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STATE OF FLORIDA
CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION
FEBRUARY 20, 2018

TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC HEARING

DATE TAKEN: Tuesday, February 20, 2018
TIME: 1:03 p.m. to 7:09 p.m.
PLACE: University of North Florida
Herbert University Center
12000 Alumni Drive
Jacksonville, Florida 32224

This cause came on to be heard at the time and place aforesaid, when and where the following proceedings were reported by:

Naomi McCracken, Court Reporter

Precision Court Reporting, LLC
4600 Touchton Road East, Bldg. 100, Suite 150
Jacksonville, Florida 32246
(904) 629-5310

1 COMMISSIONERS:

2 Carlos Beruff, Chairman
3 Timothy Cerio
4 Hank Coxe
5 Don Gaetz
6 Roberto Martinez
7 Brecht Heuchan
8 Gary Lester
9 John Stargel
10 Sherry Plymale
11 Patricia Levesque
12 Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch
13 Carolyn Timmann
14 T. Nichole Washington

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P R O C E E D I N G S

1
2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Hello. Good afternoon,
3 everyone. If everybody will take their seats, we'll
4 get this meeting started. We like to be punctual
5 because it's your time. We don't want to keep you
6 waiting.

7 So I'd like to say for -- if you would take all
8 your phones and turn them off or put them on vibrate
9 before we start the meeting so that people who want to
10 speak are not interrupted.

11 Today's our third stop on our Road to the Ballot,
12 which is next November, for you to have your comments
13 heard by this Commission on the 37 pending proposals
14 before us.

15 Before we begin, I would like to thank the
16 University of North Florida for allowing us to use
17 this beautiful center, and, specifically, Lillian, for
18 helping us get set up today. She has volunteered to
19 spend the day with us. And I don't know if she'll
20 regret that later, but not now.

21 My name is Carlos Beruff. I'm the Chairman of
22 the Constitution Revision Commission appointed by
23 Governor Rick Scott. Today I am joined by a whole
24 bunch of Commissioners. You know why, don't you?
25 Because we're close to Tallahassee, in Jacksonville.

1 On my far right is president -- Commissioner
2 Gaetz, then Commissioner Timmann, Commissioner
3 Levesque, Commissioner Plymale; on my left,
4 Commissioner Coxe, Commissioner Thurlow-Lippisch. And
5 Commissioner Heuchan is here but he's -- Heuchan has
6 stepped out. Behind me is Commissioner Martinez,
7 Commissioner Lester, Commissioner Cerio, Commissioner
8 Washington and John Stargel.

9 We are pleased to be here today, and we're going
10 to be led, if we'll -- if everybody will stand,
11 Commissioner Plymale will lead us in the invocation.

12 COMMISSIONER PLYMALE: Dear Lord, we offer our
13 sincere Condolences to those victims, families and all
14 people with Parkland and -- and all of the people of
15 Florida and ask for your grace to help them through
16 this devastating time.

17 We thank you for the opportunity to be gathered
18 here today with our fellow citizens as we prepare to
19 participate in our great democracy. Please gift us
20 with wisdom and the grace to respect each other's
21 opinions, even when they are different from our own.

22 Finally, bless everyone here to have a safe and
23 productive day.

24 Amen.

25 ALL: Amen.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Commissioner Coxe will lead us
2 in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3 COMMISSIONER COXE: Mr. Chair, if we could use
4 the screen, here.

5 I pledge allegiance...

6 (The Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Today we request that you focus
8 your attention to the 37 remaining proposals.
9 Everyone will have two minutes to speak. And we would
10 appreciate, if you support something, if you have a
11 green card, that you wave it, a red card if you're in
12 opposition. But we really would like to keep the
13 outbursts to a minimum because we have a lot of people
14 who want to speak. We want to make sure they're
15 heard, politely, and their time isn't wasted.

16 (Inaudible.)

17 We -- right.

18 We are going to -- I want to turn the gravel over
19 to Commissioner Coxe who will start calling people up
20 to the podium. There are one, two -- three mics, and
21 you're welcome to use whichever one's most convenient
22 to you.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER COXE: I may call a few at a time so
25 we can move this along. There is a two-minute limit.

1 We ask that you abide by that out of respect for other
2 people who wish to speak. It is not my style to
3 interrupt people when they're speaking to cut them
4 off, so what I would like to do with about 15 seconds
5 left is just make a hand gesture that you're getting
6 very close, and, hopefully, that would work that way.
7 We call them in the order in which people signed up
8 when they came in, so there is no order other than
9 that.

10 And I begin with Proposition 88, John Simmons.
11 You can go to -- either microphone works. Andrew
12 Huston, 62; David Keebler, 88; Mark Pruitt, 54.

13 Mr. Simmons?

14 MR. SIMMONS: Yes. Thank you.

15 My name is John Simmons. I am the president of
16 the Florida Healthcare Association and I'm also the
17 Executive Director of Avante Villa at Jacksonville
18 Beach.

19 I am a licensed nursing home administrator. In
20 fact, I helped write the first national licensure exam
21 for nursing home administrators in the early 1970s.
22 And it may surprise people to know that a nursing home
23 administrator has to be licensed whereas a hospital
24 administrator does not.

25 I want to talk about Proposition 88. This

1 proposal is really not about improving care. It's
2 about lawsuits, plain and simple. It will allow
3 attorneys to sue my investors, people who have no
4 involvement in the care that myself and my team
5 provide. It doesn't have anything to do with them.

6 Lawsuits don't improve care; caregivers improve
7 care. And that's where we need to be putting our
8 money. The vast majority of nursing homes in this
9 state are caring, compassionate people who want to
10 take good care.

11 We have demonstrated over the years that I've
12 been -- I've been here since 2001 -- that we are
13 looking for improving of care.

14 Our quality care program is one of the finest in
15 the nation. In fact, other people come to the Florida
16 Healthcare Association to -- to look at those kinds of
17 issues.

18 One of the things that this proposition will
19 require us to have is minimum insurance, and there are
20 no companies that will write insurance policies in
21 Florida for us so we'll have to set money aside to
22 cover any lawsuit potentials. That's money that could
23 be spent on patient care, on improving the buildings
24 and that sort of thing.

25 This proposal does not belong in the Constitution

1 and I urge you to vote against it.

2 I'd like to see some green cards.

3 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Mr. Simmons.

4 Let me remind my fellow Commissioners that these
5 microphones remain continuously open unless you hold
6 the button down to turn them off.

7 Andrew Huston, 90 -- excuse me -- 62.

8 MR. HUSTON: Good afternoon. My name is Andrew
9 Huston. I'm an unpaid volunteer for Progress For All
10 in Florida Fair and Open Primaries and I would like to
11 personally thank Commissioner Schifino, Coxe,
12 Martinez, Newsome for having the courage to propose
13 and push meaningful electoral reform with P-62, a top-
14 two open primary initiative that will allow Florida's
15 3.4 million NPA voters a voice in the primary
16 elections. Without these gentlemen, this proposal
17 never would have made it out of Elections and Ethics,
18 and it did make it out. I -- we have some work ahead
19 of us to get this thing clawed back in the coming
20 days.

21 As has been stated numerous times for the record,
22 now the people of Florida are strongly behind the
23 initiatives of expanded democratic processes, include
24 NPAs in the primary election processes, yet it remains
25 to be determined if this body will act in line with

1 the will of the people. True representative democracy
2 is nothing to fear and we should be at the forefront
3 of every decision that we make.

4 Elections and Ethics heard from three separate
5 county election supervisors this fall. They agreed on
6 these key findings:

7 The number of registered Independents is
8 exploding across the state, trending to outpace Rs and
9 Ds in the coming years. In some counties, it's
10 already doing so now. Closed primaries are a
11 significant source of voter confusion, and, also,
12 voters in the state of Florida are upset. They're
13 angry.

14 The supervisors also noted that Florida's primary
15 elections have notoriously low turnout, yet they
16 determine the eventual winners in 90 percent of the
17 races. Only 16 percent of Florida's races were
18 competitive in 2016.

19 Primary elections have become the most meaningful
20 step in selecting our representatives, yet 3.4 million
21 taxpayers cannot participate, though they directly
22 fund these public initiatives, these public elections.
23 A top-two open primary addresses each and every one of
24 these concerns.

25 It is for these reasons that I strongly urge all

1 in attendance to watch the four Elections and Ethics
2 hearings through the CRC website, and then watch the
3 general provisions vote which happened immediately
4 after the passing in Elections and Ethics.

5 I will leave it here on the record to say that
6 this is a highly-questionable vote. I will even go as
7 far as to say that it was pre-determined, as there was
8 no interest in discussion or debate in the empty
9 chamber room with four hours to fill.

10 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

11 MR. HUSTON: I strongly urge Commissioner
12 Schifino, Coxe and Martinez and Newsome to claw back
13 P-62.

14 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Mr. Keebler [sic].
15 Mark Pruitt, Number 54.

16 MR. PRUITT: Thank you, Commissioner. And thank
17 you guys for your service.

18 Name is Mark Timothy Pruitt and I would like to
19 take a minute to address Proposal 54 regarding
20 Certificate of Need. Everyone in our community
21 deserves access to the best, most affordable
22 healthcare. The repeal of CON and deregulation of
23 healthcare has a potential to dramatically increase
24 healthcare costs as well as lead to a significant
25 decrease in quality of healthcare across Florida.

1 It also has the potential to significantly decrease
2 access to quality healthcare, making it harder to
3 obtain necessary services that are currently available
4 in our community.

5 While some say that eliminating CON creates more
6 competition and drives down costs, the opposite is
7 more likely to happen. The healthcare industry is
8 heavily regulated by both state and federal
9 government, making it unlike any other business in the
10 free market. Adding competition in healthcare doesn't
11 drive quality and lower costs like it does in a free
12 market economy. Instead, costs will increase.

13 With the repeal of CON, we will most likely see a
14 significant increase in new hospitals in our
15 community, and independent hospitals are likely to be
16 consolidated into larger healthcare systems. These
17 large systems will have more leverage to negotiate
18 higher reimbursement rates from insurance companies.
19 This higher insurance cost will be passed through to
20 consumers, increasing their insurance premiums and
21 deductibles.

22 While we are likely to experience an increase in
23 costs, we are likely to see a decline in quality of
24 care in our community. It is well-documented that the
25 more times a hospital performs a procedure, the better

1 the outcome. With CON in place, hospitals gain
2 expertise in specific procedures due to increased
3 volume among fewer hospitals.

4 Based on our research and healthcare experience,
5 it is our recommendation to continue Certificate of
6 Need regulation in the state of Florida. CON is
7 working in Florida. It is an effective tool that
8 keeps costs in check and protects the quality and
9 access of care in our community.

10 Thank you very much.

11 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

12 If I don't pronounce a name correctly, please
13 state your name when you get to the microphone.

14 Susan Aertker, 4, 45 and 91; Michael Smith,
15 Megan Sams, Craig Daniels.

16 MS. AERTKER: My name is Susan Aertker. My
17 grandparents didn't graduate from high school. My
18 parents didn't graduate from college. My dad was in
19 the Navy and we moved all around the country. I
20 attended many neighborhood public schools. I feel
21 very grateful that they were available and offered me
22 opportunities. I graduated from the University of
23 Florida in 1976, and I obtained my CPA certificate
24 that same year. Without the opportunity of public
25 education, I feel I would be in poverty today.

1 My worry is that the goal of Proposal 4 and
2 Proposal 45 is to destroy our neighborhood schools by
3 diverting funds away from the public schools to
4 private, religious schools.

5 I have come here today to ask you to please vote
6 no on both Proposal 4 and Proposal 45.

7 I went to Baptist churches through high school.
8 I was baptized in the Church of Christ in college. I
9 realize that many people get their strength and
10 kindness from their religion.

11 Our First Amendment was designed to allow
12 religion to flourish on its own merits and with the
13 help of its congregation.

14 Please preserve Florida's Article I, Section 3,
15 Religious Freedom. Please vote no on Proposal 4, and
16 no (A) clause should remain in Article I, Section 3,
17 Religious Freedom.

18 Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

20 Michael Smith?

21 MR. SMITH: Hello, Chairman. Thank you and
22 the -- and, Commissioners, for allowing us to speak
23 today.

24 Again, my name is Michael Smith. I've been a
25 resident in the state of Florida for over 47 years.

1 I've been in the healthcare industry for over 32
2 years.

3 I'm here to talk -- to oppose the elimination of
4 Hospice CON via Florida Constitution Amendment
5 Proposal Number 54 to remove hospice.

6 Hospice Certificate of Need is a complex issue
7 and should be considered by the Florida Legislature
8 and not decided by the constitutional amendment.
9 Elimination of Hospice CON will not lead to a free
10 market for hospice.

11 Ninety-five percent of hospice care is paid by
12 the federal government through Medicare or Medicaid.
13 Reimbursement rates are fixed; they are not subject to
14 a free-market economy. Hospice are paid on a daily
15 per diem rate as a risk-assumed benefit providing for
16 services, products, durable medical equipment, et
17 cetera. It is not based on a fee for service or for
18 products.

19 Need for additional hospice programs are
20 currently analyzed twice a year by -- by ACA,
21 applications submitted and certificates awarded to
22 meet Florida's growing need.

23 The -- the concern in here is, really, that we --
24 elderly are throughout our state. ACA cannot keep up
25 with dealing with the hospices that they try to

1 regulate now. If you add more hospices, quality of
2 care will go down in the state of Florida. There's no
3 question about it. So we -- we are opposing 54.

4 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

5 Megan Sams?

6 MS. SAMS: Good morning -- I guess good afternoon
7 at this point.

8 Thank you, Chairman, Commissioners, for allowing
9 us to come before you today.

10 I've been a Florida resident for over ten years
11 and a registered voter in our community. I am
12 respectfully requesting the CRC to amend the Proposal
13 54 to remove hospice from this. Hospice patients will
14 be harmed if hospice CON is abolished as part of the
15 Florida Constitution. It will adversely affect the
16 quality of care vulnerable patients in our community
17 will receive, as well as the care their families
18 receive as part of the hospice benefit.

19 It is the Legislators' job to make laws. The
20 issue does not belong in the Constitution. What would
21 be lost?

22 Regulatory structure. There would be chaos in
23 hospice without regulatory structure. Hospice
24 regulation is tied to the current CON process, not in
25 licensure.

1 Access. Rural -- rural families and lower income
2 neighborhoods could lose access to hospice services
3 altogether if the CON is removed.

4 Quality. Currently there are few founded Hospice
5 complaints annually. If a hospice CON is eliminated
6 and regulation lost, hospice will turn into a
7 complaint-driven industry. There are no second
8 chances or do-overs available in end-of-life care.

9 Cost Savings. Hospice saves the taxpayers money.
10 It reduces ER visits and hospital readmissions.
11 Hospice provides the care that people want.

12 Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Ms. Sands.

14 Craig Daniels?

15 MR. DANIELS: Again, my name is Craig Daniels.

16 Thank you, Chairman and Commissioners.

17 I respectfully request the CRC amend Proposal
18 Number 54 to not remove hospice.

19 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Mr. Daniels.

20 Pamela Dry on 54; Michael Morado or Morado,
21 Randal Agostini, Linda Mann.

22 MS. DRY: Good afternoon. Pamela Dry. I have
23 been a Florida resident for over 50 years, I've been
24 in the healthcare industry for over 20 years and I'm
25 currently a -- been a registered voter.

1 I respectfully request the CRC amend Proposal
2 Number 54 to remove hospice.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Ms. Dry.

5 Michael -- is it Morado or Morado?

6 MR. MORADO: It's Morado.

7 COMMISSIONER COXE: It's Morado.

8 MR. MORADO: Thank you, Commissioners.

9 In reference to Proposal Number 54, I've been a
10 Florida resident and healthcare worker for over nine
11 years and respectfully request the CRC amend Proposal
12 Number 54 to remove hospice and deregulation of the
13 CON.

14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

16 Randal Agostini.

17 MR. AGOSTINI: My name is Randal Agostini.

18 Yesterday, I asked a lady why she did not want
19 Proposition 4 to be on the referendum. Her reply
20 surprised me. She did not want the prayer at the
21 beginning of the meeting. This is why I'm here again
22 today.

23 Hate destroys. Love builds. Your work is made
24 more difficult when it is clouded by impassioned false
25 information. We know the Blaine Amendment was born in

1 an age when Protestant churches in America were afraid
2 of the great influx of Catholics from Italy and
3 Ireland. Failure to pass a bill in the Senate caused
4 38 states to introduce it into their Constitutional
5 law. It remains in Florida as Article I, Section 3.
6 This is discrimination.

7 Another false claim is that repeal of the
8 amendment is financially harmful to public schooling.
9 But study after study has shown that while, initially,
10 this may be true, it soon gives way to a competitive
11 environment where waste is reduced and efficiency
12 increased which lowers the cost of education per
13 child.

14 It is wrong that Christians must pay twice to
15 freely exercise their religion. It is our
16 Constitutional right, not a privilege. The secular
17 doctrine that is being forced upon our children in
18 public schools is eroding the very fabric of our
19 society.

20 Love and trust can only exist together. We are
21 witnesses of a society that is losing trust caused by
22 those who live in fear. The most corrosive fear is
23 caused by those who exercise power through control of
24 the money and the rules.

25 Surely, it is the parents who know best how to

1 spend their taxes on their children's education.
2 Florida parents approve this by choosing to send
3 92,000 of our poorest children to private schools to
4 better their chances in life.

5 Reduce hate, increase love, and repeal the Blaine
6 Amendment.

7 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

8 Linda Mann.

9 MS. MANN: Good afternoon. My name is Linda
10 Mann. I am president of the League of Women Voters --

11 COMMISSIONER COXE: Could you move --

12 MS. MANN: -- of Jacksonville. Thank you. And I
13 here today speaking on behalf of The League of Women
14 Voters. I am here to urge you to vote no on Proposals
15 4, 43, 45, 71 and 72, all of which would do harm to
16 public education.

17 I am concerned about any message -- any measure
18 that would allow taxpayer monies for public education
19 to be diverted to religious or private schools, which
20 4 and 45 expressly do. This idea was soundly rejected
21 by the voters in 2012.

22 Proposal 4 would repeal the No-Aid Provision of
23 the Florida Constitution, and, by doing so, would
24 compel taxpayers to fund religious -- religions that
25 they do not support or agree with.

1 Proposal 43 would dictate term limits for local
2 school boards, which should be up to local voters to
3 decide how long a member should serve, not the Florida
4 Constitution.

5 Proposal 71 removes control of charter schools
6 from the local school boards -- again, usurping
7 control of education from the local level.

8 And Proposal 72 perpetuates the current
9 underfunding of public schools by requiring a super
10 majority vote of the Legislature to raise taxes or
11 fees, an idea that would limit the ability of future
12 lawmakers to actively fund public education. Florida
13 ranks 46th in pre-K to 12 education. We should be
14 doing more for public education, not less.

15 In addition, while I recognize that gun safety is
16 not on the agenda here, given the events that have
17 occurred in Florida, I ask that the CRC respectfully
18 consider adding an assault weapons ban and large
19 magazine ban to their list of proposed constitutional
20 amendments and let the people of Florida have a voice
21 in that issue.

22 Thank you for your time.

23 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Ms. Mann.

24 Susan Bird, Alan Freed, Mark Dennett -- and it
25 appears to be Joyce Carla [sic] or Carta; I'm not sure

1 which.

2 Susan Bird?

3 MS. BIRD: Yes, sir.

4 Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. My name is
5 Susan Bird. I live in Flagler Beach and I work in
6 Jacksonville. I'm here today to urge you to vote yes
7 on Proposal 67 so that voters can decide in November
8 whether greyhound racing should be phased out by 2019.

9 As you know, 40 states have banned dog racing
10 completely. There are only 18 tracks left open in the
11 entire country and 12 of them are right here in
12 Florida.

13 That's a sad statistic. Somehow Florida is
14 woefully behind the times with respect to this issue.

15 Those of us who oppose greyhound racing have many
16 good reasons to do so. Racing dogs die: An average
17 of three die every day in Florida. Since the state
18 began tracking greyhound deaths in 2013, 438 dogs have
19 died on Florida tracks.

20 Racing dogs suffer injury. They break their
21 legs. They break their backs. They suffer skull
22 fractures. They sometimes are electrocuted on the
23 track.

24 Racing dogs are drugged to enhance performance.
25 All you have to do is Google to find multiple news

1 stories about greyhounds being given cocaine,
2 amphetamines and steroids.

3 Racing dogs live miserable lives. Approximately
4 8,000 greyhounds in Florida live 20 or more hours
5 locked in a cage. They sleep on carpet remanents and
6 shredded newspaper. What kind of life is this?

7 In short, racing dogs are merely tools of the
8 gambling trade. They're not treated as man's best
9 friend, but as fungible things used to make money.
10 That's just wrong, and it has to stop.

11 Surely, each of you has known and loved a dog in
12 your lifetime. Perhaps you're going home to one after
13 this hearing. Remember how you feel about that dog
14 when you vote on this issue.

15 Please give the greyhounds a fighting chance by
16 letting Florida voters decide the fate of greyhound
17 racing in this state.

18 Thank you for this opportunity to comment on
19 Proposal 67.

20 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

21 Alan Freed?

22 MR. FREED: Good afternoon. Thank you for the
23 opportunity to address you guys.

24 I would urge you to approve and support Proposal
25 67 also, and Florida dog -- greyhound racing in

1 Florida.

2 It's an abusive and inhumane blood sport.
3 Usually speaking, animals are used to make profit are
4 abused. The attendance at race tracks, I understand,
5 has drastically declined over the years and I think
6 most of the public is against greyhound racing. I
7 protest with a group of other people at a local race
8 track, and I can tell you that the passers-by, with
9 the two hours that we're protesting, are all positive
10 as to what we're trying to accomplish.

11 So, again, please approve Proposal 67. Thank
12 you.

13 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Mr. Freed.

14 Mark Dennett.

15 MR. DENNETT: My name is Mark Dennett and I come
16 here to -- before the Honorable Commissioners to speak
17 in support of Proposal 67. It is propitious to be
18 speaking on that considering that the lunar new year,
19 which just started two years ago, entered the Year of
20 the Dog.

21 I've been a member, and my wife's been a member,
22 of Grey2K for over 20 years and they have lots of good
23 facts at their support. But I'm not going to talk to
24 about facts. I'm going to talk to about this guy.
25 This is our current fur-baby. His AKC call name is

1 Foolish Inga -- Inga Gold Foolish Pleasure. He goes
2 by Gus-Gus Dennett, also Guster, Gusarama, the
3 Gusmeister. He's a seven-year-old golden retriever
4 and his favorite activities are eating, sleeping,
5 going for long walks, eating, getting petted, eating
6 and -- oh, did I mention eating?

7 When I think about this little fur-baby being
8 subjected to what the greyhounds are subjected to on a
9 daily basis, I want to throw up. I will get so angry.
10 The Romans were -- were great -- considered very
11 civilized, but they thought it was great sport to put
12 Christians and other people they disapproved of in
13 front of animals and get torn apart.

14 Elizabethan England thought it was great sport to
15 have bull baiting and bear baiting. Dog fighting and
16 cock fighting was, at one time, thought to be
17 wonderful.

18 When we treat animals more humanely, we become
19 more humane ourselves and closer to the beings that we
20 are currently meant to be.

