saying lies  
9           like this.

10          Also, also, I've heard about this cocaine issue.  
11          It has been thrown out of the courts, but that does  
12          not get mentioned.

13          You know, there are things that do not get  
14          followed up on and it's just over and over again.

15          Tourism, 67 billion-dollar -- and by the way,  
16          this is the Naples Fort Myers Greyhound track.  
17          Nobody goes there?

18          This is ten days ago. It's full. It was just  
19          like this yesterday.

20          Yes, tourists come here.

21          Thank you very much.

22          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23          While the next speaker comes up, if Dr. George  
24          Bing, Chris DiPasqua, Sherry Silk, Kelly Faircloth,  
25          and Richard Rodriguez would come this way, please,

1 we'd appreciate it.

2 Thank you.

3 Please proceed.

4 MR. TROW: Hello. My name is Edward Trow. I've  
5 spent 34 years operating Greyhound kennels.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Closer to the mic, please.

7 MR. TROW: I've spent 34 years of my life  
8 operating Greyhound kennels. I'm opposed to  
9 Proposition 67. I hear all of the stories of how the  
10 dogs are treated, the disasters that have happened.  
11 In all my life in the business, I've not witnessed  
12 it, not once.

13 And as Hurricane Irma approached, I watched the  
14 animal rights activists, namely GREY2K, tell us we  
15 leave our dogs in harms way. We -- every one of us  
16 moved into the kennels with our dogs. We stayed with  
17 our dogs, and that was the safest place that the dogs  
18 could be.

19 They provided us with good buildings. We had,  
20 you know, emergency equipment there, generators,  
21 extra water in containers, and certainly, you know, a  
22 lot of people evacuated, some leaving their pets  
23 behind in their homes and returning to their pets  
24 even missing or deceased. That didn't happen with  
25 our Greyhounds. Not one Greyhound was injured and

1 not one Greyhound perished, and that's the way we  
2 take care of our dogs day in and day out, and, you  
3 know, the things that have been said about us are so  
4 false and so untrue.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Chris DiPasqua.

7 MR. DIPASQUA: Hello. Chris DiPasqua here. I'd  
8 like --

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Sherry Silk, if you come to  
10 the other microphone, whoever's up here.

11 Thank you.

12 Let's try to get up to these microphones. As  
13 soon as one person is finished, then the next person  
14 should be going.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. DIPASQUA: Chris DiPasqua here.

17 I would like to thank the members of the CRC for  
18 allowing me the privilege to advocate to vote no on  
19 Proposal 67.

20 I drove 979 miles through the night from  
21 Maryland in hope that you will listen and learn for  
22 yourself about the reality of how Greyhounds are  
23 truly loved and not what the picture of propaganda  
24 would have you believe.

25 I am not a member of the Greyhound industry,

1 just a man who's adopted two retired racers, which I  
2 emphasize retired, not rescued.

3 My family as well as countless other families  
4 who can't be here today come to Florida multiple  
5 times each year to benefit this great state's economy  
6 for the sole purpose of watching these graceful  
7 animals run and interact with the dogs. I took it  
8 upon myself to not believe what others told me, and I  
9 hope you do the same, but to learn for myself the  
10 reality of how truly well cared for these dogs are by  
11 asking to visit myself the farms where they're born,  
12 interact with the dogs and the staff who meticulously  
13 maintain kennels where they're given whirlpool  
14 massages, music therapy and, most importantly, loved.

15 I've observed lead outs and trainers who have  
16 dedicated their lives to ensuring the safety and  
17 wellbeing of these dogs, in addition to individuals  
18 at the tracks who ensure safe transition to adoption.

19 Please don't believe that this is an antiquated  
20 sport of cruelty, because I have brought my two  
21 retired racers to two tracks to promote adoption just  
22 last month, which they could not see the track but  
23 could hear the roar. Both dogs perked up with  
24 anticipation and barked as they tried desperately to  
25 get back on the track.

1 Truth is, these dogs love to run.

2 You can stop that, please.

3 Last month a trainer called me and asked me if  
4 my -- one of their long-term racers, if I would be  
5 willing to take that dog home and stay in contact  
6 with him after the career ended. I was glad to do  
7 this, and this is truly an example of love, and when  
8 I leave here today, this retired racer will join me  
9 on that near 1000-mile ride home and be a proud  
10 addition to my family.

11 I implore you to please learn for yourself about  
12 the good of the industry and vote no for Proposal 67.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

15 Sherry Silk.

16 MS. SILK: Good evening. I'm Sherry Silk, CEO  
17 of the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, and I sit on the  
18 board of the Florida Association of Animal Welfare  
19 Organization. It is the statewide organization that  
20 represents Humane Societies, animal shelters and  
21 SPCAs throughout our great state of Florida.

22 I'm here to ask you to support Proposal 67 for  
23 the Greyhounds. These gentle, sweet, sweet dogs  
24 deserve so much better than we're giving them.

25 Greyhound racing is a dying industry, already

1 illegal in 40 states. Picture your own dog sitting  
2 in a crate -- whether it's 18 hours, 14 hours or 20  
3 hours, it really doesn't matter -- day after day,  
4 week after week, month after month, year after year.

5 It is cruel to the dogs and often leads to  
6 serious injury or death, and as far as the comments  
7 what's going to happen to these dogs once the tracks  
8 close, there are a hundred shelters that are ready to  
9 step up and take these dogs and place them into a new  
10 home.

11 Bottom line, we are a country of dog lovers.  
12 Greyhounds are dogs that just happen to run really,  
13 really fast. They cannot speak for themselves, so  
14 I'm asking you to please speak for them by supporting  
15 Proposal 67, and thank you for your patience.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Kelly Faircloth, Richard  
17 Rodriguez, Betty Holden, Greg Ungru -- if I  
18 pronounced that right -- please step forward. Come  
19 up to the microphone.

20 MS. FAIRCLOTH: Hello. My name is Kelly  
21 Faircloth and I'm with Greyhound Rescue and Adoptions  
22 of Tampa. I am proposing -- supporting Proposal 67  
23 and I'm here to talk about the farm dogs.

24 The image that you see behind me is an example.  
25 She's one of the farm dogs that we have taken in over

1 the years, and we've actually taken in dozens of dogs  
2 who look just like this. Very little hair, either  
3 from tick or flea infestation, rotten, nasty mouths,  
4 that if you sit in the car with that for a couple of  
5 hours, you're really never going to forget that  
6 smell. So I have been to the farms, I have been to  
7 the kennels, I have been to the tracks, and I have  
8 been in several kennel compounds, so I do know what  
9 I'm talking about. I have personally seen the  
10 packages of 4D meat. I do know what I'm talking  
11 about.

12 We are currently now dealing with hookworm  
13 infestation in our dogs that we have currently in  
14 foster care. We've been dealing with it for months  
15 and we're having so much trouble clearing these dogs  
16 of hookworms. We've had dogs come in with tick-borne  
17 diseases; we have had injuries, illness. These dogs  
18 just don't deserve that.

19 There are good people involved in Greyhound  
20 racing. I consider some of them my friend, although  
21 I'm pretty sure right now they're not liking me too  
22 much.

23 I'm not here to say that they're all bad and I  
24 don't want to see people lose their jobs. I lost my  
25 job in November and I'm still looking for work. I

1 don't wish this on anyone, but I don't want to see  
2 exploitation of dogs that don't deserve this being  
3 used to prop up an industry that no one's interested  
4 in, that we're losing money on, and it's just time to  
5 let the citizens decide that enough is enough. We  
6 can do better as a society and put people to work  
7 doing jobs that will actually support their families  
8 for years to come.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Rodriguez --

11 MR. RODRIGUEZ: I'll try and make this brief.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- Betty Holden, Greg Ungru  
13 and Rachel Sines, please step forward.

14 MR. RODRIGUEZ: My name is Richard Rodriguez.  
15 I'm the director of business involvement at Central  
16 Florida Behavioral Hospital in Orlando.

17 I'm here today to respectfully ask that Class  
18 III hospitals be amended out of Proposal 54. I'll  
19 start by telling you about my facility and what role  
20 we play in the local community, as well as what role  
21 Class III hospitals, such as mine, play across the  
22 state. But simply, our role in the community is to  
23 lessen the burden that is placed on acute hospitals,  
24 in particular emergency rooms, across the state.

25 Class III hospitals are designed to treat our most

1 acute mental health patients across the state. We  
2 consistently accomplish this task.

3 In Orlando alone Central Florida Behavioral  
4 Hospital serves a six-county radius as a Baker Act  
5 receiving facility, as well as treating and assessing  
6 patients that would otherwise end up in emergency  
7 rooms. We have two sister facilities in the area  
8 that provide the same service we do in Orlando and  
9 over 10 across the state. In Panama City we have  
10 Emerald Coast; in Fort Lauderdale we have Fort  
11 Lauderdale Hospital; in Bradenton we have Suncoast  
12 Hospital, all doing similar work that we do with  
13 patients that need our care.

14 Just as with skilled nursing facilities and  
15 hospice centers, we have one CON that covers our  
16 whole facility. Also similar to skilled nursing  
17 facilities and hospice centers, we serve the most  
18 vulnerable population in their greatest time of need,  
19 with CON litigation being pretty much nonexistent.

20 In light of the recent attention on mental  
21 health and mental health services, the CON system in  
22 place has worked, is working and will continue to  
23 work if uninterrupted.

24 The similarities between Class III hospitals,  
25 such as my own, and skilled nursing facilities and

1 hospice centers should mandate that they be treated  
2 similarly in regards to CONS. It's for that reason  
3 that I again respectfully ask that Class III  
4 hospitals like the ones described be amended out of  
5 this proposal.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

8 Betty Holden.

9 And you're Mr. Ungru?

10 MR. UNGRU: Yes, sir.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: After Miss Holden.

12 Thank you.

13 MS. HOLDEN: Okay, hi. My name is Betty Holden.

14 I live in St. Pete.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

16 MS. HOLDEN: And some of the comments from the  
17 people that are dog owners for the -- well, first of  
18 all, I would like you to vote yes on Prop. 67.

19 But some of the comments from the people that  
20 run the dog tracks and stuff were pretty interesting.  
21 Some of these people sound like they really do care  
22 about their dogs and they might be taking good care  
23 of them.

24 I've read a lot of things and I basically have  
25 prepared a statement that a lot of the things I've

1 read about are a lot of abuses to these dogs,  
2 statistics that have been printed in the Tampa Bay  
3 Times and lots of publications. Different reasons  
4 that I would like to see Prop. 67 voted yes on: The  
5 confinement that some people mentioned where they're  
6 in the cages for hours and hours; the injuries that  
7 have been on the tracks; Seminole County was --  
8 started tracking injuries and has found 40 injuries  
9 since May of 2017; 32 two dogs suffered broken bones,  
10 including 9 with fractured legs.

11 Again, I know these are things that the dog  
12 track owners say aren't true, but I don't think  
13 people are making these things up, you know, these  
14 are statistics.

15 And 438 deaths of Greyhounds at Florida tracks  
16 have been tracked since 2013, with 383 over the past  
17 4 years.

18 Why do we have to have animals as a form of  
19 entertainment anyway? I don't know why that -- why  
20 is it at their expense that we're entertained?

21 Four hundred nineteen dogs have tested positive  
22 for drugs. Cocaine's been a big issue. The Tampa  
23 Bay Times has reported on that.

24 Twenty-four positive cocaine deaths in 2016 and  
25 2017 were found at Orange Park in Jacksonville, and

1 it goes on and on, but vote yes on Prop. 67.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

4 Mr. Ungru, Rachel Sines, Brian Sandrock,  
5 Katherine Lacasse, Sarah Wiseman, please step  
6 forward.

7 Thank you.

8 MR. UNGRU: My name is Greg Ungru. I'm here to  
9 address Proposal 96.

10 Other speakers at this public hearing have  
11 talked about the deposition provision of this  
12 proposal and how the proposal would harm the due  
13 process of Defendants. They talked of a panel of  
14 judges, prosecutors and attorneys who voted to oppose  
15 equal rights for victims.

16 It's important to know this is a group in the  
17 Florida Bar, the same Florida Bar that opposed any  
18 victim's rights to the state constitution 30 years  
19 ago. Rights that at the time were considered  
20 progressive, but now are seen as antiquated and  
21 unenforceable.

22 I would like the commission to know that not  
23 every state attorney agrees with them. Marsy's Law  
24 is supported by current state attorneys Andrew  
25 Warren, Katherine Fernandez Rundle, RJ Larizza and

1 Brad King, along with former state attorneys Rod  
2 Smith and Willie Meggs.

3 At this point I'd like to read a letter from  
4 Brad King: "I was asked if prohibiting depositions  
5 of victims would lead to a return of preliminary  
6 hearings, as that process existed before our more  
7 modern discovery process. This argument is that  
8 years ago a deal was struck. If depositions were  
9 allowed, there would be no need for preliminary  
10 hearings. If depositions aren't required, then  
11 preliminary hearings would somehow be reinstated.

12 I cannot see that occurring. The criminal  
13 system has changed dramatically from the 1970s. We  
14 now have audio-and video-recorded statements of most  
15 all victims, as well as other witnesses, which can  
16 serve to inform the defense as to the facts of any  
17 case.

18 I believe that the rights of victims should be  
19 part of the constitution. It is this document that  
20 sets forth the most compelling rights bestowed to our  
21 citizens. It is time that we recognize that the  
22 rights of victims should not be subordinated to the  
23 criminals."

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

1 Rachel Sines. Brian Sandrock, Katherine  
2 Lacasse, Sarah Wiseman.

3 Please proceed. Your name?

4 MS. SINES: My name is Rachel Sines.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 MS. SINES: I'm here today in support of  
7 Proposal 96, also called Marsy's Law.

8 Eleven years ago I was sexually assaulted at  
9 gunpoint inside my own home. As someone whose  
10 experienced the court process firsthand, I can tell  
11 you a victim's suffering does not end with the  
12 attack. It continues as we navigate a very  
13 complicated criminal justice system which works for  
14 the criminal and not the victim.

15 All of the criminal's rights would not change or  
16 weaken, the two parties will finally be considered  
17 equal in the eyes of the law. That means everything  
18 to crime victims. We deserve to be seen as someone  
19 real as -- with real emotions who went through a  
20 painful ordeal we did not ask for, rather than as  
21 simply evidence in a case.

22 One of the rights afforded to crime victims  
23 under Marsy's Law is the right to privacy. I am  
24 familiar with privacy rights because my own right to  
25 privacy was compromised. By acting as his own

1           counsel, my attacker was afforded access to all of my  
2           personal information, as well as those of my  
3           witnesses. He made harassing phone calls to me and  
4           them from jail asking us not to testify.

5           There was nothing anyone could do. The state's  
6           attorney and sheriff's department's hands were tied.  
7           His right to identify his accuser trumped my right to  
8           privacy and to be free from intimidation.

9           Marsy's Law would also provide crime victims  
10          with a voice, which is something I wish I had had in  
11          the court process.

12          My attacker was originally given 4 consecutive  
13          life sentences plus 67 years given the violent nature  
14          of his crime. Recently, though, his sentence was  
15          reduced to just 50 years and he will be eligible for  
16          parole.

17          My input was not taken into consideration, even  
18          though the Court's decision directly impacted my  
19          safety.

20          Crime victims all across the state have similar  
21          stories. All we are asking for are the same rights  
22          given to criminals, nothing more and nothing less.

23          My story would have been completely different if  
24          Marsy's Law would have been in effect. Maybe my  
25          identity wouldn't have been stolen, or myself or my

1 friends harassed by my attacker from jail.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

3 Thank you.

4 Grant Alastair, Dr. Karen Moffitt, Karen  
5 Moffitt, Jerry Berger, Dr. Jerry Schrader, Schrader,  
6 excuse me, Edward Bolton, please move -- please come  
7 up to the podiums.

8 Thank you.

9 MS. LACASSE: Hi. My name is Katherine Lacasse.  
10 I urge you to oppose 67. I'm a Greyhound trainer at  
11 Sanford Orlando Kennel Club and also a 12-year  
12 resident of Florida. I've attended and spoke at the  
13 Melbourne hearing and I've watched several of the  
14 others.

15 A lot of the people for 67 have started their  
16 speeches by, I've read, I heard, I've been told.  
17 They haven't been there. They're just regurgitating  
18 the propaganda of an out-of-state animal rights  
19 group.

20 Let's start with diet. The athletes that just  
21 competed in the Olympics didn't sit around all week  
22 eating junk food and then compete successfully.  
23 Neither do my dogs. Happy/healthy/conditioned dogs  
24 are what make money.

25 And just for the record, I have two AKC Whippets

1 that lived to 16 and 17 years old, pointed in the  
2 ring, that ate the same food my Greyhounds ate every  
3 day.

4 We've heard about Hockey Puck that didn't know  
5 her name until she was at two years old. Probably  
6 because that wasn't what she knew.

7 I have Wild Time Flies in my kennel. No  
8 combination of those words are going to get her  
9 attention. She comes to Tina.

10 Again, no different than my AKC Whippet Carasage  
11 Lynar's Magic. She's pretty sure her name is  
12 Twinkles.

13 The adopter of Hockey Puck was probably never  
14 given this information because anti-racing adoption  
15 groups don't want their rescuers to have any contact  
16 with the dog's former life for fear they might learn  
17 the truth.

18 We've also heard about a dog with unhealed  
19 scars.

20 Well, first off, if they're scars, it's healed,  
21 and just because the dog has scars doesn't mean it  
22 wasn't treated. I have -- the two Whippets got in a  
23 fight. Three surgeries and \$4,000 later, the loser  
24 still has scars.

25 I ask that you vote with commonsense and not

1 with your heartstrings from people that are well  
2 meaning, but just uneducated.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 Please come to the microphone and introduce  
6 yourself, please.

7 MR. GRANT: Alastair Grant. I'm a kennel owner  
8 at Sanford Orlando Kennel Club.

9 I've been listening all day and the main issue  
10 is parimutuel wagering. I don't see any -- I've read  
11 it three times. It doesn't say anything about the  
12 welfare of the dogs. It says parimutuel wagering  
13 on -- is it declining? Is it not?

14 Ten-week time from Sanford Orlando Kennel Club  
15 there's been over \$4 million wagered through that  
16 facility. This is about parimutuel wagering; it's  
17 not about animals.

18 Is parimutuel wagering on its decline?

19 I don't know, but the figures I'm getting it's  
20 not. I mean, you can talk about animal abuse all you  
21 want. I had a commissioner come into my kennel and,  
22 you know, out of his privacy I'm not going to say who  
23 it is, but they saw -- they came into the kennel and  
24 they saw the operation. And if you want to talk to  
25 him, you can talk to him.

1           Parimutuel wagering is not in the decline. All  
2 this is, is tracks wanting to get their casinos and  
3 get their slot machines pushed by one member of this  
4 Commission. That's all this is. You can see through  
5 it; it's easy to find.

6           He's using the animal rights activists to go  
7 bleeding hearts to get what he wants, so he can get  
8 rid of the dogs, get the casinos in there and go up  
9 to Tallahassee and say, oh, we're broke, you got rid  
10 of the dogs, so let's give them their slot machines  
11 that have already been approved.

12           But the Indians are going to fight that, so I'm  
13 telling you, the Bert Harris Act is looking -- if  
14 this goes through, I will be suing, because you can't  
15 take a part of the parimutuel wagering industry  
16 and -- you're not doing anything with the horses.  
17 You're just targeting me.

18           Why are you targeting me? Why are you not  
19 targeting the whole parimutuel industry?

20           It's because of money. The horses have more  
21 money than we do and we're just an easy target.

22           Please vote no on Proposition 67.

23           Thank you.

24           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

25           Come up, please.

1           MR. SCHRADER: My name's Jerry Schrader. I'm a  
2 track veterinarian for Stanford Orlando Kennel Club.  
3 I moved down here from Iowa about a year ago, almost  
4 exactly a year ago, to be the track veterinarian.  
5 The other one was retiring, and I plan to retire in  
6 about a year so.

7           Whether you vote yes or no on Proposition 67  
8 won't affect me a whole lot, so I just -- I'm here  
9 mainly to address the animal welfare issue that's  
10 been talked about a lot today as far as Greyhound  
11 racing goes.

12           I have kind of a unique background in that  
13 regards, so I'd like to review that a little bit so  
14 you know where I come from and what I've done.

15           I graduated from Iowa State University in 1975  
16 and I've been a vet -- a member of the Iowa  
17 Veterinary Medical Association ever since. I served  
18 on the animal welfare committee of the IVMA for  
19 several years and was chairman for a couple of years.

20           I started practicing in southwest Iowa, I was a  
21 rural practitioner, mixed-animal practice, about 14  
22 years. In the '80s the farm crisis got a little  
23 tough for everybody, including veterinarians, so I  
24 was looking for another job. I found one down in  
25 the -- the city of Des Moines was hiring the city

1           veterinarian for their first time. So I applied for  
2           it and I was offered the job.

3           I ended up working there for 18 years. Didn't  
4           plan to be there 18 years, but that's how it turned  
5           out.

6           A lot of my job dealt with the city animal  
7           shelter, of course; that was a big part of it. We  
8           impounded 7,000 animals a year, so I was in charge of  
9           the shelter management and the personnel, all the  
10          care and treatment of the animals. We spayed and  
11          neutered over 6,000 animals, or I did personally in  
12          the last few years, then we got into the adoption  
13          phase more.

14          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Doctor, we'd like to thank you  
15          for your comments. If you want to turn in that  
16          paper, we'll be putting it into the record. Thank  
17          you very much.

18          Yes, ma'am.

19          MS. WISEMAN: Hi. My name's Sarah Wiseman. I'm  
20          a student at Eckerd College right now, and in the  
21          interest of saving both of us time, because I've been  
22          here since 11:30, I can't imagine how you guys feel  
23          right now, I'd just like to thank you for rejecting  
24          Proposal 22 initially and urge you to please keep it  
25          off the ballot in any upcoming discussions.

1 I'd also like to say that I do support Props. 91  
2 and 3, and I'd just like to urge you to keep our  
3 schools safe, keep our waters safe, and keep myself  
4 and my sisters safe in the most stressful decisions  
5 of our life involving our sexual health and medical  
6 privacy.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

8 MS. WISEMAN: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Gentlemen.

10 MR. BOLTON: Yeah, my name is Ed Bolton. I'm  
11 here to speak against Proposition 67.

12 I'm a retired -- from teaching/coaching after 38  
13 years and most of it in Florida. I was named Oviedo  
14 High School Teacher of the Year, Florida Basketball  
15 Coach of the Year, and Florida PTS Teacher Who Cares  
16 for Kids Award. So I find it a real shame that  
17 people can stand here before you and tell about  
18 things that took place years ago, use unverified or  
19 exaggerated and, yes, even lies without fear of  
20 prosecution.

21 If what they say is the truth, I would be the  
22 first in line to say yes to the Proposition 67, but I  
23 have firsthand knowledge and want -- what they say is  
24 not the truth. I know the truth and I must vote no  
25 on 67.

1           The biggest mistake the Greyhound industry has  
2           made in the past is not standing up to being  
3           accounted. We let the public listen to these  
4           activists too long without reacting and  
5           counterattacking them. Today I'm asking for all pro  
6           Greyhound people to stand with me. Please stand.  
7           Show them who you are.

8           There would be even more, but unlike the  
9           activists, most of the dog people have to stay at the  
10          kennel to take care of their animals and can't be  
11          here at every meeting. Unlike the activists who come  
12          here every meeting and say the same things over and  
13          over again, they want the truth, the truth -- and if  
14          you want the truth, you need to find out the facts  
15          for yourself by coming to our kennels, coming to my  
16          farm, come to the Race Track and find out the real  
17          truth. If you decide against me after you've  
18          listened to and seen the facts for yourself, then I  
19          would be happy with that, but please, please do some  
20          research on your own.

21                 Thank you.

22           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23                 Yes, ma'am.

24           MS. MOFFITT: My name's Karen Moffitt. I'm from  
25           Tampa and I'm here to speak in opposition to Proposal

1           94. And with a name like Moffitt, you can believe  
2 I'm all about cancer research, but the first line of  
3 defense is prevention.

4           Lee's throat cancer could have been prevented.  
5 His six weeks of radiation treatments twice a day  
6 could have been prevented. For the last 40 years,  
7 Lee and I have fought the fight against cancer. He,  
8 as the founder of Moffitt Cancer and board member,  
9 and me as the national board member of the American  
10 Cancer Society and a long-time volunteer.

11           Our daughter's always joked that cancer was the  
12 Moffitt family business, but in spite of this, in  
13 high school she started smoking. Unfortunately, she  
14 graduated from high school two years before the SWAT  
15 team truth ads came on TV. When she went to college  
16 and checked into her dorm, the welcome package was a  
17 basket of feminine hygiene products and two packs of  
18 Marlboro cigarettes. It took her 12 years, 12 long  
19 years for us, for her to finally quit smoking, and  
20 she's now joined the Moffitt family business and is  
21 on the Moffitt Cancer Center Board.

22           As a mother and an educator, I ask you to please  
23 not take money from a highly successful program, and  
24 I also have an open letter for you from 25  
25 corporations, public health organizations and

1 professional sports teams here in Florida that have  
2 united together to oppose Proposal 94.

3 Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 Jerry Berger, Scott Mahurin, James Lax, Bill  
6 Stokes.

7 Jerry Berger, Scott Mahurin, James Lax, Bill  
8 Stokes, please come forward. Jennifer McClearn.

9 Please introduce yourself on the right.

10 My right. I think that's you.

11 MR. LAX: Thank you, sir.

12 James Lax, Longwood, Florida, 44-year resident  
13 of Florida.

14 I'm speaking in opposition of Proposal 67 this  
15 evening. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank  
16 committee member John Stemberger for taking some  
17 personal time to visit SOKC and the Bolton Kennel in  
18 Longwood. Seeing for yourself is something I would  
19 strongly urge every committee member to do.

20 I'd like to talk about the consequences the  
21 taxpayers of Florida may face should this proposal  
22 pass and be approved by the voting populous. Should  
23 Greyhound racing be dismantled, there exist the high  
24 probability those whose livelihoods are affected will  
25 see compensation under the Bert Harris Act.

1           This compensation is estimated to be some 250 to  
2           500 million dollars in costs. A cost ultimately  
3           passed on to the taxpayers. The estimated 2 billion  
4           dollars in parimutuel handle would diminish and the  
5           live racing handle of \$80 million a year would end.  
6           With it comes an estimated \$20 million in tax  
7           revenue, which would cease.

8           So if you combine the loss of revenue with the  
9           Bert Harris liability, taxpayers are looking at some  
10          half a billion -- that's billion with a "b" -- in  
11          lost dollars.

12          Members of the Constitution Review Committee,  
13          understand these are the probable consequences of  
14          your decision.

15          You've heard the distorted conjecture of the  
16          proponents of this bill. Now is the time to look at  
17          the reality of what your decision will bring to the  
18          citizens of Florida. Don't allow the well intended  
19          motives of a misguided contingency funded by casino  
20          gambling interest to stand in your way.

21          Thank you.

22          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, sir.

23          MR. STOKES: Good evening. I'm Bill Stokes,  
24          retired realtor from St. Petersburg.

25          You all have an opportunity to either leave a

1 legacy, a partisanship or one of doing the right  
2 thing for the people of Florida. Please support  
3 number 3, the assault weapons ban; support 67, ban  
4 Greyhound racing due to animal cruelty and being one  
5 of the last states to have this primitive support;  
6 support number 91, ban oil drilling in Florida  
7 coastal waters. This has had two favorable committee  
8 votes. Support number 11, allows all voters to  
9 participate in a universal primary where all  
10 candidates are in one party. Reject number 4, which  
11 is private vouchers as the extent of public education  
12 and religious indoctrination and discrimination.  
13 Reject number 22, which undermines the right to  
14 privacy. This was deceitfully crafted and defeated  
15 by committee vote. Reject number 43, which mandates  
16 school board term limits. Reject number 45, no tax  
17 dollars to private and/or religious schools. Reject  
18 number 56, strips meager public funding for new  
19 candidates. Reject number 71, no state control of  
20 schools. Reject number 72, limits Florida's ability  
21 to invest in public education, mental health,  
22 housing, roads, bridges. They're requiring super  
23 majority vote to raise taxes or fees. This has been  
24 a disaster in other states.

25 Reject number 95, no state preemption on local

1           ordinances that business claims interferes. Reject  
2           number 97. Sixty percent is close to impossible to  
3           change constitution by initiative.

4           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you for your  
5           comments.

6           MR. STOKES: It would be our nation's highest.  
7           Thank you.

8           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: James Lax?  
9           You're?

10          MR. MAHURIN: Scott Mahurin.

11          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Scott. How do you pronounce  
12          your last name?

13          MR. MAHURIN: Mahurin.

14          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mahurin.  
15          Please proceed. Thank you.  
16          Jennifer McClearn.

17          Go ahead.

18          MR. MAHURIN: Good evening, everybody. My name  
19          is Scott Mahurin and I'm the director of Florida  
20          Preborn Rescue, a pro-life nonprofit organization  
21          based here in Tampa Bay. I'm here to speak in favor  
22          OF Proposal 22.

23                 If a law can save one life, we should pass it.  
24          We should support it. We all want our children to  
25          grow up safely, as we've heard so passionately and so

1           sadly from so many parents who lost children at the  
2           horrible massacre at Parkland several weeks ago.  
3           We've heard about those who wish to protect animals  
4           and the environment here locally and across the  
5           state. In other words, we all can agree that life is  
6           precious. That's why we want to take a stand against  
7           teen smoking as well, but I'm here today to speak on  
8           behalf of another group that has no voice, and I'm  
9           here to speak about the preborn -- unborn human  
10          babies of Florida. I agree that we need to protect  
11          our children, and so I'm speaking on behalf of the  
12          smallest children.

13                 The privacy amendment, which was adopted in the  
14                 late '70s, was never meant to approve abortion.

15                 Roe versus Wade was just decided five years  
16                 before the privacy amendment was passed, so there was  
17                 no need for the privacy amendment to contain abortion  
18                 laws. It was only meant for informational privacy  
19                 alone, but sadly the Supreme Court has misinterpreted  
20                 the intent of this amendment and has extended it now  
21                 to protect abortion laws.

22                 At the very least this Commission should give  
23                 the citizens of Florida the right to determine  
24                 whether the privacy amendment extends to the privacy  
25                 of the child inside the mother's womb, or whether it

1 does not, because in 1978 there were no ultrasounds,  
2 there were no science that confirms what we know now,  
3 that there are two human beings involved in an  
4 abortion, the mother and the unborn child, and so  
5 this Commission would be wise to give the citizens of  
6 Florida another chance at this privacy amendment and  
7 to do its original intent, which was for information  
8 only and not for abortion.

9 Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.  
11 That mic is -- that battery must be dead. That mic's  
12 not working. That mic is not working, folks.

13 Huh?

14 UNIDENTIFIED VOLUNTEER: It came down and went  
15 back up.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: It went back up.

17 Okay.

18 UNIDENTIFIED VOLUNTEER: Yeah, it's fine.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Jennifer McClearn, is she in  
20 here?

21 Giselle Fetigan. Giselle Fetigan, Laura Hulley,  
22 Desiree Zokoski.

23 Raise your hands as soon as you hear your name,  
24 folks, so I know how many people I got to keep  
25 calling.

1 Giselle Fetigan? No.

2 Laura Hulley?

3 MS. HINE: Hine maybe? H-i-n-e.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: H-u-l-l-e-y. Laura.

5 MS. HINE: No, Laura Hine.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: But that's okay, you can take  
7 a seat up here. It'll be closer when I get to your  
8 name.

9 Desiree Zokoski with a "z".

10 Dealaney, Allen Dealaney. Jessica White.

11 That's an easy one, Jessica White.

12 No.

13 Samuel Eshelman. Samuel Eshelman. Kristen  
14 Knight. Kristen Knight. Sherry Mogul, M-o-g-u-l,  
15 Cheryl. Cheryl B. Mogul.

16 MS. MOGUL: Yes.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Proposition 94.

18 MS. MOGUL: Yes.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Come on up.

20 Jennifer Bliska. Jennifer Bliska and Tresa  
21 Watson. Tresa Watson.

22 Thank you. Come on up.

23 Go ahead, ma'am. Thank you. Introduce  
24 yourself, please.

25 MS. MOGUL: Thank you.

1           Good evening. My name's Cheryl Mogul. I live  
2 here in Gulfport, Florida -- I mean Pinellas County.

3           I'm opposed to Proposal 94. For the CRC, it  
4 seeks to dismantle our state's highly successful  
5 Tobacco Free Florida programs by shifting money from  
6 tobacco control and prevention to cancer research.  
7 This proposal is shortsighted and it doesn't make  
8 sense. Cancer research shouldn't steal from a  
9 program already preventing cancer. Why would anyone  
10 suggest diverting funds in dollars such as this?

11           Only one person has spoken in favor of this  
12 proposal, or all organizations have spoken up against  
13 it: The American Cancer Society, the American Lung  
14 Association and Heart Association.

15           Funding should not be reduced, and if any -- and  
16 please look into all the ethical implications of this  
17 on who's supporting it, the one sponsor.

18           And I also taught health in this county for many  
19 years and other subjects, and I know these prevention  
20 programs really do work with the students from the  
21 guests that I used to have come to my classroom.

22           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23           MS. MOGUL: Thank you.

24           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.

25           Please step up to either microphone so that

1           you're ready to go as soon as the speaker ahead of  
2           you is finished.

3           You are?

4           MS. BLISKA: I am Jennifer Bliska. I'm a  
5           concerned citizen from Wesley Chapel, Florida, and  
6           I'm here to speak against the -- to oppose  
7           Proposition 94.

8           Personally, I would like to share with you that  
9           both my parents grew up in a time when smoking was  
10          pretty much acceptable, and my father was a veteran  
11          so he also suffered from PTSD and relied on smoking,  
12          and both of them became highly addicted. I watched  
13          them both die tragic deaths related to smoking. My  
14          mother died of cancer and my father recently died  
15          less than a year ago after years of heart attacks,  
16          amputations, and then his last days were on oxygen.

17          While I greatly fully support cancer research,  
18          prevention honestly could have saved them, and we  
19          live in a time where it should be socially  
20          unacceptable at this point and trends should be  
21          demolished.

22          I have seen through my work and social services  
23          prevention work and I urge you to keep prevention at  
24          the forefront here in Florida.

25          Thank you very much for your time.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

2 Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. WATSON: Yes. I'm Tresa Watson and I also  
4 am a citizen, and I'm urging you to oppose Proposal  
5 94.

6 I've had not one but two immediate family  
7 members die directly from tobacco-related use. I  
8 personally believe that prevention could have saved  
9 them both. My understanding is there's already  
10 legislation and funding directed to cancer research  
11 and I would urge you to keep this program.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

13 Gary Woodruff. Gary Woodruff. Frank Delucia.  
14 Frank Delucia. Carolyn Kahn, James Abernathy, JoAnn  
15 Griner, June Kennedy, please step forward.

16 Thank you.

17 Please.

18 MR. WOODRUFF: Hello. My name's Gary Woodruff,  
19 Sarasota resident, 14 years, and I'm a IT  
20 professional, an independent journalist and also have  
21 litigated in Florida, not as an attorney, and don't  
22 practice law, for about 14 years, and have probably  
23 several thousand hours of legal research. Not  
24 because I like to or I want to, but because it's a  
25 survival mechanism.

1 I don't know if there's a specific proposal in  
2 what I am here for today, but I want to make my voice  
3 heard given the weight of the matter, which has to do  
4 with the life, liberty, property and family matters  
5 of what people are going through, especially the  
6 veterans, given the family court issues.

7 The life issues I can say began with PTSD, with  
8 a high rate of suicide, that there are veterans that  
9 are getting out of the service, they're serving  
10 several tours in the Middle East, they get back and  
11 find their marriages are failing, their families are  
12 falling apart, end up in the divorce court, which  
13 they're not even remotely equipped to be able to  
14 handle. They end up destroyed in family court and a  
15 lot of them are in suicide mode.

16 The suicide issue in Florida I have learned  
17 recently is one of the highest rates in the nation,  
18 and the nonveteran suicide is also among the highest  
19 rate. We need to reign in the family courts. We  
20 need to be able to bring in accountability.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

22 MR. WOODRUFF: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am. You are?

24 MS. KAHN: Good evening. My name is Dr. Carolyn  
25 Kahn and I'm speaking against Proposition 65.

1 I'm a nonsmoker for eight years now due to the  
2 availability and the freedom to use my vaping device  
3 as I needed to to stop smoking. I've provided you  
4 with a copy of the report from the CDC, the U.S.  
5 Health and Human Services, as well as the National  
6 Institute of Occupational Safety and Health.

7 They evaluated the air quality and surfaces  
8 inside a vape shop in California over a several day  
9 period with personal and room sampling devices. It  
10 tested for and tried to measure more compounds that  
11 are listed in the introduction of this proposal. The  
12 results revealed they were either not detectable or  
13 in concentrations significantly lower than that  
14 established for workplace standards of exposure.

15 In Dr. Burstyn's review, *Peering Through the*  
16 *Mist*, he concluded there's no evidence that vaping  
17 produces inhaleable exposures to contaminates of the  
18 aerosol that would warrant health concerns by  
19 standards that are used to ensure the safety of  
20 workplaces. Exposures of by-standards are likely to  
21 be on orders of magnitude less, and thus pose no  
22 apparent concern.

23 Every business should be allowed to decide if or  
24 how they will allow vaping in their establishments.  
25 Based on the science available world wild, there's no

1 reason to curtail and a pleather of reasons to allow  
2 vaping.

3 Hospitals in the UK are now being encouraged to  
4 sell and recommend the use of vaping devices to --  
5 for smokers who are convalescing. Also, placing  
6 vapors with smokers exposes us to the dangers of  
7 secondhand smoke, which we have successfully removed  
8 ourselves from.

9 Do not put us back in harms way. Do not believe  
10 and perpetuate the wrong impression that vaping is as  
11 dangerous as smoking.

12 Thank you very much.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

14 Yes, sir.

15 MR. DELUCIA: Good evening. I'm Frank Delucia,  
16 executive vice president of Abilities, Inc., d/b/a  
17 Service Source Florida, a Clearwater based 501(c)(3)  
18 nonprofit, and I'm here to voice my opposition to  
19 Proposal 67.

20 Abilities has helped tens of thousands of  
21 Floridians and military veterans with lifelong  
22 disabilities obtain mainstream jobs and affordable  
23 housing, enabling them to contribute to the economic  
24 strength and life of their communities as productive,  
25 wage earners and tax paying citizens.

1           Since its inception in 1959, Abilities has  
2           relied on the magnificence of corporate and  
3           civic-minded leaders to accomplish and sustain its  
4           mission. The St. Petersburg Kennel Club, known as  
5           Derby Lane, is a shining exemplar of one such  
6           benefactor.

7           Over the past 4 decades and in my 35 years at  
8           Abilities few corporations have supported us more  
9           than Derby Lane, which has distinguished itself by  
10          providing substantial annual financial funding  
11          through job placement services and low income  
12          housing, hiring graduates from our skills program,  
13          sponsoring charity matinees and fundraisers that  
14          netted us more than \$4 million, and governing and  
15          chairing the Abilities foundation, our 501(c)(3)  
16          nonprofit arm for 20 years, under the astute  
17          leadership of Derby Lane Vice President Richard  
18          Winning, with the accountability, transparency, and  
19          full public disclosure.

20          These services made it possible for thousands of  
21          people with significant disabilities who were once  
22          marginalized, unemployed or underemployed, to obtain  
23          employment and live dependently. Their funds also  
24          helped to pay for past-due utility bills, rent and  
25          mortgage payments, to avoid service disconnection,

1           eviction and foreclosure, tuition for training  
2           leading to competitive employment, affordable,  
3           accessible housing at below-market rates for people  
4           classified as low income, and enabled 1800 veterans  
5           with disabilities to transition from homelessness to  
6           apartment life. Most importantly, these services  
7           lessen dependents on government.

8           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

9           MR. DELUCIA: Thank you.

10          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Appreciate it.

11          You are, sir?

12          MR. ABERNATHY: James Abernathy.

13          Thank you, Commissioners, for your time.

14          I'm a business owner, I'm a property owner and  
15          I'm a voter. If I'm -- and I'm against Proposition  
16          67.

17          If this goes through, only a voter. I won't be  
18          a property owner probably anymore, and I won't be a  
19          business owner.

20          There's been a lot of things said up here today  
21          that aren't true. The main thing is the dogs are  
22          only let out one hour a day. No, my dogs are out six  
23          or seven hours a day.

24          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: If you can get closer to the  
25          microphone, that would be better.

1           MR. ABERNATHY: My dogs are let out six or seven  
2 hours a day.

3           It says the dogs don't have a choice. The dogs  
4 have a choice. They don't have to run. I've had  
5 plenty of dogs throughout my life -- I'm third  
6 generation. My family has been doing it 90 years.  
7 The dog doesn't run, I call up one of the adoption  
8 centers, say this dog doesn't want to run, will you  
9 come and get it. He's adopted out.

10           The dogs love to run. You know, I just have a  
11 hard time with this Commission and these people  
12 saying this dog is abused because he runs and he  
13 loves to run.

14           The dogs can't talk to me, you know. Police  
15 dogs can't talk to police officers.

16           Do police dogs want to be there? Do dogs want  
17 to be in the Army? You know, do dogs want to be  
18 guide dogs?

19           No.

20           Then each one of those cases all we can do is  
21 try our best to take care of that dog, whatever  
22 situation he's put in, and that's what we do with all  
23 our Greyhounds.

24           Thank you very much.

25           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

1 MS. KENNEDY: My name is June Kennedy. I've  
2 been volunteering in Greyhound adoption for 15 years  
3 and I'm currently an active racing Greyhound owner.  
4 I'm speaking against Proposal 67.

5 You've heard over and over that one Greyhound  
6 passes away every three days. I'm going to give you  
7 a new number. I'm going to put that into context.

8 If you consider that over 8,000 racing  
9 Greyhounds pass through the state of Florida every  
10 year, that yields a rate of 0.015 percent.

11 Now, I've talked to three veterinarians across  
12 the country, one of them pro-racing, one of them  
13 anti-racing and one of them neutral. All three  
14 agreed that that is well within the norm of common  
15 household pet ownership.

16 I put before you my stand. It is just as safe,  
17 if not safer, to be a racing Greyhound in the state  
18 of Florida as it is to be a common household pet.

19 My family was in this business in the '70s and  
20 '80s. I'm in this business today. I have seen  
21 firsthand that this industry has reformed. It has  
22 evolved. Are we, as a society, going to punish that?