21 Mahatma Gandhi said the greatest of the name --
22 the greatness of a nation and its moral progress can
23 be judged by the way its animals are treated. And
24 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, never, never be
25 afraid to do what is right if the well being of a

1 person or an animal is at stake.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

4 Joyce Carta.

5 MS. CARTA: It's Joyce Carta; yes.

6 Commissioners, I'm Joyce Carta, Board Vice
7 President of Greyhound Adoptions of Florida. We're
8 located in Marion County. I'm here to support
9 Proposal 67 and to thank Senator Tom Lee and his
10 colleagues, Senator Don Gaetz and Commissioner
11 Heuchan, for their championship of this cause so dear
12 to so many Floridians.

13 I will not review the salient animal welfare
14 points as I've heard enough of the testimony to date
15 to know that you have all heard of the confined living
16 conditions, the 4-D food, the drug positives, the
17 injuries and the deaths. All of these facts that just
18 don't jive with the we-love-our-greyhounds tale the
19 racing industry tells.

20 Here's what else doesn't jive: That the state of
21 Florida continues to prop a failed industry, an
22 industry that few outside this industry care about or
23 want, except it keeps the poker tables open. The vast
24 underlining truth is that dog racing's time is passed.

25 Lack of interest has teamed up with heightened

1 sensibilities that dogs are more like us than not.
2 They think and they feel, and this elevates them
3 beyond possession or commodity. Increasingly, animal
4 welfare laws are taking this position. Florida, with
5 its 12 tracks, now has this remarkable opportunity to
6 correct injustice and institutionalized abuse.

7 Thank you, Senator Lee, for letting the voters
8 decide. Grayhound Adoptions of Florida, in our almost
9 25 years of having helped rescue and re-home close to
10 5,000 racing greyhounds, we have one thing to say:
11 Put us out of business, please.

12 Vote yes for the dogs.

13 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

14 I'm going switch to doing five in a row now, so
15 Kate MacFall, Marie Colee, Carey Theil, Bob Asztalos
16 and Eric Weisz.

17 Kate MacFall.

18 MS. MACFALL: Thank you, sir. I'm Kate MacFall
19 with the Humane Society of the United States, our
20 nation's largest animal protection organization. We
21 strongly support Proposal 67 and are grateful for
22 President Gaetz's and Commissioner Heuchan's
23 leadership on this.

24 Members of the greyhound industry yesterday
25 denied the industry is dying, but don't take our word

1 for it. Jamie Shelton of Jacksonville Greyhound
2 Racing In 2013 said, quote, "There are just too many
3 other things to do out there today. Watching a
4 greyhound race is not the top of most people's
5 agenda," end quote.

6 And Orange Park Mayor Scott Land in 2017 said,
7 quote, "We feel that dog racing is becoming a thing of
8 the past. It seems the only publicity for dog racing
9 is negative publicity, which ultimately reflects on
10 the town."

11 And Jim O'Brien from Melbourne Greyhound Park in
12 2017 said, quote, "It's an industry that has seen its
13 time. I wish it -- it was better, but it's not. It's
14 nobody's fault; the world changes," end quote.

15 I agree with Mr. O'Brien. Dog racing doesn't go
16 with today's values.

17 We are here before you today asking for your
18 support for the dogs because we have tried for almost
19 a decade in the legislature to help the dogs, to pass
20 decoupling. This issue is so popular, the greyhounds
21 have been leveraged and used as a deal-sweetener by
22 casino owners. All the while, the dogs continue to be
23 held hostage.

24 Respectfully, I urge you to vote yes on 67.

25 Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

2 Marie Colee?

3 MS. COLEE: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My
4 name is Marie Colee.

5 COMMISSIONER COXE: Could you move a little
6 closer to the mic?

7 MS. COLEE: Yes, sir. Thank you.

8 I currently reside in St. Augustine, Florida and
9 appreciate the opportunity to speak in favor of
10 Proposal 96 today, also known as Marsy's Law.

11 My husband physically and verbally abused me for
12 22 years. I endured this for more than two decades
13 because I felt that I did not have a voice. I know
14 what happens to victims in the criminal justice
15 process: They're often re-victimized over and over
16 without the right to provide input or to be updated of
17 any major developments in their case. Even worse,
18 they're required to be deposed by the defense and
19 re-live their trauma again and again.

20 Navigating the criminal justice system can be
21 confusing, overwhelming, and a very frightening
22 experience for victims. Add to that a concern about
23 being re-traumatized by court proceedings, you see
24 many victims reluctant to take action against their
25 perpetrator.

1 I am speaking in favor of Proposal 96 because I
2 want other victims to know they do have a voice. I've
3 been a domestic violence survivor, soon to be 17
4 years, and I now proudly volunteer as a victim
5 advocate and speak with many women who've been abused.
6 It's painful to watch them go through the process and
7 the criminal justice, feeling voiceless, afraid and
8 alone. I console victims as they struggle with a lack
9 of information or updates on their case, or, worse,
10 when their abuser is released without their knowledge.
11 Most of all, I've supported victims who are left
12 voiceless in the court system, victims who are
13 heartbroken when they realize their abuser has more
14 rights than they do. I listen as they share their
15 stories and remind them that their voice does matter.

16 I want all victims of domestic violence to know
17 that if they take action against their abuser, they
18 will be treated with dignity, respect and compassion.
19 Proposal 96 will do exactly that. Although the
20 emotional damage of the abuse is long-lasting -- and
21 I'm sorry, I'll try to wrap this up -- and never
22 completely fade, Marsy's Law would provide much-needed
23 assurance and peace of mind.

24 COMMISSIONER COXE: Ms. Colee?

25 MS. COLEE: Yes, sir.

1 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

2 MS. COLEE: Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER COXE: Carey Theil?

4 MR. THEIL: Commissioners, Carey Theil, Executive
5 Director of Grey2KUSA, extremely grateful for
6 Commissioner Gaetz's --

7 COMMISSIONER COXE: Your microphone, Mr. Theil.

8 MR. THEIL: Extremely grateful for the leadership
9 of Commissioners Gaetz and Heuchan on Proposal 67. I
10 just want to address why this needs to be done as a
11 constitutional amendment.

12 First of all, the Florida Constitution, Article
13 X, Section 7, currently includes a grandfather clause
14 that authorizes gambling on greyhound racing. Second,
15 I have been honored over the past eight years to lead
16 a fight to reform this industry in the Legislature,
17 and every single year, our message of compassion has
18 been met with industry obstruction, with denials, with
19 rationalizations, and with personal attacks.

20 And let me give you some specific examples. When
21 we fought for greyhound injury reporting, the public
22 response from Jack Cory, lead lobbyist for the -- for
23 the Florida Greyhound Association, was saying a
24 politically-motivated reporting process does not stop
25 the injuries.

1 When we fought for a law to prohibit the use of
2 anabolic steroids in greyhounds, Mr. Cory said it's a
3 radical out-of-state animal rights group trying to do
4 away with the industry. It's harassment.

5 When Representative Moskowitz, Jared Moskowitz,
6 fought to crack down on the use of cocaine in this
7 industry, the industry floated a bill to legalize
8 cocaine. And, again, Mr. Cory said you can get a
9 nanogram of cocaine from touching a \$20 bill. He
10 really said that.

11 And, finally, when we fought to eliminate the
12 state dog racing mandate, he told the Spectrum
13 Report -- this is a direct quote -- Let's go back to
14 the voters and see if they want to cut back on live
15 racing.

16 I'm not sure, but this might be the first time
17 I've ever agreed with Jack Cory on anything.

18 It's a good proposal. I urge you to vote yes for
19 the dogs and support Proposal 67.

20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Mr. Theil.

22 Bob Asztalos? Am I pronouncing that correctly?

23 MR. ASZTALOS: Asztalos. That's --

24 COMMISSIONER COXE: Asztalos.

25 MR. ASZTALOS: -- close. Thank you.

1 Thank you, Commissioners, and my name is Bob
2 Asztalos with Florida Healthcare Association, and I'm
3 here to speak against Proposal 54, which would
4 eliminate the Certificate of Need process for nursing
5 homes, and it's nursing homes I'm specifically talking
6 about.

7 In 2014, actually under the leadership of
8 Senator -- President Don Gaetz, Florida enacted the
9 most modern Certificate of Need process for nursing
10 homes in the country. And what it did was it allowed
11 new nursing homes to be built. Over 30 have been
12 built since then or are in the pipeline. It allowed
13 nursing homes to rehabilitate, to replace older
14 nursing homes with newer beds. And it -- it ensures
15 that nursing homes are built where they need to be
16 built in the state. And it works well.

17 We -- we would oppose eliminating that
18 Certificate of Need process as Proposal 54 does. And
19 there are some -- some reasons why the CON's
20 important.

21 First, what it does is it ensures that you don't
22 have a two-tiered healthcare system where you have
23 boutique nursing homes taking private pay patients
24 only, and then you have under-funded Medicaid nursing
25 homes for the rest of the folks.

1 The other thing that it does is it ensures that
2 you have a vibrant home and community-based care.
3 People should receive care in their homes. And it
4 ensures that nursing homes do not go in and take folks
5 out of the community who should be properly there.

6 And the last thing that it does is it keeps
7 nursing homes efficient. Our occupancy rates in
8 Florida are nearly 90 percent. They're full. They're
9 running efficiently so they're better wards with the
10 state Medicaid money.

11 I would just ask, Commissioners, if you want to
12 look at the CON, look at Texas. The demographics are
13 the same. They have nearly the same amount of
14 seniors. Their nursing homes are 70 percent full.
15 They have quality issues, and they have twice as many
16 nursing homes taking care of the same population.

17 So I ask you to please vote against Proposal 54
18 as long as nursing homes are in there.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

21 Mr. Weisz? Am I pronouncing that correctly?

22 MR. WEISZ: Eric Weisz.

23 Good afternoon. My name's Eric Weisz. I'm the
24 Administrator of MacClenny Nursing and Rehab in
25 MacClenny, Florida, a 120-bed skilled nursing

1 facility. I'm here to ask you to vote against
2 Proposal 88. We have operated in MacClenny for many
3 years and had successful outcomes to multiple
4 residents and families, and, including in 2015,
5 receiving the Governor's Gold Seal Award. We provide
6 quality care every day to our most valuable adults and
7 our most valuable asset.

8 Proposal 88 does not add any additional rights
9 for our residents. We are the second highest industry
10 that's regulated, second to nuclear power plants.

11 This proposal takes away our resources for our
12 facilities, our staff, and, ultimately, our residents.
13 It requires additional insurance, as has been
14 discussed, and increases limits whereby there isn't
15 even an insurance agency out there willing to insure
16 us and look at us for the additional limit request.

17 We don't need the state constitution to please
18 tell us to provide exceptional care, because we
19 already do.

20 We do it through it our commitment, we do it
21 through our dedication, and we do it through our
22 continued compassion for our residents every single
23 day. Our caregivers do an excellent job. And we ask
24 you to please vote no on Proposal 88.

25 Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

2 I'm going to call five more: David Campbell, Tom
3 Cullen, Daniel Carr, Martin Goetz and Samir Gupte.

4 MR. CAMPBELL: Good afternoon. And I sure hope
5 your chair's more comfortable than the one I'm in.

6 My name is David Campbell and I've been a Florida
7 resident for more than 40 years. My first career was
8 defending the United States Constitution as a United
9 States Navel officer. My second career was teaching
10 high school biology in Clay County public schools for
11 23 years. I'm a member of the vestry in my church.
12 And the aggressive pursuit of taxpayer dollars by some
13 of my ancestors is the reason we have the No-Aid
14 Provision in Article I, Section 3 of the Florida
15 Constitution.

16 A person's religious belief is the -- or
17 nonbelief is one of the most intensely personal
18 choices we make. Being compelled to finance religious
19 instruction and proselytizing by groups whose beliefs
20 we disagree with goes against one of the core values
21 of our Republic.

22 For more than 130 years, the No-Aid clause has
23 protected our fundamental right to freedom of religion
24 by keeping the state out of religious expression while
25 keeping our tax dollars from funding religious

1 expression we may profoundly and completely disagree
2 with.

3 Freedom of religion does not include coercing
4 fellow taxpayers to subsidize anybody else's religious
5 beliefs.

6 COMMISSIONER COXE: Mr. Campbell, could you just
7 move a little closer to the mic?

8 MR. CAMPBELL: Please leave the No-Aid Provision
9 where it is and where it belongs. Please reject
10 Proposal 4.

11 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.
12 Tom Cullen?

13 MR. CULLEN: Hi. My name's Tom Cullen. I
14 recently retired after 31 years in the IT industry.
15 I'm speaking to you about two proposals today. I ask
16 that Proposal 97 on passing ballot initiatives be
17 voted down. This raises an already -- already high
18 bar to pass a ballot initiative. It would make
19 Florida the hardest state in the country to pass a
20 ballot initiative. Having undecideds as a no-vote is
21 undemocratic.

22 I also request that the open primaries Proposal
23 62 be put up for a vote by the full CRC. Despite
24 overwhelming public support, open primaries was
25 unanimously voted down by the General Provisions

1 Committee. Eighty-four percent of Florida elections
2 are decided in taxpayer-funded primaries. Independent
3 voters are taxpayers and deserve to participate in the
4 primary without having to join a party. The People's
5 voices are not being heard.

6 Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

8 Daniel Carr.

9 MR. CARR: Good afternoon. Thank you for this
10 opportunity.

11 Something which is absolutely fundamental but
12 that --

13 COMMISSIONER COXE: Mr. Carr, if you could, speak
14 a little closer. Thank you.

15 MR. CARR: Something which is absolutely
16 fundamental about that and previous revision
17 commissions has been overlooked is that a
18 constitution, whether state or federal, is a -- is a
19 blueprint with instructions on whether -- on how to
20 operate a government, nothing more and nothing less.
21 Issues which can be addressed by statute have no place
22 in a constitution. And of the 37 that remain, they
23 could be addressed by statute.

24 Some important issues which have a place in the
25 Constitution are as follows: Proposition 29.

1 Currently Florida has mandatory E-Verify applicable
2 only to those companies engaged in state contracts,
3 with voluntary E-Verify for others. This should be
4 mandatory for every employer domiciled or operating in
5 the state.

6 In addition, the wording of the proposal should
7 be changed from affecting new employees only to the
8 requirement for verification of employment and
9 eligibility of all employees, current and new. Not to
10 do so would allow those eligible -- ineligible, but
11 already employed, to avoid the proposed law.

12 You will be heavily lobbied by big agriculture
13 and big construction to vote against this measure,
14 which is already a law in 20 states.

15 Please listen to the public who support this
16 measure. This also leads to sanctuary cities, which
17 should never be allowed.

18 Proposition 10 is another thing. This requires
19 civics literacy in all schools, and it would be a
20 giant step in the long journey back to a citizenry
21 that understands how our republic functions and the
22 development of respect for it.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Mr. Carr.

25 Martin Goetz?

1 MR. GOETZ: It's Goetz.

2 COMMISSIONER COXE: I'm sorry.

3 MR. GOETZ: My name is Martin Goetz. I'm the
4 Chief Executive Officer at the River Garden Hebrew
5 Home here in Jacksonville. River Garden is a 180-bed,
6 not-for-profit nursing home. We're now entering our
7 72nd year of service in northeast Florida. We're an
8 eight-time recipient of the Governor's Gold Seal Award
9 for excellence in long-term care and we are rated five
10 stars in every category the state and federal
11 government can measure.

12 Approximately 50 percent of our residents are
13 funded through the Florida Medicaid program. We must
14 raise over a million dollars annually in order to fund
15 an inadequate Medicaid reimbursement program.

16 Over the last 35 years, the Florida Legislature
17 has been unequivocal in protecting nursing home
18 residents, and, as a result, resident rights are clear
19 and unambiguous in Florida statute. At best, Proposal
20 88 is redundant and unnecessary. Resident rights are
21 already well-embedded in both federal and state
22 statute and all nursing homes are already bound to
23 abide by those laws. The proposal adds nothing in the
24 way of resident rights.

25 Further, Proposal 88 does not include a single

1 provision, not one provision, to improve the health,
2 safety and quality of life in nursing home residents,
3 particularly given the strong state and federal
4 regulations that are already in existence. The
5 Florida Constitution should not be burdened by serving
6 the role and responsibility of its elected leaders,
7 especially given that those leaders, regardless of
8 political affiliation, have consistently and
9 responsibly acted to protect Florida's frailest
10 citizens. If the citizens of Florida have true
11 concerns about resident rights, it is the role and
12 responsibility of the Florida Legislature to address
13 them.

14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER COX: Thank you, Mr. Goetz.

16 Samir -- am I pronouncing -- Gutpe?

17 MR. GUPTE: Pretty close. Samir Gupte.

18 Good afternoon. Thank you for your time. Samir
19 Gupte. I'm a resident of Fernandina Beach, Florida,
20 prior to that, Orlando, so 15 years in Florida. I
21 currently serve as the Regional Organizer for the ACLU
22 for Nassau and Duval and I'm here to urge you to
23 support a balancing of civil liberties for all
24 Floridians by voting no on 97, 4, 22 and 29.

25 97, as you know, is a -- changing a threshold to

1 pass the ballot measures, feels like a solution in
2 search of a problem. It uses a technicality that most
3 voters will not understand next November.

4 When we changed in 2006 from 50 to 60 percent,
5 there was a significant drop in the passage of ballot
6 measures, and so there's no reason to add another
7 threshold. We have one of the highest in the country,
8 so let's take a pass on 97.

9 4, as you know, repeals the No-Aid provision.
10 This diminishes what makes America, America from the
11 start of separation of church and state. The state
12 can already contract with religiously-affiliated
13 organizations for social services. That's already
14 been vetted in the courts, so there's no reason to do
15 this and it goes against the growing diversity that we
16 have here in Florida.

17 22 puts at risk the most fundamental right to
18 make our own personal health decisions. As a
19 libertarian, this feels like an egregious intrusion on
20 our own personal privacy. The right to privacy is
21 fundamental, so no on 22.

22 And no on 29: Mandatory E-Verify. In a former
23 life, I was a human resources executive for an
24 Orlando-based company with 250,000 employees. We used
25 E-Verify where we had to. It didn't work. It --

1 there's a lot of flaws. It's not ready for primetime.
2 One day it will be ready, but not now and -- so no on
3 29.

4 Thank you for your time.

5 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

6 I'm going to call five more: David Keebler,
7 Timothy Cheney, Jack Oliver, Maureen Orr and
8 Susan Ponder-Stansel.

9 David Keebler.

10 MR. KEEBLER: Good afternoon and thank you for
11 your time being here today. I know it's a lot of
12 effort to get public input on these issues. I live
13 over in Orange Park.

14 I'm here at the invitation of the American Senior
15 Alliance.

16 I'm 67. My wife is 65. Although there is a God,
17 it is unlikely that we're going to be walking down the
18 street and just suddenly drop dead. We are,
19 statistically, going to have avail ourselves of some
20 long-term healthcare, long-term nursing care.

21 So I am here to urge you to speak -- to vote
22 against Number 88 because Number 88 will do absolutely
23 nothing to improve the quality of our long-term care,
24 will make it even less affordable than it is now, and
25 it will probably make it a lot less available than it

1 is now.

2 So again, I urge you to vote no on Number 88. It
3 is not the right answer to any issues that we have
4 before us.

5 And I thank you very much for your time.

6 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

7 Timothy Cheney.

8 MR. CHENEY: It's Timothy Cheney.

9 My name is Timothy Cheney and I work here at UNF
10 and I'm also a student in the MPH program here at UNF.
11 And I'm also a husband and father to two little
12 children. And I received an e-mail from a professor
13 about Proposition 94 and I'm here to urge you to vote
14 no on Proposition 94.

15 My mom started smoking when she was nine years
16 old. She died of COPD. My aunt started smoking at
17 seven. She taught my mom how to smoke. My aunt's
18 sister taught her how to smoke. My aunt's sister's --
19 sister taught her how to smoke. My uncle taught them
20 all how to smoke. Each of them died from COPD except
21 for my uncle, who died of a heart attack at 40.

22 We need preventative services. We don't need --
23 we do need cancer research, but there's funding
24 already that can be available for cancer research. We
25 need to continue the preventative.

1 My son who is seven and a half, who thinks the
2 world of me right now, since September he has read
3 1,200 books. He loves me and I teach him everything
4 that I can. But I know that that time is short, like
5 my time here. The culture surrounds him. I need help
6 to make sure that he's not a smoker, that he doesn't
7 end up like my mom, that he doesn't end up teaching my
8 little two-and-a-half-year-old daughter how to smoke.
9 So please vote no on Proposition 94.

10 Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

12 Jack Oliver.

13 MR. OLIVER: My name is Jack Oliver. I'm the
14 founder and Director of Floridians for E-Verify Now.
15 I'm from north Palm Beach, Florida.

16 At some of these hearings, I've heard just
17 individuals who oppose E-Verify present wildly
18 inaccurate information about the E-Verify system.
19 We're trained it is a flawed, inaccurate system that
20 would cost prospective employees to lose their jobs or
21 a company could lose its business license because of
22 one mistake by an employee. These claims are totally
23 false.

24 Let's compare the current I -- I-9 flawed program
25 with the E-Verify program. In the I-9 compliance

1 program, the onus is on the employer to verify the
2 authenticity of the documents presented. The
3 government officials never see the I-9 form currently
4 until -- unless there's an I-9 audit, and only a small
5 amount of audits are conducted nationally. That's why
6 we have 11 million-plus illegal immigrants working in
7 the United States.

8 The E-Verify program, documents are instantly
9 verified by an existing database from the Social
10 Security Department and DHS and, if you hold a Florida
11 drivers license from the Department of Motor Vehicles,
12 because Florida is part of the RIDE program, which
13 stands for Record and Information from DMVs for
14 E-Verify. If you hold a U.S. Passport or a green
15 card, your photo is matched.

16 E-Verify has the highest consumer approval rate
17 of any government program: 85 percent. It's used at
18 more than 1.4 million hiring sites and has handled
19 over 24 million cases.

20 Claims that E-Verify would cause thousands of
21 illegal workers not to be hired -- or legal workers
22 not to be hired -- is false. First, you must hire the
23 person before you run the query. 98.9 percent of all
24 queries are confirmed as eligible to work. Only 1.09
25 percent receive a nonconfirmation and they are given a

1 printout on the reason why for the nonconfirmation.

2 COMMISSIONER COXE: Mr. Oliver, we're about
3 there.

4 MR. OLIVER: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER COXE: Maureen Orr?

6 MS. ORR: Good afternoon. My name is Maureen Orr
7 and I'm a resident of Jacksonville, Florida. I
8 appreciate the Commission allowing me the opportunity
9 to speak and I'm here to urge you to uphold Florida's
10 strong protections for privacy rights and to oppose
11 Proposition 22.

12 Proposal 22 would eliminate all existing privacy
13 protections from Florida's Constitution, except for
14 those specifically relating to informational privacy.
15 This would be devastating for Floridians.

16 If Proposal 22 is adopted, fundamental
17 protections in Florida's Constitution will disappear,
18 and Floridians' rights against government overreach
19 will be weakened. The CRC should not weaken our
20 privacy protections.

21 As a woman, a mother, a grandmother and a nurse,
22 I ask you to please not reconsider any attempt to
23 reduce our rights of privacy or to interfere with a
24 woman's right to make healthcare choices. And I
25 honestly cannot believe that we are still fighting the

1 same battles today that I started fighting 50 years
2 ago for women's rights.

3 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Ms. Orr.

4 Susan Ponder-Stansel.

5 MS. PONDER-STANSEL: Good afternoon,
6 Commissioners. Thank you for the opportunity to
7 address Proposition 54. I am Susan Ponder-Stansel and
8 I'm a resident St. Augustine. I also serve as the
9 president and CEO of Community Hospice and Palliative
10 Care which is a regional provider serving the 16
11 counties in north Florida.

12 I've been involved with hospice for 34 years now
13 and I have watched our Legislature routinely address
14 the issue of whether Certificate of Need should
15 continue in Florida and how Certificate of Need should
16 continue. It is regularly vetted each and every
17 session.

18 Florida has an excellent Certificate of Need
19 process that assures that providers who do receive a
20 license and a Certificate of Need to serve a
21 particular area actually do provide the service.

22 And you've heard Texas mentioned already. And
23 I'm going to mention hospice specifically. Texas did
24 away with its Certificate of Need and saw a
25 proliferation of hospices. But in rural areas, no.

1 In poor areas, no. The same thing will happen if we
2 deregulate Certificate of Need in Florida. You won't
3 see many of the hospitals rushing to set up shop next
4 to UF Health in downtown Jacksonville, but you will
5 see a lot of competition for the suburban market.

6 So I would like to urge you not to move
7 Proposition 54 forward. I don't believe this issue
8 serves the public well by being in our Constitution.
9 And deregulating CON, as you heard from prior
10 speakers, especially in the case of hospice, whose
11 prices are regulated by Medicare -- we can't go up and
12 down -- and for whom we have a very finite audience
13 that's already defined by our regulations, adding more
14 providers will only increase overhead and it will make
15 it a complaint-driven industry.

16 So again, in summary -- and I will actually
17 finish before my time, which I know you will
18 appreciate -- I hope that you will not put Proposition
19 54 forward. This does not belong in our Florida
20 Constitution.

21 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

22 Terry Williams, Earl Coggins, Jason Kallen, Danny
23 Glover, Kristal Bowen.

24 Terry Williams.

25 MS. WILLIAMS: Yes. I'm Terry Williams. I've

1 been a resident of Florida since 1955 and I'm
2 currently living in Flagler County for the last 13
3 years, and I'd like to speak to you about opposing
4 proposition -- Proposal 94. The funds for the Tobacco
5 Free Florida program are not tax dollars. The money
6 comes from the settlement of a lawsuit between Florida
7 and the major tobacco companies to help reduce the
8 monetary costs to the state for tobacco use.

9 Currently, the Tobacco Free Florida program
10 spends one-third of the funds on the youth prevention,
11 one-third of the funds on tobacco cessation and
12 one-third of the funds on hard-hitting media campaigns
13 that support both the youth prevention and tobacco
14 cessation.

15 Since full funding of the program was restored by
16 the voters, the smoking rate among high school
17 students has fallen from 15.5 percent to 5.2 percent.
18 Since full funding of the program was restored by
19 voters, there has been a cumulative savings of \$17.7
20 billion for smoking-related healthcare costs in
21 Florida, including \$3.2 billion in 2015.

22 The impact of Proposal 94 looks to add cancer
23 research to the list of this item. This is not listed
24 as a CDC Best-Practice effort. Proposal 94 would give
25 the Legislature the authority to determine the

1 percentage of funds spent on youth prevention, tobacco
2 cessation, media campaigns, and cancer research. In
3 theory, all the funds could be earmarked for cancer
4 research at the expense of the effective prevention
5 and cessation programs.

6 I thank you for the opportunity to speak to
7 y'all, and I ask that you oppose this Proposal 94.

8 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

9 Earl Coggins.

10 MR. COGGINS: Good afternoon. My name is Earl
11 Coggins. I have lived in Jacksonville for 41 years.

12 I came here in 1977 while serving in the United
13 States Coast Guard. I'm here today to express my
14 support for keeping the No-Aid clause intact with no
15 revisions to Article I, Section 3 of the Florida
16 Constitution. I am here to say I'm against
17 Proposition 4.

18 A lot of people in the room probably have a lot
19 of respect for the framers of the Constitution. We
20 refer to them as Our Founding Fathers. One of them
21 was Ben Franklin. I'd like to share with you
22 something that Ben Franklin said about supporting
23 religion with public funds.

24 Franklin said, "When religion is good, I conceive
25 it will support itself; and when it does not support

1 itself and God does not take care to support it, so
2 that its professors are oblig'd to call for help of
3 the Civil Power, 'tis a Sign, I apprehend, of its
4 being a bad one."

5 If Franklin were alive today, I suspect he, too,
6 would be against Proposition 4.

7 The little sheet that I signed today said are you
8 here on behalf of an organization or are you here on
9 your own? I'm here on my own. But in 2012, the
10 voters overwhelmingly said no to religious -- to aid
11 to religions, as far as our Florida Constitution is
12 concerned. And lot of people can't be here today. I
13 had to take a vacation day to come here. And there's
14 a lot of citizens in Florida who are against
15 Proposition 4 who just simply cannot be here. So I
16 want to stand up for them and say, please, this has
17 been before us many times throughout Florida's history
18 and we've always said we don't want public funds going
19 to support religion. So, please, don't put
20 Proposition 4 on the ballot in November.

21 Thank you.

22 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

23 Jason Kallen.

24 MR. KALLEN: My name is Jason Kallen and I'm the
25 administrator at Opis Riverwood here in Jacksonville,

1 Florida. We are a skilled-nursing center with 240
2 beds and we employ 350 hard-working team members who's
3 tried to apply the highest standards of care to all of
4 our customers.

5 The results of our team members' commitment is
6 evident in the smiles on the faces of our customers
7 each and every day. In many cases our team members
8 are the light of our customers' lives, bringing them
9 laughs, insight, food, even gifts for the holidays.

10 These same things are provided back to our team
11 members by the customers from the experience and
12 knowledgeable customers with their life experience and
13 unique backgrounds, richly rewarding our team in each
14 interaction.

15 Working in a skilled-nursing center is not an
16 easy job. It's not glamorous and it's -- and it is
17 hard work, regardless of your role. With that being
18 said, every day our team members come to work with a
19 smile knowing that they are going to be fulfilling
20 the physical and emotional needs of our customers,
21 becoming their families and integrating them into our
22 family.

23 This profession has literally hundreds of pages
24 of regulations including a specific statement of
25 resident rights that are already in place. This

1 proposed amendment known as Proposition 88 does not
2 provide rights that will benefit the lives of our
3 customers. Instead, it's intended to make it more
4 difficult to provide the highest quality of care by
5 encouraging lawsuits against the profession.

6 No one who works in our profession believes that
7 there should be no accountability. The hundreds of
8 people we employ each hold licenses by the state and
9 federal government confirming their competencies in
10 delivering services. These team members are not doing
11 this because they have a desire to harm, but, rather,
12 because they have a desire to serve and to help.
13 Introducing a new amendment designed to generate
14 lawsuits and decrease pride in the profession can only
15 serve to drive highly-qualified individuals away from
16 these roles. Our customers receive excellent care in
17 our center and we will continue to provide this care.

18 As such, I would ask you to vote no on
19 Proposition 88.

20 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

21 Danny Glover.

22 MR. GLOVER: Good afternoon. Danny Glover,
23 School Superintendent of Taylor County and former
24 school board member in Taylor County.

25 I'm here today to talk to you about a couple of

1 concerns that I have with P-33, appointed
2 superintendent, and P-43, term limits for school board
3 members. Both proposals would take away local
4 control, especially in our local communities.

5 Currently in the state of Florida, any district
6 or county, by referendum, can put on the ballot and
7 let counties decide if they want to have an elected
8 superintendent or an appointed superintendent.

9 This happened just a couple years ago out in
10 Walton County where it made the ballot and it failed
11 by 80 percent. Eighty percent of the voters said in
12 our rural community, they want to stay with an elected
13 superintendent. They want to have a voice in who runs
14 their school district.

15 It's notable that about 80 percent of the state's
16 population live in districts with appointed
17 superintendents while 19 percent live in districts
18 with elected superintendents. Proposal 33 will allow
19 a majority of people who may know nothing about local
20 conditions in counties that prefer to elect their
21 school officials, the ability to mandate the local
22 school superintendent should be elected or appointed.

23 There is also no research out there that supports
24 that an elected superintendent has better -- there's
25 no data out there that an appointed superintendent has

1 better student achievement over elected
2 superintendents.

3 Also, when it comes to P-43 term limits -- just a
4 quick story. I have a great school board member who
5 has served multiple, multiple times. Our voters in
6 our small community elect her every year because she
7 does an excellent job. I think it would be just a
8 tragedy that she would only be able to serve two term
9 limits.

10 I just ask you today to please take these
11 proposals very seriously. Term limits and appointed
12 superintendents will take away local control in our
13 rural communities.

14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

16 Kristal Bowen.

17 MS. BOWEN: Hello. My name's Kristal Bowen and
18 I'm here to -- sorry.

19 Thank you for letting me speak today to you about
20 opposing Proposition 94: Proposition 94, which shifts
21 money from Florida's successful tobacco prevention and
22 cessation programs, using it instead for cancer
23 research.

24 Like I said, I've been in healthcare for 15
25 years. I'm with the American Lung Association today.

1 I could stand here and tell you all about the
2 successes I've seen with tobacco cessation, or, like
3 they stated, the \$17.7 billion of smoking-related
4 healthcare costs throughout the state that's saved by
5 this program.

6 I could also tell you that we have one of the --
7 this state has one of the lowest youth smoking rates
8 in the United States. These are just some of the
9 successes that Tobacco Free programs do for our state.

10 But I'm here not only on behalf of the America
11 Lung Association, but for years I have been a constant
12 support for my mom, Irene, to stop smoking. It's not
13 easy. It takes multiple attempts and these resource
14 -- and resources. Each time, though, it's closer to
15 success. I hope these resources are still around in
16 the future for my mom to be able to stop smoking.

17 Speaking of future, my son is 12; 12, he's a
18 sixth grader, middle school. That's rough. There's a
19 lot of influence coming in from middle school.
20 There's -- with peer pressure, but he knows the harms
21 of smoking because of education programs and
22 prevention programs like Tobacco Free Florida. These
23 students deserve to know the truth and these
24 educations are vital for that.

25 Proposition -- or Proposal 94 shifts moneys away

1 from these programs that are a necessity for our youth
2 and for adults to quit smoking, so I strongly urge you
3 to oppose Proposal 94.

4 Thank you so much.

5 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

6 Natalie Low, Steven Watrel, Kenneth Marrow,
7 Melissa Covey or Covey, and Julie Collins.

8 MS. LOW: Hi. Thank you. My name is Natalie and
9 I'm currently pursuing a Masters degree in public
10 health here at UNF. I'm speaking against Proposal 94.
11 This proposal would take money from Tobacco Free
12 Florida's historically successful prevention and
13 education programs and move money toward cancer
14 research. The CDC breast -- Best Practices do not --
15 does not recommend cancer research as a component of
16 tobacco prevention. This proposal is opposed by the
17 American Cancer Society and the American Lung
18 Association. We should not move money from prevention
19 to research of a preventable disease.

20 Florida is a nationally-modeled tobacco
21 prevention program even though it is currently funded
22 at 30 percent -- 35 percent of their recommended
23 funding by the CDC.

24 In the field of public health, we believe that an
25 ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, so

1 please vote no on Proposal 94.

2 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you. Hi.
3 I'm Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch. I'm going to run the
4 meeting just for a few minutes while Commissioner Coxe
5 is out.

6 Please continue and state your name. Thank you.

7 MR. WATREL: All right. My name's Steve Watrel.
8 I'm a local lawyer and I represent families and
9 victims of nursing home and assisted-living abuse and
10 neglect. And for the past 25 years, I've handled
11 cases of some of the most horrific abuse and neglect
12 you've seen. And for the past 10 years I've been
13 involved actively in legislation, both state and
14 federally, to protect the rights of residents.

15 And I'm here strongly in support of Proposal 88
16 by Commissioner Heuchan. And, unfortunately,
17 currently I want to talk about the real world of what
18 I do as a -- as a lawyer.

19 We're severely handicapped in what we can do for
20 seniors. First, the state of Florida allows
21 facilities to have less than \$10,000 of coverage in
22 the case of injury or death. And that's less than
23 even the bills incurred by the abuse or neglect.

24 Most of these policies have to pay their defense
25 lawyers first, leaving no money for victims, and this

1 is a financial disincentive to even bring a claim.

2 Second, all nursing homes are set up in a complex
3 corporate structure where single-purpose LLCs are
4 designed to siphon millions out of the facilities each
5 year into the owners' and operators' pockets.

6 Half the time we don't even know who own or
7 operate the facilities, and this basically guarantees
8 substandard care by design. And the state has allowed
9 this to go on for years.

10 Next we deal with forced arbitration. When you
11 go into a facility, you are required to sign your
12 right to a jury trial away. They say it's voluntary;
13 it's not. It's buried in the paperwork. They make
14 you sign it or you cannot go into there.

15 Since 2001, the laws that were enacted to protect
16 residents have been eroded steadily. 2001, the laws
17 were eroded. 2014, Chapter 400 was changed to make it
18 more difficult to sue owners/operators. Also,
19 punitive damages were difficult. This year, CMS
20 eliminated the rule to prohibit forced arbitration.
21 These rights are basic rights that our seniors and our
22 elders should have. You should protect their rights.
23 This is a state where seniors are moving and they
24 deserve these protections because the Legislature will
25 take them away, as they have in the past. So I urge

1 you to vote yes on Proposal 88.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER THURLOW-LIPPISCH: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

5 Kenneth Marrow.

6 MR. MORROW: My name is Kenneth Morrow. I'm a
7 resident of Fleming Island. I've had the opportunity
8 to speak to this Commission recently. And I wanted to
9 read a letter that I wrote to Senator Bradley in
10 reference to that meeting.

11 I basically congratulated him for the work he
12 does for his constituents in Fleming Island. And I
13 also spoke highly in reference to Proposal 29 and the
14 fact it basically legalizes the workforce and makes
15 that workforce beneficial to all citizens in the state
16 of Florida.

17 Again, I stand in support of Proposal 29 and I
18 would ask the Commission to continue their procedure
19 on this vote. The last time we met with you on the
20 19th of January, the proposal received 6 yes votes and
21 0 nays.

22 Again, please continue with that. And I thank
23 you for your service.

24 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

25 Is it Melissa Covey or Covey?

1 MS. COLLINS: She -- she had to leave, but my
2 name is Julie Collins, and I can begin.

3 My name is Julie Collins. I am a public health
4 volunteer from Clay County -- from Fleming Island,
5 actually. And I want to preface this as I'm here to
6 Propose -- to Oppose Proposal 94.

7 As a child, both my parents smoked, my brother,
8 too. All of them started probably around like 11, 12,
9 13. My mother's no longer living. My brother has gum
10 disease at age 34; poor him. But guess what? I never
11 picked up a cigarette in my life. I'm so happy about
12 that. And that is, in large part, thankful to our
13 youth prevention programs that have been very
14 effective in stopping our youth from ever picking up a
15 tobacco product. Hold on.

16 Proposal 94 looks to add cancer research to the
17 list of items funded by the Tobacco Free Florida
18 Program. Please note that cancer research, while
19 amazing, is not listed as one of the CDC's Best
20 Practices for a comprehensive tobacco control program.
21 With the rise of vaping, e-cigarettes and hookah
22 amongst our youth, which we all know is very prevalent
23 right now, youth education, tobacco cessation and
24 effective media campaigns are needed now more than
25 ever and are supported by the CDC as a Best Practice

1 for tobacco prevention.

2 Proposal 94 is unnecessary. In 2008, the Florida
3 Legislature increased the cigarette tax from \$1.34 a
4 pack. This generates \$1.3 million -- billion
5 annually. These funds could be used in some of our
6 cancer research programs such as the Bankhead-Coley
7 Cancer Research Program, the James and Esther King
8 Biomedical Research Program that are funded by Florida
9 register -- Legislature. A very great solution is to
10 allocate some of these tobacco tax funds to the cancer
11 -- those cancer research programs instead of taking
12 money away from our tobacco prevention.

13 Please vote no on Prop -- Prop 94, sir.

14 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Ms. Collins.
15 You're friends with Ms. Covey?

16 MS. COLLINS: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER COXE: She was also going to be
18 against 94?

19 MS. COLLINS: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER COXE: Okay. Thank you.

21 All right. Joyce Cantrell. It appears to be --
22 if I pronounce it correct -- April Seliga, Judith
23 Young -- excuse me -- Judith Youngblood, Michelle
24 Manning, and Lawrence Lisska.

25 Joyce Cantrell.

1 MS. CANTRELL: Good afternoon, ladies and
2 gentlemen of the Florida Constitution Revision
3 Commission.

4 My name is Joyce Cantrell. My husband of 61
5 years and I have lived in Flagler Beach for 23 years.

6 Because of my husband's Alzheimer's and wandering
7 habits, he was temporarily placed in a memory care
8 facility on April 27th, 2017 where I thought he was
9 safe. I could not physically keep my eyes on him
10 24/7.

11 On July 5th of 2017, I got a call about 6:15 p.m.
12 from the facility, telling me that he got out or
13 eloped from the facility, but not to worry; they would
14 find him and bring him back safely. I was told he was
15 let out by another resident who apparently knew the
16 code to get out.

17 My sons came from Ladera Ranch, California and
18 Orange Park, Florida and we began a 19-day detailed
19 search along with the Daytona Beach Police Department
20 and many other organizations who provided shelter from
21 the heat and food and drink for all of those who were
22 searching. We had hundreds of volunteers from
23 Alachua, Flagler, Clay and Broward Counties who helped
24 searched. I never gave up hope.

25 On day 19, my oldest son came home from searching

1 only to tell me that they had -- he thought they had
2 found his dad deceased in someone's backyard only a
3 few blocks from the facility.

4 I'm sorry.

5 Of course I broke down and cried for hours as I
6 had prayed we would find him alive and being cared for
7 by some kind person. I had him there to be safe.

8 This would've -- would not have happened if -- if
9 the facility had been secured and staffed properly, as
10 advertised.

11 The cameras showed him getting out at 3:35 p.m.
12 And I was not even called 'til 6:15 p.m. Had I been
13 notified immediately, I feel certain in my heart we
14 could have found him that very day, not 19 days later.

15 COMMISSIONER COXE: Ms. Can- -- you can finish
16 up?

17 MS. CANTRELL: This has been very hard for me.

18 My 79th birthday without him, my 61st anniversary
19 without him, Thanksgiving without him, Christmas
20 without him. Valentine's Day without him; no
21 chocolates or roses this year. Not only has it been
22 bad for me, but my sons have suffered a tremendous
23 loss.

24 COMMISSIONER COXE: Ms. Cantrell, I'm -- I'm
25 going to have to end it.

1 MS. CANTRELL: Okay. Anyway, all of my family
2 have suffered tremendous loss. I urge you to vote yes
3 and put Proposal 88 on the ballot for November.

4 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

5 April -- is it Seliga?

6 MS. SELIGA: I'm sorry. I wasn't sure he said my
7 name. Seliga, April Seliga.

8 COMMISSIONER COXE: I'm sorry.

9 MS. SELIGA. Hello, and thank you-all for
10 allowing me the opportunity to speak today.

11 I am here to ask you-all to stop Proposal 94 and
12 vote no to it. I am a mother of three children. I
13 hold a Masters of public health and specialize in
14 epidemiology -- which was the study of disease, for
15 those who are not familiar with that. I'm well-
16 educated and work very hard in this community to do
17 the same for our youth and to provide preventative
18 services to them so that they know that tobacco use is
19 a bad thing.

20 Now, I learned how to smoke when I was 13 years
21 old. I remember learning behind what we called the
22 Karate Kid building, sitting down and teaching
23 ourselves to smoke. There was no tobacco education at
24 the time for me. And I see it make a difference in
25 youth today, and I don't want that to go away.

1 Earlier today one of our supporters used a term
2 that we've all heard: An ounce of prevention is worth
3 a pound of cure. We have funds to provide to cancer
4 research. But without prevention, we're going to need
5 a lot more research. We need to keep prevention in
6 the schools. We need to keep our youth well-educated
7 and provide them the opportunity to learn that it's
8 not okay.

9 Not until I received my Masters of public health
10 in epidemiology did I even understand the depth at
11 which the tobacco industry went to manipulate me to
12 want to learn how to smoke. Because guess what?
13 There was a lot of hacking and coughing and puking
14 behind the Karate Kid building learning how to smoke.

15 You see these signs today? My seven year-old
16 daughter helped me make them last night and the
17 conversations we had while making these signs were
18 just about that moment in my life. "Well, Mommy, why
19 did you smoke? Well, Mommy, don't you know that it's
20 bad?" I don't want her to grow up without that
21 conversation. I won't want her peers to grow up
22 without that conversation.

23 We have money for cancer research. Thank you.
24 Please vote no on Prop 94.

25 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

1 Judith Youngblood?

2 MS. YOUNGBLOOD: My name is Judith Youngblood.

3 I've lived in Jacksonville since 1950, coming here
4 from the midwest and schools there. I went to Landon
5 High School where they had an American History teacher
6 by the name of Wilma Simmons who saw a need and forced
7 the state of Florida, primarily, to introduce a course
8 called Americanism versus Communism. It was a course
9 that was well-received, and about a generation learned
10 a lot from it because it was done in a critical
11 manner, taking the facts, letting students make their
12 own decisions, but making sure they had the facts to
13 make proper and educated decisions. That went by the
14 wayside when the Berlin Wall came down and things like
15 that happened.

16 We now have, if you watch Jesse Waters, a
17 generation who don't always know what our country is
18 founded on. I do, just in case, always carry a little
19 U.S. Constitution with me so if somebody has a
20 question, I can answer it. I don't have one; I don't
21 think Florida makes a little -- a little one like
22 that.

23 I was fortunate enough to get my Masters in
24 education from this university. And when I went to
25 the University of Florida in the early '50s, we were

1 required to take America Institutions. That's been a
2 part of my education all my life. And it saddens me
3 at my old age to see many young people not really
4 having developed either the critical-thinking skills
5 or have the facts to make the decisions they should be
6 making on how they want their government to operate.

7 So I'm here and I do have to, for transparency,
8 acknowledge that I am the Republican State Committee
9 Woman for Duval County. I am not here in any way with
10 any opinion for the party. This is personal with me,
11 having been an educator and a social worker with the
12 city of Jacksonville that I want to see. And the only
13 way to make sure that we can continually always have
14 our children have a basic education of why they have
15 educational possibilities is the Civics Liberty
16 Amendment in the Constitution.

17 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, ma'am.

18 Excuse me. Michelle Manning. I apologize. Is
19 Michelle Manning here?

20 Lawrence Lisska.

21 DR. LISSKA: Hello. My name is Lawrence Lisska.
22 I'm here as just a personal representative, but also
23 with Tobacco Free Jacksonville.

24 COMMISSIONER COXE: Could you speak a little
25 closer, sir?

1 DR. LISSKA: I'm sorry.

2 I -- I practiced otorhinolaryngology, head and
3 neck, surgery for just shy of 40 years in
4 Jacksonville, and, during that time, did a tremendous
5 number of wide local excisions, radical surgeries for
6 to -- to -- tobacco-related disease.