23 Leave these people alone. They are good for the  
24 economy; they're good for Florida; they're good for  
25 Greyhounds as a breed. They are doing no harm.

1           Now, I've seen your intelligence and my  
2 intelligence be insulted over and over again tonight.  
3 Every time one of these red cardholders gets up and  
4 says that they think, they've heard, somebody told  
5 somebody that told them, or they saw in person in  
6 1997.

7           They say that Florida needs to come into the  
8 21st Century. I say that they need to get up to  
9 speed with the Greyhound racing industry of 2018.  
10 This is the face of the Greyhound racing industry of  
11 2018. A happy, healthy hound.

12           Thank you.

13           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

14           After this speaker we're going to take a break.

15           MS. GRINER: Oh, wow, thanks.

16           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Five minutes.

17           MS. GRINER: I'm JoAnn Griner. I am a  
18 volunteer/vice president with Greyhound Pets of  
19 America, Tampa Bay Chapter. I ask you to vote no on  
20 CP 67.

21           This is not an animal protection measure. This  
22 is simply an antigambling initiative. Amending the  
23 state Constitution to say people can still wager on  
24 horses but not on Greyhounds is illogical calendar.  
25 The state constitution is not the place to regulate

1           these businesses. Let the free market decide what  
2           businesses should continue to do or not. That's  
3           democracy. That's how America works.

4                   I'm proud to be a volunteer and to volunteer my  
5           time to adopting the Greyhounds from the racing  
6           kennels at Derby Lane.

7                   We are the ones that get the dogs the day  
8           they're done racing, okay? We get healthy, happy  
9           animals from the racing kennels at Derby Lane. When  
10          there's an injury, because once in a while it  
11          happens, they tell us and we address it with our vets  
12          prior to adoption.

13                   The people that don't have firsthand  
14          knowledge -- I'm back there three/four times a week.  
15          Derby Lane has donated an adoption kennel and so  
16          we're back there with the racing kennels. I'm there,  
17          I have access, I see it firsthand. The reason why  
18          the red cardholders here have docile, loving, healthy  
19          pets is because these dogs were raised by the racing  
20          kennels to be loving, docile animals, who happen to  
21          like to chase a lure around the track.

22                   The people that don't have firsthand knowledge  
23          of what really happens back there want you to believe  
24          that the animals will be better off and better  
25          protected by not having wagering, and that's false.

1           There's no animal protection wording in this  
2           amendment. It's all about stopping wagering. If you  
3           stop wagering, you remove oversight by the state. It  
4           becomes and amateur sport, and look at Georgia and  
5           some of the other states that have done this.  
6           There's no oversight on amateur sport.

7           Vote no on Proposition 67.

8           Thank you.

9           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

10          We'll stand adjourned for five minutes.

11          (Recess taken from 9:01 to 9:07 p.m.)

12          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: All right. Let's reconvene.  
13          It's getting late. I'm sure some of you are tired.  
14          We're getting our second wind so we're ready to go  
15          until two in the morning.

16          Okay, folks. We're ready to go. Will Steve --  
17          Steve Lafanti, I think. I can't make out -- Steve  
18          Lafanti, is he here? Is that you, sir?

19          Well, how do you pronounce your name?

20          MR. INFANTI: Infanti.

21          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Infanti. Infanti.

22          Please come to the microphone.

23          And Maryann Tollover, Maryann Tollover, Brian  
24          Corley, Sabrina Schultz, please step forward.

25          Go ahead, sir. Thank you.

1 MR. INFANTII: Thank you.

2 I'm here to speak on Proposal 67. I'm in  
3 support of that. I'm a Greyhound owner. I own  
4 several right now; I've owned several over the years.  
5 I've fostered for a number of groups and volunteered  
6 for even the prison retraining program for the  
7 Greyhounds.

8 As a certified planner, part of my job is to  
9 help government agencies find viable revenue streams  
10 for a sustainable future. Dog racing is neither  
11 viable nor sustainable. We see that in the  
12 declinate's work over the last 20 years and by the  
13 fact that the state loses millions of dollars per  
14 year on Greyhound racing.

15 This is all taxpayer money being lost. Simply  
16 put, we subsidize dog racing in this state as  
17 taxpayers. Racing dogs that find homes as pets after  
18 becoming injured or otherwise surplusd do so through  
19 the many charitable groups across the country. These  
20 groups are funded through tax deductible donations  
21 and tremendous volunteer support. So the re-homing  
22 of surplus Greyhounds is also funded by the taxpayers  
23 through the charitable donations.

24 As taxpayers we're active in Greyhound racing  
25 whether we like it or not. It's not a matter of let

1 the market decide; if you don't like it, don't show  
2 up. We're funding it through our taxes; we're  
3 subsidizing it through our taxes one way or the  
4 other. We deserve to have a say in the future of  
5 this activity, just like we would if we were being  
6 forced to subsidize any other outdated or outmoded  
7 industry.

8 I used to be a steel worker years ago. We all  
9 know how that worked out for most of the steel mills  
10 in this country. The taxpayers shouldn't be held  
11 accountable for that.

12 If the public pays, then the public votes. It's  
13 the American way.

14 Despite there being a burden on the taxpayer,  
15 the racing industry seeks to deny us the right to  
16 vote on this issue. They're a small group with a  
17 vested financial interest in racing. We, the  
18 taxpayer, come from all walks of life and want to  
19 have a clear choice on this matter. Let's put it on  
20 the ballot. Let the voters decide.

21 Please support Proposal 67.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

24 Maryann Tollover, Sabrina Schultz, Brian Corley.

25 Going once, going twice.

1           Okay.

2           Frank Keterman. Frank Keterman. Angela Vick.

3           I think Angela Vick spoke. Yeah, she's gone.

4           Manuel Sykes. Sonia Stratemann. Catherine  
5 same -- Infanti.

6           I got it. I figured you were connected. Come  
7 forward, please.

8           Chris Stratemann. Chris Stratemann. Arlene  
9 Smith. Kami Buchanan. Richard Marcort. Richard  
10 Marcort. Matt Jordan.

11          I don't see anybody coming forward.

12          Cathryn Vaughn.

13          Please announce yourself and speak, ma'am.

14          Thank you.

15          MS. STRATEMANN: Hi. My name is Sonya  
16 Stratemann. I have -- my family and I have been  
17 rescuing Greyhounds for over 14 years and we've taken  
18 in well over 2000 dogs. These are x-rays of six of  
19 the broken legs we were able to save. All six were  
20 taken in to be euthanized. The last four were as  
21 recent as November and December. My husband and I  
22 paid personally for the last three surgeries.

23          We've taken in hundreds of dogs like this. In  
24 the past five years our vet bills alone were  
25 \$104,000. Palm Beach Kennel Club does donate. In

1           2015, for example, they donated \$3,346. Our last  
2           donation from Palm Beach Kennel Club was in 2000 --  
3           August 2017 for \$500. I've always appreciated the  
4           track's help. The owners very, very rarely ever  
5           contribute so I've always relied and appreciated the  
6           track's help.

7           I lost my son a year ago and that's when I  
8           started speaking out. There's life changes and  
9           things change. My kids grew up seeing things that  
10          would disgust you, would make you -- when they were  
11          14 years old, they knew how to splint broken legs.  
12          That's not a normal thing for children to know.

13          With -- they've seen dogs come in such bad  
14          condition we had no choice but to euthanize. We came  
15          home one day when they were young to a dog with a  
16          broken back in our yard thrown over, literally over  
17          our gates. I don't know who did that.

18          That's how my kids grew up. I've always told  
19          them that Greyhound racing would end. I told them  
20          that one day politicians would figure out how to get  
21          the dogs away from the gaming issues. My son didn't  
22          get to see that. I'm going to keep fighting for this  
23          and I hope -- I urge you to please think about voting  
24          for Proposal 67.

25                   CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

1           Yes, ma'am, your name.

2           MS. INFANTII: Good evening. My name is  
3 Catherine Infanti and I live in Pinellas County.

4           This Florida parimutuel wagering license, and  
5 it's recent, well, fairly recent, gave me access to  
6 the kennels at the dog tracks. I've been inside the  
7 kennels and I've seen the very things that the racing  
8 industry denies, things that would keep caring voters  
9 awake at night. I've seen dogs filled with parasites  
10 and emaciated to the brink of death. I've seen dogs  
11 hobbling on broken legs or neglected, abused and  
12 abandoned by their racing owners. I have felt the  
13 bumps on their heads and bodies where the ticks  
14 infested them. This is undeniable because I've  
15 witnessed it firsthand.

16           Rescue groups bear the cost to treat, feed and  
17 foster these dogs through the tireless efforts of  
18 volunteers like myself. In many years her -- in my  
19 years as a volunteer on the outside of the kennels  
20 I've poured countless hours of my time and money into  
21 rescuing and re-homing these dogs, and yet my efforts  
22 and that of all the volunteer -- all the volunteers  
23 and dog rescue groups in Florida and across the  
24 country are unable to keep up the amount of dogs that  
25 flow at us through the -- or from the industry thanks

1 to their over production of dogs for racing.

2 We do not have the resources to save them all.  
3 Too many dogs die from injuries or are killed simply  
4 because their surplus. I've seen it all from the  
5 inside and out and it's not pretty.

6 This is the reason why I'm standing here before  
7 you now. The future of Greyhound racing in Florida  
8 needs to become a public decision. Please vote yes  
9 on Proposal 67. If the industry has nothing to hide,  
10 then let the voter decide.

11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER ROUSON: Yes, ma'am.

13 MS. SMITH: I'm Arlene Smith with Volusia County  
14 and I'm representing the Volusia County Council's  
15 position.

16 First of all, we oppose Proposal 95 because we  
17 support home rule, and so we hope that one won't come  
18 back up again. But what I'm here to talk about today  
19 is 13. Proposal 13 allows those outside our  
20 community to vote on what is being proposed as the  
21 best form of government for the locals. It's a  
22 one-size-fits-all kind of a proposition.

23 We're not saying that the proposal is not a good  
24 form of government. It's just not a good sub -- fit  
25 for everybody.

1           Decades ago the legislature determined that it  
2           was more appropriate for locals to decide on their  
3           form of government, which we did. In 1970 Volusia  
4           voters approved a county charter after a legislative  
5           study determined that there would be cost savings  
6           from our recommended organization, and there have  
7           been. Our CFO has analyzed the impact of 13 to  
8           Volusia and determined that it would cost our  
9           taxpayers an additional \$10 million a year.

10           Now, those numbers, our CFO would be happy to  
11           sit with any of you and discuss her numbers and how  
12           she came to her analysis, but she thinks it's a  
13           conservative estimate.

14           If our community wants to change our structure,  
15           the local voters can do that, but don't ask the  
16           voters in Escambia County to determine what is the  
17           best operational government in Volusia County. Trust  
18           the local voters to determine their local form of  
19           government that is best for them and vote no on 13.

20           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

21           Yes, sir.

22           MR. JORDAN: My name is Matt Jordan. I'm here  
23           on behalf of the American Cancer Society. I want to  
24           talk about the two tobacco-related amendments and  
25           thank all the SWAT kids and other volunteers who

1 spoke today, as well as you Commissioners for  
2 dedicating all of your time that you have to CRC.

3 I know that you're very well educated on these  
4 issues and you understand how effective Tobacco Free  
5 Florida is, how efficient the program is managed, how  
6 much money it has saved our state. In the last 10  
7 years it saved over \$17 billion in state-related  
8 health care costs -- or smoking-related health care  
9 costs here in the state, and that track will continue  
10 if we continue to invest the preventative dollars  
11 into Tobacco Free Florida, and I also want to remind  
12 you guys that the dollars are through the Tobacco  
13 settlement agreement. These are not taxpayer  
14 dollars, and the last time it was up to the  
15 legislature the program was defunded, and that's why  
16 it's before you today, because it was a citizen-led  
17 initiative that put this back into the Constitution.

18 So please vote no to Proposal 94, but I also  
19 want to support Proposal 65, which would include  
20 e-cigarettes into the Clean Indoor Florida Air Act.  
21 Commissioner Carlton, myself, and other Floridians  
22 are very tired of going to public events, sporting  
23 events, the restaurants, the grocery store and  
24 breathing in secondhand smoke from these aerosol  
25 products, and we are not very sure of all of the

1 effects that come from the secondhand aerosol, and  
2 it's not fair for people to be out at a public event  
3 and have to deal with someone smoking an e-cigarette  
4 next to you. An e-cigarette should be considered a  
5 tobacco product and led into the Clean Air Act.

6 I would strongly support 65 and hope that you do  
7 the same. Thank you for your time today.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Tina Koufis. Tina Koufis.  
9 Donna Gechter. Or Gechter.

10 Tina, Donna Gechter.

11 Nobody. Oop. There's . . .

12 Carole Phillips.

13 Yes, ma'am. You can proceed, ma'am. Ma'am?  
14 Miss? Tina, go.

15 MS. KOUFIS: Okay.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Tina, go.

17 MS. KOUFIS: Okay.

18 Hi. I was born and raised in Florida and I'm  
19 all about democracy, and I haven't seen much of that  
20 lately in the state of Florida.

21 I want to talk about Proposal 67 because I  
22 believe whether you are for or against Greyhound  
23 racing the people of Florida should decide this.  
24 That's democracy in action and I want to see  
25 democracy happen again in the state of Florida.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

3 MS. GECHTER: Hi. I'm Donna Gechter from  
4 Pinellas County. Thank you for letting us speak  
5 tonight.

6 I'm here to speak for the dogs. Vote yes for  
7 Proposal 67 for the Greyhounds, and also yes for  
8 Proposal 91, no oil and gas drilling.

9 Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

11 Carole Phillips. Carole Phillips. Melissa  
12 Evans. Melissa Evans. Susan Peake.

13 Susan Peake, Raymond Peake, Mr. and Mrs. Peake.

14 Okay. Sandra Weeks. Sandra Weeks. Todd Byers,  
15 Janet Skinner, Karen Moffitt.

16 We've heard from Karen; have we not?

17 Another Moffitt. Karen Moffitt.

18 Okay. Please introduce yourself, ma'am.

19 Thank you very much. We'll start with the lady  
20 right here.

21 MS. EVANS: I was going to say good afternoon,  
22 but now it's evening.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: A couple more hours it'll be  
24 good morning.

25 MS. EVANS: Let's hope not.

1           Good evening. My name is Melissa Evans and I'm  
2           against CP 67. I believe it doesn't belong in the  
3           constitution because it will put thousands of  
4           hard-working, dedicated people out of their jobs.

5           These people contribute to our economy. We buy  
6           food for our families, we buy vehicles and we pay  
7           rents and mortgages, and we also buy health insurance  
8           for our families. A lot of us are third-and  
9           fourth-generation Greyhound people, some of which are  
10          too old in today's market to get a good paying job or  
11          too young to retire. Also, this will put our  
12          Greyhounds at risk. While our adoption groups  
13          already work diligently to find the best homes for  
14          our Greyhounds, they would be seriously overwhelmed  
15          with such a massive influx.

16          With no funds coming in, how would any of us  
17          afford to feed and care for them properly, let alone  
18          vet care. Fifteen thousand Greyhounds are a lot to  
19          care for. This leads me to ask, so who's going to  
20          help us take care of our Greyhounds if this was to  
21          happen? The out-of-state animal rights radicals or  
22          the HSUS, who are only good at making their  
23          commercials.

24          I'm a tax paying Florida citizen and I don't  
25          want to be held accountable for the damages from the

1 Bert Harris Act on top of losing my job and business.  
2 Please vote no on CP 67, and thank you for your time.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, sir. Your name?

4 MR. BYERS: My name is Todd Byers. I'm from  
5 Daytona Beach. I'm the president of Daytona Beach  
6 Kennel Owners Association. I'm here representing  
7 myself and the 50 plus other people that are working  
8 in the kennels alone in Daytona Beach, and not to  
9 mention all the track employees.

10 I've been in this business for 33 years. I've  
11 been a kennel owner for 18 years. I sit here --  
12 everything I've ever made in my business I've  
13 reinvested back into my business, including life  
14 savings. If this proposal goes through, you vote on  
15 this proposal, this could cost me everything I've  
16 got. It makes my entire business, everything I've  
17 invested into totally worthless.

18 I've sat here and listened to the economics part  
19 if it. Two-thirds of the money bet on Greyhound  
20 racing now is done through the Internet, which the  
21 state does not see any of the money from it. They  
22 don't get the tax money from the Internet because  
23 there's no law saying so.

24 Well, shame on the state for not going after  
25 that money. That's your money and you're leaving it

1 sit in there, okay.

2 I'm asking you to visit the kennels. All you  
3 people, my understanding, you are volunteering for  
4 this job for the government; am I correct? All I'm  
5 asking you to do is do your research, go to a kennel,  
6 come to my kennel, anybody's kennel, and go see what  
7 it's like.

8 I'm not asking you to believe what I say; I'm  
9 not asking you to believe what they say; just believe  
10 what you see with your own eyes. If you don't go and  
11 see it and do your own research and you don't take a  
12 look at it, then in your eyes we're guilty by  
13 accusation, okay?

14 This country ain't based on that. We should be  
15 proven guilty. You say -- they're saying all these  
16 lies about us. Well, why don't you go see for your  
17 own eyes what it's like, how we take care of our  
18 dogs. If you don't we're guilty by accusation, just  
19 like the media portrays us, okay?

20 One more thing. Bad apples. All the bad apples  
21 in this business are usually ousted by us. Once we  
22 oust them, that's part of state record. That's their  
23 fuel against us.

24 We turn them in to get them out. We don't want  
25 them there. Even though we know it's going to be bad

1           publicity for us, we still get them out of there, all  
2           right? That's their fuel, when we get them out. We  
3           don't want them people in our business neither. We  
4           don't like it.

5                     One more quick thing, bad apples.

6                     CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.  
7           Appreciate it.

8                     Yes, ma'am.

9                     MR. BYERS: Bad apples everywhere.

10                    MS. WEEKS: My name is Cassandra Weeks. I am a  
11           board certified nurse practitioner living in St.  
12           Petersburg. I am here to speak on primarily two  
13           proposals, number 22 and number 4. They are  
14           undemocratic and anti-woman.

15                    Proposal 22 rescinds our right to physical  
16           privacy and renders women back into chattel. When  
17           women do not have the right to control our bodies, we  
18           become less than fully human. We become subject, as  
19           a practical matter, to ownership by others.

20                    My suffragettes ancestors fought long and hard  
21           to become full citizens in this country. Proposal 22  
22           would end this. I urge you to ensure it remains laid  
23           on the table and I thank those of you who put it  
24           there.

25                    Proposal 4 would remove freedom of religion from

1 our state constitution. I refuse to allow my  
2 hard-earned tax dollars to be used to fund religious  
3 institutions which seek to limit my rights or oppose  
4 my religious beliefs.

5 I am also opposing Proposals 29, 43, 45, 71, 72,  
6 95, 96 and 97 for similar reasons. These are also  
7 the proposals marked by the League of Women Voters as  
8 the 10 worst.

9 I urge you to address gun violence and assault  
10 weapons instead, or any number of the public  
11 proposals which would add to our rights rather than  
12 negating them.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

15 Thank you.

16 MS. SKINNER: Good evening. My name is Janet  
17 Skinner and I'm speaking in favor of Proposal 67.

18 I have lived with and loved, rescued racing  
19 Greyhounds here in Pinellas County for over 20 years,  
20 and I have in the past volunteered with various  
21 Florida adoption groups and advocacy organizations.

22 These are photos of my three Greyhounds that I  
23 have adopted over the years: Annie, Alice, and Josh,  
24 my current Greyhound. I am here today to speak for  
25 them.

1           Those of us who are familiar with dog racing  
2           issues know full well that the dog racing industry is  
3           in serious economic decline and has been for some  
4           time. It's no secret that the industry cannot  
5           compete with newer, more humane forms of gambling,  
6           such as casinos and the lottery. The dog racing  
7           industry survives today only because it has been kept  
8           on life support for years through various government  
9           bailouts.

10           The industry has also had to contend with the  
11           ever growing public awareness of its well documented,  
12           mistreatment and killing of racing Greyhounds, which  
13           has also contributed to the decline in attendance at  
14           Florida's dog tracks. Compassionate Floridians  
15           simply have no desire to watch these gentle dogs  
16           literally run for their lives. Like the drive-in  
17           movie theater, the dog racing industry is a dinosaur  
18           that has outlived its time.

19           The public no longer patronizes the dog tracks  
20           because they have found better ways to spend their  
21           time and money. In a free-market society, that  
22           usually means the demise of a business. Why should  
23           the dog racing industry be any different?

24           The fact is that Floridians --

25           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Miss? I'm sorry, ma'am.

1 MS. SKINNER: The fact is -- did you hear me?

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Time's up.

3 JUDGE STARGEL: Time's up.

4 MS. SKINNER: Oh, I'm sorry.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Randy Wiseman. Randy Wiseman,  
6 Donna Templin. Donna Templin. Mary Russell.

7 Judy --

8 MR. GIBELLINA: On the order I believe my card  
9 was there a half hour ago, I haven't been called yet.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Glen Gibellina, you're next.

11 MR. GIBELLINA: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: But you're next after Judy  
13 Gallizzi and Mary Russell.

14 They're not here so you're next.

15 MR. GIBELLINA: I'm next.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Come on up, Glen.

17 MR. GIBELLINA: Unbelievable. I'd hate to do a  
18 time stamp to check on that.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'd hate to do one too because  
20 I can't read it.

21 Go ahead.

22 MR. GIBELLINA: My name is Glen Gibellina,  
23 community activist, parental rights advocate.

24 Assault weapons, they're very destructive, very  
25 destructive. When I think of assault weapons, I

1 think of family court. The destruction of family  
2 court, of our families, is unconscionable.

3 I'm looking on here as proposals for active  
4 consideration. I don't see any parental rights here.  
5 I mean, our first concern should be parental rights.  
6 We get hammered every time we go into family courts.

7 So what I did is I penciled in 700431. It  
8 should be on the agenda. It's shared parental  
9 rights. It's modeled after the federal parental  
10 shared rights. This is my proposal. I entered it  
11 several months ago. I've been to most of the  
12 meetings, as you well know, and the travesty in our  
13 judiciary is a problem, is a serious problem. You  
14 have our children being held hostage. Go look at  
15 divorce court. Fifty-billion-dollar industry.

16 I don't think this proposal will go anywhere.  
17 It's the ethical and right thing to do, but you guys  
18 would be killing your cash cow. The family courts,  
19 the judiciary, they all make money on the backs of  
20 parents.

21 We deserve to be parents. Would you wake up  
22 tomorrow and say, you know what, I'm not going to see  
23 my kid except for four days a month?

24 It's done day in and day out. I know, I've been  
25 going through it for 15 years and I'll go through it

1 another 15, so if I have to come back in 20 years and  
2 sing the same song, if I'm around, I will be back in  
3 20 years. I urge you to put this on the ballot.

4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Gibellina.

6 Susan Pine. Susan Pine. Elizabeth Sheehan.

7 Dawn Ladd. Donna Grace. Steve Ton -- T-o-n-j-e-s.

8 I won't try to pronounce that word. Steve

9 T-o-n-j-e-s.

10 Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. PINE: Me?

12 All right.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Your name?

14 MS. PINE: My name's Susan Pine. I'm here with  
15 Face Life from West Palm Beach, Florida.

16 I would like you to support Proposal 4 that  
17 would stop the government from discriminating against  
18 persons and organizations and religious -- with  
19 religious convictions.

20 I would also like you to support Proposal 45,  
21 71, 43, and above all, I would like you to bring  
22 Proposal 22 to a vote by the entire commission.  
23 Proposal 22 would protect minor girls from having  
24 been abused by perpetrator and sexual predators and  
25 statutory rapists by allowing legislation to be

1 enacted to the parental consent laws.

2 Gallup polls over 19 -- over a 19-year period  
3 indicated that Floridians, wanted by a super  
4 majority, between 69 and 75 percent, want parental  
5 laws, parental consent laws.

6 Now, something that I want to show you, I  
7 brought enough for a card for each one of you,  
8 because when a 15-year-old girl has an abortion, a  
9 chemical abortion, she does not -- when she leaves  
10 that place is when she delivers the dead baby, and  
11 she is told that this is the -- a blob of tissue, and  
12 I can assure you, if each one of you -- I have a card  
13 for each one of you to show you what that looks like,  
14 what she may be faced with.

15 This is not a blob of tissue. These are  
16 fingers/toes; this is a human being, and I thank you  
17 if you would bring that to the Florida voters.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

19 Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. SHEEHAN: My name is Elizabeth Sheehan and I  
21 thank you for the opportunity to speak tonight.

22 I've been a Florida citizen for over 50 years.  
23 I am here in favor of Proposal 22 and Proposal 4.  
24 That is if the monies given to religious  
25 organizations will be given without any conditions

1 that will conflict with the religious beliefs.

2 Please resurrect Proposal 22, which will protect  
3 minor girls by allowing the legislature to enact  
4 parental consent laws and other laws that will  
5 protect the health, safety and welfare of minor  
6 girls. These young girls are not even allowed to  
7 take an aspirin in school without their parents'  
8 consent, yet they are deemed mature enough to make a  
9 life and death decision without their parents'  
10 knowledge or assistance.

11 Clearly, the Florida Supreme Court has betrayed  
12 parents and victimized minor girls and their unborn  
13 children by using Article I, Section 23 to create a  
14 new right to abortion for minors without their  
15 parents' consent and knowledge.

16 What is an abortion? Currently in Florida  
17 children in their mother's womb, which should be the  
18 safest place for them, are being mechanically ripped  
19 apart, burnt by chemicals in the case of the abortion  
20 pills, being flushed down the toilet.

21 In the Planned Parent videos, which the Federal  
22 Committee in Washington investigated for a year, we  
23 see a video of a child being born alive and their  
24 brains being ripped out of their cranium to be sold  
25 for profit.

1           This is unconscionable in our country and in our  
2           state. This is what this is allowing minor girls to  
3           do and they don't even know what they're doing.

4           We need to end the killing of all children in  
5           Florida, the killing of the children in our schools  
6           and in the mother's womb. If a mother's allowed to  
7           kill her own child, what is to prevent us from  
8           killing each other?

9           Clearly, we are seeing the consequences in our  
10          state. We have heard the tragedy of what's happened  
11          in Parkland and in our schools. If we do not return  
12          to God on our knees like that wise Parkland father  
13          does, we will lose our souls and the souls of our  
14          children.

15          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much. Thank  
16          you for your comments.

17          Are you Steve?

18          MR. TONJES: I'm Steve.

19          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: And how do you pronounce your  
20          last name?

21          MR. TONJES: It's Steve Tonjes.

22          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Tonjes, thank you.

23          MR. TONJES: Not as hard as it looks.

24          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: No, not as hard as it looks,  
25          you're right.

1           MR. TONJES: I'm from Deland, and as I told you  
2 earlier, I'm on the planning board in Deland, and we  
3 had a few midnight meetings. I hope you all aren't  
4 here for that long. Thank you for your patience.

5           Someone stole my thunder, put in a plug for the  
6 League of Women Voters, and so I will just defer to  
7 that and add my request that you look at the  
8 information that they give you. The League is a  
9 nonpartisan organization, they do a lot of homework,  
10 they put out their research for you to look at, and I  
11 would urge that you look at their assessments of the  
12 proposals.

13           Thank you.

14           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

15           Yes, ma'am. You are?

16           MS. GRACE: My name is Donna Grace and I wanted  
17 to thank all of you Commissioners for having this  
18 hearing and staying so late and all that stuff.

19           There are a lot of people that would like to be  
20 here that are standing with me sort of that would  
21 support Proposition 67. We're trying to think of how  
22 to make an impression on you, how to make something  
23 that you would remember, and when you think about the  
24 cruel sport of racing, Greyhound racing, "Three Dog  
25 Night" comes to mind: "How can people be so

1 heartless? How can people be so cruel? Easy to be  
2 hard. Easy to say no."

3 And we'd ask you to give the people of Florida a  
4 chance to say no to no more Greyhound racing.

5 Florida is a unique kind of place. We don't  
6 have a lot going for us except the weather, but  
7 lately things are changing. Just recently we got a  
8 law passed that helps with gun regulation and we're  
9 very proud of that. Also, we abandoned all this  
10 flipping back and forth with daylight savings time  
11 and standard time, although I'm not so sure how I  
12 feel about permanently losing that hour, but, anyway,  
13 these are things that I'm proud of about Florida.  
14 But one thing that keeps coming up is the fact that  
15 most of the country has abandoned Greyhound racing,  
16 but not Florida.

17 That's something that we're ashamed of. People  
18 are becoming aware of the cruelty of Greyhound racing  
19 and are interested in stopping the practice. Race  
20 tracks are not interested in keeping the racing  
21 going. They would just assume have gambling only,  
22 but they're not allowed to so they're stuck.

23 Given the choice, most people in this state  
24 would like to shut Greyhound racing down. All we're  
25 asking for at this time is a chance to put it to a

1 vote and to let the public say what they want.  
2 Please put the racing question on the ballot and give  
3 us a chance to erase this shameful practice and give  
4 Floridians another reason to be proud.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Brian Graham. Laura Hine.  
7 Laura Hine. Debbie Taylor. Debbie Taylor, okay.  
8 Brian Pitts. Pete Taylor.

9 Hi, Laura, welcome back. The other Laura.

10 MS. HINE: Thank you, yes, Laura Hine.

11 Good evening. My name is Laura Hine and I'm  
12 here to speak about public education and I'm against  
13 Proposals 4, 5 -- 4, 45, 71 and 93.

14 I was born and raised in Tampa and I've been  
15 educated in public schools. Sorry. I'm a graduate  
16 of the U.S. Naval Academy in aerospace engineering.  
17 I was accepted to Harvard and Georgetown Universities  
18 for graduate school.

19 When our son was born here in St. Petersburg  
20 seven years ago, the first question people asked was  
21 where's he going to go to school, and that was the  
22 first indication to me of the quagmire that public  
23 education has become for parents.

24 I kept hearing Florida schools are bad, St. Pete  
25 schools are failing. Our son was in a private

1 school, a private preschool, and I would drive by our  
2 neighborhood elementary school that no one I knew had  
3 on their list, much less actually sent their children  
4 to. It was a title 1-D school and I decided to visit  
5 and ask questions as to what that meant.

6 That was two and a half years ago. Since then  
7 our family and many other neighborhood families have  
8 committed to this school and to asking the questions  
9 around the popular assumptions around public  
10 education. Our son is thriving at this accelerated D  
11 school. Our metrics are wrong when it comes to  
12 education.

13 I have three specific takeaways to share with  
14 you from my last couple years of boots on the ground  
15 experience with education, which most of our  
16 legislators don't have. One, educational standards  
17 and regulations should be by educators not by  
18 legislatures.

19 Look at the way we run our military with joint  
20 chief staff who actually sets regulations and  
21 standards which then have oversight and funding by  
22 Congress. The state legislature here has too much  
23 power and 45 and 71 just gives them more and more.

24 Tax funded education, whether it's traditional  
25 public schools, charter schools or schools that

1 receive voucher funds, should have some metrical  
2 regulations. If charter schools have freedom to  
3 intervale, so should traditional public schools. If  
4 traditional public schools have strict oversight on  
5 finances --

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your --

7 MS. HINE: -- so should charter schools.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

9 MS. HINE: Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Sir.

11 MR. PITTS: Brian Pitts.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Pitts.

13 MR. PITTS: Thank you very much. Brian Pitts.

14 Well, I don't know. You got a lot of stuff on  
15 here, or whatever your log roll, who knows what that  
16 comes to. You know what I mean by log rolling.

17 So I might give you a benefit: 11, 91, 66 12,  
18 20, 9, 65, 97. You might confirm with those  
19 proposals.

20 Why? They cleanup, clarify or confirm an issue.  
21 Basic and simple. That belongs in the constitution.

22 What's missing? Commissioner Stemberger's  
23 definition of marriage that he did by initiative.  
24 Remember, Supreme Court struck that down. Why isn't  
25 that among your proposals?

1           Don't go there. There's nothing you can do with  
2 that. Article I, 27 of -- you know, in the  
3 constitution. You can't do nothing with that  
4 anymore.

5           Maybe you need to make a commission bill or  
6 maybe a -- put an amendment on one of your other  
7 bills because that completely is deleted.

8           Beyond that, you don't need 72 because why?  
9 House of joint resolution 7001 just passed 2008  
10 session.

11           Seventy-two will be on the ballot in some  
12 fashion. Don't need that either.

13           Unfortunately, what the people have said to you  
14 is they don't like what the judiciary and legislature  
15 are doing because all the rest of the proposals --  
16 I'm talking about only the 36 I'm dealing with that's  
17 supposed to be pending. You all aren't even supposed  
18 to deal with that. They're talking about the  
19 unhappiness they are with their legislature and  
20 judiciary not dealing with issues, because you got  
21 statutory language in all those other proposals  
22 beyond the 8 that I mentioned. That's statutory  
23 language. That's not what you're supposed to be  
24 doing.

25           You need to make a revision of the legislature

1 statute and the judiciary statute, Article V and,  
2 what, Article III, I think is the legislature, and  
3 fix both of those branches. That's what the people  
4 want.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 MR. PITTS: I don't know.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

8 Margaret Hanks. Margaret Hanks. Christopher  
9 Haddad. Christopher Haddad. Margaret. Christie  
10 Bruner. Sharon Dippel. Mary Beth Constante.

11 We'll go through that again. Margaret Hanks,  
12 Christopher Haddad, Christie Bruner, Sharon Dippel,  
13 Mary Beth Constante.

14 I don't see all those people coming up. Well,  
15 let's see who shows up.

16 There we go. Yes, ma'am, your name is?

17 MS. DIPPEL: Sharon Dippel.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Sharon. Please  
19 proceed.

20 MS. DIPPEL: I got to put this lower.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay.

22 MS. DIPPEL: I'm a shrimp.

23 First off, thank you all for allowing me to  
24 speak. I thank you for attending, and also for the  
25 length of time that you've committed to today.

1 I am asking you to vote no on Prop. 67. As you  
2 know, my name is Sharon Dippel. I run GST, Sun State  
3 Greyhound Adoption. We are the track adoption group  
4 for Naples, Fort Myers and Flagler. I will be the  
5 third track adoption group to step up today to ask  
6 you to vote no.

7 We are the groups that work directly with the  
8 kennels. We have access with the kennels. We are in  
9 and out and we take the dogs directly from the track.  
10 We have no issues with the industry and we get happy,  
11 healthy dogs to adopt out.

12 The most alarming issue that I see is that the  
13 current legislation does nothing to address the  
14 racing Greyhound and how or what will happen to them  
15 if this legislation passes. We adopt on the average  
16 of 300 dogs per year. I'm very proud of that number.

17 This is adopting locally and hauling to  
18 out-of-state groups. If we get 8 to 12 thousand dogs  
19 in one fail swoop, we will not be able to take care  
20 of them, feed them, vet them, nor pay to transport  
21 them.

22 This legislation will be your legacy in  
23 politics.

24 I listened to those horror stories from the  
25 opposition and I wonder why my industry is being held

1 to higher standards than the public. Our dogs are  
2 adopted at a 95-percent rate. It's the best breed  
3 adoption. The Humane Society estimates 3 million  
4 animals --

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

6 MS. DIPPEL: -- are euthanized yearly.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

8 Yes, ma'am. Come forward, please.

9 Is there anybody else that I called that hasn't  
10 come up?

11 John Farmer, Aneela Brock. Miss Aneela Brock.

12 MS. BROCK: Angie.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Angie. Angie Brock? It  
14 doesn't say that. Maybe it's an Angela. Angela  
15 Brock.

16 Okay. And Maurice Mizrahi. I probably did that  
17 wrong.

18 Yes, ma'am, please go ahead.

19 MS. CONSTANTE: Hi, my name is Mary Beth  
20 Constante. You had the name very close.

21 Good evening. I had afternoon, but good  
22 evening, everyone.

23 My name is Mary Beth Constante and I volunteer  
24 and I foster for GST, Sun State Greyhound Adoption.  
25 As Sharon said, we are the track adoption group for

1 Fort Myers, Naples and for Flagler. I am here to  
2 urge you today to vote no on number 67.

3 I do own a retired racer. She retired in last  
4 April after -- last year after winning only one race  
5 out of 30 at Southland in Miami. I am not ashamed of  
6 that record and I am not ashamed of her past. In  
7 fact I'm very proud of that.

8 Now she spends her days going to the various dog  
9 parks, dog friendly restaurants and meet and greets  
10 in the Greater Tampa Bay Area. Wherever we go I get  
11 compliments on her calm disposition and her excellent  
12 behavior. She has been such a wonderful dog since  
13 the day of her adoption, but I cannot take any credit  
14 for that. I've only had her since September, so I've  
15 decided to forgo all the regurgitated talking points  
16 and to take this opportunity to give credit where  
17 credit is due. So on behalf of my sweet Ellie  
18 Banelli, I'd like to thank all of the trainers and  
19 the people in the racing industry in attendance  
20 today. You consistently turn out unintended retired  
21 athletes that effortlessly transition in cherished  
22 pets, therapy, emotional support and service dogs to  
23 families across America.

24 Also, to my fellow volunteers, thank you for  
25 sacrificing your evenings and weekends and opening

1 your homes and hearts to fosters, and thank you Jeff,  
2 who is behind the Facebook page Paint the Trail. You  
3 questioned your propaganda and you got off your duff  
4 to put the Greyhound racing industry and anti-racing  
5 activists under the microscope. You've enlightened  
6 yourself and many others along the way. You talk the  
7 talk, and more importantly, you walk the walk. I  
8 cannot thank you all enough and I hope all of our  
9 efforts are not in vain.

10 Please vote no on number 67.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

12 Yes, sir. You are?

13 MR. FARMER: My name is --

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Hold it down, guys. It's  
15 getting late.

16 MR. FARMER: My name is John Farmer. I'm a  
17 kennel owner here at Derby Lane and I'm a homeowner  
18 and a registered voter in the state of Florida.

19 I moved to Florida in 1976. I grew up watching  
20 the dog races and fell in love with the animals, and  
21 I had a dream and wanted to come race here in  
22 Florida, and I've been here for 31 years racing, and  
23 I've got two sons that I've put through school with  
24 income from the Greyhounds, and one of them goes to  
25 this school right here. And I am a eyewitness to

1           some of the South Florida tracks that have pretty  
2           much tried to push to get casino gambling and to push  
3           the dogs aside. They got us all to back them on  
4           getting the slots put into the tracks, and then once  
5           they got the slots, they wanted to try and get rid of  
6           the dog racing, and they've -- one of the tracks that  
7           obstructed the view of the racing box so that you  
8           can't see it, one of the tracks had no toe board for  
9           one whole year.

10                    So what kind of people would go out to a race  
11           track if there's no toe board to see the odds. You  
12           know, they tried everything they could to discourage  
13           people from coming out and these tracks have -- some  
14           of the tracks have done this over the past 10 years  
15           and stuff to try to get all you to vote, get casino  
16           gambling only. And some of these anti-racing  
17           activists, none of their money goes towards any of  
18           the Greyhounds at all, it goes to help pay for their  
19           lobbying, for their personal -- their personal  
20           agendas and their -- their -- their payroll. They're  
21           on payroll pretty much, and they just use the  
22           Greyhound industry to make their own payrolls.

23                    CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

24                    Yes, ma'am. You are?

25                    MS. BROCK: I'm Angela Brock. Just to clarify.

1           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

2           MS. BROCK: And I just want to say I appreciate  
3 you guys being here listening to all this and all the  
4 hours that you're putting in.

5           I apologize, I'm not a public speaker. I'm  
6 going to talk from my heart.

7           I'm here to oppose Proposition No. 67. I am  
8 actually a third-generation small business owner. I  
9 moved to the state of Florida probably about five  
10 years ago with my father because of the Greyhound  
11 industry. We make all the supplies for the industry,  
12 the collars and the leads and all muzzles and  
13 different things that the Greyhounds wear. You know,  
14 we pay taxes, I'm a registered voter, but like I  
15 said, we did move to Florida because there are 12  
16 tracks here, to better service our customers. And  
17 first point I want to make is that I'm kind of  
18 confused as to why the state of Florida would think  
19 about voting on a proposal, making it a constitution  
20 amendment when it threatens over anywhere from 3500  
21 to 8000 jobs in the state.

22           Thirty-five hundred is directly resulted, 10,000  
23 is probably when you're talking more like the lead  
24 outs and the certain kennel helpers and things like  
25 that.

1           You know, I have a very hard time believing that  
2           a state would do that.

3           Many of the people that you've heard from  
4           tonight are, you know, third/fourth generation. We  
5           take a lot of pride in what we do. I feel very  
6           blessed to be in this industry. I've met a lot of  
7           great people, and one thing these people have is  
8           passion. They care very much for their dogs. Their  
9           dogs are absolutely treated better than most house  
10          pets.

11          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you for your  
12          comments.

13          MS. BROCK: Thank you, guys.

14          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Gentlemen.

15          Are you Maurice?

16          MR. MIZRAHI: I'm Maurice Mizrahi. You got it  
17          perfectly, thank you, sir.

18          Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for staying late  
19          tonight. I would like to ask that you make No. 67 on  
20          the ballot this year. I want to vote against  
21          Greyhound racing.

22          Gentlemen, ladies, I'm offended that you've been  
23          spending my tax dollars to regulate an industry that  
24          hurts animals.

25          UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Liar.

1 MR. MIZRAHI: Op, don't call me a liar because  
2 it's true.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Folks, whoa, whoa, whoa.

4 MR. MIZRAHI: No, that's not acceptable.

5 Four hundred thirty-seven dogs --

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: It is not acceptable. Let the  
7 gentleman speak.

8 MR. MIZRAHI: Four hundred thirty-seven dogs  
9 have died since 2017. That's a state fact. That's  
10 not a GREY2K fact; that's not anything else.

11 Dogs -- the head of the racing industry  
12 blacklisted -- said that there was a blacklist on a  
13 rescue group. That's not anybody who loves their  
14 dogs. That's nonsense.

15 They want to talk with passion, let's talk with  
16 some passion. We have rescue groups that can't get  
17 dogs; we're sending dogs out of state so Florida  
18 can't follow to them. Let's talk about what's really  
19 going on, because this ain't the truth.

20 We need this amendment and we need to ban doing  
21 racing, and you all need to think about where we're  
22 spending our money. You want to call yourself  
23 Democrat, you want to call yourself Republican, I  
24 don't care, but it's costing money to regulate this  
25 group and we're killing animals in our name.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

3 Valerie Brehm. Valerie Brehm. Michael  
4 Weisen -- Weisensee. Helen Kirten. Come on up.  
5 Dave Wiggins.

6 And then please pronounce your name properly  
7 since I'm sure I'm not.

8 MR. WEISENSEE: Yeah, you slaughtered that a  
9 little bit --

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yeah, probably.