7 Since that time, I've been three years active
8 with Tobacco Free Jacksonville, and I really believe
9 that education is the answer. Certainly we need
10 cancer research. But, personally, I've been able to
11 observe the programs, see the effects. It's certainly
12 needs to be continually funded.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Dr. Lisska. Sean
15 Orr; Fred Johnson -- and I know I won't get this right
16 -- Karen Drugey, Drugey; Steve Hough, and Melody
17 Johnson.

18 Dr. Orr.

19 DR. ORR: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, thanks
20 again for the opportunity to speak in front of you
21 again today. I came in front of you yesterday at
22 Melbourne to support P-54. I thought it'd probably
23 would be good to come back now that you're in my
24 hometown --

25 COMMISSIONER COXE: I think, Doctor, if you could

1 get a little closer --

2 DR. ORR: A little closer?

3 COMMISSIONER COXE: -- pull the mic up.

4 DR. ORR: Yeah. Sure.

5 So I just wanted to clarify. It sounds like
6 there's a lot of support for moving hospice and
7 nursing homes from P-54, which I tend to think it
8 sounds like it might be a good idea.

9 I'm more qualified to talk about P-54 from the
10 perspective of hospitals as a doctor formerly employed
11 by a hospital in large megasystem. I had quite a bit
12 of experience.

13 It's -- I -- I do think that competition is
14 needed, real fair competition. And without going into
15 too much depth, I think my perspective has really been
16 shaped by my -- my position in the hospital system. I
17 was one of the doctors involved in the Charles versus
18 Baptist case, which was quite a bit of discussion
19 amongst all of you last month. And I --

20 With all due respect to Commissioner Cerio, I
21 would just like to respectfully ask that P-99 remain
22 tabled. I think if the -- the public has any chance
23 of having a good healthcare system in this country, it
24 will come from transparency. It will come from
25 openness on the part of the healthcare systems.

1 And the public has spoken: Amendment 7 was the
2 most widely-supported amendment; 81 percent of the
3 public voted for it. I would continue to ask that the
4 public be honored in that respect in that Proposition
5 99 remain tabled for the public health's good.

6 And -- and, for the sake of public health, I
7 would just recommend that P-54 go forward with respect
8 to hospitals.

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

11 Fred Johnson.

12 MR. JOHNSON: My name is Fred Johnson. I'm a
13 disabled veteran. I have lived in the state of
14 Florida for 70 years. I have been a member of the
15 greyhound community for 45 years.

16 Some of the things that I hear today said about
17 the people that I work with and care about these
18 animals is unconscionable: the rich and the powerful
19 dogtracks in the State of Florida, once again, trying
20 the fool the unsuspecting folks of Florida. These are
21 the same type of people that are in Washington, DC.
22 We say no to changes to the Constitution. They only
23 want the changes in the Constitution -- listen at
24 this -- so they don't have to pay money to the
25 colleges and university of our state. It's not about

1 the dogs. They want to have slot machines and so they
2 don't have to pay this money to the universities and
3 colleges of our state.

4 No replacement loss of funds from the greyhound
5 racing industry has been considered or even talked
6 about by the racetracks. People, please listen to the
7 truth that I speak. Grey2K, owned and operated by the
8 powerful greyhound tracks, are supposed to be for
9 animal protection. Are horses animals? Cats animals?
10 Manatee? Our other animals, do they need protection?
11 No, only the greyhound.

12 Let us put an end to all the lies, the propaganda
13 against poor, working-class dog trainers and kennel
14 owners who can't compete financially with these rich
15 and powerful greyhound tracks.

16 I thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

18 Karen -- is it Droege?

19 MS. DROEGE: Yes.

20 I'm Karen Droege. I'm a resident of
21 Jacksonville, Florida. I've lived here five years and
22 I thank you for the opportunity to be a part of this
23 process. I'm here speaking against Proposition 4,
24 which is to repeal the No-Aid provision. And I think
25 the other speakers that have stood before you on this

1 topic are probably covering the bases quite well. I
2 want to reiterate what my friend Maurleen said earlier
3 about "I can't believe we are treading this ground
4 again." The separation of church and state has been a
5 part of this country since before its founding.

6 In fact, the First Baptist Church that was
7 founded in this country, the pastor stated that there
8 should be a separation between the church and the
9 state. So let's follow that. Let's protect the
10 public schools here.

11 Let's protect our religious freedoms and vote no
12 on Prop 4.

13 COMMISSIONER COXE: Steven Hough.

14 MR. HOUGH: Good afternoon. My name is Steve
15 Hough. And I'm the director of the Grass Roots
16 Organization, Florida Fair and Open Primaries. After
17 four appearances before the Ethics and Elections
18 Committee, the members voted 6 to 3 to pass
19 Commissioner Schifino's proposal for open primaries.
20 Six days later, the General Provisions Committee voted
21 it down unanimously.

22 It is my firm belief that P-72 did not get a fair
23 hearing in that committee. As such, I had a letter
24 submitted to the full commission in Ft. Lauderdale
25 challenge each of you to review the video of that

1 meeting.

2 Furthermore, I stand before you today asking that
3 P-62 be clawed back for a full and fair hearing.

4 Members of the Ethics and Elections Committee
5 acknowledge that open primaries was a topic that came
6 up time and time again at every stop during your
7 Listening Tour last spring, and that they believe the
8 conversation should continue.

9 And as you heard yesterday in Melbourne, and you
10 will continue to hear today, we are not going away.
11 We represent 3.4 million tax-paying NPAs which make up
12 27 percent of the electorate. In fact, we already are
13 the second largest voting block in some counties. The
14 explosive growth of NPAs has been acknowledged and no
15 one believes that trend is going to not continue.
16 Poles show that 37 percent of Floridians, irrespective
17 of party affiliation, want the CRC to place an open
18 primaries amendment on the ballot. But with very
19 limited resources, we have collected over 10,000
20 signatures on a petition asking you to do just that.

21 50 percent of millennials are registered NPA, and
22 as they age, your legacy will be determined by what
23 went over to the ballot as well as which ones you
24 don't.

25 As my time is expiring, I'll just say I look

1 forward to speaking to you again in Pensacola.

2 And with the final remaining seconds, I'm wearing
3 a nicotine patch. I love you guys in the blue.

4 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

5 Melody Johnson.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair Beruff and
7 Honorable members of the CRC for allowing me to speak.

8 I was elected to the Volusia County School Board
9 in 2014. In our first negotiation session, I
10 discovered what the DCD was or the district cost
11 differential: We send a dollar to Tallahassee and we
12 get back 96 cents. This doesn't sound like a big deal
13 until you add it up and it's nearly \$11 million a year
14 being stolen from my children and their classrooms.
15 This formula negatively impacts 55 counties or 83
16 percent of Florida. Volusia County has lost over \$140
17 million since this formula began in 2004.

18 You may have heard of me. I've been called "the
19 mom on a mission," and -- and, recently, the "DCD
20 Lady."

21 I've also been called worse; we won't talk about
22 that.

23 I decided last summer to go on the road and speak
24 to other school districts so -- in their school board
25 meeting. I was given three minutes there.

1 I wanted to know if they was as frustrated as I
2 was about taking from the average and poorer counties
3 and giving to the more wealthy and larger counties. I
4 call this the "reverse Robin Hood." I also decided to
5 call this educational malpractice. And someone called
6 it educational welfare, which creates an entitlement
7 mentality.

8 Let me ask you this: Do we ever do this with
9 taxpayer funding with our fire, police or hospitals?
10 The answer's no.

11 Today I'm asking you to consider allowing the
12 voters to decide if they want local tax dollars to
13 stay local, which will support their own children in
14 their own public schools.

15 I submitted a folder for each of you for sharing
16 an example of the actual amendment that I submitted
17 last year. Dr. Denslow, who was part of the original
18 study from UF, acknowledges this was never meant to
19 continue as it was very harmful in its effects on the
20 55 counties. The study was not even in -- initiated
21 as it was originally intended by our legislators,
22 thanks to the Tallahassee two-step.

23 It's time for the larger wealthier districts to
24 stand on their own two feet and get off the backs of
25 my children. Let's hold our children harmless and

1 offer equal per -- per student funding.

2 Thank you.

3 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

4 Next will go Tina Gordon, Tom Van Osdol, Virginia
5 Hall, Richard Cardell -- and you may have to help me
6 with the pronunciation -- Bosma Alawee.

7 Tina Gordon.

8 MS. GORDON: My name is Tina Gordon and I'm a
9 resident of St. Johns County. I work for a small
10 environmental consulting firm and I'm a member of the
11 Florida Stormwater Association. Thank you for the
12 opportunity to speak today.

13 I know CRC-95 is not formally deemed active.
14 However, we understand that the sponsor intends to
15 reintroduce it for consideration, which is allowed by
16 your procedures. I am extremely concerned about
17 CRC-95 with regards to the ability of local
18 governments to manage flooding and water pollution,
19 which are state-wide issues.

20 We have seen the impacts of nuisance flooding and
21 storm surge flooding in recent years, both in my
22 county and state-wide. We have seen the impacts of
23 water on our roads and in our homes and businesses.
24 Flooding projects are critical on the front lines of
25 managing our local flooding issues.

1 Also, clean water matters for our economy as well
2 as the quality of life for our residents. Whether for
3 tourism or for recreation, people in Florida want to
4 swim, boat, fish, dive and drink clean water.

5 From a water-quality perspective, all Florida
6 water bodies and springs hold -- have water quality
7 standards to meet. Our local governments, many of
8 which hold clean water act permits that require them
9 to address pollution, must respond to this complex
10 problem. We must maintain the ability of the local
11 governments that manage the storm water systems that
12 allow us to have 21 million residents, 100 million
13 annual tourist trips and 400 billion in our
14 agricultural industry. Proposal 95 will cripple our
15 local response to address flooding, sea level rise and
16 water quality.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

19 Tom Van Osdol.

20 MR. VAN OSDOL: Good afternoon, Commissioners. I
21 greatly appreciate the opportunity to speak this
22 afternoon. My name's Tom Van Osdol. I'm a resident
23 of Jacksonville. I have the privilege of serving as
24 the president and CEO for St. Vincent's Healthcare.
25 And I'm here to speak to you today in opposition of

1 Proposal 54, deregulation of CON in all types of
2 healthcare facilities, including hospitals. I have
3 been a -- a healthcare administrator now for over 30
4 years and I've had the privilege of practicing in
5 states both with and without CON legislation in place,
6 and I've seen first-hand the implications of both. I
7 have four specific dot points today to help articulate
8 the reasons for my opposition to Proposal 54.

9 First, Florida CON legislation simply works. The
10 government is a process for application, analysis and
11 approval of the construction of new facilities in
12 areas of demonstrated need -- areas of demonstrated
13 need. Hospital occupancy, number -- percentage of
14 patients in beds in hospital -- in Florida hospitals
15 as we sit here today is 58 percent. This appears to
16 be, as the gentleman said previously, a solution in
17 search of a problem. Again, in areas of demonstrated
18 need, there's a rigorous and effective CON process for
19 approval of new construction.

20 Second, cost to consumer and businesses increase
21 when CON is deregulated. There's generally a -- a
22 rush to duplicative investments in facilities and
23 equipment predominately in affluent areas; thus,
24 there's a need to pay for those fa- -- those
25 facilities and equipment and prices and services --

1 prices for services, cost to consumers and businesses
2 increase.

3 Third, again, there's a rush to affluent areas
4 typically leading to an abandonment of services and
5 access in rural or under-served areas, thus,
6 exacerbating healthcare disparities for the poor and
7 under-served.

8 And then, finally, many of us are -- are facing
9 provider shortages, many of our types of healthcare
10 professionals. The proliferation of -- of additional
11 healthcare facilities, again in areas without
12 demonstrated need without the CON process in place,
13 would only exacerbate these shortages.

14 Again, I appreciate your leaving 54 off the
15 ballot in November.

16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

18 Virginia Hall.

19 MS. HALL: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My
20 name is Virginia Hall and I serve as the Senior
21 Director of Advocacy in Community Engagement for
22 St. Vincent's Healthcare. I'm also a fourth-
23 generation Florida resident. Thank you for the
24 opportunity to speak today in opposition of Proposal
25 54. In healthcare, as with most things, quantity is

1 proxy for quality. The more procedures a physician
2 performs, the better and safer those procedures
3 become. Over the years, Florida CON law has
4 increasingly focused on complex inpatient services.
5 The statute prevents the expansion of such services
6 where that expansion would mean splitting the services
7 between multiple providers with the result that no one
8 does enough quantity to maintain necessary skills,
9 putting patient safety and quality outcomes at risk.

10 For example, currently you could have a physician
11 at one facility who performs 100 heart surgeries a
12 year and a physician at another facility who perform
13 500 heart surgeries a year. Who would you want to do
14 your surgery or someone on your family? Of course,
15 the doctor who performs 500 procedures.

16 Without the CON laws in place, you would have
17 many more facilities doing the same procedures; thus,
18 less cases for any one physician. CON laws also help
19 control the diffusion of costly medical technologies
20 and services. Currently hospitals work to achieve the
21 Centers of Excellence, which recognizes a quality
22 program of care in a particular area of service like
23 orthopedics.

24 One of the variables for a Center of Excellence
25 is based on the number of procedures performed and the

1 outcomes of those procedures. If there were no CON
2 law, you could have five sys- -- facilities within one
3 mile of one another, and none of them would be a
4 Center of Excellence because none had enough
5 procedures to earn this special recognition.

6 Since their original passage, Florida CON laws
7 have evolved and in both 2 -- 2004 and 2008, the CON
8 process was streamlined. As conditions changed, the
9 Legislature had the ability to modify Florida CON
10 requirements as they've done periodically. Please
11 vote against Proposal 54.

12 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Ms. Hall.

13 Richard Cardell.

14 MR. CARDELL: Good afternoon, Commissioners.

15 I'm a sixth-generation Floridian who's lived in
16 Jacksonville since 1962. I'm here to speak against
17 Proposition 4 and for Proposition 10.

18 I'm a retired public school teacher and counselor
19 and government employee. My -- most of my ancestors
20 came here before the Revolution, and they were for
21 religious freedom and they were for a country where
22 they didn't have to have their taxes go to a church to
23 which they did not belong. They supported their own
24 church. So I am very much for separation of church
25 and state.

1 I also feel that giving aid to sectarian schools
2 takes away money from the public schools.

3 And as for 10, education, civic literacy -- I'm
4 speaking to the choir here. We wouldn't all be here
5 if we didn't believe in the Democratic process and
6 have an understanding of how government works. And
7 I'm so glad that you're here to hear the People's
8 opinions on these important subjects.

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

11 All right. We'll go another five: David
12 Nevius --

13 MS. ALAWEE: Uh --

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Oh, I'm sorry. I completely
15 apologize. That was --

16 MS. ALAWEE: It's Besma Alawee. It's hard to say
17 it.

18 COMMISSIONER COXE: Oh. Here it is.

19 MS. ALAWEE: Okay?

20 COMMISSIONER COXE: Sorry.

21 MS. ALAWEE: No. It's okay.

22 I am Besma Alawee, a proud citizen. I'm also a
23 middle school teacher. My -- and my husband is a
24 soccer coach. We came from Iraq in 2010, and he was
25 -- we are proud he was supporting American military

1 over there.

2 We've been living in Jacksonville for the eight
3 last years and we are really great -- grateful to be
4 here.

5 I work for -- I also work for the Florida
6 Immigration Coalition. It's a state-wide alliance of
7 over 60-member organization include farm workers,
8 students, service providers, grassroots organizations
9 and legal educate who come together for all -- the
10 fair treatment of all people.

11 I am here today to vote -- please vote no on
12 Proposal 29. The -- Proposal 29 mandates all Florida
13 employ -- employers used to -- use -- either buy
14 computer program to determine if new employees are
15 eligible to work under immigration law.

16 First of all, it's -- will be really costly to
17 Florida business and workers. And, second, to open
18 the door to disc- -- discrim- -- discrimination and
19 action by employers that would harm communities.
20 Employers may be simply not interviewed and refuse to
21 hire applicants who were -- with foreign-sounding
22 names like me, based on the color of their skin
23 because they -- they want to avoid conflict with
24 federal authorities or any hassle of being challenged
25 based on mismatch.

1 Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

3 Now I may destroy this pronunciation: David
4 Nevius -- Nevius, Judy Sheklin, Tara Green, Tim Smith,
5 David Meyer.

6 Would you state your name, please?

7 MR. NEVIUS: Yes. Hello. My name's David
8 Nevius. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Honorable Members of
9 the Committee. Thank you for holding this public
10 hearing.

11 I would like to take my time to speak out against
12 Proposal Number 67, the proposal on greyhound racing
13 and wagering. I am a greyhound racing enthusiast and
14 have been one since 1992. In fact, I have been such a
15 greyhound enthusiast that when I was on Who Wants to
16 be Millionaire in 2006, instead of flashing my name,
17 they flashed "greyhound enthusiast" on the TV screen.

18 I'm also one of the many volunteers for the local
19 adoption agency, Greyhounds As Pets of Northeast
20 Florida. Our main purpose is to find homes for
21 retired racers and we annually re-home several
22 hundreds greyhounds a year.

23 I am aware that there are two vastly different
24 sides to the issue of greyhound racing. I strongly
25 encourage members of this Commission to not listen to

1 the rhetoric, and visit one of the many racing kennels
2 throughout Florida and see for themselves how much
3 greyhounds love to run.

4 This past February 11th at the Best Bet Orange
5 Park we held our yearly event called Greyhounds As
6 Pets Day. This is a day where adopters can bring
7 their retired racers out to the track for fun
8 activities, which include costume contests for the
9 greyhounds -- and, yes, people do dress up their
10 greyhounds in costumes -- silent auctions, raffle
11 drawings and a track walk. The greyhounds most enjoy
12 the track walk when they feel the sand underneath
13 their feet after being retired for several years. In
14 closing, when you own a retired racer, you've won the
15 race of a lifetime. And I urge the committee to vote
16 against Proposal 67.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

19 Judy Sheklin?

20 MS. SHEKLIN: Hi. My name is Judy Sheklin. I've
21 lived in Jacksonville, Florida since the late '70s and
22 I do appreciate the work of the CRC, the work that
23 you're doing.

24 I also applaud the recent decision of the
25 Judiciary Committee when they rejected Proposal 22,

1 which is the right to privacy in the Florida
2 Constitution.

3 I still would like to speak in opposition to
4 Proposal 22 because we know that it can be brought up
5 again for reconsideration. Predominately, it
6 interjects government into areas of our private lives
7 and decisions that might include child rearing,
8 education, medical decisions, where it doesn't belong.
9 The right to make personal decisions that impact our
10 lives, that must remain private. And, for instance,
11 decisions between a patient and her doctor are best
12 made without the intrusion of government. The limit
13 of -- to privacy was voted on by Floridians in 2012,
14 and it was defeated at that time by a 15-point margin.
15 So we hope we will take that into consideration as we
16 think of hopefully not re-introducing that proposal.

17 Additionally, I would like to take this moment to
18 implore the CRC to create a proposal that will place
19 the ban of assault weapons on the ballot. Three
20 tragic shootings in three years in our state is
21 unconscionable. As a mother and grandmother and a
22 citizen, my worries are with the safety of our
23 children and our fellow citizens. Please, please
24 think about creating this proposal.

25 Thank you for allowing me to speak.

1 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

2 Tara Green.

3 MS. GREEN: Good afternoon. Tara Green. I'm the
4 elected Clerk Of Court for Clay County. I want to
5 thank each of the Commissioners for your time and your
6 commitment to the Commission. It's very important
7 work.

8 The intent of prosal [sic] -- Proposal Number 55
9 is to update the current funding model found in
10 Article V, Section 14 of the Florida Constitution.
11 This will provide the Legislature with more
12 flexibility to fund the numerous services that clerks
13 perform for the public, businesses and the courts.

14 As adopted by The People in 1998, Revision 7 to
15 Article V was intended to create a user-paid, self-
16 funding model for the Clerk of Court's related duties.
17 The need for change in the funding model is necessary
18 as the current model is no longer sustainable to
19 provide the essential services provided to the Florida
20 by -- to the citizens by Florida clerks.

21 In Revision 7, the Legislature wanted to ensure
22 that certain users, including mental health, indigent,
23 juvenile dependency and domestic violence cases should
24 pay no fee and the work provided for these cases would
25 be paid by other users. In practice, this meant that

1 traffic cases, which were expected to generate far
2 more revenue than needed to pay for the pro -- for
3 processing these traffic cases, would support the cost
4 of these no-fee cases. However, the revenue stream
5 from traffic has fallen dramatically in recent years
6 and no longer support these important no-fee cases.
7 Revenues from traffic have fallen 40 percent over the
8 last ten years. That means the revenue to offset
9 other costs like those in mental health and domestic
10 violence cases, which are new -- no-fee cases is less
11 and less each year. The consequence of the decline of
12 traffic revenue is -- is to the decrease of \$63
13 million in the Clerk's budget.

14 The Clerks of Courts are asking for your support
15 on Number 55 to allow us to effectively serve the
16 public throughout the state of Florida.

17 Thank you.

18 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

19 Tim Smith.

20 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chair and members of
21 the Commission for allowing me to speak today.

22 I want to continue with Ms. Green's proposal. I
23 am the elected clerk of Putnam County. Proposal 55 is
24 a completion of the intent that was adopted in the
25 1998 Revision to Article V, and that is why it needs

1 to be in the Constitution.

2 It was expressly stated in the statement of
3 intent regarding Article IV, Section 14 in the 1998
4 CRC Journal that the Legislature, when developing the
5 schedule of filing fees, service charges, and costs,
6 adopt a procedure to fund the office of the clerk of
7 the circuit and county courts when -- with filing
8 fees. When service charges and costs are insufficient
9 to cover court-related costs and expenses of the
10 office, then the Legislature needs to make that up.

11 This proposal does not suggest creating new
12 filing fees for those users of the system who
13 currently pay no fee. Instead, this proposal allows
14 for greater legislative flexibility in clerk funding
15 in order to provide the services for the volume in
16 each clerk's office.

17 This misalignment of budget to workload expenses
18 is unsustainable and not only creates unacceptable
19 delays in a payer's access to the judicial system, but
20 creates public safety changers for the people we
21 serve.

22 Proposal 55 tweaks the current funding model to
23 provide a mechanism by which the Legislature could
24 provide appropriate payment for those matters that
25 currently pay no fee in order to fund the resources

1 clerks need to do their job. This is not a mandate
2 for specific funds. The mounts of the payments would
3 be up to the Legislature to determine.

4 Thank you for your consideration and we ask for
5 your support of Proposal 55.

6 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

7 David Meyer.

8 MR. MEYER: Good afternoon. I'm David Meyer.
9 I'm the chief strategy officer for St. Vincent's
10 Healthcare in Jacksonville which is a top-five private
11 employer. I'm here to talk about and strongly
12 encourage you to oppose 54.

13 I want to talk about the significance and the
14 importance of CON regulations and ensuring that we
15 have optimal locations for all of our healthcare
16 facilities, also ensuring that the residents -- the
17 facilities that these communities -- where the
18 communities in which they're in, that all residents --
19 not only those that have insurance, but the poor and
20 vulnerable -- have access to health care services.

21 I was fortunate enough to participate in the CON
22 process to build a new hospital in Clay County. And
23 I'll tell you, we -- there was a lot of competition.
24 There were two other applicants.