11 MR. WEISENSEE: -- but that's okay.

12 My name is Michael Weisensee. I'm from  
13 Englewood, Florida. I'm an in-state advocate for  
14 ending dog racing.

15 You know, it's -- I would just ask you to put it  
16 on the ballot so Floridians have a voice, a voice for  
17 these dogs. You know, bottom line -- I have some  
18 sympathy for people that are in the industry, you  
19 know, they're facing losing their livelihood, but  
20 dogs are dying. You know, that's not -- that's not a  
21 disputed fact. You can go to the state data. Dogs  
22 are dying.

23 You know, can you find a livelihood that doesn't  
24 involve animals dying?

25 So, you know, put it on the -- put it on the

1 ballot. You know, give us a chance to vote. Give us  
2 a chance to voice our opinions. You know, this is a  
3 dark cloud over the Sunshine State, and I think, if  
4 you put it on the ballot, I think it will pass.

5 Well, maybe not, maybe the majority of the  
6 people will overlook the deaths and injuries and  
7 they'll vote it down, but I don't think so. I don't  
8 think you think so either, and they don't think so.  
9 They're afraid of it, because most people want to be  
10 on the right side of history. They want Florida to  
11 join the other 40 states that have banned, and  
12 they've banned dog racing for good reasons, so please  
13 let us be a voice for the dogs and vote yes for this  
14 proposal.

15 Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Valerie Brehm, Helen Kirten,  
17 Dave Wiggins, Linda Coman. Linda Coman. Colby Wise.

18 Mr. Wise.

19 Lorna White. Theresa Potter. Kim Glace, or  
20 G-l-a-c-e, and Belinda Parker, please come forward.

21 Thank you.

22 Mr. Wise.

23 MR. WISE: Hello, Commissioners. Good evening.  
24 My name is Colby Wise. I live in Bradenton, Florida.  
25 I'm here to support the revival of public Proposal

1           700,000. I ask the CRC to replace this proposal on  
2           our 2018 ballot.

3           Adults having a right to cannabis marijuana is  
4           essentially for our health, a better criminal justice  
5           system, our environment and to better our economy.  
6           Unfortunately, current cannabis laws do very little  
7           to address the potential this plant can offer our  
8           state. Instead, such laws are counterproductive in a  
9           free society, and in Florida they directly hinder our  
10          ability to enjoy and defend life and liberty as  
11          afforded by Article I, Section 2 of our state's  
12          constitution.

13          I realize, due to the endless misinformation and  
14          propaganda, the issue of cannabis is often considered  
15          taboo and may seem petty to some. We must rise above  
16          that stigma and misinformation 80-plus years of  
17          cannabis prohibition have created and focus on facts  
18          and science.

19          Here's a few facts science has revealed:  
20          Cannabis is not a gateway substance to hard drugs;  
21          despite our strict cannabis laws, teenagers can still  
22          get weed easier than most adults can; cannabis does  
23          not drastically impair the ability to drive as  
24          alcohol does; after 5000 years of humans using  
25          cannabis, not one verifiable death has been

1 associated with its use; cannabis use improves our  
2 health and does not harm it; cannabis can be utilized  
3 to prevent many life-threatening illnesses, such as  
4 cancer and others; rights to cannabis is a matter of  
5 civil liberties, human rights and would correctly be  
6 addressed by means of a constitutional amendment.  
7 The fact is, the only true danger surrounding the  
8 cannabis plant is getting caught with it.  
9 Fortunately, this Commission can advance eliminating  
10 this danger all together.

11 Many of you assigned to this Commission have  
12 expressed bias towards --

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.  
14 Thank you.

15 MR. WISE: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am. You are?

17 MS. WHITE: Hi. My name is Lorna White. I live  
18 in Riverview, Florida.

19 I'm not an activist, but I'm asking you to vote  
20 in favor of Proposal 67. I am a Greyhound mom for  
21 seven years. I currently have two Greyhounds and  
22 fell in love with the breed, and will probably never  
23 own another breed.

24 On the way in I spoke briefly to a woman who --  
25 I'm sorry. I spoke briefly to a woman who was

1 pro-racing. She said that Greyhound racing was a  
2 \$2 billion industry.

3 I told her that I've been to a few races and  
4 didn't see hardly anybody there. She said that  
5 people were doing it online. So I think that if  
6 people are going to gamble on dogs and they're doing  
7 it over the Internet, they don't really have any  
8 interest in watching the dogs, it's more just in  
9 gambling, and there's plenty of ways to do the  
10 gambling.

11 And why we're allowing -- why are we allowing  
12 Greyhound racing to continue on the backs of  
13 Greyhounds? Literally, as many of the injuries are  
14 fatal spinal cord injuries, especially since they  
15 don't even go to the tracks to see them run.

16 I don't know if anyone else has said it, but I  
17 will: Why are we torturing Greyhounds for people to  
18 gamble? They are -- they are casualties of gambling.

19 I can't speak intelligently about food that they  
20 are given or about being drugged, however, there is  
21 no way to get around the fact that they are kenneled  
22 hours and hours every day.

23 And at home my dogs love to be out and they've  
24 heard people talk about how they love racing, that  
25 they're wagging their tails. I think it's because

1 they're actually getting out of the kennel and  
2 actually have some human contact.

3 Please vote for Proposal 67.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 MS. WHITE: Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am. Your name?

7 MS. PARKER: Hi. My name is Christie Parker and  
8 I'm speaking on behalf of my mom because, ironically  
9 enough, she went to let the Greyhounds out of the  
10 kennel.

11 Right? That's cool.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: And who's your mom?

13 MS. PARKER: My mom is Belinda Parker.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Belinda Parker.

15 MS. PARKER: Yes, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay.

17 MS. PARKER: I am not involved in Greyhound  
18 racing any longer. I own my own hairdressing salon;  
19 I'm a business owner and I am a proud St. Petersburg  
20 resident.

21 I am here to speak to you because, contrary to  
22 what a lot of these people that are in these  
23 extremist groups believe -- and I would call them  
24 extremist because a lot of their information is  
25 antiquated, and it's just not true.

1           My parents, my family, a lot of the people that  
2           are sitting here behind me have raced Greyhounds and  
3           they care about them. A lot of the reasons why  
4           they're so easily living in homes is because these  
5           women have sat and taught them to sit and stay and  
6           play and they're happy dogs. They know -- they  
7           associate people with positivity. They see any  
8           person and they're happy to see them because the  
9           people who care for them on a regular basis are not  
10          cruel to them. These are professional athletes, and  
11          if they were beaten or not fed or mistreated, they  
12          wouldn't perform as such.

13           I hear what these people say regularly and it  
14          feels like a personal attack because my parents would  
15          never harm an animal. We've had animals and  
16          Greyhounds in our home for years.

17           As far as not feeding animals, I wish I could  
18          swear right now, but I can't. I lost my childhood  
19          home because my parents were so adamant about making  
20          sure that, despite the fact they weren't actually  
21          making money on their kennel, their dogs were fed,  
22          and I have an incredible work ethic because every  
23          single morning, including Christmas, we got up and  
24          worked with our animals and let them out and treated  
25          them well. And I just wanted to stand here and tell

1           that as a person who has absolutely nothing  
2           to gain --

3                   UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS:   Time.

4                   CHAIRMAN BERUFF:   Thank you for your comments.  
5           Thank you very much.

6                   Michael Minardi, Michael Minardi, Mohammad Abdul  
7           Aziz, Cheryl Orr, Dr. Kelly Deburek, Joan Foster.

8                   MS. FOSTER:   Right here.

9                   CHAIRMAN BERUFF:   Donald Beers.   Velva Lee  
10          Heraty.

11                   Yes, ma'am.   You are?

12                   MS. ORR:   My name is Cheryl Orr.

13                   CHAIRMAN BERUFF:   Thank you.

14                   MS. ORR:   And I live in Largo, Florida, been  
15          here since '69.

16                   We own a small business, my husband and I, and  
17          we've been rescuing Greyhounds for 30 years.   I love  
18          the breed.   I don't know some of the kennels that  
19          they've been talking about; I can only talk to you  
20          about what I have seen.   I have been into the  
21          trainers area where I helped somebody because we had  
22          to pick up some dogs and take them to the kennels.

23                   JUDGE STARGEL:   The clock's not going.

24                   CHAIRMAN BERUFF:   I'm sorry?

25                   The clock's not going.   There you go.

1 MS. ORR: Oh goody, I get extra time.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Lucky you.

3 MS. ORR: Anyway, I went to the -- we went to  
4 the breeders and I was just appalled. The females  
5 had given birth, they were laying on a piece of shirt  
6 on the dirt. We had to wash a dog three times to get  
7 the fleas off of him. When I went -- we took him to  
8 the kennels and I -- here again, I'm only telling you  
9 what I have seen in the area where I live. There may  
10 be wonderful kennels out there, but I did not see  
11 that.

12 Crates stacked two high across from each other,  
13 dogs laying in a crate they could not fit in,  
14 couldn't stretch out -- or they could fit in it, but  
15 they couldn't stretch out, which is why, I guess,  
16 every one we got had no hair on their back end.

17 When you get a dog from the track, they're very  
18 quiet and timid. These dogs make wonderful,  
19 wonderful rehab dogs or PTSD dogs, and they do make  
20 good pets because they're docile, okay? So I'm not  
21 arguing that point. What I am arguing is the fact  
22 that we have done to Greyhounds what we have not done  
23 to any other animal.

24 Why is a dog not allowed to be a pet? That's  
25 what they're here for. And why in the world -- why

1 in the world would we expect the Greyhounds to bear  
2 the cost of a job for our economy? They're a  
3 four-legged dog. They're here to help us; they're  
4 here to be friendly; they're here to make us feel  
5 good. They should not have the responsibility of  
6 putting money into somebody's pocket just because  
7 they think they need it, or the government for that  
8 matter, but I thank you very much.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

10 Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. FOSTER: Thank you for this time today. My  
12 name is Joan Foster and I'm here today to ask you to  
13 vote no on Proposal 67.

14 I've traveled over 1400 miles to have these few  
15 minutes with you today because -- and I'm not  
16 employed in the racing industry and I never have  
17 been, but I feel very strongly that this is a  
18 multilayered issue, and it belongs in legislation,  
19 not on the ballot. I also feel strongly that when we  
20 make important decisions, we be well informed before  
21 we're doing so.

22 I understand that there have been many  
23 invitations that have been extended to you to visit  
24 racing kennels and farms, but no one has accepted for  
25 the most part.

1           There are many lives and livelihoods that hang  
2           in the balance here. With all due respect, how can  
3           you make such an important decision based on only  
4           what -- you know, the rhetoric of lies and  
5           misinformation that you've been hearing from  
6           anti-racing groups. You know, all I'm asking is that  
7           you go and see for yourself. You owe it to them to  
8           make an informed decision, and also, you know, I've  
9           heard so much today -- I would love to address all of  
10          the things that I've heard that are really  
11          misinformation.

12           I'm from Iowa and it's not -- the Greyhound  
13          racing there is the same as it is here. The people  
14          are the same. They treat the dogs the same. There  
15          are a certain number of bad people in every industry.  
16          You know, to say that every person in the Greyhound  
17          industry is bad would be to say, and I'm sorry to  
18          say, every priest is a pedophile or every cop is a  
19          racist. That's not true. So why -- you know, why do  
20          we paint this industry with that same ugly brush?

21           Like I say, I have no interest financially or  
22          anything else in this; I just don't like to see  
23          people being treated unfairly, and I believe that's  
24          what's going on here.

25           Thank you very much for your time and vote no on

1           67.

2           CHAIRMAN BERUFF:  Yes, sir, you are?

3           MR. BEERS:  Yes, my name is Don Beers and I'm  
4           here to speak in support of Proposal 22.  This  
5           proposal would simply allow the voters to restore  
6           Section 23 of Article I of our state constitution to  
7           its original intended meaning, which was voted on and  
8           approved by 61 percent of the voting citizens of  
9           Florida.  As you all are all aware, Section 23 was  
10          misinterpreted by the Florida Supreme Court,  
11          legislating from the bench, who decided that Section  
12          23 could somehow be used to allow a minor to have an  
13          abortion without the permission of their parent.

14          That is an outrageous perversion, having nothing  
15          to do with what the voters approved.  Proposal 22  
16          will give the voters the opportunity to correct this  
17          misinterpretation by adding the words, and I quote,  
18          "with respect to privacy of information and the  
19          disclosure thereof."

20          That's all that's changed, is the addition of  
21          those words.  If those who support a minor being able  
22          to obtain the most serious of invasive surgical  
23          procedures without their parent's knowledge want to  
24          inshrine that in law, then they should be required to  
25          honestly put that on the ballot and let the voters of

1 Florida roundly re -- defeat that absurd idea.

2 Florida voters should be allowed to decide on  
3 whether or not to restore Section 23 to its original  
4 and true meaning.

5 Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

7 Jennifer Webb, Fred Johnson, Nancy Natilson,  
8 Richard Alley, Jessika Ann Sterno, please come  
9 forward.

10 Yes, ma'am, you are?

11 MS. WEBB: Hi. I am Jennifer Webb.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Jennifer.

13 MS. WEBB: And I'm a candidate for House  
14 District 69, which includes many of Pinellas County's  
15 beaches, and I am a business owner and resident of  
16 Gulfport.

17 I am here today because my community asked me to  
18 represent their positions of -- the positions of  
19 three sectors in my district, and that's the barrier  
20 islands governing council. This council is comprised  
21 of 11 barrier island cities and their mayors. The  
22 local hotel areas, which is the cornerstone of  
23 tourist industry, and the vast majority of families  
24 in District 69.

25 We all agree and overwhelmingly support Proposal

1 91 to put a ban on offshore drilling on the 2018  
2 ballot. In our community we understand that what is  
3 good for our environment is good for the health of  
4 our economy and the health of our families. Tourism  
5 in our beautiful white sand beaches are a major  
6 engine of our local economy. Indeed, two of the top  
7 10 best beaches in the county according to  
8 TripAdvisor are in Pinellas County. Statewide  
9 visitors spend \$109 billion and created 1.4 million  
10 jobs in 2016, yet our beaches remain vulnerable.

11 Our community constantly -- is constantly  
12 reminded that our shores remain under threat, such as  
13 the recently proposed federal five-year program for  
14 offshore oil drilling. While the state may have  
15 limited influence over federal policy where we can  
16 control our own destiny, we have an obligation to do  
17 so.

18 Putting Proposal 91 on the ballot will give  
19 Florida residents the opportunity to protect our  
20 shores and our state's waters. Thank you so much and  
21 I hope this evening is over soon.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23 Yes, sir. You're next. You are?

24 MR. ALLEY: My name is Richard Alley.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Richard.

1 MR. ALLEY: I am a -- sorry -- registered voter  
2 here in Pasco County actually.

3 I'm a proud owner of Greyhounds and I'm here to  
4 vote against or urge you to vote against Proposition  
5 67.

6 As a proud owner of the Greyhounds for several  
7 years, and, more importantly, being able to foster  
8 multiple dogs and find homes for them, I find one  
9 avenue, or one of this -- I pity the folks here  
10 having to decipher what's fact and what's fiction of  
11 this testimony today, and I keep coming away from how  
12 in the heck are you ever going to be able to decipher  
13 the fact and the fiction of what's been stated  
14 together. And one thing I took away, having been  
15 here all day listening to all these testimonies, is a  
16 very important question that I present to each of  
17 you: There's been one overwhelming testimony from  
18 all the parties involved today that state how  
19 wonderful the pets are, the Greyhounds are a  
20 wonderful pet, and they are just phenomenal to be --  
21 to take home and be -- and that is absolutely true.  
22 And one of the reasons that is, is because they're  
23 not mistreated. They're not abused on the track.

24 I challenge any one of you to recite -- find an  
25 example of dogs that were abused and just suddenly

1 became wonderful pets. That's not the case.

2 You'll find -- and I urge you to try and get out  
3 to the tracks. I've been there. I've been doing  
4 this for a number of years now. I urge you to get  
5 out and do the fact finding on your own and don't  
6 take what is being recited because they read it on  
7 the Internet as fact.

8 Remember, the Internet isn't always factually  
9 correct, and neither are these lies that are being  
10 proposed -- presented to you all.

11 Vote no on Proposition 67.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

13 Karen Berman, Devan Cheaves, Damaris Allen, John  
14 Ciani, Debi Mazor, Kimberly Reimer, Bruce Inverso,  
15 Bruce Inverso, Kristen Mendez.

16 Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. MAZOR: Debi Mazor.

18 I didn't see whether anyone else is still here.  
19 I've been here for eight hours like you guys. I  
20 guess you've been here for nine.

21 I'm a resident of St. Petersburg, Florida. I  
22 hope that you have a chance to stand -- spend more  
23 time here and enjoy what an enlightened city St.  
24 Petersburg is.

25 I'm very proud to say that St. Petersburg is the

1 first city in the entire country that has passed an  
2 ordinance banning campaign financing of candidates  
3 over \$5000. They took a risk when they did that, but  
4 they did it because they felt that they had to defend  
5 democracy, and we all feel very threatened here by  
6 what's happening to our democracy. So in terms of  
7 the proposals, I would urge you not to put on the  
8 ballot anything that is designed to take away rights.

9 Number 4 is going to take away the right not to  
10 have a religion established, which is something that  
11 we're given by the constitution. Freedom of religion  
12 is one thing, establishment is another.

13 Twenty-two would take away the right to choose;  
14 45 would take away the right to have a free and  
15 public education in our country according to it's  
16 long -- long tradition; 29 would take away the rights  
17 of immigrants; and 95 would take away home rule.

18 I just want to say, in terms of 67, which I  
19 support, there are only five states that still have  
20 legalized gambling. I have them here: Alabama,  
21 Arkansas, West Virginia, Texas and Florida.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you for your  
23 thoughts.

24 MS. MAZOR: Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Denise Deja. Denise Deja,

1 Ryan Scates.

2 MR. SCATES: Is it Scates?

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Scates? We'll take Scates.

4 MR. SCATES: S-c-a-t-e-s, so it's Scates.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Denise. Delores Orlando,  
6 that's an easy one. Delores Orlando. Brian Lowack.  
7 Chuck Cawl -- Cawley.

8 Go ahead, sir.

9 MR. SCATES: Can you hear me?

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Sure. Yeah.

11 MR. SCATES: Yeah.

12 Hi, my name is Ryan Scates. I'm a 21-year-old  
13 college student at USF Tampa. I live in Wesley  
14 Chapel.

15 I'm here to let the Commission know of my  
16 support of Proposal 62 and how I'd like for it to be  
17 brought back.

18 Proposal 62 would make Florida an open primary  
19 state. I'm a registered Independent. In 2016 I was  
20 not able to participate in the primaries for either  
21 the President of the United States or for the U.S.  
22 Senate, and I would like to -- and yesterday I had to  
23 update my voter registration information just so I  
24 could participate in the democratic primaries,  
25 despite the fact that I and millions of other young

1 people have a distaste for the -- for the two-party  
2 system.

3 I would like to be able to have the freedom to  
4 participate in the primary regardless of political  
5 affiliation, because the idea of the closed primary  
6 basically discriminates against view points,  
7 basically saying that if you are Independent, you  
8 cannot participate in the primary. In addition to  
9 that, is undemocratic, so I'd like you to bring back  
10 Proposal 62 and put it on the ballot this November.

11 In addition, I'd also like to state my  
12 opposition to Proposals 4, 22 and 29.

13 Four and 22 are proposals being pushed by  
14 evangelical theocrats who want to be able to fund  
15 religious institutions with public money, and  
16 Proposal 22 basically take away privacy protections  
17 from our Constitution in order to restrict a women's  
18 reproductive rights, while Proposal 29 is being  
19 pushed by xenophobic white nationalists who basically  
20 don't think -- think that immigrants are a problem.

21 Undocumented immigrants are not a problem; they  
22 do not come out and steal jobs. Not only do they  
23 contribute viably to Florida's economy, but they also  
24 contribute viably to our diversity.

25 Immigration is not only a human right, but also,

1           you know, so is freedom of movement, and, basically,  
2           you know, Proposal 29 sees them as less than human  
3           and, you know, as a pest, so I urge you to reject  
4           Proposals 29, 22 and 4.

5           In addition, I urge you to support Proposal 91.

6           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

7           MR. SCATES: You're welcome.

8           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am, you are?

9           MS. ORLANDO: Good evening, CRC members, and  
10          thank you for your service. My name is Delores  
11          Orlando.

12          I oppose Proposal 65. I'm a board member of the  
13          Florida Smoke Free Association. Our purpose is to  
14          support tobacco harm production and to protect vapors  
15          rights. Currently we have 58 members and represent  
16          85 businesses throughout the state.

17          Proposition -- or Proposal 65 is sending a  
18          dangerous message that vaping and smoking are the  
19          same.

20          Vaping is not smoking. Vaping is tobacco free.  
21          It is a form of replacement therapy. Yes, smoking  
22          rates are on the decline, but is it a coincidence  
23          that vaping is on the rise?

24          The proposed argument is secondhand vapor  
25          contains toxins; vaping has an adverse health effect

1 and there are not enough research.

2 All of these statements are false. Along with  
3 the Royal College of Physicians' Report the committee  
4 received in Cape Coral, I have for you reports from  
5 the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New  
6 York, the American Cancer on Science and Health, the  
7 Health of New Zealand Report, a National Center for  
8 Biotechnology Information, and, yes, even our own  
9 CDC.

10 Get educated. Combining tobacco and vaping is  
11 wrong. It sends a wrong message. Life-saving  
12 technology cannot be buried in the black hole of  
13 smoking. Associating vaping and smoking is  
14 deplorable. I quote Ronald Reagan when he said, "As  
15 government expands, liberties contract."

16 Also patriot -- Patrick Henry stated: The  
17 Constitution is not an instrument for the government  
18 to restrain people, but for the people to -- an  
19 instrument for the people to restrain the government.

20 This is not a constitutional issue. I too have  
21 lost my father and father-in-law to cancer. Vaping  
22 products may have saved their lives.

23 I ask you to reject Proposal 65.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

25 Yes, sir, you are?

1           MR. LOWACK: Good evening. Brian Lowack here on  
2           behalf of the Pinellas Board of County Commissioners.  
3           I'd just like to thank you all for sticking it out  
4           tonight, especially the chairman of our local  
5           delegation, Senator Rouson, and I will waive my time  
6           in support of Proposals 61 and 91 and opposition to  
7           Proposal 95.

8           Thank you.

9           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

10          Chuck Cowley, Stephanie Cox, Chris Grieb or  
11          Grieb.

12          How do we pronounce it? Chris?

13          MR. GRIEB: You were right the second time.

14          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay. Getting there, huh?

15          MR. GRIEB: Yeah, hang on a second. Don't start  
16          my clock yet.

17          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Jeanie -- no, we're not.

18          Jeanie Ghafari, Kurt Trzeciak.

19          That's a tough one.

20          Here we go. You ready?

21          MR. GRIEB: Ready.

22          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Let's go.

23          MR. GRIEB: Evening. My name is Chris Grieb.

24          "An opinion is the lowest form of human  
25          knowledge. It requires no accountability and no

1 understanding. The highest form of knowledge is  
2 empathy, for it requires us to suspend our egos and  
3 live in another world."

4 Words that are 2400 years ago by a Greek  
5 philosopher are still as truthful today as they were  
6 then. You cannot fully understand anything unless  
7 you roll your sleeves up, strap on your boots and  
8 delve into a world that you're not familiar with.  
9 Until you can say that you've seen with your own  
10 eyes, touched with your own hands and then walked in  
11 the footsteps of all these people behind me, you  
12 can't possibly have a true understanding of the care,  
13 love and devotion that we place into our dogs.

14 I spoke last week about my journey into becoming  
15 a trainer. I adopted a dog and was blasted with  
16 incessant indoctrination tactics, misled with  
17 inaccurate information, hyperbole and outright lies,  
18 I felt the need to learn for myself. I went out of  
19 my way and visited tracks, racing kennels and farms  
20 all over the country.

21 I didn't see what was being thrown at me. I saw  
22 people that went to work in the dark and came home in  
23 the dark, much like we are all going to be doing  
24 today.

25 Excuse me.

1           I saw people forgo birthdays, holidays, weddings  
2           and vacations all because of their devotion to their  
3           dogs and their care. I myself only get to go home to  
4           Washington State once or -- once a year at  
5           Thanksgiving to visit with my family, and even still  
6           that's only for a couple of days.

7           In addition to spending years apprenticing as a  
8           helper and an assistant before I became a trainer,  
9           three years ago I bred a litter of my own. It was a  
10          five-pup litter that cost myself and my partner  
11          \$18,000 to raise. That's just one litter done by one  
12          guy and his friend.

13          Three of those dogs are still racing; two of  
14          them are here at Derby Lane with John Farmer, who  
15          spoke earlier; and the other with AJ Grant in  
16          Orlando, who also spoke earlier; the other two  
17          retired into homes. One never raced at all, ever,  
18          and the other is a service dog for one of our  
19          disabled U.S. Army veterans who has said to me,  
20          Joshua gave me a new purpose, a new hope.

21          Joshua would never have been bred if it weren't  
22          for racing, and there are no more Josh -- and there  
23          will be no more Joshuas to help those in need of dogs  
24          like him if this proposal comes to fruition.

25          Ladies and gentleman, our constitution is meant

1 to protect its citizens, not discriminate against  
2 them.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your time.  
5 Thank you for comments.

6 MR. GRIEB: Proposal 67 puts thousands of good,  
7 hard-working people --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

10 MR. GRIEB: -- out of work and out of business.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Sir.

12 MR. GRIEB: I urge you to visit our kennels.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: We have to wrap up.

14 MR. GRIEB: Come see our dogs and come see for  
15 yourself.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Let the lady speak, please.

17 Yes, ma'am, you are?

18 MS. GHAFARI: I'm Jeanie Ghafari. Thank you,  
19 Commissioners; thank you, Your Honor. I know we're  
20 all tired. I'm going to try to make it short. I'll  
21 try to cut down.

22 Okay. I strongly support Proposal 91 to  
23 prohibit offshore drilling on oil in coastal waters.  
24 Oil is not sustainable. We are switching to clean  
25 energy at this point in time.

1           The second point, what is at risk; what if we do  
2 do offshore drilling; what's wrong with that?

3           Well, oil spills are not contained in the ocean.  
4 They damage our ecosystem and can last more than 30  
5 years, as we saw in the Exxon Valdez disaster. They  
6 spilled 11 million gallons of crude oil, contaminated  
7 2000 miles of shoreline, and 26,000 gallons of oil  
8 remain in the sand on the shoreline today according  
9 to the NOAA.

10           The largest marine oil spill was the Deep Water  
11 Horizon by BP in the Gulf of Mexico. Eleven people  
12 were killed, 17 were injured, 200 million gallons of  
13 oil was spilled, 82,000 sand birds, 102 species of  
14 birds were killed. The cleanup used  
15 1.8 million gallons of chemical disbursements deemed  
16 harmful for wildlife and maybe harmful to the people  
17 that worked on it.

18           What feeds Florida's economy? Tourism supports  
19 1.4 million jobs; 112.8 million visitors came in  
20 2016. Florida's tourist spent \$109 billion in 2016.

21           Are we willing to destroy tourism, our main  
22 industry? Are we willing to destroy the shoreline  
23 for decades? Are we willing to contaminate the  
24 Florida aquifers that millions of families depends  
25 on? Are we willing to kill thousands of fish and

1 other sea life? Do we want to allow the oil history  
2 to wreak havoc on our number one resource, the ocean,  
3 home to fishing, boating, swimming and marine  
4 animals?

5 I say no thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments,  
7 ma'am. Thank you.

8 Please.

9 MR. TRZECIAK: My name is Kurt Trzeciak. I'm a  
10 registered voter from Palm Beach County and proud to  
11 be a racing Greyhound trainer for over 25 years, and  
12 I am here to oppose, once again, Proposal 67.

13 Contrary to what anti-racing activists want you  
14 to believe, the American racing Greyhound is the  
15 safest breed in the country because of the care they  
16 receive from those of us who have dedicated our lives  
17 to this animal. As you can see from a poster a young  
18 lady has back here, I'm not sure who she is,  
19 Greyhounds are housed in large spacious crates within  
20 soft bedding inside clean, comfortable,  
21 climate-controlled kennels under 24-hour security in  
22 a very heavily regulated industry.

23 Kennels are subjected to routine, unannounced  
24 inspections by agents of a state regulatory agency.  
25 Each race track has a state-licensed judge who

1 monitors all activities related to racing and makes  
2 sure state mandated rules are followed. In the rare  
3 event of an injury, a Greyhound receives immediate  
4 veterinary care from a state-licensed veterinarian  
5 who has an office at the track.

6 Now, on the subject of injuries, most, if not  
7 all, of the injuries these people want you to think  
8 happen on a regular basis could have been avoided if  
9 the out-of-state radical activist group they support  
10 had not fought tooth and nail against the Smith/Rader  
11 Safety Act, which would have mandated very specific  
12 safety regulations, procedures and equipment at  
13 Florida race tracks.

14 Why would they fight a bill that would make  
15 racing industries virtually nonexistent, because  
16 happy, healthy Greyhounds do not generate donations  
17 to their nonprofit and pay their salaries?

18 Remember, just because they tell the same  
19 scripted lies over and over again does not suddenly  
20 make them true. We Greyhound people have invited you  
21 commissioners to visit our kennels and farms  
22 unannounced. If the conditions of abuse and neglect  
23 are as they allege, why don't the activists encourage  
24 you to do the same? Because then you would see  
25 through all their lies and vote against Proposal 67.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

2 Henry Chin, Carolyn Phillips, Shannon Spring.

3 MR. CHIN: Yes, here.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Theresa Helmich, Carol  
5 Robinson, please come forward.

6 MR. CHIN: My name is Henry Chin. I'm from West  
7 Palm Beach.

8 You know, it's been a long day. I've been to  
9 most of these meetings. You know what, to cut back  
10 and save time, if you only had a bible right here.  
11 If you had a bible right here, we'd be out of here  
12 six hours ago, seven hours ago, if we had a bible  
13 right here.

14 I'm here to ask you to vote no on 67.

15 There's a lady here a few minutes -- a little  
16 while ago saying that she had a parimutuel license  
17 and that she went back there to inspect the  
18 Greyhounds. She had access to the Greyhounds. She  
19 described fleas and ticks and all kinds of abuses.  
20 My question to you is, what did she do about it? Did  
21 she report it to anybody? Did she call animal  
22 control? Did she call the sheriff's department,  
23 SPCA? She didn't tell -- she told you guys. She  
24 didn't even report anything.

25 What's that saying?

1           See something, say something. Well, I guess she  
2           said nothing.

3           Well, another thing was, this 67 is only  
4           affecting me because I'm a Greyhound breeder. Now,  
5           it takes a Greyhound from birth to race track about a  
6           year and a half. So if I bred a Greyhound today, it  
7           would be a year and a half before he can race.

8           Now, if this thing passes, there will be no race  
9           track for me to race at by the time they're ready to  
10          race.

11          Now, I raise about 50 Greyhounds a year and at a  
12          cost of 3,000 per Greyhound, so I'm investing  
13          \$150,000 in this economy for what?

14          I spent a lot of time and money on my Greyhounds  
15          and hope you vote no for 67.

16          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

17          Yes, ma'am. You are?

18          MS. HELMICH: Theresa Helmich, Tampa, Florida.

19          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'm sorry, your name?

20          MS. HELMICH: Theresa Helmich, Tampa, Florida.

21          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

22          MS. HELMICH: I was here to ask the Commission  
23          to please go ahead and consider again Proposal 22,  
24          place it on the ballot and let the voters themselves  
25          decide that the right to privacy is being unjustly

1           used against the unborn. Please allow parental  
2           rights to go ahead and decide that pregnant minors --  
3           to give them consideration for adoption and being  
4           educated at pregnancy centers within a 24-hour  
5           waiting period. To have a minor pregnant today enter  
6           an abortion clinic and expect an abortion counselor  
7           to go ahead and give them an actual choice is  
8           ludicrous. We ask that this Commission give the  
9           voters a chance again to let us stand and be a voice  
10          for the voiceless and the unborn in Florida.

11                 Also we'd like to consider Proposal 96. We'd  
12          like to thank Pam Bondi and her continued efforts to  
13          end human trafficking and give additional rights to  
14          victims.

15                 I'm also a prison minister with Diocese of St.  
16          Petersburg, and we ask that Proposal 20 -- we thank  
17          you for considering Proposal 20, and that if there  
18          are actually monies saved with Proposal 20 and the  
19          sentencing guidelines are shortened, if you can  
20          somehow use that money for the opioid crisis.

21                 We thank you.

22                 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23                 Yes, ma'am, you are?

24                 MS. SPRING: Hello. I'm Shannon Spring and I'm  
25          a master's level humane educator. I do not get all

1 of my information off of the Internet. I am also the  
2 proud mother, not owner, of Mayor Puppy Pants, the  
3 first dog mayor of St. Petersburg, and I am here to  
4 piss a lot of people off and make a lot of people  
5 happy.

6 We are definitely putting Prop. 67 on the  
7 ballot, correct, because I am for that, and this is  
8 ridiculous if we don't get to vote on this. I am  
9 very much for compassion and for Prop. 67.

10 I am sitting back there listening to racers say  
11 things like, we're here for the dogs, which is the  
12 equivalent of child predators saying we're here for  
13 the kids.

14 They are whining and complaining about job loss;  
15 they are greedy opportunists. I am losing money by  
16 being here and I am happy to take that hit on my  
17 income to speak up for the voiceless.

18 There are other jobs that you can get. Dogs  
19 don't get a second life. Cruelty is not a sport,  
20 it's a crime. The greatness of Greyhounds is not in  
21 their speed, but in their forgiveness. Today may  
22 they be given the gift of freedom and relieve the  
23 burden of continuing to forgive those who don't even  
24 have the wisdom to seek their forgiveness.

25 I have been talking to kindergarteners through

1 fifth graders for the last two weeks about animal  
2 kindness. That's what my dog and I do, we visit the  
3 public schools for free. Kids want to know why  
4 adults aren't doing the right thing, and they said,  
5 Miss Spring, we send you off today and ask you to  
6 please come back with some good news because it sure  
7 as hell seems like -- excuse me, they said heck,  
8 they're kids -- it sure as heck seems like the bad  
9 guys win a lot and the dogs lose. I need to bring  
10 some good news back to the children.

11 I will tell you that dogs being asked to perform  
12 on race tracks at all costs is not fun. It's not a  
13 sport, it's sick. I ask you to say freedom, not  
14 forgiveness anymore, is the destiny for the greatness  
15 of our Greyhounds. Do something already. No  
16 thoughts and prayers. Take action. This is cruelty,  
17 not a sport. Amen.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you four your comments.

19 Carol Robinson, Virginia Wyman.

20 MS. WYMAN: Wyman.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Wyman. Virginia Wyman, Megan  
22 Diehl or Diehl, Christin Behrens, and Brooke Busby,  
23 please step forward.

24 MS. ROBINSON: I'm Carol Robinson and I'm here  
25 to speak in opposition to Proposal 22, because the

1 right of privacy in making medical decisions for  
2 one's own body must be protected, and because I'm old  
3 enough to know what it was like before we had a  
4 choice.

5 In 1972 I was a college student and I thought my  
6 biggest decision was going to be choosing a major,  
7 but I didn't know what I didn't know, and then my  
8 birth control failed and life as I knew it ended. I  
9 didn't know my body could become a prison in which I  
10 was forced to carry and bare a child against my will.  
11 I thought I could save money to get my life back, but  
12 I didn't know a woman could be fired for being  
13 pregnant until I was.

14 When I heard about it, the *Roe versus Wade*  
15 decision, in January of 1973, I -- I cried for the  
16 life that I was -- I lost, but I also cried for all  
17 the women's lives that would be saved and still are  
18 today.

19 The first clinic opened in Florida in April of  
20 '73. It was too late for me. My son was born in  
21 June of that year and the next day I was informed  
22 that I would no longer be welcome in my parents'  
23 home, or I should say we were no longer welcome.

24 I can't believe in 2018 that they are still  
25 trying to control women's lives. That's -- we just

1 have to not let them have happen -- not let it  
2 happen. I mean, we are really stronger than that.  
3 We are not handmaids. We have voices. We fight  
4 back. We vote.

5 Fight for women. Fight for your privacy.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

7 MS. ROBINSON: Defeat --

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ma'am --

9 MS. ROBINSON: -- Proposal 22.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Miss.

11 MS. ROBINSON: The committee voted it down.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

13 MS. ROBINSON: Don't bring it back. The women  
14 of Florida will be watching.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

16 Yes, ma'am. You are?

17 MS. BUSBY: Hi. I'm -- my name is Brooke Busby  
18 and I oppose Proposition 67.

19 I hold three loans with the state of Florida.  
20 To obtain each of them I was fingerprinted and passed  
21 a background check. One is my teaching  
22 certification, the second is my concealed carry  
23 permit, and the third is my department of business  
24 and professional regulation license to own a racing  
25 Greyhound in the state of Florida.

1           Yes, you heard that correctly, to own a racing  
2           Greyhound I had to submit fingerprints and was  
3           subject to a background check. As elected officials  
4           in Florida, you have allowed lobbyist organizations  
5           from out of state to waltz in and presume to tell you  
6           how to run our government.

7           Are you not offended? As a voter, I am. This  
8           group is counting, there I say betting, on you  
9           falling into one of three categories: That you are  
10          too ignorant to see through their propaganda, too  
11          busy to vet the allegations by conducting your own  
12          independent research, or too apathetic to care about  
13          your own constituents.

14          Florida state statute chapter 550.0555 section 1  
15          states: "It is the finding of the legislature that  
16          parimutuel wagering on Greyhound dog racing provides  
17          substantial revenues to the state."

18          I urge each of you to do your own research,  
19          become familiar with the laws already regulating this  
20          industry, accept the offers from the trainers to  
21          visit their kennels, think of the statewide  
22          ramifications if you put this industry out of  
23          business.

24          How are you going to make up an \$11 million  
25          budget deficit and how are you going to facilitate

1 the re-homing of over 8000 dogs overnight?

2 I adopted my first retired racer five years ago.  
3 In the time since I've educated myself and learned  
4 how loved these dogs are. It is the reason why they  
5 make such great pets.

6 I now have two retired racers and my 26th foster  
7 at home. Additionally, I co-own two active racers in  
8 the state. Please do not be ignorant, too busy or  
9 apathetic to do your due diligence, your constituents  
10 and the dogs deserve better, and for the record, this  
11 is the size of a racing crate.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

13 Yes, ma'am. You are?

14 MS. WYMAN: Hi.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Folks, it's late. Let's try  
16 to move through the agenda without the clapping,  
17 please.

18 Thank you.

19 MS. WYMAN: Hi. I'm Virginia Wyman. I'm not an  
20 activist of any sort. I'm just a human being with a  
21 conscience.

22 First of all, I would just like to read you a  
23 quote that says: "The greatness of a nation and its  
24 moral progress can be judged by the way it treats its  
25 animals."

1           Well, you know, I was first exposed to  
2           Greyhounds as a child in the mountains of Spain, and  
3           they're just natural dogs. They're just like any  
4           other animals; they would run to chase what the  
5           hunters would kill.

6           Unfortunately, over there in Spain they're also  
7           killed when they're no longer wanted. When I came  
8           back here I thought, you know, we're such a great  
9           country, we wouldn't allow things like that to  
10          happen, but what we're doing is so much worse.

11          And, you know, I'm sorry for the people that --  
12          they work, this is their job, and this is what they  
13          use as an income, but there's other ways to make  
14          money. I have to get up every morning and I have to  
15          go to work. I don't have my Morkie running around to  
16          do my job for me. I have to get up, I have to go to  
17          work.

18          It's unconscionable what they're going through.  
19          They're not born to be racers. They're born to be  
20          pets like my Morkie, like a German Shepherd, like any  
21          other animal, like any other dog.

22          There's no lies about that. It's just a  
23          conscience. You either have one or you don't, and  
24          it's about making money or -- or doing the right  
25          thing in life, and you have that power to give the

1 people a chance to vote for what is right.

2 Please allow us to vote for what is our  
3 conscience.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. WADLEY: My name is Tera Wadley. I believe  
7 I was skipped. I've been here since 2 o'clock.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Then speak.

9 MS. WADLEY: All right. Thank you.

10 I wanted to speak to you on the Proposal 700500.  
11 I'm here to give an insight on the degradation of our  
12 lakes/rivers/streams.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Could you come closer to the  
14 microphone, please?

15 MS. WADLEY: I'm sorry.

16 I'm here to give an insight on the degradation  
17 on our lakes, rivers and streams and oceans. I'm a  
18 Florida haul seiner. I can catch up to 50,000 pounds  
19 of fish in six hours flat in the freshwater. I have  
20 a thousand-yard net, which is the length of 10  
21 football fields at 3-inch mesh, and a 450-yard net at  
22 2-inch mesh.

23 I understand that the saltwater commercial  
24 fishermen are only allowed 500 square meshes, period.

25 That is astronomically crazy. I feel like it is

1 a neglect to our state and our country to not compare  
2 that catches of the commercial fisherman to that of  
3 the biologist of this state who do not know how to  
4 catch like the commercial fishermen. If they cannot  
5 catch, you cannot manage, and I can catch more fish  
6 than probably most of them in the entire state in one  
7 day. In one day.

8 If I can catch more than that, there needs to be  
9 an overhaul. There needs to be something looked at.  
10 This is almost -- this is sinful. This is wrong.

11 This is -- there's four disciples of Jesus  
12 Christ that was commercial fisherman. These  
13 industries have been targeted. There's 7000 lakes in  
14 the state of Florida, 5000 are not allowed to be  
15 utilized, 2000 are the only ones that are used by  
16 commercial use.

17 You shut down the turtle industry saying that  
18 they were going to be over harvested. How can you  
19 over harvest something when there's 5000 lakes for  
20 them to breed in?

21 It's political pressure that has shut these  
22 industries down. That is wrong. For 80 years this  
23 has been going on. My parents -- grandparents walked  
24 from the state of Florida in the 1800s here to fish.

25 Please help us and give us a voice.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time's over.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

3 MS. WADLEY: Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay. Matthew Broerman,  
5 Pamela Gamet or Gomet, Matthew Parker, Jenna Cullen,  
6 Kelley Weaver, Mindy Taylor, Jason Blank, Stacey  
7 Kroto, Kroto.