25 In fact, St. Vincent's was not --

1 COMMISSIONER COXE: Can you move a little closer?

2 MR. SMITH: St. Vincent's was not the first
3 awarded the CON. It went to our competitors. It's
4 through the -- the CON process, it worked. One of our
5 competitors proposed to build a hospital in a
6 submarket that had less than five -- less than five
7 percent Medicaid and self-pay. St. Vincent's, we took
8 the opposite track. We wanted to make sure the
9 Facility had optimal access per Medicaid and the
10 under-served.

11 Lastly, I assure you -- if you deregulate
12 Certificate of Need, I assure you, you're going to see
13 health -- health providers and -- and hospital and
14 other -- and -- and other organizations that will
15 strategically locate hospitals in markets that have a
16 high proliferation of commercially insured and they're
17 going to siphon off the -- those that they insured for
18 the -- the critical access hospital. And safety net
19 hospitals everyday desperately need these -- these
20 insured patients to help them meet their margin.

21 So I implore you -- I strongly encourage you to
22 oppose 54.

23 Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

25 We're going to call five more then take a short

1 break.

2 Gloria Einstein, Elizabeth Sams, Darren Thacker,
3 Wanda Fishalow and Sonia Stratemann.

4 Gloria Einstein. Is that -- I'm sorry.

5 MS. EINSTEIN: Thank you, Commissioners. I'm
6 Gloria Einstein. I'm retired but I devoted my legal
7 career to being a legal aid attorney helping low
8 income people in civil cases in South Georgia and then
9 in Florida.

10 In preparation for moving to Florida in 1990, I
11 studied for the Bar and had occasion to learn and
12 really admire the Florida Constitution, and the
13 shining star of that is our privacy provision. I know
14 that Propo- -- Proposal 22 is inactive, but there is a
15 chance it might be brought back with no opportunity
16 for public comment.

17 So I am urging the Commission not to allow that
18 proposal to continue. The privacy provision has been
19 enmeshed in the very divisive issue of abortion. I'd
20 like to step back from that and talk about what the
21 provision really means, that people might make
22 decisions about their lives without interference by
23 the government. It is a very American value. It is a
24 core American value.

25 I would like to suggest it goes back even further

1 than the founding of our country. It's really an
2 embodiment of The Golden Rule. We all think that we
3 know how to direct our lives. And we want to make
4 decisions for our own lives. The other guy, we're not
5 so sure about. So it is a natural tendency to want to
6 regulate other people's lives. And what The Golden
7 Rule tells us is: Don't do it.

8 You don't want it done to you. Do not do
9 that.

10 Protect other people's rights, other people's
11 privacy as you would want your own protected. And I
12 hope that the Commission will not allow Proposal 22 or
13 anything like it to continue.

14 Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Ms. Einstein.

16 Elizabeth Sams.

17 MS. SAMS: I'm Elizabeth Sams, a resident of
18 Atlantic Beach and a registered voter and I appreciate
19 the chance to be here.

20 I came up here to make a similar statement in
21 support of being sure that Proposition 22 does not
22 rise from the dead and reconsider. I can't talk,
23 which has been said; I agree with that completely. So
24 I will use my time to also urge you to reconsider Prop
25 62 on the open primaries and to add my voice to those

1 who are urging this body to offer Florida voters some
2 way to express progress on the issue of gun safety in
3 the next election.

4 Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you very much.

6 Darren Thacker.

7 MR. THACKER: Hello, Commissioners. Thank you
8 for your service. My name is Darren Thacker and I
9 work and represent Healthcare Services Group. I'm
10 here to speak on Proposal 88. Healthcare Services
11 Group services over 5,300 facilities and long-term
12 care and assisted living, over 300 facilities in the
13 State of Florida. Healthcare Services Group services
14 and manages housekeeping, laundry, and dining
15 services. We assist the management and the hourly
16 staff to -- like I said, over 300 clients in our --
17 state of Florida.

18 My clients at Healthcare Services Group provide
19 excellent quality care on a day-to-day basis, and with
20 most of our residents that can't be here today, we
21 want to make sure they have a voice. The proposal
22 doesn't give any additional rights to our residents.
23 The bottom line: It only helps attorneys sue us for
24 even more monies. And, as was said today, we're the
25 second most regulated industry aside from nuclear

1 power plants. So keeping up with ACA is a whole other
2 issue.

3 We are proposing Proposal 88 to vote no.

4 Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

6 Wanda Fishalow.

7 MS. FISHALOW: My name is Wanda Fishalow. I'm an
8 attorney in Jacksonville and I'm a life-long resident
9 of Florida.

10 First, I want to thank you guys for your public
11 service. I see you guys listening intently and I very
12 much appreciate that and I'm grateful to live in a
13 country where we can participate in this process. So
14 thank everybody for being here, no matter which side
15 you're on.

16 COMMISSIONER COXE: Would you move just a little
17 closer to the --

18 MS. FISHALOW: Yes, sir.

19 I'm here to ask you to please support Proposal 67
20 to end greyhound racing in Florida. The great
21 majority of states have outlawed commercial dog racing
22 but Florida remains in the minority, allowing this
23 barbaric industry to operate. The world is watching.
24 Please do the right thing and use your position to
25 help these beautiful, loyal, innocent loving souls.

1 Vote yes for the dogs.

2 Also, I standard stand with Parkland and I urge
3 lawmakers and the people of Florida to ban assault
4 weapons to protect our children and their families.

5 Thank you very much.

6 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you very much.

7 Sonia Stratemann.

8 MS. STRATEMANN: Hello. Sonia Stratemann.

9 I've been doing greyhound rescue for a little
10 over 14 years and we've taken in over 2,000 -- over
11 2,000 -- it's loud to me -- over 2,000 greyhounds.

12 I usually speak about all the broken legs that
13 we've taken in, hundreds of them. I have spent
14 hundreds of thousands of dollars. My husband and I
15 recently over Christmas spent \$10,000 on three that
16 were taken in to be euthanized. And that was just my
17 husband and I personally, not funding from our rescue.
18 Yesterday, I was driving here from Melbourne and I was
19 listening to the hearing and some of the trainers and
20 kennel owners. One of the gentlemen that spoke
21 yesterday -- I used to work with adoption groups up
22 north and he offered to -- he owns a kennel in Palm
23 Beach -- offered to drive dogs for me.

24 I paid for each dog to have its separate crate.

25 He took three days to get there. The dogs were never

1 let out. He double-crated them. When they arrived at
2 the adoption group, they opened the first crate and
3 one of my dogs was dead with another dog sitting
4 there. So that's the kind of man he is.

5 He also had three dogs -- and this is reported --
6 the local humane society -- he drove up with three
7 dead dogs in his truck. So that's how wonderful he
8 is.

9 Another man that spoke yesterday, how much he
10 loves his dogs: One of the dogs that my husband and I
11 just spent money on -- it was sent to be euthanized --
12 is sitting in my kennel, came from his kennel. They
13 all waited to speak until later, you know.

14 Sorry. I'm shaking so badly.

15 One of the other women that spoke, two of her
16 personal dogs were in her truck in the compound. She
17 forgot about them and they died.

18 She also forgot about two racing dogs and it
19 turned out to be in the middle of the summer and they
20 died. That -- and she does adoption, also.

21 I -- I could go on and on and on. I -- I don't
22 have enough time. But thank you.

23 And please, please vote for the dogs.

24 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

25 We're going to take a five-minute break. But let

1 me tell you who the next five will be so you can
2 practice during the break: Doug Adkins, Diane Wiles,
3 Judy who does not have a last name, Pat -- and just so
4 you know, it's a Judy from Boyton, Florida, 3 Flint --
5 Pat Colvin and Stephanie Contrada.

6 We'll take a five-minute break.

7 (A break was taken from 3:00 p.m. to 3:15 p.m.)

8 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you. I appreciate
9 everyone's patience.

10 Let me go back to the next five.

11 Doug Adkins.

12 MR. ADKINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 My name's Doug Adkins. I'm the owner of two
14 assisted-living facilities here in northeast Florida.
15 And I'm also the regional board member for the
16 Assisted-Living Association of Florida.

17 There's two major challenges facing Florida in
18 the next five years, a couple years, and it's how to
19 handle the growing problems headed around the aging
20 population, rising levels of acuity and to ensure
21 access to affordable, quality care.

22 At the same time, Florida's struggling to find
23 solutions to the mental health crisis that's spiraling
24 out of control, spilling into our streets and our
25 schools and our prisons. These challenges are

1 compounded and made more difficult by Proposal 88,
2 which is pending before the CRC.

3 Let me just say this: For most facilities,
4 protecting resident rights is part of our culture.

5 It's part of what we do every day and it's a
6 significant part of our duty as a -- as assistant
7 living administrators. But let me share with you the
8 realities of what we face as we look ahead.

9 The insurance carriers are likely going to have
10 -- have a significant impact on this. So as we look
11 ahead, the insurance carriers are going to say to me,
12 as an assisted-living administrator, "Okay. Fine.
13 Here's what we're going to do." They're going start
14 to regulate and they're just going to limit who we're
15 going to be able to accept in our facilities. They're
16 going to start to have an impact on the age. They're
17 going to start to have an impact on the type of
18 disability.

19 So what does all this mean for the average
20 Flori- -- Floridian? This means that we're going to
21 start to price out people. They're going to raise the
22 rates. They're going to limit the types of people
23 that we can accept into our facilities. And what's
24 going to happen to those people with complex, serious
25 mental health problem? Well, we're going to have to

1 find a new place for them. What will happens to those
2 people who have complex symptoms that, you know, we
3 can't continue to care for? Well, we're going to have
4 to start driving up the nursing home costs. You could
5 end up spiking the Medicaid costs. So the reality is
6 that when you start looking at what we're facing --
7 \$12.25 a day is the Medicaid rate for an assisted-care
8 service person in an assisted-living facility. That's
9 not a lot of money. \$1,100 a month is what Medicaid
10 pays for long-term care. So the reality is, is that
11 this is going to be a very, very serious problem and I
12 ask for you vote no on 88.

13 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

14 Diane Wiles.

15 MS. WILES: Good afternoon. I am here asking you
16 to vote yes on Proposal 67 and let the voters decide.
17 To me, this is not a jobs issue. This is not a
18 gambling issue, a tax or a revenue issue. This is an
19 animal welfare issue.

20 I'm a ten-year volunteer with the local animal
21 adoption -- or greyhound adoption group and a
22 greyhound owner. We've had five. I've heard the
23 opposition claim many times that there are not
24 injuries and that the animals are cared for when they
25 are injured. So four of my five are evidence that

1 that is not always true. Two of them have multiple
2 large unhealed scars on their body. One came with an
3 injured leg that was not treated. She still limps on
4 that today. And then the other -- some of you have
5 heard -- with two puppies as a result of mother being
6 sent away pregnant because the litter could not be
7 registered and so she was cast away. After she had
8 the babies, they wanted her back. So that's just my
9 personal experience for those that say people are
10 making things up.

11 On Facebook I saw an adopter being very thankful
12 that his greyhound who had split its skull in a race
13 was happy that the race owner had paid to have it
14 fixed and that this dog lived a long, healthy life. I
15 am happy that the dog had a long life as well. But
16 let's not forget, the dog injured its skull racing.
17 This is a dangerous sport for the animals.

18 And, lastly, I hear a lot of concern for jobs and
19 jobs lost. But I'd like to just point out that on the
20 adoption site, it's all volunteers. We are spending
21 our own time, our own funds caring for the -- these
22 animals post-career.

23 I heard a woman say she was caring for 150 dogs
24 on her farm. I can't imagine. When does this end?

25 Please vote for the dogs.

1 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

2 Judy, if you could, give us your --

3 MS. POTTS: I'm Judy with no last name.

4 I'm Judy Potts.

5 Hi. This is now my third meeting, so I recognize
6 some of these Commissioners sitting here. I urge
7 strongly for you to vote for Proposal 67.

8 My experiences as a ten-year volunteer: I am a
9 proud owner of -- I'm a proud owner of four
10 greyhounds.

11 COMMISSIONER COXE: Could you --

12 MS. POTTS: I --

13 COMMISSIONER COXE: -- move a little closer to
14 the mic?

15 MS. POTTS: I'm a proud owner of four greyhounds
16 and it's my ten years. My female greyhound -- my
17 first greyhound, female, came off the tracks two days
18 before I took her home. She was full of sores. She
19 was thin as a rail. She was a black greyhound. Her
20 -- her fur looked brown. She had no hair on her hind
21 quarters.

22 Within six months, that dog was thriving. The
23 sores had healed. Her skin was silky black and all
24 the fur had grown back on her hind quarters. There is
25 a problem with greyhound racing. There is some form

1 of abuse. I'm not saying every kennel owner does
2 that. I don't want to put anybody out of a job. But
3 it's at the expense of the injuries to these animals.

4 I have heard my organization be called liars. I
5 am not a liar. For ten years I have seen broken legs,
6 fleas and ticks, dirty ears, black teeth. I have set
7 up endless hours of my time for events where we have a
8 tent and a table at local fairs to try to get these
9 dogs adopted. We have to be careful of what dogs we
10 take because some of the sites that these dogs come
11 out of the race life.

12 I'm not a liar. It's time to end this industry.
13 I'm sorry the people that own 100 dogs in the kennel
14 are going to lose a job, but it's at the expense of
15 these animals. These animals were not born to run.
16 They were born to hunt. They are sight hounds. They
17 just happen to be the fastest breed of dog and that's
18 why they race them.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

21 Pat Colvin.

22 MS. COLVIN: I'm Pat. Thank you for the great
23 work you've done already, particularly your work in
24 rejecting Proposal 22. I agree that that proposal
25 rejected. Our present privacy clause --

1 COMMISSIONER COXE: I think the microphone's
2 turned up away from you a little bit, if you want to
3 tilt it back down towards you.

4 MS. COLVIN: Okay.

5 I think the clause as it stands protects everyday
6 Floridians from governmental intrusion into so many
7 aspects of our private lives. In addition to
8 protecting our rights to make personal medical
9 decisions, including end-of-life decisions, which is
10 very important to me, it protects us from government
11 meddling into how we raise our children, our
12 educational choices for them, and what we do in the
13 privacy of our own homes or even in our backyards.

14 I urge you to ensure that protections are
15 continued, are guaranteed under Florida's privacy
16 clause of the constitution and continue to protect all
17 Floridians.

18 Also, I'd like to cast my vote against Proposal
19 54. I've been a hospice volunteer here in
20 Jacksonville for around ten years. In the -- in the
21 past -- in one of my previous lives, I was a volunteer
22 with them. I'm also a public health professional
23 locally and I know how the Certificate of Need program
24 works and it works well. I think it needs to stay the
25 way it is.

1 I'd also like to ask you to work on a ban against
2 assault weapons. I'm a professor at UNF. I've been a
3 student at UNF. I don't want guns on my campus. I
4 don't want to hear about another high school shooting.

5 Thank you for your time.

6 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

7 Stephanie Contrada?

8 MS. CONTRADA: Hello. I am Stephanie Contrada
9 and I support Proposal 67 to phase out greyhound
10 racing. The best argument: Would you subject your
11 dog to track racing? No. Why not? Once again, we're
12 talking about documented abuse, use and profiting from
13 these innocent, voiceless beings that share the earth
14 with us. They would much rather be out playing,
15 running, not caged, muzzled, injected with steroids
16 and forced to run in the hot Florida sun. It's just
17 plain wrong. Please do what's right and humane and
18 support Proposal 67.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

21 All right. The next five will be Daphne
22 Pattison, Jordan Bebout, Blake Harper, James Phillips,
23 and Bill Hamilton.

24 MS. PATTISON: Hi. I'm Daphne and --

25 COMMISSIONER COXE: You -- you can -- you can

1 pull that down to you if you want, or somebody can
2 help do you it.

3 MS. PATTISON: Okay. In reference to Proposal 67
4 to end greyhound racing, Florida has already voted as
5 attendance has declined substantially. It is without
6 compassion to promote animals as
7 entertainment. The world needs more compassion.

8 Please vote for the dogs.

9 Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

11 Jordan Bebout.

12 MS. BEBOUT: Hi. I'm Jordan Bebout. I'm from
13 Martin County. I'm here on behalf Young Floridians
14 and I'm in support of continuing the ban on drilling
15 off the coast of Florida, which is Proposition 92 --
16 Proposal 92. I urge you to support the ban on the
17 drilling of natural gas and oil off Florida's coast.
18 Seismic surveys off of our continental shelf will
19 severely impact marine life like dolphins, whales and
20 commercially-fished other marine life.

21 You guys might not be here in 20 years, probably
22 not 30, but I will. This is my problem, so...

23 COMMISSIONER COXE: We -- we -- we -- we can
24 raise our hands to find out who's not.

25 MS. BEBOUT: So I urge you to --

1 COMMISSIONER COXE: This -- make this -- make
2 this nice, now, will you?

3 MS. BEBOUT: So, please -- and I'm also standing
4 here in support of my peers in Parkland who are on
5 their way to Tallahassee right now to work in reformed
6 gun legislation in Florida.

7 So thank you and thank you for coming to
8 Jacksonville. I appreciate it.

9 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

10 Blake Harper. Good afternoon, ladies and
11 gentlemen. First of all, thank you for your time and
12 prayers of travel mercy for you as you're away from
13 your businesses, your communities and your families.
14 And that's what's -- what we're here to talk about, is
15 your families.

16 Each of you are parents. Each of you want to
17 raise your parents [sic] as you see fit. The author
18 of Proposition 22 has clearly demonstrated that the
19 purpose there, that the goal of Proposition 22 will be
20 to allow you to raise your children as you see fit.
21 You will be able to tell your children what to do and
22 not to do. You'll be able to discipline them. Be
23 able to lift them up without government interfering
24 and hi- -- allowing them to hide very important things
25 about their lives from you. That's the reality of it.

1 For every person that sits here and says that they
2 want to protect the children and allow you, as
3 parents, to do the things that you want to do and
4 you're obligated to do. You're -- you're responsible
5 for your children. A -- a foster parent, a -- one of
6 those mediated parents are responsible for the raising
7 of children, but how can you do that when they're
8 allowed to hide important facts from you? And the
9 reason that they're allowed to do that is because of
10 misapplication of a law that came out of this very
11 process.

12 The existing wording in the law was established
13 by this very process, which they want -- which if
14 allowed to remain off the ballot, remain not
15 considered, you are undermining this very process.
16 The wording in the law was established through the CRC
17 back in 1978. Now, folks, we're all here investing
18 our time. You are, as well. How meaningful is that
19 when activist judges in 25 out of 26 cases can
20 overturn the work that you do? We're talking about
21 judicial activism wiping out this process right here.

22 In some sense, you have an obligation to hold 90
23 -- or 22 up.

24 The other part of it is -- I'm out of time. But
25 thank you very much. I appreciate your time.

1 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, Mr. Harper.
2 James Phillips.

3 MR. PHILLIPS: Good afternoon. I saw a bunch of
4 y'all yesterday.

5 COMMISSIONER COXE: Can you move the microphone
6 closer to you?

7 MR. PHILLIPS: As I said yesterday, I re- -- I
8 own a company that built all the greyhound dog tracks
9 in Florida. We started this 80 years ago. Of course,
10 it wasn't me, but my ancestors did.

11 Four years ago, I created another company,
12 Redhound Racing Repairs, dedicated solely to the
13 safety of greyhound racing. I informed all the
14 tracks, Grey2K, everybody I could about these safety
15 issues and our curing of these issues. Only two
16 tracks in the whole country were even interested in
17 this. Grey2K doesn't even want to talk to us about
18 it. We can -- we've proven that we can stop the
19 injuries by 97 percent, yet none of them seem to want
20 to get in touch with a greyhound equipment company and
21 to find out how this could be accomplished. That
22 would -- to me, that means it is the tracks themselves
23 that don't care whether greyhound racing exists
24 anymore. And I would like to not be put out of
25 business. And the thousands of other people that are

1 in this business, I would like for them not to be put
2 out of business, either. So don't let the tracks
3 dictate; don't let the money dictate what we get to
4 do.

5 Thank you very much.

6 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

7 Bill Hamilton.

8 The next five will Jen Lamberk, Patrick Hamilton,
9 Daniel Gray Thomas, David Barksdale, Paul Hull.

10 Jen Lamberk. Is Jen Lamberk here?

11 Patrick Hamilton. Is Patrick Hamilton here?

12 Daniel Gray Thomas?

13 MR. THOMAS: Thank you, Commissioners. I'm Gray
14 Thomas. I'm an attorney in Jacksonville and I've been
15 practicing law here for over 25 years.

16 COMMISSIONER COXE: Mr. Thomas, could you move
17 the microphone a little closer, please?

18 MR. THOMAS: Yes.

19 I'm speaking in regard to Proposal 96, which is a
20 solution in search of a problem. It is completely
21 unnecessary. Almost everything meaningful in 96 is
22 already addressed. It's addressed in Article I,
23 Section 16(B) of the Florida Constitution.

24 COMMISSIONER COXE: I'm still having a little
25 trouble hearing you.

1 MR. THOMAS: It's also addressed in numerous
2 Florida statutes that relate to victims and victims'
3 rights. And -- and some of the specifics are -- are
4 particularly troubling. There's no reason for a person
5 who has made an acquisition to be excused from
6 compulsory process that any other witness is required
7 to submit to for a pretrial deposition.

8 The -- the -- the -- the proposal also includes a
9 right for an alleged victim to refuse to be
10 interviewed. Anyone can refuse to be interviewed.
11 And there's also no reason to allow a mechanism for
12 the state to control both the timing of providing
13 discovery -- pretrial discovery, and then immediately
14 demand a speedy trial. That's unnecessary. The State
15 is well-represented all over the state. And Florida
16 law has numerous, numerous protections for victims.
17 The -- the system in the rare instances when an
18 individual, a -- a lawyer is being abusive of the
19 process, the system can, does, and has handled it.

20 Thank you.

21 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

22 David Barksdale.

23 MR. BARKSDALE: Good afternoon. I'm David
24 Barksdale. I'm chair elect of the Executive Council
25 of the Criminal Law Section of the Florida Bar. I

1 speak on behalf of the Bar's Criminal Law Section to
2 express our strong opposition to Proposal 96.

3 The Criminal Law Section is made up of judges,
4 prosecutors, defense lawyers and academics. Our
5 executive counsel meets several times a year. Many
6 times we cannot take a position on various issues
7 affecting the criminal justice system because our
8 diverse group simply cannot reach consensus. But here
9 the executive council voted 29 to 3 to oppose Proposal
10 96.

11 While different members voted against approval
12 for different reasons, there was almost unanimous
13 agreement against Proposal 96. We all agree that
14 victims have and should have rights in the criminal
15 justice system. Currently, Article 1, Section 16 of
16 the Florida Constitution guarantees those rights. The
17 Legislature has passed enabling legislation which
18 assures that those rights are protected. The Florida
19 Bar's Criminal Law Section, again judges, prosecutors,
20 defense lawyers, academics, work daily in the Florida
21 courts to ensure that victims' rights are protected.
22 The Executive Council's overwhelming vote, 29 to 3, is
23 that Proposal 96 should not be included in the
24 Constitution.

25 Thank you.

1 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

2 Paul Hull.

3 MR. HULL: Good afternoon. I'm Paul Hall. I'm
4 with the American Cancer Society Cancer Action
5 Network. I'm here in opposition to Proposal 94 and in
6 support of Proposal 65.

7 Welcome to Jacksonville where, in a previous
8 life, I had the honor to work for a couple of hometown
9 heroes, Senator Bill Bankhead and Senator Jim King.
10 And it states the biomedical research programs are
11 actually named after those two statesmen. And what
12 went to it as money diverted for research for Proposal
13 94 would land in one or both of these places.