8 Thank you for hyphenating it that way. I  
9 appreciate it.

10 Yes, ma'am, please.

11 MS. WEAVER: Hi, I'm Kelley Weaver.

12 I stand before you a medical professional who  
13 has taken unpaid time off to ask you all to vote no  
14 on Proposition 67.

15 Ending Greyhound racing would be devastating for  
16 so many reasons. A few of them are: Loss of jobs,  
17 loss of tourist revenue for the state and the loss of  
18 Greyhound lives.

19 My entire family volunteers with the local  
20 Greyhound adoption group. Not a rescue group. We  
21 have fostered close to 90 dogs. This is a true  
22 volunteered, unpaid position. We do this for the  
23 love of the breed and the people who train them.

24 In the eight years that I've volunteered for  
25 this group, I've picked up many Greyhounds from the

1 tracks and the farms. I've been inside numerous  
2 kennels. These tracks -- of these tracks. I have  
3 never once seen any of the abuse or the neglect that  
4 the Greyhound -- that the GREY2K would have you  
5 believe exist. I've watched many trainers and owners  
6 cry as they've turned their dogs over to us to adopt  
7 us out.

8 These dogs have been part of our lives for many  
9 years. There is an amazing bond. We also work with  
10 Greyhound prison program that for six years provided  
11 love, hope, job training to the prisoners of Florida  
12 system. Many prisoners have said this is the first  
13 time that they've ever had unconditional love.

14 They've said time and time again, without the  
15 love from the trainers that these dogs have created,  
16 it wouldn't be so easy for them to train them. We  
17 have been -- we have a waiting list for these dogs  
18 and the prison has seen a huge behavior improvement  
19 in the process -- in the prisoners.

20 I myself have four personal Greyhounds and they  
21 all are therapy dogs. They go into the nursing homes  
22 that I worked for, the hospitals, inner city  
23 libraries and Hillsborough County public schools.  
24 Because of the way they've been raced and trained and  
25 loved by the racing industry, they make amazing

1 therapy dogs. I don't understand how people can  
2 judge and lie about what's happened in kennels if  
3 they've never stepped foot in one.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time's up.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, ma'am. Thank you.

7 Yes, ma'am, you are?

8 MS. CULLEN: Hello. My name is Jenna Cullen.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: What is it again, Jenna?

10 MS. CULLEN: Yes.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

12 MS. CULLEN: I am an unpaid 17-year-old that  
13 drove here during my spring break to stand up for  
14 what I believe in. I am here today to speak against  
15 Proposition 67.

16 I may only be 17, but I have actually visited  
17 numerous kennels across the state of Florida, unlike  
18 a majority of the people that were here today.

19 Endless days of my life have been spent at  
20 Greyhound tracks. I've spoken with many trainers  
21 over the years and I've become quite accustomed to  
22 the truth behind Greyhound racing.

23 When a Greyhound decides that it is ready to  
24 retire from racing, I've heard the same response from  
25 every trainer I've spoken with, the feeling is bitter

1           sweet. The trainers will be devastated when they  
2           have to say goodbye to a dog that they spent  
3           countless hours with raising as their own, however,  
4           they take solis in knowing adoption groups will find  
5           the dog's forever home. I would know since my family  
6           has fostered and placed over 90 Greyhounds.

7                     In the past the goodbye would often be the last  
8           time the trainer would ever see the dog. I have  
9           comforted trainers as they cried while saying goodbye  
10          to their favorite pups.

11                    My family decided to do something about that.  
12          Once a year we hold a reunion of sorts. The adopters  
13          bring their dogs to a beach here in St. Pete and the  
14          trainers are able to reunite with some of the dogs  
15          they are blessed to train. Every year over 30  
16          families across the Bay Area come to the reunion.  
17          Seeing the joy from the Greyhounds and trainers both  
18          is the reason I believe in Greyhound racing. It has  
19          changed the lives of so many, connecting trainers  
20          with adopters and connecting Greyhounds with their  
21          forever homes.

22                    I'm standing here to speak for the compassionate  
23          trainers who are not able to be here today, as they  
24          are at the track caring for their kennel. On behalf  
25          of the trainers I have met across the state of

1 Florida, I encourage you to vote no to Proposition  
2 No. 67. I encourage you all to visit a kennel and  
3 take the time to find the truth for yourself.

4 Thank you all for your time.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 Yes, sir.

7 MR. BLANK: Good evening. Mr. Chairman, members  
8 of the Commission, my name is Jason Blank, and I rise  
9 today on behalf of the Florida Bar criminal law  
10 section to express our opposition to Proposal 96.

11 The -- well, you know what, Mr. Chairman, it's  
12 getting late so let me say this: If there is one  
13 organization to which this Commission should look for  
14 guidance on how to act on Proposal 96, it is the  
15 criminal law section.

16 Composing of prosecutors, defense attorneys,  
17 judges and educators from across the state of Florida  
18 practicing in the criminal justice arena day in and  
19 day out, this is the Commission -- this is the  
20 organization to which the Commission should look,  
21 because we evaluated this proposal at length. And in  
22 a vote of 29 to 3 voted to take a position against  
23 it. Not because we oppose victims' rights that are  
24 already codified in the Florida constitution and the  
25 enacting statutes by the legislature, but because

1 this law is so important to all persons involved.

2 It is the position of the criminal law section  
3 that this is a matter for the legislature, not one  
4 which should be placed on the ballot as an amendment.

5 We urge the Commission to oppose Proposal 96 for  
6 that reason, and we urge the Commission, if it has  
7 any questions, to feel free to reach out.

8 Also and lastly, I would just like to applaud  
9 your stenographer for doing such a great job in this  
10 very long day. Court reporters and stenographers do  
11 not get enough applause in the courtrooms or in  
12 meetings like this, so thank you very much for your  
13 time, ladies and gentlemen.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

15 Yes, sir. Your name?

16 MR. PARKER: Hello. I'm Matthew Parker. I am a  
17 part of the Greyhound racing industry through my  
18 parents, Henry and Belinda Parker. They have been  
19 racing Greyhounds their whole entire life and it's  
20 been a livelihood. It's made me and my sister who we  
21 are today.

22 If you step foot in one of our kennels at 6  
23 o'clock in the morning with my father -- he's 63  
24 years old. He still has to do this to this day, and  
25 luckily my mom got out of it, but my dad, he's

1           somebody to look up to.  Somebody who instilled  
2           values in me that I can look back on and just see how  
3           we treated the dogs, and I would never think about  
4           any of these vilifying comments that are coming from  
5           another side of this crowd and -- and have less  
6           malice towards them.  They just make me sad inside.  
7           They evoke emotions that I just can't bear to live  
8           with.

9           I know my dad is a very compassionate man and I  
10          would never think of any of these insatiable things  
11          that have been said about this industry.

12          I know all these people back here and I've seen  
13          the way they've handled these Greyhounds.  It's with  
14          compassion, and I'm mainly just speaking out of my  
15          heart as a character witness for these people who are  
16          speaking the truth today about the Greyhound  
17          industry, and what have -- what I've seen with my own  
18          eyes.

19          I've been there.  I've seen the dogs.  I know  
20          their names.  I could tell you about P&J's Bar from  
21          10 years ago when I was 12 years old, you know.  I  
22          could tell you about any of the dogs and how they  
23          were treated.  It was just an amazing thing to watch  
24          and be a part of, and a part of our history as St.  
25          Petersburgians.  So it's been here:  Joe DiMaggio,

1 Babe Ruth, all the gang, they were there hanging out  
2 at Derby Lane, and the dogs are not being mistreated.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you for your  
4 comments.

5 Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. KROTO: Good evening. I'm Stacey Kroto. I  
7 live in Pinellas Park. I'm also a registered voter,  
8 and I vote and I'm a homeowner.

9 I'm here today to speak out against the  
10 resurrection of Proposal 22. Our present privacy  
11 clause protects everyday Floridians from governmental  
12 intrusion into so many aspects of our private lives.  
13 It has been correctly, purposely and purposefully  
14 interpreted broadly by our state supreme court.

15 While I also see this proposal as a thinly  
16 veiled attempt at limiting a woman's right to choose,  
17 I want to make it clear that our present privacy  
18 clause protects far more than just information. In  
19 addition to protecting our rights to make personal  
20 medical decisions, including reproductive health and  
21 end-of-life decisions, it also protects us from  
22 government meddling into how he we raise our  
23 children, our educational choices for them, and what  
24 we do in the privacy of our homes and backyard.

25 Proposal 22 seeks to limit Floridians' right to

1 privacy. There is no reasonable argument in favor of  
2 limiting our right to privacy and our constitution  
3 should provide protections to Floridians, not limit  
4 them. I ask again that you please do not resurrect  
5 Proposal 22.

6 Also, I want to strongly speak out against  
7 Proposal 4 and Proposal 45. I do not believe that  
8 taxpayer money should be diverted to private schools  
9 or religious institutions, and I would like you all  
10 to consider this in your free time: That if the  
11 majority of private schools in Florida were Islamic  
12 or Jewish day schools, this would never be an issue  
13 that we would hear about.

14 Lastly, because I still have time, I have been  
15 here since 4 o'clock. I've heard a lot about  
16 Proposal 67. I hope to be able to vote for it --  
17 excuse me -- in November, and I find all of the  
18 positions against it to be moot in the -- in the eyes  
19 of the question of whether or not Floridians should  
20 be able to vote against Greyhound racing.

21 Thank you all for your time.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23 Sherrie Dorsey, Sherrie Dorsey, Jamie  
24 Blumenthal, Amelia Barr or Barr, Tina Vargas,  
25 Isabelle Tassi, Shelly Ann Lawson, Myriam Parham,

1           Arnold Baer.

2                   Yes, ma'am.

3           MS. TASSI: Yes, my name is Isabelle Tassi. I  
4 live in Tampa. I'm here to ask you to please vote or  
5 support Proposal 67 to ban Greyhound racing.

6                   I wanted to thank Senator Lee and the other  
7 cosponsors of this sane, rational and humane  
8 proposal. I believe it's truly bipartisan and I  
9 think it crosses all political -- all parts of the  
10 political spectrum. I think there's wide support for  
11 this.

12                   As a society we have evolved over the years in  
13 how animals are treated, and this proposal is another  
14 step in the right direction. This proposal is one of  
15 commonsense and compassion and brings us into the  
16 21st Century. Our current laws regarding Greyhound  
17 racing are antiquated and from a different era, and I  
18 was going to cite some statistics, but I've heard  
19 other people cite them. I won't take any more time  
20 regarding that.

21                   CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

22           MS. TASSI: But, again, please put Proposal 67  
23 on the ballot in November so that all citizens of  
24 Florida can vote on it.

25                   Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

2 Yes, ma'am. Your name, please?

3 MS. VARGAS: My name is Tina Vargas and I'm here  
4 in support of Proposal 91.

5 I'm sorry.

6 I'm here on behalf of several environmental  
7 groups and I'm a member of the Environmental Justice  
8 Committee of the League of United Latin American  
9 Citizens.

10 To me this proposal is about one thing and that  
11 is choices. The choices that we make to protect our  
12 environment; the choices that we make to rule our  
13 economy.

14 Ten years ago, with a map of the entire country  
15 in front of me, I made a choice to move to Tampa Bay.  
16 I did that because of the pristine beaches, the  
17 beautiful opportunities to enjoy the beauty of this  
18 area, and to enjoy the flora and the fauna that is  
19 part of the Florida heritage.

20 Every day of every week retirees like myself sit  
21 in front of a map and make similar decisions. I  
22 decided against another state because they said yes  
23 to fracking. A lot of senior citizens, and there  
24 will be approximately 4.5 million in Florida by 2020,  
25 will be looking at their maps and making their

1 decisions. Other citizens as well will be making  
2 their decisions whether to make Florida their home or  
3 not. Five of my immediate neighbors are in fact  
4 residents who moved to Florida and invested here who  
5 are from other states.

6 I ask you to make the correct choice and decide  
7 to protect the coastal areas of the beautiful state  
8 of Florida.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

11 Rebecca Falkenberry, Lori S --

12 MS. SZOLLOSI: Yes, yes.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay.

14 MS. SZOLLOSI: Szollosi, that's okay.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

16 Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. PARHAM: My name's Myriam Parham and I'm  
18 with the group Florida Voices for Animals, a  
19 501(c)(3) education group that dedicates to educating  
20 about animal abuse and exploitation. We have no paid  
21 staff, no lobbyist, we're all volunteer, and I  
22 understand the emotions of this issue, especially  
23 people who are working in the industry, and we do  
24 represent thousands of people in the area and the  
25 state of Florida who speak for the voiceless, and we

1 believe that dog racing is not in the interest of the  
2 dogs, it's in the interest of the persons who are  
3 racing the dogs, and if the dog is not a winner, then  
4 they probably choose not to keep those.

5 So I don't know how they decide which ones they  
6 keep, but they raise and breed a lot of animals and  
7 race them, and then they need to find homes for them.  
8 So I just want to point out that a lot of people out  
9 here and from our group have adopted many Greyhounds,  
10 so we've been helping the industry by adopting the  
11 dogs that they don't want.

12 I don't know how you decide not to keep a dog.  
13 In our family, they're part of the family. The dogs  
14 are definitely very social and they're truly man's --  
15 well, women's best friend too. And they really are  
16 part of the family, and so they are definitely part  
17 of the pack, and like has been pointed out, they are  
18 very forgiving. And, again, the thousands of dogs  
19 that they say would need homes, I don't understand  
20 why they're not providing for them in -- and having  
21 someone else adopt them.

22 So we're definitely for a proposal on the ballot  
23 for 67, and also I'm personally for Proposal 91 about  
24 offshore drilling.

25 And I thank you for allowing us to speak for the

1 voiceless, and it's late, and allow people to make a  
2 decision on this and be able to vote.

3 Thank you very much for your time.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. SZOLLOSI: Hi, I'm Lori Szollosi. Thank you  
6 to those of you who stuck it out and are still here.  
7 I really appreciate that.

8 I am a Pinellas County resident, and I am in big  
9 trouble with my dogs, because when I get home they  
10 are going to give me hell because it's been long  
11 time. I am not their owner, I'm their guardian, I'm  
12 their mom, and I would never ever think about giving  
13 them away when I was through with them. Ever.

14 They love me. They are bonded to me. I would  
15 never do that to my pet.

16 I'm not going home to them and them being in a  
17 kennel, which is a cage. I'm going home to them and  
18 they each have a couch and a bed, and they're going  
19 to get a nice stew when I get home. That's what they  
20 deserve.

21 Now, I noticed that on some issues we all are  
22 holding the same cards. We agree on issues, and I  
23 think it's unfortunate that the opposition to Prop.  
24 67 is really being rather nasty and calling people  
25 liars.

1           I personally am a resident here. I am involved  
2           in animal rescue, and here's what I want to say: I  
3           am -- when I was a social worker, I was in foster --  
4           I'm sorry, my brain is completely frozen -- foster  
5           care, and I heard at a conference a woman say an  
6           example about a village, and in this village all of a  
7           sudden these babies came floating down the river in a  
8           little basket, right? And they kept taking these  
9           babies in, giving them homes, giving them homes. All  
10          of a sudden they don't have homes for them anymore,  
11          and finally somebody thinks to say, who's throwing  
12          the babies in upstream; who's throwing the babies in  
13          the river?

14          Well, Derby Lane and these breeders are throwing  
15          the dogs downstream, and then it's people like myself  
16          who are -- who I am overwhelmed with the dogs that I  
17          have. I have taken in two dogs off the streets of  
18          St. Pete. I have five pets and I am overwhelmed. I  
19          am dog poor. Think about all us animal rescuers here  
20          and let us vote.

21          Thank you.

22          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

23          Lacy Benton, Tina Spangler, Keith Long, Linda  
24          Whitley, Denise Yettaw.

25          Yes, ma'am, you are?

1 MS. BENTON: Lacy Benton.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Lacy.

3 MS. BENTON: Good evening. I live in Oldsmar  
4 and I am here to voice my support for Proposal 67.

5 I feel that if we as human beings consider  
6 ourselves the rightful inheritors of this world, then  
7 we have an obligation to do good by all that we share  
8 it with, and that we do not have the ethical or moral  
9 right to use any other sentient being for our  
10 entertainment or profit.

11 I am a member of the working class and I do not  
12 wish anyone the stress and hardship of job loss at  
13 all. However, as social consciousness evolves, so do  
14 our values, and our industries must adapt, as is  
15 evident by the overwhelming public support to end the  
16 use of the animals, such as elephants and orcas, in  
17 shows for public entertainment.

18 Greyhounds are no different. I want to tell the  
19 kennel workers, this is not about you, it is about  
20 the animals. Everyone has different standards of  
21 what constitutes quality care for a living thing.

22 I am not here to say that racing owners abuse  
23 their animals. I am saying that the lives of these  
24 animals are worth more than any profit garnered by  
25 those who literally gamble with their wellbeing.

1           So please support Proposal 67 and let your  
2 Florida voters decide what is the right thing to do.

3           Thank you.

4           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5           Denise Yettaw, Nicole Leary, Sheri Buckley,  
6 Rebecca Williams, Bethany Smith, Catherine Durkin  
7 Robinson, Jackie Scharff, John Graham.

8           Yes, ma'am.

9           MS. WILLIAMS: Hi, my name is Rebecca Williams.

10          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Rebecca.

11          MS. WILLIAMS: I'm a resident of Hillsborough  
12 County and I'm here today to voice my support for  
13 Proposal 67 to phase out Greyhound racing in the  
14 state of Florida.

15          Greyhound racing is already illegal in 40  
16 states, however, in Florida approximately 8,000  
17 Greyhounds still sit in metal cages for up to 23  
18 hours a day. This is a dying industry that is  
19 surrounded by death. Since 2013, 438 dogs have died  
20 on tracks. We are a nation of animal lovers, so  
21 please allow our legislation to reflect that. I  
22 strongly believe that this proposal will have  
23 overwhelming support, but we should let the Florida  
24 voters decide that for themselves.

25          Please vote yes on Proposal 67. Thank you for

1 your time.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

3 Yes, ma'am, your name?

4 MS. SMITH: Yes, my name is Bethany Smith. I  
5 live right here in St. Pete about a mile away from  
6 Derby Lanes. I drive by it every day, and I have to  
7 admit, I went there once to see what was going on  
8 there. I actually asked for a tour and was told no.

9 That's okay, it wasn't the right time that day.  
10 Not a problem. I understand. But when I drive by  
11 there, I can't help but think of the statistics, and  
12 these aren't hate group statistics or extremist group  
13 statistics, these are the state of Florida statistics  
14 that 438 dogs have died in the state of Florida since  
15 2013. Some of those at Derby Lane, some of those at  
16 other places. It is documented by the state of  
17 Florida that 22 dogs tested positive for cocaine this  
18 year alone.

19 A lot of people say that a lot of the dogs are  
20 kept in inhumane conditions. I'm not saying that any  
21 of these people are bad people; I'm not saying that  
22 they mean to cause any harm to these dogs; I'm just  
23 saying that we need to take a really close look at  
24 this.

25 I challenge you to look in your heart and ask if

1           it's right to keep these dogs in a kennel. Even if  
2           it's just 15 hours a day, is that right? Is that  
3           what they deserve?

4           And if you look in your heart and you think: Is  
5           this what I would do with my pet; what would I do; is  
6           this right for my pet? If the answer is no, then  
7           think again.

8           What is the difference between fluffy and Benji  
9           at your home and these Greyhounds?

10          The answer is nothing, other than these babies  
11          are being mistreated and exploited for profit.

12          You've heard this before: Forty states have  
13          outlawed Greyhound racing; four others have opted to  
14          cease live racing even though there's been no  
15          prohibitory statutes enacted. This leaves six  
16          states.

17          All I'm asking is that you put this up for a  
18          vote. Let the people speak. That's what they're  
19          asking too. They said let the people speak. Let the  
20          people speak.

21          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

22          Yes, ma'am.

23          MS. SCHARFF: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen  
24          of the Commission. My name is Jackie Scharff.

25          You know, I've just about heard enough of all of

1 this because none -- nobody here -- there was one  
2 gentleman, Henry Chin, has had to experience these  
3 folks like we have. Me and my kids, my husband --  
4 and my husband, he would be here but he had to stay  
5 and take care of the dogs, because that's the most  
6 important things, the dogs. It's always the dogs.

7 I did first turnout in all the beds when my --  
8 when I was pregnant with him and then I drove myself  
9 to the hospital. My husband stayed with the kennel  
10 because they're the most important thing. And I know  
11 you've heard about holidays. They don't get presents  
12 until after morning work.

13 You know, in Massachusetts GREY2K -- well, they  
14 were after us since we were up there in 2002 to 2009.  
15 That's when we had to leave because all of their lies  
16 spread to everybody.

17 You know, check -- we didn't get to speak to  
18 folks like you. They just, you know, put out their  
19 40-year-old statistics, pictures from other  
20 countries, which they've all said this before, and  
21 they got away with it. They got away with it in  
22 Tucson as well.

23 I've been doing this for 25 years. I've been to  
24 18 different tracks, and I've raced at 9 of them and,  
25 I mean, that's pretty much everywhere. The things

1 that they're speaking of, I've never even seen,  
2 heard. I mean, '92, that's when I started doing the  
3 dogs.

4 In Massachusetts their first thing was, oh, the  
5 crate size. They mandated it, they okayed it, and  
6 then they go around telling everybody that we have  
7 tiny crates.