14 And, for full disclosure, the legis- -- the bill
15 that ultimately became the Bankhead Colon Cancer
16 Research Program was one that I drafted for the
17 American Cancer Society and brought to the Legislature
18 for consideration.

19 So you will find no bigger fan for these programs
20 or for cancer research funding, generally, than me.
21 But I'm here to respectfully suggest that Proposal 94
22 is not the way to do it.

23 Since 2006, an overwhelmingly-approved ballot
24 initiative on tobacco control was adopted with 15
25 percent of tobacco settlement revenues going to the

1 tobacco prevention program. Youth smoking rates have
2 actually dropped by more than 70 percent, which is
3 huge because 90 percent of the smokers started in
4 their teens or even earlier.

5 If Proposal 94 passes, those smoking rates would
6 surely go back up. You know, and we've seen it before
7 when the tobacco control funding was cut. Let's not
8 let history repeat itself.

9 The CDC actually recommends that Florida spend
10 \$210 million on tobacco prevention. We actually spent
11 about 70, which, you know, was certainly reasonable,
12 and the \$362 million comes from the tobacco
13 settlement. So a lot more money goes to other things
14 than this program.

15 Lastly, I would say Proposal 65 -- its time has
16 come. E-Cigs, there's been an uptake in usage and we
17 strongly urge you to support Senator Carlton's
18 proposal to include that in the Clean Indoor Air Act.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you, sir.

21 Will the next five -- Elizabeth DuClose, Heather
22 -- and I'll try to pronounce it correctly --
23 Sciartelli, Mary Ann Steinberg, Jay Howell, and Emily
24 Stanton.

25 MS. DUCLOSE: Hello. My name is Elizabeth

1 DuClose. I'm a lo- -- a native of Jacksonville,
2 Florida.

3 I'm here to speak on -- against Proposal 4. The
4 -- as many people have already spoken, I think our
5 population has already said several times that they
6 want to keep tax money out of religious institutions.
7 And I think the -- the -- the -- sometimes I think the
8 only people that want to put tax money into religious
9 institutions are people who are trying to push their
10 religion onto others.

11 And I think that this is also misnamed. I think
12 calling it freedom of religion is a very bad name for
13 it because it's not anything about freedom of
14 religion. Freedom of religion means you have the
15 right to not have other people push their religion on
16 you. Your own inner thoughts and philosophies should
17 be respected and that is not what this proposal is
18 for.

19 Thank you.

20 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

21 Heather -- you help me.

22 MS. SCIARTELLI: Sciartelli.

23 My name is Heather Sciartelli and I have been a
24 tobacco prevention and control advocate for 20 years.

25 I'm a Florida native and an active informed

1 voter.

2 Thank you for serving on the CRC.

3 I'm here to urge you to reject Proposal 94. Not
4 one public health organization or cancer research
5 program supports Proposal 94. Prop 94 would change
6 the way Florida's constitutionally mandated program
7 funds youth tobacco prevention and cessation efforts
8 by shifting funds to cancer research. Shifting these
9 funds would actually increase Florida's cancer burden
10 and associated costs to Florida taxpayers.

11 Florida's pro- -- tobacco prevention program is
12 not funded by Florida taxpayers but by 15 percent of
13 the annual payment from Florida's settlement with the
14 tobacco industry. Proposal 94 is unnecessary because
15 Florida already has a legislative answer for cancer
16 research.

17 Commissioner Nunez incorrectly stated that the
18 TFF Program (Tobacco Free Florida) does not
19 incorporate programs outside the CDC Best Practices,
20 giving examples of elimination of second-hand smoke
21 projects and cigarette butt clean-ups. This is
22 untrue. Those programs and those types of activities
23 are indeed part of the Community Interventions
24 programming. Florida is one of the most successful
25 tobacco control and prevention programs -- dare I say

1 it -- in the world.

2 Commissioner Nunez also stated she believes
3 cancer research is one of the best quantifiable
4 measures for prevention. This is a false statement.
5 Cancer research does not yield quantifiable outcomes
6 and would not advance the mission of Tobacco Free
7 Florida. The reason why this program needed to be
8 protected by the Florida Constitution in the first
9 place is because the tobacco industry and special
10 interest lobbying groups that banded together to
11 eliminate the funding altogether in 2003, going from
12 \$78 million to \$1 million. Currently, the program is
13 only funded at 35 percent of the CDC's recommended
14 level but still manages to be one of the most
15 successful tobacco prevention programs in the world.
16 History will repeat if Proposal 94 is passed.

17 The tobacco industry spends \$1 million an hour
18 predatorily marketing products for children and young
19 people that, if used as directed, causes disease and
20 death. There are over three dozen tobacco lobbyists
21 in Tallahassee each year. Do not be a puppet of the
22 tobacco industry. I urge you to reject Proposal 94.

23 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

24 Mary Ann Steinberg.

25 MS. STEINBERG: My name is Mary Ann Steinberg and

1 I want to voice my opposition to Proposal 94.

2 The Tobacco Free Florida program is a very
3 effective program. It's a program that many states
4 across the country have modeled their tobacco
5 prevention programs after.

6 When I was -- I watched Representative Nunez give
7 her presentation before the Commission, and she -- she
8 gave accolades to California for doing beach clean-
9 ups, while having unit housing have secondhand smoke
10 prevention. And I thought, "Well, we do that, too, in
11 Florida and we do it very effectively." Yet, we're
12 only funded at 35 percent of the recommended CDC
13 guidelines.

14 California's doing this and they're funded at 94
15 percent of the CDC recommended guidelines. Youth who
16 use tobacco and nicotine are seven times more likely
17 develop -- to develop a drug-use disorder. And I
18 think in this day and age when we're concerned about
19 opioids and so forth, we have to realize that our
20 tobacco prevention programs also have an impact on
21 overall drug addiction in our youth.

22 We're an integral part of this. We're involved
23 in our school districts. We're a very integral part
24 of their prevention programs. We work with law
25 enforcement. We work with our Juvenile Justice

1 Commissions -- Councils. We work with a lot of
2 organizations within our community. This program is
3 very rooted in our communities as an effective
4 prevention program.

5 The tobacco industry needs to addict youth to
6 have future customers. The average age of addiction
7 is 12 years old. Ninety percent of tobacco users are
8 addicted before the age of 18. Think about it. If we
9 don't addict youth, the tobacco industry is not going
10 to have future customers. People don't take up
11 tobacco use as adults. It's the youth they're trying
12 to addict.

13 Proposal 94 is a dream come true for the tobacco
14 industry and a nightmare for prevention. So I ask you
15 to vote no on Proposal 94 and don't give big tobacco
16 what they want. We're being very effective right now
17 and that's what they don't like to see. They don't
18 like to see effective tobacco prevention.

19 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

20 Jay Howell.

21 MR. HOWELL: Good afternoon. My name is Jay
22 Howell. I'm a lawyer here in Jacksonville. I have
23 been a criminal defense attorney. I have been a state
24 prosecutor. I also have represented victims of crime.
25 I'm here to speak to Commission Cerio's Proposal

1 Number 96 that would strengthen the rights of crime
2 victims in the criminal justice system.

3 One issue is technical in nature that we need to
4 clear up from our previous presentations before the
5 Declaration of Rights Committee, and that is this:
6 There's some question about the true nature of the
7 rights of the accused to conduct a deposition of the
8 crime victim.

9 At the federal level, our United States
10 Constitution does not provide a constitutional right
11 to the accused to take the pretrial deposition of the
12 victim. The federal courts in our functioning federal
13 court system do not allow that, as well. In our state
14 Constitution, the words in that document state very
15 specifically that the accused has the right to
16 confront witnesses against them, but that is a trial
17 right, to confront the witnesses in the trial setting
18 and to cross-examine them.

19 So the bottom line is, the Supreme Court, the
20 Federal Constitution, our State Constitution does not
21 provide a constitutional right for the Defendant to do
22 that.

23 In Florida, we have done it. We are an outlier
24 state on that. There's only half a dozen other states
25 that do anything that is really comparable to what we

1 have done. We are far out on one end.

2 In 1988 when we tried and were successful in
3 passing the first constitutional amendment for crime
4 victims, the -- the only -- the primary organization
5 that opposed that was the Florida Bar. Ninety percent
6 of the people are citizens when they went into that
7 ballot box in November of '88 voted for it.

8 COMMISSIONER COXE: Mr. Howell?

9 MR. HOWELL: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER COXE: Just so everybody knows, I've
11 wanted to do that to Jay Howell for so long. We're
12 friends. We're friends, even.

13 Okay. Emily Stanton.

14 MS. STANTON: Hello. I'd like to thank the
15 Commission for allowing me to speak. My name is Emily
16 Stanton. I'm a constituent from Alachua County,
17 Florida. I've lived there for eight years now.

18 I want the rejection of Proposal 22 by the
19 Judicial Committee. I urge you to ensure that
20 protections guaranteed under Florida's privacy clause
21 of the Constitution continue to protect all Floridians
22 in their personal and private lives.

23 Please preserve, as-is, the privacy clause of our
24 Constitution.

25 I also urge the Commission to allow open

1 primaries in the State of Florida. Please support
2 Proposal 62.

3 I'm also asking the Commission to stand with
4 Parkland and take action against assault weapons now.

5 Thank you.

6 COMMISSIONER COXE: We all make mistakes and I've
7 got someone standing at the microphone and I don't
8 have a sheet, so...

9 You're name is...

10 MS. DUBIOUX: I believe you pronounced it Jasmine
11 Dubout but it's Jasmine Dubioux.

12 COMMISSIONER COXE: I'm sorry. That was -- that
13 was the first of the five I called.

14 MS. DUBIOUX: Oh. I'm sorry.

15 COMMISSIONER COXE: No. Go right ahead.

16 MS. DUBIOUX: I was --

17 COMMISSIONER COXE: My mistake. It's my fault.

18 MS. DUBIOUX: Thank you.

19 Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Jasmine
20 Dubioux and I'm currently a college student from
21 Gainesville, Florida. I'm here to urge you and the
22 Commission to adopt and vote yes on Proposal 83. This
23 proposal will amend the constitutional discrepancy in
24 Article IX, Section 8, which outlines the university
25 system. However, it does not mention the Florida

1 state college system.

2 Currently, the Florida state college system
3 serves over 800,000 college students, giving them the
4 opportunity to obtain education from trade
5 certificates to doctoral degrees. When I go to
6 school, I go to school with more than just students.
7 I go to school with mothers, fathers, veterans. These
8 are the future of America and they deserve to be
9 represented in our Constitution, so I urge you to vote
10 yes and adopt Proposal 83.

11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

13 All right. My next five: Reverend Harry Parrott,
14 Christopher Martin, Miriam Mohamed, Ann -- is it
15 Gipalo or Gipalo? -- Kasey Wagner, Reverend Harry
16 Parrott.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Reverend Harry Parrott had
18 to go to church, but he wanted you to vote no on
19 Proposal 4.

20 COMMISSIONER COXE: No on 4 for Reverend Harry
21 Parrott?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Nonverbal response.)

23 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

24 Christopher Martin.

25 MR. MARTIN: I'm Christopher Martin. I live in

1 Atlantic Beach, Florida. I've been a resident of
2 Florida since 1969, all in the northeast area of
3 Florida. I'm an Episcopal priest, retired. I'm here
4 -- I came mainly to speak to not resurrect Resolution
5 Proposal Number 22, which the Judicial Committee
6 turned down, but I understand that you could bring it
7 back and I don't want you to do that.

8 One of the things that I really value is the
9 privacy rights of individuals to make decisions about
10 themselves and their families, from birth to death.
11 And I think that the -- if that proposal came through
12 and it was enacted, it would limit that right.

13 I'm also for you-all doing something about
14 automatic weapons. And I stand with Parkland.

15 I strongly believe that one of the stupidest
16 things I ever did in my life was to start to smoke
17 when I was 18 years old and I did it until I was 46.
18 And I'm all with these people, so...

19 And -- and I -- and I think that, you know,
20 there's a lot of other good people that have spoken
21 about good things here and I'm not going take up any
22 more time.

23 But thank you for all that you do.

24 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

25 Christopher Martin. That was Mr. Martin. I'm

1 sorry.

2 Mariam Mohamed.

3 MS. MOHAMED: Hi. My name is Mariam. I'm a
4 student at the University of Florida in Gainesville,
5 Florida and I've lived in Florida for 11 years. I'm
6 here to talk about Proposal 22 as well.

7 Eliminating the right to privacy would be a great
8 detriment to all of the citizens of the state of
9 Florida. Additionally, like, this proposal is clearly
10 just a roundabout way to restrict access to
11 reproductive health rights for women and other
12 individuals across the state of Florida and a way to
13 circumvent transparency on the -- on the account of
14 the Commission.

15 Additionally, I'd like to say that I stand with
16 the victims of the Parkland shooting. And I would say
17 that the time is now to do something about assault and
18 military weapons, but I'd be decades too late.

19 Because the time is not now. The time was years and
20 years ago and many, many dead children's bodies ago.

21 I'm also in -- I would also like to speak in --
22 about the open primaries. I think that that's a great
23 way to get individuals to participate in government.
24 As a college student, I know that lot of the times
25 college students, young people, and millennials in

1 general, are -- have this stereotype that we don't
2 participate in politics, that we don't care about
3 politics, that we don't care about what's going on in
4 the government. That's not true in the slightest, and
5 having primaries open to individuals who don't
6 necessarily want to register with a -- with a certain
7 party will increase voter turnout and can only do
8 good.

9 On behalf of thousands of individuals across the
10 state of Florida who also are worried about Proposal
11 22 and the right to privacy, I have this petition that
12 has been signed by over 7,000 individuals.

13 Thank you.

14 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

15 Ann Gipalo.

16 MS. GIPALO: Gipalo.

17 Hi. Before I run out of time, I just wanted to
18 say I'm here to talk about guns, tobacco, education
19 and ethics. I stand with Parkland and I want an
20 assault weapons ban now. It is past time. Past time.
21 And none of the Legislatures want to take a vote on
22 this, and I know you don't have a proposal right now,
23 but if you can resurrect something that you've
24 supposedly set aside and tabled, you can add something
25 now. The voters of Florida would pass it 80 percent.

1 The Legislators could all avoid voting on it and we
2 could have it by November. Please do that.

3 Education -- or Tobacco Free. My father died in
4 2003 of lung cancer. My mother has COPD now, and my
5 sister had to sell her condo and move in with my
6 mother to take care of her. It is extremely stressful
7 for a child to have to do that. She quit smoking when
8 my daughter was born because I told her if she didn't
9 -- not smoke when I brought her to her house, I would
10 not bring my daughter to her house anymore, and she
11 quit. But 18 years is not enough. She still has COPD.

12 Education -- I am against Proposal 4, against
13 Proposal 45. I think that will open the door to more
14 charters and more vouchers, which will siphon public
15 money off to private interests.

16 And I have a question about Proposal 39, the
17 ethics thing, because I do not see that it addresses a
18 concern I raised in May last year about senators and
19 representatives who have personal and family interests
20 in charter businesses or architectural firms, building
21 firms for charters; and they sit on committees that
22 determine whether or not charters are going to get
23 money -- public money or not. That is a conflict of
24 interest on its face and this proposal does not
25 address the fact that those people should not be

1 sitting on those committees.

2 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

3 MS. GIPALO: Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER COXE: Kasey Wagner.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's not here. She was
6 going to speak in favor of Proposal 88.

7 COMMISSIONER COXE: All right. So if I call Greg
8 Lawrence next --

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He might be here.

10 COMMISSIONER COXE: All right. The next five,
11 which is true -- I didn't make that up: Greg
12 Lawrence, Tara Lester, Khendall -- if that's your
13 first or last name; it's just one name -- Jon Cantrell
14 and Sandra Martin.

15 Greg Lawrence.

16 MR. LAWRENCE: Thank you.

17 So I'm a -- a Florida-licensed attorney since
18 1994. I'm a resident of Duval County.

19 For about the last ten years, my practice -- one
20 of its primary focuses has been on nursing home
21 neglect and abuse. I speak in favor of Proposal 88.

22 While the entire amendment is commendable, I want
23 to address a specific provision regarding arbitration
24 agreements. The proposal provides that nursing homes
25 and assisted-living facilities will no longer be able

1 to solicit, require, or ask residents to waive their
2 constitutional right to a jury trial.

3 It's important to understand the status quo.
4 When someone goes to a nursing home now, there is a
5 stack of paperwork that they sign. And we get this
6 stack of paperwork in litigation and it can be 30, 40,
7 50 pages long, and they sign document after document
8 after document. Included in that is very often an
9 arbitration agreement. Very little explanation is
10 given about the import of the agreement.

11 Most of us here have probably never been a
12 resident of a nursing home. The closest analogy I can
13 give you is a real estate closing. We've all --
14 probably -- many of us have had a real estate closing.
15 You know, at some point you're just signing things.
16 Imagine if you're 87 years old and you're overcoming
17 pneumonia or a -- a hip implant and you're checking
18 into a nursing home. These things get signed by the
19 most vulnerable of our residents without any
20 explanation of what rights they are -- are waiving.

21 One of the biggest problems is: Not only is
22 there a constitutional right to a jury trial waived,
23 but also the ability to conduct discovery in
24 arbitration is greatly limited.

25 We don't take cases if we know there's a binding

1 arbitration agreement. That means in those instances,
2 there is no consequence for nursing home neglect.

3 Thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

5 Tara Lester.

6 MS. LESTER: Hi. I'm Tara Lester. I was born
7 and raised in Jacksonville, Florida.

8 Please support Proposal 67 to phase out greyhound
9 racing. I'd like to also introduce someone to you,
10 besides my son, Khendall Lester. I want to introduce
11 Gas Pedal. Gas Pedal -- Gas Pedal finished the race
12 with a broken leg. They killed him anyways. He was
13 no longer going to make them profit so they killed
14 him.

15 I'd like to also introduce Penrose Jake. Penrose
16 Jake died after colliding with another dog at the
17 Orange Park Kennel Club.

18 I'd also like to introduce Shortys Babydoll who
19 died after breaking her legs at the Orange Park Kennel
20 Club. They spend mo- -- most of their lives in small
21 cages, they've inject them with cocaine. So I have to
22 explain to my son what cocaine is.

23 No animal should be forced to work for profits.
24 It's cruel. It's hateful and evil. Animals are not
25 disposable. You do not use, abuse, then destroy them.

1 You do not use and abuse and destroy animals.

2 I'd like to add that my support to Proposal 67
3 has nothing to do with money, as was mentioned before.
4 But the racing and the cruelty to these animals has
5 everything to do with money.

6 Also, the dogs that get to put their feet in the
7 sand and dress up in cute outfits as was mentioned
8 before, the ones that were fortunate enough to
9 survive -- or perhaps unfortunate enough because
10 they've had to spend many years forced to work for
11 man's pockets...

12 Sorry I'm so emotional.

13 So I've heard that the dogs like to run. Yes, of
14 course they like to run. But has anyone asked the
15 greyhounds if they like to race their hearts out --
16 hearts out until they collapse on the track? I --

17 COMMISSIONER COXE: Ms. Lester.

18 MS. LESTER: -- encourage everyone that enjoys
19 torture and cruelty to participate in a human track
20 and bet their own lives.

21 Retire the greyhounds.

22 If you work in a facility that condones this
23 nonsense --

24 COMMISSIONER COXE: Ms. Lester --

25 MS. LESTER: -- I don't care about your job.

1 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

2 Your name is...

3 MR. LESTER: My name is Khendall.

4 Please support Proposal 67. Greyhound workers
5 deserve to go out of business because they are racing
6 innocent animal when the greyhounds don't want to
7 race. And they also don't want to have cocaine
8 because it busts their hearts and they die. Do you
9 want them to die? That's just not right.

10 Again, you are selfish and you should go out of
11 business.

12 COMMISSIONER COXE: Khendall, thank you.

13 MS. LESTER: I'd like to had that I did help him
14 write something prior to this today. He told me it
15 was no good and he sat there and write -- he wrote all
16 that himself. Every single word is from himself.

17 COMMISSIONER COXE: Good. Thank you.

18 Jon Cantrell. Jon Cantrell here?

19 Sandra Martin.

20 MS. MARTIN: That's a hard act to follow.

21 My name is Sandra Martin and I'm a native of
22 Jacksonville.

23 COMMISSIONER COXE: Ms. Martin, could you move
24 closer?

25 MS. MARTIN: Oh. Okay.

1 I'm here to ask you not to resurrect Prop 22, the
2 right to privacy.

3 I want to thank the Judicial Committee for voting
4 against the change to our present right to privacy in
5 the Constitution. One of my rights under the current
6 law is to reproductive freedom. And I know that's not
7 popular with a lot of people, but I am of the age
8 where I remember when women died trying to abort a
9 fetus with a coat hanger or drinking lye. Roe v. Wade
10 was actually a lifesaver when the Supreme Court ruled
11 in 1972 that abortion was a legal right of women,
12 which led to safe procedures.

13 I thank the Judicial Committee again and I thank
14 you, Members of the CRC that have given so much of
15 your time to let us express ours.

16 Thank you.

17 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

18 The next five will be Janet Adkins, Gail Cook,
19 Kelly -- and it's faint. It's B-A-R-R-A- -- or
20 -E-N-C. All right. Gregory Hansen, and Jackie
21 Bowen.

22 We'll start with the Honorable Janet Adkins.

23 HONORABLE ADKINS: Thank you.

24 My name is Janet Adkins and I'm here today to ask
25 you to oppose Proposal 88. This proposal will

1 adversely effect low-income seniors who struggle to
2 afford care. When seniors and the mentally ill cannot
3 afford licensed care, they will move to unlicensed
4 homes where they do not have any resident rights.
5 Unlicensed facilities have no oversight by the state.
6 None. That means they do not have any background
7 screenings.

8 Proposal 88 will force insurance companies to
9 re-evaluate their risks and, in that process, they
10 will decide to set new standards on what sorts of
11 residents the facility can admit and the care that can
12 been rendered as a condition of obtaining insurance
13 coverage, which is required for licensure.

14 The insurance carriers will also likely create
15 new rate schedules and hand down increased premiums to
16 the facilities. These new, increased costs will drive
17 up monthly rates, forcing some low-income seniors to
18 relocate and to move out of their homes at the ALF
19 that they can no longer afford to cover the -- those
20 new fees.

21 The insurance carriers will look at the admission
22 criteria and the level of acuity and will set strict
23 limits to help mitigate their risks and to reduce
24 their exposure. This will force residents who
25 otherwise could remain independent to relocate to the

1 nursing home, and this will lead to a major expansion
2 of state Medicaid costs for nursing home care as new
3 limits of acuity become a reality for the ALFs imposed
4 not by our Legislature, but by the insurance industry.

5 Finally, the loosely-written language of the
6 proposal will not be interpreted by the Legislature,
7 as it prohibits the Legislature from adopting
8 administrative rules and implementing laws. This will
9 be left up to the courts to interpret.

10 I ask you to vote no.

11 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

12 Gail Cook.

13 MS. COOK: Good afternoon and thank you very much
14 for your attention. And it sounds like you are in
15 many places and listening to a lot of the public, and
16 I thank you very much.

17 My name is Gail Cook. I am a Nassau County
18 school board member. I have been serving since 1992.
19 The voters of Nassau County have seen each election
20 that I have had a proponent, that I am doing a good
21 job, I have a passion for public education and they
22 have continued to elect me. And you, in this
23 proposal, are deeming to have other districts say what
24 is important to the election. And we put it on the
25 ballot in Nassau County. It was strongly defeated.