8 They -- they were promised -- they promised  
9 money to folks that were going to lose their jobs.  
10 That never happened. That came straight out of  
11 Christine Dorchak.

12 This dog right here they accused not just us,  
13 this is --

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPECTATORS: Time.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you for your  
16 comments.

17 Yes, ma'am.

18 MS. SCHARFF: They said we killed this dog and  
19 we didn't. Does nobody care about that?

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. SCHARFF: Nobody cares.

22 MS. BUCKLEY: Hello, thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: You are?

24 MS. BUCKLEY: My name is Sheri Buckley from St.  
25 Petersburg, Florida, and I want to thank you in

1 advance for your consideration of my proposal.

2 I'm here asking to correct a judicial injustice.  
3 In 1983, with the institution of sentencing  
4 guidelines, an 11-year anomaly was created. There  
5 were two committees -- I'm sorry, there were  
6 two . . . those who are -- who committed a  
7 non-homicidal crime were sentenced to life without  
8 parole, while those who committed a capital offense,  
9 such as first degree murder and child rape, were  
10 sentenced to life with parole. So those who  
11 committed crimes such as armed robbery and even some  
12 nonviolent drug offense received life without parole  
13 to die in prison, while those who committed the  
14 ultimate crime of first degree murder are  
15 participating in a parole process to this day.

16 The lesser crime here is getting the harsher  
17 sentence and Florida is the only state with this kind  
18 of injustice. Several studies have been found that  
19 the child's mind is not fully developed until they  
20 reach the age of 25. Several cases have gone on to  
21 the Supreme Court and several states have and  
22 continue to raise the juvenile age for life  
23 sentences. I ask you to make a constitution law in  
24 Florida raising the juvenile age for life sentences  
25 to 24 in line with the science, as well as correcting

1 the sentencing guidelines to make it fair.

2 Thank you very much.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

4 Alma Gonzalez, Melissa Zepeda, Todd Bowman or  
5 Bowmar. Todd --

6 MR. BOWMAN: Bowman.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: David Gonzalez.

8 Yes, ma'am. You're Melissa?

9 MS. ZEPEDA: Melissa Zepeda, St. Petersburg,  
10 Florida.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

12 MS. ZEPEDA: Today you are hearing from two  
13 passionate sides of the Greyhound racing story. Both  
14 sides claim they care about the dogs, but we're  
15 asking for two different outcomes for Proposal 67.

16 So which side do you believe?

17 Allow me to suggest that you ask yourself this  
18 question: Why is a person speaking really here  
19 today, love of the dogs or love of money, because it  
20 can't be both?

21 The people here who are making money off dog  
22 racing have already had a voice in Tallahassee for  
23 years. The rest of us here speaking today because we  
24 love the dogs, we have not had a voice on the dog  
25 racing issue. So please pass Proposal 67 to give all

1 dog lovers a chance to have a voice on dog racing,  
2 not just the people who are in it for the money.

3 One cannot both care about the Greyhounds and  
4 support racing, because how can you continue to breed  
5 and continue to race these dogs knowing that 400 dogs  
6 have died on Florida tracks since 2013. That's the  
7 state numbers, not a different -- not some made-up  
8 propaganda.

9 Sixty-seven dogs have died right here in St.  
10 Pete at that Derby Track. No one knows how many dogs  
11 have been injured because the people who make money  
12 off dog racing have fought all legislative efforts to  
13 require injury reporting. We all know that.

14 Those who support racing may tell you the dog  
15 death toll, it's not that bad, but why are we, as a  
16 state, okay with dog racing when it has the potential  
17 to kill any number of dogs.

18 For gambling?

19 I don't think we are. I don't think we're okay  
20 with that. We have outlawed gambling -- we have  
21 outlawed dog fighting because we, as a society, have  
22 realized that gambling on dogs engaging in a  
23 life-threatening activity is inconsistent with our  
24 values. There must come at -- there must come a  
25 point in dog racing where our values exceed their

1           desire for money. That point is now.

2           I understand you will hear and consider many  
3           proposals and not all will make it on the ballot.  
4           Proposal 67 is literally a life-and-death issue, so  
5           please support Proposal 67.

6           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comment.

7           You are?

8           MR. BOWMAN: Good evening. My name is Todd  
9           Bowman. I'm a resident of St. Petersburg.

10          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

11          MR. BOWMAN: I wanted to come here tonight  
12          actually just to speak to you about my four-legged  
13          best friend Bruce.

14          Now, I've had Bruce for a few years now and he  
15          does everything with me. Rarely is there something  
16          that I do that I can't do with him: Spend my  
17          weekends doing whatever he does happy, whether it's a  
18          day at the park or the beach, dog-friendly  
19          bar/restaurant. I spoil him because I love him, and  
20          I will continue to spoil him each day of his life  
21          because his life is a blessing to mine.

22          I love him because he unconditionally loves me,  
23          and you would all love Bruce, everyone does. When we  
24          take him out, people can't help but stop and play  
25          with him. He just wants to love you and be with you

1 and lean on you and just do everything with you.

2 That's what love of a dog is.

3 Now, the folks behind me, they say they love  
4 their Greyhounds too, but a gentleman earlier said  
5 that they get out for six hours, not two.

6 Well, that means they're still caged for 18  
7 hours. They're run in any conditions in any weather,  
8 and if 400 of them have died since 2013, how can you  
9 say you love an animal that you're possibly working  
10 to death?

11 And what about the thousands of them that are  
12 bred that aren't raced and aren't adopted; what do  
13 they think happens to these dogs?

14 Sure, a lot of folks have said that all the dogs  
15 they get to adopt are healthy and they look good.  
16 Well, those are the dogs they get. I mean, what  
17 about all the other dogs; what about the ones who are  
18 injured?

19 You know, we don't know how many there are  
20 because they have fought injury reporting every step  
21 of the way. If the racing is so compassionate, why  
22 would they fight that?

23 I beg you to support Proposition 67. Please  
24 give the voters a chance to end this horrific  
25 practice.

1           And while I have 18 seconds, I just also want to  
2           voice my support for Proposition 91. I really don't  
3           think our economy and our coast and our environment  
4           need to be put at the risk of further drilling after  
5           what's happened in the Gulf both in October and back  
6           in the Deep Water Horizon.

7           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

8           MR. GONZALEZ: Hello, my name is David Gonzalez  
9           and I'm here -- well, I wasn't expecting to be here  
10          today when I woke up.

11          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Neither was I.

12          MR. GONZALEZ: And I wanted to thank you all  
13          first to be here.

14          My family's all from Cuba and I can't imagine  
15          anybody in Cuba spending until 10 o'clock at night  
16          arguing about Greyhound racing. I'm not here about  
17          the Greyhounds; I don't have a dog in that race.  
18          My -- the reason I'm here is because of Proposition  
19          3. Not as it is, as the amendments that were added  
20          specifically this morning that I know they have not  
21          been voted on, but they were reprehensible enough for  
22          me to come down here today and talk about it.

23          While state bill 702.56 was passed on Friday,  
24          part of that prohibition is the -- is the prohibition  
25          of firearms ownership for adults 18 to 20 years old.

1 I understand this is in response to the events at  
2 Parkland -- largely events of Parkland and also the  
3 events down in Orlando in the nightclub shooting last  
4 year, or two years ago now. I believe this is  
5 reprehensible because of this -- this prohibition is  
6 on the amendments right now for those laws, and I  
7 actually have two cousins that were down in Parkland,  
8 and should this pass, they would basically be unable  
9 to lawfully defend themselves until they turn 21.

10 As of right now section -- I don't believe this  
11 should be in a constitutional right. Right now the  
12 law 790.06, the license to concealed carry firearms,  
13 regulates what can and can't happen, and I understand  
14 you have to go to your constituents and you have to  
15 say, what will you do against the violence?

16 Right now the concealed carry permit license  
17 gives protections to most places. There are specific  
18 exemptions on what can be open and concealed carry,  
19 and this would be taken to account with any potential  
20 shooter in the future.

21 One of those places, if you look through the  
22 list in 790.16 is actually in a legislature or a  
23 meeting, which, as you can see, there are police  
24 right here to enforce that. Another place would be  
25 schools, which Parkland has 3,000 students and only

1 had one police officer that day, and the nightclub  
2 only had one guard that night for 500 people.

3 So please do not pass any sort of extension to  
4 Proposition 3.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 Jahtia Haynes.

7 Thank you.

8 Sorry, I can't read your writing.

9 Dana --

10 MS. HAYNES: Jahtia.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: See, you were wrong too.

12 MS. HAYNES: It's usually hard to pronounce.

13 Don't worry, you're not alone.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Pretty name.

15 MS. HAYNES: Thank you.

16 Thank you so much for being here with us  
17 tonight. In order to accommodate time, I will keep  
18 it short.

19 My name is Jahtia Haynes and I do ask that you  
20 please support Proposal 97 because we need to make  
21 sure that all voters, not just a select few, are  
22 informed of an amendment to the Florida constitution  
23 before they vote.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

1 Chris Capozziello. Is Chris here?

2 Oh, hi. I'm sure I did really bad with that  
3 name.

4 MS. CAPOZZIELLO: No, you did fine.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Oh, did I? Come on forward  
6 then, please.

7 Richard Murphy. Mr. Murphy, please step  
8 forward.

9 Go ahead, Chris. Thank you.

10 MS. CAPOZZIELLO: Okay. Hi. I'm a resident of  
11 Pinellas County and I'm here to support Proposal 67.

12 I was not planning on speaking, I'm very nervous  
13 speaking in front of people, but as the night went on  
14 and I just heard both sides, I felt I needed to say  
15 something. But, basically, all I want to say is just  
16 please give the Florida voters a chance to vote. I  
17 think if we had a chance, you would see the majority  
18 would be against this cruel industry that exploits  
19 the dogs.

20 There's always two sides to the story. They're  
21 asking you to go check out their farms and their  
22 tracks, and I think you should on unannounced visits.  
23 People have tried before and been turned away or  
24 asked to wait, so, again, I guess the biggest point  
25 is just let us have a chance to vote.

1 Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. Murphy, Brittney Gaudet,  
3 Delphine Gabriel, Mark Skogman and Mark Klutto.

4 Mr. Murphy, please proceed.

5 MR. MURPHY: Thank you, sir.

6 Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for the time. I  
7 know it's getting late. I'll try to be brief.

8 My name is Richard Murphy. I'm a former Florida  
9 school board member, 14 years, elected in Hendry  
10 County, former sup intendant 4 years in Florida. I'm  
11 also a teacher and educator. I've taught in Manatee,  
12 Highlands, and also administrator in Palm Beach  
13 County. I'm here to speak about 43 first, about term  
14 limits for school board members.

15 Counties by law have a way of putting this on  
16 the ballot. I think it should be allowed for them to  
17 do that. Also, you lose good veteran board members  
18 when you have term limits because you have a lot of  
19 new ones coming in. You have to have leadership. I  
20 can tell you during the great recession if I had had  
21 veteran board members, we'd never made it through it.

22 Also, local county voters will make the changes  
23 for you and not -- many counties want 66 counties to  
24 make that decision for them on a referendum  
25 amendment.

1           What is superintendent? Twenty-six counties are  
2 appointed, 41 are elected, medium, small counties,  
3 and parents and voters lose their voice in my  
4 opinion. Counties have the authority to place it on  
5 the ballot. Some of them do, some of it pass, some  
6 it doesn't. They let the voters decide. That  
7 county, not 66 other counties.

8           Elected superintendents have to listen to the  
9 board members, their employees, the parents, the  
10 voters of that county and all the business people of  
11 that county. I believe that it should be left up  
12 to -- these two, number 43 and 33, be left up to the  
13 individual counties and not be voted on by 66 other  
14 counties. Let the individual voters make that  
15 decision. Give us local school control.

16           That's all we hear. We want to give local  
17 school boards local control.

18           Well, you do or you don't. So that's my  
19 understanding of this, and I think your time is very  
20 valuable and I appreciate that. Thank you.

21           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

22           Yes, ma'am. Your name?

23           MS. GAUDET: Brittney Gaudet.

24           Members of the Constitution Revision Commission,  
25 I would like to start by thanking you for taking the

1 time to hear the people of St. Petersburg today.

2 As I said, my name is Brittney Gaudet and I'm a  
3 resident of St. Petersburg and a first year medical  
4 student at the University of South Florida's Morsani  
5 College of Medicine. I'm here this evening to urge  
6 you to reject efforts to revive and vote again on  
7 Proposal 22.

8 This proposal threatens to restrict the right to  
9 privacy of residents across the state and alarming  
10 could apply to patient care settings.

11 As a future physician in the state of Florida,  
12 it is imperative for my success and the health of my  
13 patients that I build strong, trustworthy and private  
14 relationships with those whose health and wellbeing I  
15 am entrusted. I urge this body to support my efforts  
16 to do so by ensuring that the difficult, deeply  
17 personal and joyous elements of my patients' lives  
18 are protected not only by their medical providers,  
19 but by the state in which they chose to live.

20 Passage of Proposal 22 has a very real and  
21 insidious potential to undermine the delegate,  
22 sometimes volatile, and incredibly important  
23 relationship between health care providers and their  
24 patients. If patients cannot confide in those who  
25 have been called to heal, how then can physicians do

1           their best to ensure the health and wellbeing for  
2           those whom they are responsible.

3           The insidious potentials that this proposal  
4           carries extend far beyond the patient provider  
5           relationship, however, it jeopardizes the rights of  
6           Florida women not only to privacy but to reproductive  
7           health care as well. There's nothing more  
8           fundamental to a women's private life than the right  
9           to decide the most intimate, personal and difficult  
10          decision of whether or not to carry a pregnancy to  
11          term, and there's nothing more crucial to my future  
12          as a primary care provider in this state than to be  
13          supported by the state in building trusting, strong  
14          relationships with my patients so I am able to stand  
15          by and support Florida women and their partners and  
16          whatever option they chose for themselves.

17          I would urge you strongly to ensure that the  
18          protections guaranteed under the privacy clause in  
19          the constitution continue to protect Florida women  
20          and their families.

21                CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

22                MS. GAUDET: Thank you.

23                CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

24                Yes, sir. You're?

25                MR. KLUTHO: Mark Klutho, Largo.

1           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Go ahead.

2           MR. KLUTHO: Yeah. Sixty-seven, let it go to  
3 voters.

4           I'm not getting paid by anyone, and it's a shame  
5 that there are all of these claims about lies, but  
6 it's also a shame that, you know, the animals must be  
7 used for amusement. The subjugation is a doggone  
8 crime.

9           You know, they don't have a say, do they?  
10 That's -- now, that's a doggone shame.

11          Now, 91. Yeah, our beautiful coast. You know,  
12 that's a big deal here. Tourism, number one industry  
13 for Florida, I believe.

14          Well, here's the book, *The Sixth Extinction*.  
15 This is the state of the world today. There have  
16 been five before. Humans didn't have a hand in any  
17 of those, but doing drilling, it will just hasten it,  
18 what's going to come. Would not be smart. Not smart  
19 at all.

20          CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

21          Delphine Gabriel, Mark Skogman, Darlene Pawa --  
22 P-a-w-a-b-o, I think. Donna Rich, Craig Fox, Sharie  
23 Lesniak, and Donna Grace, and that completes the  
24 roll.

25          Please.

1           MR. BLANCHARD: We must have got skipped,  
2           several of us.

3           CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay. Well, we're still here.

4           MR. BLANCHARD: My name is Jim -- I know. We've  
5           been here a long time.

6           My name is Jim Blanchard. I'm president of the  
7           Florida Greyhound Association. I'm here to defend  
8           our industry once again.

9           I'm going to skip part of that because I'm going  
10          to go -- we do still invite you or your staff to a  
11          kennel, a farm or track visit unannounced. Just have  
12          an open mind. Out-of-state radicals will not advise  
13          that.

14          As for injuries, they do occur, and as I've  
15          stated before, almost all of the injuries could be  
16          preventative and eliminated by passage of the  
17          Smith/Rader Greyhound Safety Act.

18          These two organizations opposing the bill, along  
19          with the senate leadership, they want to only report  
20          injuries; they don't want to prevent them. The  
21          legislature recently adjourned, and with the senate's  
22          attempt to pass slot machines, decouple racing, and  
23          that would also allow permits to move in Dade and  
24          Broward Counties. The House leadership seen it for  
25          what it was, the largest expansion of gambling in

1 Florida's history.

2 On birth control for Greyhounds, the House  
3 leadership followed the accepted guidelines for the  
4 division of parimutuel wagering and the ARCI, which  
5 also was low-dose testosterone.

6 These are just a few examples why CP 67 does not  
7 belong in the Constitution. The Bert Harris Act  
8 holding the citizens of Florida responsible for  
9 hundreds of millions of damages is another. And by  
10 the way, the petition that President Dorchak alluded  
11 to, this is what it read: Stop innocent Greyhounds  
12 from being electrocuted.

13 As of 6/17, it did have 103,035 supporters, but  
14 only 7,987 supporters are registered Florida voters.  
15 Just more deception, deceit.

16 Please visit our Florida Greyhound Association  
17 Facebook page. We have truth and facts there that  
18 can be easily checked.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: What was your name again?

20 MR. BLANCHARD: Jim Blanchard.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay.

22 MR. BLANCHARD: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

24 MS. RICH: Thank you.

25 My name's Donna Rich. I'm a resident and

1 registered voter of Hillsborough County. I moved  
2 there in August 2016 when I was ousted from my home  
3 in New Port Richey from a family court order of  
4 Pinellas County. My boyfriend of over 10 years had  
5 to go through a divorce process in this county which  
6 lasted 10 years just to get a divorce. And during  
7 that process, he lost his son and our home due to a  
8 runaway litigation and false accusations of domestic  
9 violence, parental alienation, child abduction, and  
10 now is facing permanent alimony payable to his ex in  
11 the amount of \$10,000 per month.

12 There is no escape from the atrocities of family  
13 court. This is an institution that violates the  
14 constitution on a daily basis. Children are being  
15 caught in the middle of their parents' wars, and they  
16 are being subjected to a lot of mental and emotional  
17 abuse.

18 My boyfriend had to go to court four years to  
19 fight for equality in the parenting opportunities for  
20 his son because the other parent didn't want to give  
21 more than four days a month.

22 Four days a month is the minimum that the state  
23 allows for time-sharing for parents and their  
24 children. A child doesn't want only four days with  
25 their parent. They want as much time as possible

1 with their mom and their dad.

2 Fathers' rights have to take precedent because  
3 children are suffering. False accusations of  
4 domestic violence are the silver bullet that harm too  
5 many children. These things have to stop.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your --

7 MS. RICH: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Ma'am.

9 Yes, ma'am.

10 MS. RICH: Thank you, Senator Lee, for 668.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

12 Your name, ma'am?

13 MS. LESNIAK: Sharie Lesniak.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Sharie.

15 MS. LESNIAK: I'm here today in support of 67.

16 I recently moved back to St. Petersburg after being  
17 away for about 18 years. And, you know, times do  
18 change. I mean, it used to be the nearly wed -- or  
19 the newly wed and the nearly dead, and St. Pete does  
20 not hold that anymore.

21 So I think what I'm here to say is, you know, we  
22 really need to put this 67 on the ballot. We need to  
23 give the Florida voters a chance to say -- to really  
24 vote on the change that we're kind of going through.  
25 As we know, Ringling has given up their elephants,

1 Sea World has stopped breeding orcas, and times  
2 change and people change, we learn things, and  
3 there's nothing against the people or anything in the  
4 industry, but it's time the Florida voters had a  
5 chance to vote.

6 And I would also like to say please also for 91  
7 give us a chance to save our coast and keep our  
8 state, as beautiful as it has become.

9 Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Great. Thank you.

11 Yes, ma'am.

12 MS. HAMPTON: Hi, my name's LaDonna Hampton.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: LaDonna Hampton, thank you.

14 MS. HAMPTON: I'm here today to speak in  
15 opposition of Proposal 67.

16 I've worked with Greyhounds since 2006, starting  
17 out as a kennel helper and working my way up to being  
18 a trainer and starting a 501(c)(3) adoption group. I  
19 work with our dogs for their entire lives, and before  
20 you judge my family and my business, before you take  
21 my job and my children's security, I implore you to  
22 come visit our kennel, come play with our dogs and  
23 come see the truth.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.

1 I've called everybody. That doesn't mean that  
2 there wasn't -- somebody got called while they were  
3 out, but as far as I'm concerned, is there anybody  
4 else that would like to speak?

5 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I just want to thank you  
6 guys for spending as much time here. I know it's  
7 been a hard day for everybody. Thank you very much.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: That's what we signed up for.  
9 I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

10 UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Move.

11 UNIDENTIFIED FEMALE: Second.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

13 (Proceedings adjourned at 11:31 p.m.)  
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## CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

STATE OF FLORIDA )

COUNTY OF PINELLAS )

I, RUTH A. CARNEY, Registered Professional Reporter,  
do hereby certify that I was authorized to and did  
stenographically report the CONSTITUTION REVIEW COMMISSION  
MEETING; that a review of the transcript was not  
requested; and that the foregoing transcript, pages 1  
through 476, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am not a relative, employee,  
attorney, or counsel of any of the parties, nor am I a  
relative or employee of any of the parties' attorney or  
counsel connected with the action, nor am I financially  
interested in the action.

DATED this 2nd day of April, 2018.



Ruth A. Carney  
Registered Professional Reporter