1 So...

2 And I also, for term limit -- I mean for
3 appointed superintendent, we -- the -- two
4 superintendents ago was in for 20 years. He was
5 elected. The last superintendent, 24 years. He was
6 elected. We now have a doctor -- and two of those
7 were doctorates. But small rural counties will
8 struggle to go through the process of a search for an
9 appointed superintendent. And I appreciate you not
10 moving forward 43 and 33.

11 Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

13 Kelly -- help me with it.

14 MS. BARRERA: It's Kelly Barrera. So, my name's
15 Kelly Barrera, and I have been in the northeast-
16 Florida area for over 40 years, in St. Johns County
17 for over 30 and I'm hear to speak and urge you to vote
18 no on -- on Proposal 33, 43, and 71. And the reasons
19 for that is -- on 33 you have A-rated districts that
20 are elected superintendents and A-rated districts that
21 are appointed. I think each individual district can
22 decide what's best for their community. They know
23 their community and they know what they want to see in
24 their officials. Some districts will -- will do a
25 referendum for their own local community and I

1 encourage that. But I think that that is one-size-
2 doesn't-fit-all in our state of Florida.

3 I feel the same way when it comes to Proposal 43.
4 I was elected in 2014. I plan to run again, but after
5 that, I can't say what I want to do. I see no vision
6 in my future beyond the next term. It wouldn't affect
7 me particularly; but, as a resident of 30 years, if
8 that had went into effect, I'd be the only one left on
9 the school board.

10 We have a great school board. They work really
11 hard for the students in our community. In each
12 election, the community decides whether or, not for
13 that, term to vote them in again. Let that happen.

14 And, lastly, I'd like to ask you to vote against
15 Proposal 71. And the reason for that is -- we already
16 have something in Legislation headed some -- and if a
17 charter school isn't approved, they can go to this --
18 to -- to that body for approval. They can have that
19 waiver.

20 I know my community. I know what -- what type of
21 organizations and needs and niches are best in our
22 area. We have a collaborative relationship with our
23 charter schools and we want to keep it that way. They
24 fill a niche that we are not. And I encourage a --
25 you to let us continue to do that locally.

1 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

2 Commissioner Gregory Hansen.

3 COMMISSIONER HANSEN: Good afternoon,
4 Mr. Commissioner and fellow commissioners. My name is
5 Greg Hansen. I'm the Chairman of the Board with
6 Flagler County Board of Commissioners.

7 COMMISSIONER COXE: Could you move a little
8 closer?

9 MR. HANSEN: Yes, sir.

10 And I'm here to sort of be a cheerleader. We
11 were struck with the enormity of the task that you-all
12 volunteered to do. And we thought about it. We -- we
13 -- we have asked you to look at your procedure and
14 what you're doing through two lenses: One being: Is
15 each of these proposals actually something that should
16 be in our Constitution or should be something that
17 should be dealt with by the Legislature.

18 And the second lens that I'd like you to look
19 through is that of local control. We believe that the
20 best government is the government closest to the
21 people, and that's -- that's what we do. And we run
22 the run fire stations. We run the police. We run the
23 schools, and we do a pretty good job of it. So we'd
24 like you to -- when you look at each of these
25 proposals, consider the impact on local control that

1 it would have.

2 That said, we're opposed to Proposal 26, Proposal
3 13, and Proposal 94.

4 Thank you for your time and for all your good
5 work. Thanks.

6 COMMISSIONER COXE: Thank you.

7 Jackie Bowen.

8 MS. BOWEN: Can you hear me now?

9 Thank you for hearing our voices. I'm Jackie
10 Bowen. I've lived in St. Augustine for 12 years.
11 2016 I wanted to vote in the primaries, but in Florida
12 you can vote in a primary only if you are a registered
13 Democrat or Republican. If you register as no-party
14 affiliation, you're denied your right to vote. And
15 I'm not alone. There are 3.4 million Floridians
16 registered as NPAs whose right to vote in these
17 primaries is denied. This is 27 percent of Florida
18 voters.

19 Ironically, these voters used their tax dollars
20 to help pay for our last primary, which, according to
21 the Open Primary's Taxpayer Costs Organization, cost
22 Floridians \$13,281,000. To me, this looks like a form
23 of taxation without representation. And isn't it also
24 a form of voter suppression? In addition, it's wrong.
25 This year you have a chance to address that wrong.

1 Proposal 62, which would put an open primaries
2 amendment on the 2018 ballot was passed by your
3 election -- Ethics and Elections Committee by 6 to 3.
4 Five days later, the General Provisions Committee
5 voted 7 to 0 to deny it and seriously omit -- limited
6 floor time to discuss it.

7 A recent pole, however, shows that 74 percent of
8 Florida voters want NPAs included in primary
9 elections. Seventy-three percent of our voters,
10 including Democrats, Republicans and NPAs want you to
11 put an open primary amendment on the ballot next year.

12 The wave of the future shows Independents across
13 the country growing at a much faster pace than the
14 Democratic or Republican parties. Ride that wave
15 before it drowns us.

16 I grew up learning we were a country in which
17 each person had an individual vote. But in Florida,
18 my vote is equal only if I register as a Democrat or a
19 Republican.

20 Open the choke hold these parties have on
21 Florida's independent voters. Please put Proposal 62
22 back on the ballot this fall.

23 COMMISSIONER COXE: Okay. The next five would
24 be: Carolyn Wolfe, Jackie Rock, Barbara Gubbin,
25 Heather Highcove, and Luann Bennett.

1 MS. WOLFE: Hi. I'm here --

2 COMMISSIONER COXE: Before -- before we start,
3 I'm going turn this back over to the Chair. I have a
4 commitment. I have to leave and I know that seems
5 probably rude to some people that I would leave and
6 you've been waiting here. I can assure you it was a
7 commitment that was made before this was scheduled and
8 I can't get out of it.

9 But, like other people sitting up here, we do
10 look at every Florida Channel video of every hearing
11 to see what's said. And I don't know if you're aware
12 of it; every one of you is on TV. It's being
13 recorded, and you can go back and watch it either on
14 this web -- our website or the Florida Channel. And
15 that's how we do it. And most of us did leave
16 Melbourne at 8:00 last night, going all day. So I
17 apologize for that, but...

18 Chairman Beruff.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Commissioner Coxe.

20 Ms. Wolfe, please proceed. Thank you.

21 MS. WOLFE: Thank you. I'm Carolyn Wolfe. I'm
22 from St. Augustine, Florida. I am also a very active
23 activist in the state of Florida. And along with
24 that, I work with many NPA voters. Now 3.4 million
25 Floridians are NPA. They would like the right to

1 vote. We need open primaries.

2 Prop -- Proposal 62 should be added to the ballot
3 in November. It was not given a fair hearing and we
4 are only one of nine states in the entire country with
5 closed primaries. It's time to come into the 21st
6 Century and change that. We want to vote and we want
7 our votes to be heard.

8 And, in addition to that, I am with Parkland. I
9 want a ban on assault rifles and I also want a ban on
10 greyhound racing.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

13 Jackie Rock.

14 MS. ROCK: Okay. Hello. My name is Jackie Rock.
15 I am an elected official here to ask for propo- --
16 Proposition 64, open primaries to be added to the
17 ballot.

18 I am a progressive who won my first election for
19 commissioner of St. Johns County and Anastasia
20 Mosquito Control in the General Election as an NPA
21 candidate. I won with 10,000 more votes than my
22 opposition who was a registered R. Ten thousand more
23 votes than the presidential candidate who ran as a D
24 in our county that is over 70 percent Republican.

25 I'm here to respectfully ask that you allow

1 others to have that chance to win by allowing Proposal
2 62 to be added to the ballot.

3 In the words of George Washington in 19 -- 1796:
4 Political parties are likely to become potent engines
5 by which cunning, ambitious, and unprincipled men will
6 enable to subvert the power of the people.

7 He was so correct. Today the Florida House just
8 voted to let the assault weapons ban die in committee.

9 It's yes on Prop 62. Seventy-three percent of
10 Floridians. Democratic, Republic and Independents
11 want open primaries on the ballot. Our state can
12 still be part of today's historic transition in civil
13 participation by opening primaries.

14 For all those who came here to start over from
15 Puerto Rico, they deserve open primaries. For all who
16 tirelessly gave time, money, and businesses to a
17 progressive platform in the 2016 elections, give them
18 open primaries. For all the youth who sparked a
19 movement last week to end school mass shootings who've
20 grown only knowing an America with school mass
21 shootings, in the shadows of school mass shootings,
22 give them open primaries. For everyone that loves the
23 Constitution, the Constitution's right to be free in
24 this Democracy, please unshackle us from the two-part
25 duopoly that has failed the state, the nation.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank --

2 MS. ROCK: Please put Proposition 62 on the
3 ballot. Generations of Floridians --

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 MS. ROCK: -- will forever be grateful.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Ms. Rock.

7 Barbara Gu- -- please pronounce it for me.

8 MS. GUBBIN: I'm Barbara Gubbin from
9 Jacksonville.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

11 MS. GUBBIN: I thank you for being here in
12 Jacksonville giving us this opportunity to speak to
13 you.

14 I urge the Commission to preserve our privacy
15 protection and oppose reconsideration of Prop --
16 Proposal 22. This proposal will maintain privacy of
17 information, but lose all other privacy rights. This
18 should be unacceptable.

19 You should not tamper with or eliminate the
20 Florida Constitution's explicit right to privacy,
21 which protects a woman's personal and private
22 decision-making regarding her pregnancy. Do not
23 rewrite the right to privacy to exclude a woman's
24 decision-making regarding her body.

25 In 2012 Florida voters overwhelmingly rejected a

1 constitutional amendment that would have limited our
2 privacy protections with respect to abortion. I urge
3 you to respect the voters' wishes and not reconsider
4 submitting virtually the same issue again.

5 Please vote no and do not reconsider Proposal 22.
6 As a number of people said earlier, I'm of a
7 generation that can't believe that we're still talking
8 about this issue.

9 Vote no. Do not reconsider Proposal 22.

10 Thank you for your time.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

12 Please, your name?

13 MS. HIGHCOVE: Hi. I'm heather Highcove.

14 I'm here to strongly support Proposal 88. And I
15 hope that my voice will help to protect our seniors
16 and elderly from abuse in our nursing homes and
17 assistant-living facilities.

18 My dad, Don Henderson, would have loved to be
19 here today, but I came instead. He couldn't.
20 February 25th, 2016 he died as a result of abuse and
21 neglect at the hands of Hampton Luxury Villas here in
22 Jacksonville.

23 I placed my dad there believing he would receive
24 the best care. It was also close to my home.

25 It was stated earlier that these people are

1 customers. My dad was not a customer. I put him
2 there as a resident to live there; not a customer.

3 I had just buried my son. He was 21. I couldn't
4 care for my dad. I fully trusted this facility to
5 take care of my dad whom I loved very much.

6 Many things transpired during the -- the eight
7 months he was there. He was basically over-dosed on
8 medication that he shouldn't clearly have been on.
9 The drugs were not monitored nor accounted for,
10 administered by personnel unauthorized to handle the
11 medications. No one working there had any medical
12 background or license.

13 The ALF was understaffed, unequipped, many things
14 were covered up and I was lied to many times. My dad
15 was so high and, unfortunately, he fell and it
16 resulted in his death.

17 I'm basically out of time, but I hope that my
18 voice will be heard for my dad.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

20 Luann Bennett --

21 MS. BENNETT: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- Brooke Eliazor-Macke; Sara
23 Resnick Carswell; Mary Bolla, if I pronounced that
24 correctly; Ben Edmonson and Jason Moran.

25 Please proceed, Ms. Bennett. Thank you.

1 MS. BENNETT: Thank you.

2 Commissioners, thank you for your work and I know
3 this is not a typical issue. You usually have
4 meetings where you actually have to talk to each
5 other.

6 I'd like to ask you to consider my concerns. The
7 only one that they have paperwork things here that's
8 really clear is Number 91, and I do support it. The
9 others, I'm not so sure about. So here's what I'm
10 asking please.

11 Once you get through with your work, please don't
12 include a proposal to reduce our right to privacy.
13 I -- many have spoken to that.

14 Please don't propose a reduction in our support
15 for public schools for increasing support to private
16 and parochial schools and cutting money there.

17 Please don't propose a reduction in the
18 separation of church and state by whatever means might
19 be possible.

20 Please don't propose a reduction in the
21 responsibility of elected officials, to operate
22 ethically and in the sunshine, which has been a risk
23 recently.

24 And, finally, if you have the opportunity to
25 affirm the state's right to regulate the types of gun

1 -- guns and ammunition, which are sold in Florida and
2 to register those people who have violent or mental
3 health problems so that they can be prohibited from
4 buying guns. Please do that.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. ELIAZAR-MACKE: Good afternoon. I'm Brooke
8 Eliazar-Macke and I'm here for myself and as a member
9 of the National Women's Liberation.

10 I'm here because I oppose Proposal 22 and it
11 shouldn't be resurrected. As a Floridian, I want for
12 you to support and protect my right to abortion. I
13 alone should have control over whether I'm pregnant or
14 not. And right now I am pregnant, and it impacts
15 every single part of my life and my body. I know that
16 parenthood will too.

17 I've used contraception for 17 years of my life
18 because I have not been ready or able to be a parent.
19 And I've lucky that it works because no contraception
20 is 100 percent guaranteed.

21 At this time is the first time in my life that I
22 feel ready personally and financially to be a parent
23 and I've been able to make sure that parenthood is not
24 going to leave me homeless, destroy my marriage, leave
25 me unable to work or feed my family.

1 Pregnancy and parenthood are work. No
2 contraception can guarantee it's effective and all
3 women should have access to all forms of contraception
4 without obstacles. Every woman should be able to
5 decide whether to be pregnant or not.

6 So please oppose 22.

7 Separately, I hope that you support all Florida
8 students and that you keep weapons out of schools and
9 assault weapons out of our state.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

12 Ms. Carswell. No?

13 MS. BOLLA: Mary Bolla.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ms. Bolla?

15 MS. BOLLA: Yes.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ms. Carswell, is she here?

17 MS. BOLLA: I don't know.

18 Oh. So Ms. Bolla, go ahead. We'll -- we'll --

19 MS. BOLLA: Oh, okay.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'm sorry.

21 MS. BOLLA: Not a problem.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Go ahead.

23 MS. BOLLA: First of all, thank you to all of you
24 for serving on this Commission.

25 I am Mary Bolla. I am a member of the Clay

1 County School Board District 4. I am also a public
2 school teacher -- currently not a school teacher
3 because I'm on the school board, but I taught in Clay
4 County schools for 17 years.

5 I'm here in support of public education. I am
6 here to -- to oppose Proposal 4, 33, 43, 45, and 71.
7 It seems that public school is getting a lot of
8 questions this year.

9 In Proposal 4, eliminating Florida's No-Aid
10 provision would remove an important constitutional
11 safeguard that maintains an appropriate separation of
12 church and state, a separation that protects religion
13 from government interference and, at the same time,
14 protects government from religious interference. This
15 separation is a founding principal of our Democracy.

16 And Proposal 33. The current constitutional
17 provision works. It's not broken. The current
18 constitutional provision retains the power of whether
19 the superintendent of schools is elected or appointed
20 in the hands of the people and the local community
21 where it belongs.

22 Proposal 43. If the imposition of term limits is
23 intended to encourage more competitive races and to
24 reduce the power of incumbency, these problems are not
25 evident in school board races. And there's plenty of

1 data to support that. And, in fact, I believe 41
2 percent of all school board races result in the
3 elections of new school board members. So don't.
4 It's not necessary to impose that restriction.

5 In proposal 45, the proposal seeks to circumvent
6 existing constitutional safeguards and mandates,
7 particular those guaranteeing --

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Ms. Bolla.

9 MS. BOLLA: Oh. I'm sorry. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.
11 Ms. Carswell. Thank you.

12 MS. CARSWELL: Is this -- is this close enough?

13 My name is Sara Resnick Carswell. And first I
14 want to thank everyone there because I -- it's an
15 honor and your work is valued.

16 Okay. And I know it's a long afternoon.

17 I've lived in Florida since 1968. I am here as a
18 member of National Women's Liberation and had the
19 privilege of coming here from Gainesville with my
20 sisters from the organization. There's a lot of us
21 from different areas of the state. I am here to
22 implore you: Prop 22 will infringe on my right to
23 choose and it's no one else's business but mine.

24 Years ago I had infertility problems. Couldn't
25 find a doctor to treat me because I was unmarried:

1 the first time the -- the state's in my -- in my
2 business. So I got married. Ten years later, I got
3 pregnant with this beautiful child named Brian.

4 What I want from my state is to allow everyone
5 else to have a wanted child. Okay?

6 And to be safe in his or her school.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

8 While Mr. Edmonson is coming up and Jason Moran,
9 Re- -- Regan Garner, Doris Elaine Vazquez, Merrill
10 Shapiro, and Phillip -- I can't make out the last
11 name. Phillip -- L-A-I-B, it looks like to me.

12 Please proceed, Mr. Edmonson. Thank you.

13 MR. EDMONSON: Thank you. I'm Ben Edmonson.
14 I've been in Jacksonville for 50 years. I came from
15 Mississippi to teach at the Fledgling Jr. College.
16 And when I got here, I discovered that the schools
17 here were disaccredited. I couldn't believe it.

18 Mississippi is always at the bottom of funding
19 for education. I found out that Florida's been
20 competing with Mississippi for many years. And we
21 might be able to get there if we open up the state
22 funding to religious and private interests. I hope
23 that we will not do that. I'm against Proposition 4.

24 Thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

1 Mr. Moran.

2 MR. MORAN: Yes. Good afternoon. Thank you for
3 hearing me this afternoon. My name's Jason Moran.
4 I've worked in the greyhound industry or business for
5 the last six years. I have worked at two farms, three
6 kennels, and two tracks in the state of Florida. I
7 currently work at a greyhound farm right now which has
8 three generations of family members that have been
9 involved in greyhound racing in this state.

10 I'm currently asking you to oppose Proposal 67,
11 to vote no.

12 They're so much for me to read, I'm just going to
13 break it down in real quick sections for you.

14 I'm going to start off with adoption. There's
15 been a lot of issue about adoptions saying that nobody
16 knows where the dogs have gone. I am part of two
17 adoption groups. One adoption group in Atlanta,
18 Georgia takes those greyhounds and puts them in a
19 prison system to help rehabilitate criminals or
20 prisoners while during their time of incarceration.

21 The second greyhound group that I'm a part of
22 takes greyhounds from the track and puts them into
23 veterinarian schools so they can help teach our vet
24 techs about the K9s. And during that time, they are
25 trained to learn 30 different commands to become a

1 service greyhound and to provide ser- -- as service
2 dogs for our fighting veterans who have come back from
3 war and are suffering from PTSD. That's where these
4 greyhounds are going.

5 Thank you for your time. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

7 Regan Garner.

8 MS. GARNER: Yes. Hello. My name's Regan Garner
9 and I am an organizer with National Women's Liberation
10 and I'm here today for myself.

11 I'm here to urge you to vote no on Proposal 22
12 and to protects Florida's rather special right to be
13 left alone from government meddling in our personal
14 lives.

15 Although this proposal is not active at this
16 time, the Full Commission could reconsider it later
17 and provide no further opportunity for members of the
18 public to speak against it. I am, therefore, using
19 this platform to ask that you oppose Proposal 22.

20 I drove here from Gainesville today specifically
21 to support abortion and reproductive rights. All
22 women deserve the right to self-determination and to
23 have full control over our lives. I know that having
24 a child would affect my life and health in fundamental
25 and profound ways and, for that reason, I do not want

1 to have a child. Abortion and birth control provide
2 me that decision.

3 Reject Proposal 22.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Doris Elaine Vazquez.

5 MS. VAZQUEZ: Good afternoon. I am Elaine --

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Could I -- could I make -- one
7 of the things -- though it may sound loud to you back
8 there because of the way the speakers are, if you're
9 not close to this microphone, we can't hear it because
10 we have to hear it from those speakers this way. So
11 please get as close as you can.

12 MS. VAZQUEZ: All right.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

14 MS. VAZQUEZ: My name is Elaine Vazquez. I'm
15 here on behalf of my father, Harold Thornton, who was
16 in a nursing home. He was there for rehab. And
17 because of their neglect and abuse, January 21st of
18 '17 I got the phone call that he was gone.

19 A CNA come and found him unresponsive and they
20 did not -- they went and told the nurse. She did not
21 even bother to call rescue until 9:30 that night.
22 When people come by and ask her, "What about
23 Mr. Thornton?" "Oh, I'm busy doing this. When my
24 records are done," or whatever. And then she had
25 called another nurse to go do CPR on him. And -- and

1 then she's sitting over there laughing at her for
2 doing CPR on a dead man.

3 When rescue came, he was already in rigor mortis
4 and they wanted to know why it took them so long.
5 Somebody needs to have the rights for these people.
6 Somebody needs to stand up for these elderly people.

7 He wasn't there forever. He was just there for
8 rehab. He was -- that was a Saturday night. He was
9 going home on Tuesday. The last time I looked at him,
10 I went in and talked to him and I told him, I said,
11 "Daddy, you're going home Tuesday." That was Friday
12 night. He never made it.

13 So I am all for the Proposal 88.

14 And I wish you all would think about it because
15 your parents could be there sometime, too. Somebody
16 needs to stand up for those people.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

18 MS. VAZQUEZ: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

20 While Mr. Shapiro is coming up, we also want to
21 call up Paris Harley, Michael Liles, Jasmine Du -- De
22 Buis -- excuse me -- De Buis. She was already there?
23 She already came up? Okay. Let's keep it.

24 Ansley Neace, Patte Wallace.

25 Thank you, Mr. Shapiro.

1 MR. SHAPIRO: I am Rabbi Merrell Shapiro of Palm
2 Coast and an immediate-past national president of
3 Americans United for Separation of Church and State.

4 And I am here to ask to you rise in defense of
5 Article I, Section 3 of Florida's Constitution in its
6 entirety, a segment that has been in that Constitution
7 since 1885 and served our state very, very well. So,
8 thus, I ask you to oppose Proposal 4.

9 I come here with Reverend -- the very Baptist
10 Reverend Harry Parrott and he can verify that not very
11 long ago, a minister or priest and a Rabbi walked into
12 a bar in the state of Florida full of Floridians and
13 asked each and every one of them if they would prefer
14 to make their own decisions about what religious
15 institutions to support or whether they prefer that
16 the government make those decisions. Unanimously,
17 they agreed that they want to make those decisions and
18 not have an overly-large, bloated and ever-intrusive
19 government decide which churches, sex and religious
20 denominations they wish to support.

21 Many of them did not know where the source of
22 their religious liberty came from, where their liberty
23 of conscious came from, but they will certainly
24 remember who took them away should Proposal 4 pass
25 beyond the ballot of this year.

1 We -- all of us -- rise up and ask you that this
2 has served us very well over the course of these
3 years. Our religious freedom is in the balance.
4 There are some who will argue that the State,
5 therefore, has no religious freedom to fund the
6 institutions it wishes. But in a Democracy, the state
7 and the government have no rights. The citizens have
8 rights; the government has obligations.

9 We ask you to fulfill your obligations and oppose
10 Proposal 4.

11 Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Shapiro.

13 Phillip.

14 MR. LAIBE: Good afternoon. My name is Phillip
15 Laibe.

16 Good -- good job on the last name.

17 Actually, I'm one of the few people in support of
18 Proposal 4 because I'm a -- I'm an official past prime
19 minister for the church of flying spaghetti monster. I
20 would love to get free money to go ahead and teach
21 people about my religion. However, I'm not here to
22 speak about that.

23 I was one of the few libertarians here. I do
24 want to say thank you. I am in support of Proposal
25 72, the finance and taxation supremacy vote. I think

1 it'd be great if we have limits on that.

2 One of the great things about being here in
3 Florida -- one of the reasons I moved here from Ohio
4 to Florida is that there's no income tax at the state
5 level, and I think we want to continue with that
6 legacy.

7 Also, I really want to -- to talk as a
8 libertarian about is the open primaries. A lot of
9 people in here, they seems to be in support of this
10 but they're -- they've -- they're uninformed. As an
11 NPA, if you run as an NPA, you're automatically going
12 to go through to the general elections. You're going
13 to be on the ballot in November.

14 Primaries are there for parties. And, as a
15 growing party, we actually had one of our first state-
16 wide primaries, and many people in our party were
17 scared because one of the candidates is very
18 controversial. He's now a Republican, but he did not
19 actually represent our core values. If there was an
20 open primary and anybody could vote that wasn't
21 libertarian, I think he would have been voted as our
22 Senate representative.

23 So, to me, if you want to go ahead and vote in
24 the primary as a democrat, register. If you want to
25 vote in the Republican primary, register as a

1 Republican. If you don't -- and, actually, I do want
2 to say: Start supporting more NPA candidates. There
3 are a lot of great candidates. Also --

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 MR. LAIBE: Okay. Oh, time. Thank you very
6 much.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Laibe.

8 Paris Harley. Hi, Paris.

9 MS. HARLEY: Good afternoon. My name is Paris
10 Harley. I am born and raised in Jacksonville,
11 Florida.

12 Me and my family's here supporting Proposal 88.
13 Back in December of 2016, my grandmother passed away
14 in a nursing home from nursing home neglect and abuse.
15 And I have been trying to speak with -- or I have been
16 communicating with the Department of Nursing in
17 Tallahassee, Florida. I have been communicating with
18 our State Senate and our Governor in regards to
19 nursing home regulations and the amount of insurance
20 that they are carrying.

21 And myself -- being a small business owner, I'm
22 required to have a minimum of \$1 million and my
23 profession is clean. So I'm sure if I'm going inside
24 of someone's office and someone's home to clean and I
25 have to have \$1 million, the insurance at the nursing

1 home should be required to have at least a million
2 dollars or more. Often they have more liability at
3 stake.

4 So I strongly urge you to please vote for
5 Proposal 88 this coming season.

6 Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

8 Michael.

9 MR. LILES: Hi. I'm Mike Liles. I'm the
10 Executive Director of the Justice Coalition here in
11 Jacksonville, Florida, and I've risen today to tell
12 you I am not a solution looking for a problem. I'm a
13 husband who is missing his bride.

14 I have a significant anniversary coming up next
15 month. On the 23rd of March, it will be the one-year
16 anniversary since I arrived home at noon to find my
17 wife dead on the floor in our kitchen beaten to death
18 by a previously-convicted felon.

19 I take the issues of justice very seriously, and
20 I am heavily involved in the criminal justice system
21 right now. I've been through 11 hearings. The reason
22 I know when those hearings are taking place is not
23 because I've been noticed on them. It is because I'm
24 there at every one of them, as all of our children.
25 But, to be frank with you, I've never received a

1 single letter telling me when the next hearing is
2 supposed to be; not once.

3 I have experienced first-hand when a previously-
4 convicted felon attacked my wife the first time. He
5 was required to pay \$1,900 in a -- in crime
6 compensation. We never received a dime. That was
7 over 20 years ago. It's my understanding that money
8 should have been paid before anything else was paid.
9 So if all statutes that are -- that are legislatively
10 written are being followed, that means he's never paid
11 a dime to anyone. None of that makes sense to me.

12 I sat in a courtroom hearing when the next
13 scheduled hearing was supposed to be back on -- back
14 in late July and heard them announce that the next
15 hearing would be August 22nd, which would have been my
16 42nd wedding anniversary. I did not want to spend the
17 day that I was missing my bride for the 42nd year
18 seeing the guy who took her away from me.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

20 MR. LILES: She was beaten to death with a golf
21 club. I would love to tell you if we could ban all
22 golf clubs, it would have -- be meaningful, but it
23 would not.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

25 MR. LILES: I beg you. I pray that you will

1 support 96. If we truly -- if all the statutes were
2 working, I can assure you --

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thanks.

4 MR. LILES: -- I wouldn't be here.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Liles.

6 MR. LILES: Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ansley Neace, is that how I
8 pronounce that?

9 MS. NEACE: Yes.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Great.

11 MS. NEACE: Hi. My name is Ansley Neace.

12 In memory of my great grandmother I am waiving my
13 time in support of Proposal 88.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: While Ms. Wallace is coming up,
15 Sheila Starling, Carolyn Drazien, Kelli Platts, Amy
16 Carotenuto, and Judith Hankins.

17 Please proceed, ma'am. Thank you.

18 MS. NEACE: Do I have your permission to
19 bring something --

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Could you get closer to the
21 microphone, please?

22 MS. NEACE: Do I have your permission to bring
23 something up to you?

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yeah. There -- there are
25 volunteers in the audience --

1 MS. NEACE: Okay. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- that will take that.

3 Right -- that gentleman right there will grab it for
4 you.

5 MS. NEACE: All right. Thank you.

6 These are before and after pictures of my mother.

7 My name is Patte Wallace, and my sister, Sheila
8 Starling, is also here with me.

9 The young lady that just spoke is my
10 granddaughter. This is my mom's story. Her name is
11 Nadine McBurnett. She had Alzheimer's. She was --
12 she was also a stroke victim. She had par- -- she was
13 paralyzed. She had lost her ability to speak. But
14 she was kind, gentle and loving. She communicated
15 with her eyes and her smile.

16 Late on a Saturday afternoon, a CNA came in to
17 change her linens. She raised the bed to its highest
18 height, put the safety rail down, move my mother to
19 the edge of the bed and then she left the room to get
20 the linens, which were on a cart down the hall. When
21 she returned, she found my mother lying on the floor
22 in a pool of blood. Instead of running for help and a
23 nurse, she went back to the -- in the hallway and got
24 another CNA to come and help her. Together they
25 picked my mother up off the floor and they put her in

1 bed. They cleaned her up as best they could. They
2 covered her up, they turned off the light, and they
3 left the room. Mother received no emergency care.

4 I was contract -- contacted three and a half
5 hours after the fall. I immediately went to the
6 facility. I found her in bed totally unresponsive
7 [sic] bleeding from cuts on her head, her arm and her
8 hand. Her whole right side was covered in black and
9 blue bruises. No care had been given to her. And I
10 could not take in what I was seeing.

11 I had to demand 911 services and police. All I
12 got was an ambulance. This told me a lot about their
13 concern for my mother. At the hospital it was
14 discovered she also had a broken hip. Surgery was
15 required.

16 She began dying the moment she hit that concrete
17 floor. She suffered greatly and, as a result of the
18 trauma, she died.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

20 MS. WALLACE: The facility did not follow
21 mother's care plan, which clearly stated she was a
22 two-person assist. The hall camera cle- --

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ms. Wallace --

24 MS. WALLACE: The hall camera clearly shows the
25 CNA getting the sheets, going back into the room, then

1 going out to get help and coming back in. And then
2 all of a sudden, the footage of all of that went
3 missing.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ms. Wallace --

5 MS. WALLACE: There are no words to describe the
6 horror of what happened in the lack of care she was
7 given. She was betrayed by --

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ms. Wallace --

9 MS. WALLACE: -- her caregivers.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- could you turn that in for
11 us, please? We'll make it part of the record.

12 MS. WALLACE: Yes, sir. I'm glad to.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

14 MS. WALLACE: And I'm speaking in favor of
15 Proposal 88.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.
17 Sheila Starling.

18 MS. STARLING: I'm Sheila --

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Carolyn Drazien, Kelli Platts.
20 Go ahead, ma'am. Thank you.

21 MS. STARLING: I'm Sheila Starling. And in honor
22 of my mother, I'm here. And I want to waive my
23 support [sic] in Proposal 88.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

25 Please...

1 MS. DRAZIEN: I'm Carolyn Drazien.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Carolyn. Please
3 proceed.

4 MS. DRAZIEN: I'd like to first thank you for the
5 opportunity to share my experience and hopefully it
6 will help others not to have to have this experience.

7 I had a -- I was a lifetime resident and am
8 lifetime resident of Jacksonville, and my deceased
9 beloved husband Richard Drazien and I were married for
10 almost 28 years. Our anniversary was to be December
11 9th. We have five children and three grandchildren.

12 He was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2009. He
13 was a graduate of Columbia University, an author and a
14 financial insurance consultant. He continued to work
15 until his fall at an assistant-living facility. I was
16 his caregiver until I fell and had multiple fractures
17 on my shoulder so I needed to find someone that could
18 help me give him that support that he needed until I
19 could get back.

20 I -- I researched assistant-living facilities and
21 selected the one that I felt was best meeting our
22 needs. He checked into the facility September 9th
23 and, sadly, experienced a life-shortening fall the
24 evening of September 12th. His emergency button had
25 been removed from him because they said it was

1 annoying. They didn't show him how to use the one
2 that was not around his neck. But the one in the
3 bathroom, they installed it late that morning.

4 The nurse in charge ensured [sic] me that he --
5 assured me that he would checked on hourly because it
6 was the first night and I was not staying with him.
7 Obviously, this was not the case. I received a call
8 at 6:00 a.m. Wednesday morning, the 13th of September.
9 I was told he was found by a nurse that -- that
10 morning on the floor of his bathroom. He was severely
11 bruised, confused and unable to stand and walk.

12 I immediately rushed to the facility and took him
13 to the Baptist Beaches Hospital.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ms. Drazien, if you could wrap
15 up...

16 Thank you. You can turn that in, also --

17 MS. DRAZIEN: Okay.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- for the record. But
19 please...

20 MS. DRAZIEN: Thank you.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

22 Kelli Platts.

23 MS. PLATTS: Hi. My name is Kelli Platts and
24 I --

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Can you get a little closer to

1 the microphone? Thank you, Kelli.

2 MS. PLATTS: I have a loud voice so I assumed it
3 was --

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: That's okay. It can't be too
5 loud for us.

6 MS. PLATTS: Thank you.

7 Kelli Platts and I'm here in support of Proposal
8 88.

9 My mom and my aunts, those are two women that
10 were at the nursing home three times a day: morning,
11 noon, and night. They were by my grandmother's side
12 at all times. My mom had to work. When she couldn't
13 be there, my aunt would be there. When my aunt or my
14 mom couldn't be there, grandchildren were there.

15 My grandmother was the sweetest person that you
16 could ever imagine and to know that just pure neglect
17 of being too lazy to put a side of the bed up or being
18 the only one to get my grandmother, who is a big
19 woman, out of a bed and allowing her to lay in her own
20 pool of blood -- and for there to be no consequences
21 is devastating. And I just hope that nobody in here
22 has to go through that trauma with their loved one.

23 I can't think about my mother, my aunt or any
24 other senior citizen that I care deeply about having
25 to be in the hands of someone that is not their family

1 and is not going to love them. But we can't take care
2 of it all on our own.

3 She had dementia. My mother tried as long as she
4 could to keep her in the house and take care of her.
5 And there -- she just physically could not be there to
6 do what my grandmother needed done.

7 So I just hope that you really take this serious.
8 And that, you know, we can go through with Proposition
9 88.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you very
12 much.

13 Amy, could you pronounce your last name for me?

14 MS. CAROTENUTO: Carotenuto.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

16 MS. CAROTENUTO: I am the Executive Director of
17 Flagler Humane Society and I also serve on the board
18 of directors for two state-wide animal protection
19 agencies. And now I'm asking you to please vote yes
20 on Proposal 67.

21 Give Florida voters a chance to phase out the
22 cruel practice of greyhound racing. On average a dog
23 dies every three days at Florida tracts in this sport
24 that is illegal in 40 state. As stated earlier, these
25 mistreated animals are used as leverage because of

1 racing mandates.

2 Adoption is great, but the number of adopted is a
3 drop in the bucket. And greyhound adoption agencies
4 are forced to sign loyalty agreements that they will
5 not speak against racing. If they do, they will not
6 be allowed to rescue any dogs in the future.

7 Greyhound racing is a dying industry that now
8 costs Florida taxpayers up to \$3 million annually.

9 So please vote yes on 67.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

11 While Ms. Hankins gets ready to speak, Kay
12 Bailey; Gary Perkins, it looks like; Melinda Eckert;
13 and Richard Keene -- if you could come up, that would
14 be great.

15 Yes. Go ahead, Ms. Hankins.

16 MS. HANKINS: Hankins. Yeah. Okay.

17 I'm Judy Hankins and thank you for being here. I
18 wanted to express my support for Proposition 67 to end
19 greyhound racing.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

21 MS. HANKINS: Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Kay Bailey.

23 MS. BAILEY: Yeah. I am here.

24 My name is Kay Bailey and I'm -- I'm supporting
25 Proposal 88.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you so much.

2 Gary, please pronounce your last name.

3 MR. PERKINS: Perkins.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Perkins. I just couldn't read
5 the spelling.

6 MR. PERKINS: Oh, yeah. It's my fault.

7 My name is Gary Perkins of Bunnell located in
8 Flagler County, Florida. I want to thank the
9 Commission for taking the time today to listen to my
10 fellow cont- -- constituents and I.

11 I am here to urge the Commission to vote yes on
12 Proposal 67, the prohibition of wagering on greyhound
13 and other dog racing. Proponents to this proposal
14 often speak on how happy these racing dogs are or how
15 much fun they are having. They often speak like
16 greyhound racing is victimless. It is not, and I am
17 sure most of the State of Florida would agree with me
18 that if even one dog has to suffer, there's no place
19 for it here in our great state.

20 It's unfortunate that these animals can't speak
21 for themselves. I'm sure they would not like being
22 used as tools to generate income. The abuse the dogs
23 go through in order to turn a profit is unimaginable
24 and unbearable.

25 We have a chance to end this once and for all.

1 All I ask is that you give us voters a chance to make
2 it known that Florida is a humane state and will not
3 tolerate animal abuse on any level.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 MR. PERKINS: Also, I would like to stand with
6 Parkland and would like a ban on all assault rifles.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

8 Melinda and then Mr. Keene. While they're
9 getting ready to speak, Mary Ann Michaels, Anthony
10 Vazquez, Savannah Pressley, and Haley Smith.

11 Ms. Eckert.

12 MS. ECKERT: Yes. Melinda Eckert and I'm a -- a
13 local here from Jacksonville. I'd like to also ask
14 you to vote in favor of Proposal 67.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: You could come a little closer
16 to the microphone.

17 MS. ECKERT: I think -- I think you can tell from
18 the statements of the welfare -- animal welfare
19 activists and people who adopt greyhounds that the
20 amounts of injuries and the cruel treatment is really
21 rampant. And so I'm asking you to vote in favor of
22 67.

23 Also, there's a reason why 40 states have
24 outlawed greyhound racing. And not having been
25 mentioned is the fact that although there are 70 dogs

1 out there who can't be adopted, that means they're
2 going to be euthanized, which is a bad thing. They're
3 killed in all kinds of horrible ways. So please vote
4 in favor of Proposal 67.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.

7 Mr. Keene.

8 MR. KEENE: Thank you, gentlemen and ladies. My
9 name is Richard Keene. I'm from Neptune Beach. I've
10 lived there for 31 of my 79 years. And I'm here in
11 opposition to Proposition 4.

12 Religion is exclusive -- it's exclusionary.
13 French Huguenots came to Florida in the 1560s to flee
14 Catholic persecution. Catholics came to Maryland in
15 the 1650s, including my family, to avoid prosecution
16 by the Anglican church. The Puritans came to
17 Massachusetts in the 1650s -- 1620s to escape
18 prosecution by the Church of England. Roger Williams
19 in the 1650s created a plantation that later became
20 the state of Rhode Island to avoid prosecution by both
21 the Church of England and by the Calvinists/Puritans
22 in Massachusetts. Therefore, the history of this
23 country -- the history of this land has always been
24 and must be and must remain secular.

25 I spent four years in public school, and four

1 years in Catholic school, two -- and four years in the
2 Catholic high school. My parents paid for the
3 Catholic Education. My kids -- three kids went to
4 public school; two went to private school. I paid for
5 that. It was my choice.

6 Funding is a tax -- funding taxation is a secular
7 power of the state. Those funds must remain secular.
8 Absolutely no direct, no indirect funding of any
9 religious administration, organization funding,
10 building or entity, whether direct or indirect.

11 Retain the good sense of the 1885 Constitution in
12 Article I, Section 3 as it is. Let Florida be a
13 leader, not a follower.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Keene.

15 MR. KEENE: Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mary Ann Michaels.

17 MS. MICHAELS: Hello. Thank you for speaking --
18 allowing me to speak. My name's Mary Ann Michaels. I
19 work for the Flagler Humane Society for 11 years. And
20 I'd like to use the word "humane."

21 I am here today to speak for the greyhounds that
22 can't speak for themselves. What they're allowing is
23 cruel, barbaric and inhumane. They are drugging these
24 animals with cocaine, oxycodine [sic]. This is animal
25 cruelty.

1 Please vote yes for Proposition 67.

2 Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Is -- is this
4 Savannah Pressley?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: No? All right.

7 Anthony Vazquez.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Savannah had to --
9 Savannah had to leave but she was --

10 (simultaneous speakers.)

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Anthony Vazquez first -- is
12 next. And then Savannah Pressley or -- Savannah had
13 to leave. Oh. So she wasn't going to speak. Okay.
14 And then Haley Smith. Now I got you.

15 Go ahead, Mr. Vazquez. Thank you.

16 MR. VAZQUEZ: Well, I'm here for Prop -- the
17 proposal --

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Please -- please get closer to
19 the microphone.

20 MR. VAZQUEZ: I'm here for the proposal yes on
21 88, as was my wife came up here earlier. I was at the
22 facility with my father-in-law. I was able to stay
23 with him for one week while he was in -- in the care
24 of that facility.

25 I didn't see it happen, but they were other

1 people there that were talking about where one of the
2 employees working for that facility slapped an
3 88-year-old woman in the face because she ma- -- she
4 said the N-word.

5 My father-in-law looked forward to his meals
6 every day. He was only there for rehab. He was
7 getting stronger and he was two days from getting
8 home. There's just -- there's no sense in it. I'm
9 here for them people.

10 There should be a report card for each facility
11 so that people who are taking their loved ones to
12 these facilities -- that can look at it and see which
13 facilities are better than others. Because if we go
14 after them, we're not allowed to speak once it's over
15 with.

16 So our voices are not heard. We can't say
17 anything about any facility, and it's just not right.
18 I mean they can get away with it and they sit here and
19 tell you our facility is the best facility on the
20 planet, because we are not allowed to speak against
21 them. It's not right.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: That's why we're here. Thank
23 you.

24 MR. VAZQUEZ: Um-hmm.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Haley Smith.

1 MS. SMITH: Hi. My name is Haley Smith. I'm a
2 Florida state resident. I've been here most of my
3 life.

4 I'm here because I fervently support Proposal 67.

5 I think the act of greyhound racing is completely
6 deplorable. It's unethical. It's cruel. And, for
7 once, Florida should be on the right side of history
8 and vote to ban something that brings nothing but
9 suffering for these animals who don't have a voice to
10 speak for themselves.

11 If you go to a track, you will not see animals
12 that are running for joy, but are running because they
13 are forced into submission, because they are
14 forcefully given drugs such as cocaine to enhance
15 their performance. And when they are finished and can
16 no longer benefit the people profiting off of this
17 animal suffering, they are dumped into shelters and
18 often euthanized because they can't be adopted out.

19 Animals are not here for us to exploit. They're
20 not here as tools for us to laugh and gamble upon.
21 They are here and they are sentient beings that
22 deserve to be treated with respect. They deserved to
23 be protected.

24 I would also like to say that I strongly support
25 Parkland. I support a ban on all assault weapons

1 because I do not believe the right to own a gun, a
2 weapon, a product that is made specifically to cause
3 destruction and death should ever be given more rights
4 than the rights of our children.

5 Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

7 Ashli Neace, Jennifer Estremos, Carol [sic]
8 Wilson, Tracey Arpen, Jose Rodriguez please come up.
9 Thank you.

10 Ashli Neace? Is Ashli here? Ashli is not here.
11 How about Jennifer Estremos? Thank you,
12 Jennifer.

13 MS. ESTREMOS: Hi.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Carol Wilson.

15 MS. ESTREMOS: My name is --

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- Wilson.

17 Go ahead.

18 MS. ESTREMOS: My name is Jenna Estremos. I'm 29
19 years old from Orlando, Florida. I'm voting yes on
20 Proposal 67 to phase out greyhound racing. It's our
21 moral duty to stand up and protect for the voiceless.
22 It's innately unjust for greyhounds to be abused and
23 exploited for gambling. These animals deserved
24 respect and the right to live.

25 In addition, please consider the assault ban --

1 assault weapon ban on the ballot.

2 And, again, please vote yes on Proposal 67 to
3 phase out greyhound racing and protect these animals.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 Carol Wilson. Carol Wilson. There we are. And
6 then Tracey Arpen and Jose Rodriguez.

7 MS. WILSON: It's Carla Wilson.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Oh. I'm sorry.

9 MS. WILSON: Hi. That's fine.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Carla.

11 MS. WILSON: Good afternoon, Commissioners. Thank
12 you so much for this opportunity to speak again. I'm
13 a native Floridian born and raised in Orlando, now
14 living in Siminole County. I've driven to both
15 Tallahassee meetings, all day in Melbourne yesterday,
16 and two hours to Jacksonville today as a volunteer.
17 Let me tell you why.

18 I met a greyhound named Allen who raced at the
19 Sanford Orlando Kennel Club in Longwood. He was
20 dumped at a kill vet where I was being trained as a
21 tech. Allen's sister left that day in a body bag and
22 I decided Allen was coming with me.

23 After that day I dove into greyhound adoptions
24 volunteering with the Greyhound Vets of America of
25 Central Florida. And I, too, have seen that policy

1 and procedure manual that tells you to keep your mouth
2 shut when you're at adoption events, when people focus
3 on abuse to switch it to what great dogs greyhound --
4 greyhounds make.

5 My husband and I have fostered greyhounds fre- --
6 frequenting the track compound and the kennels and
7 getting the lucky dogs to show for adoption. This
8 continued for three and a half years.

9 When we met -- when we got a greyhound from the
10 track, the trip home was always the same. Because the
11 dog's teeth are so rotten and infected, the stench was
12 unbearable. Once home, we had a routine. We never
13 took the dogs in through the house, but through the
14 backyard where we had a chair and we sat and picked
15 tics, hundreds of tics. We had a kit that included
16 quick-stop so when you pulled tics from between their
17 toes, it would stop the bleeding. And then the baths
18 came. Multiple baths to remove the flees.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ms. Wilson --

20 MS. WILSON: These dogs didn't know stairs. They
21 didn't know how to give you kisses. Some trembled at
22 your touch.

23 I'm here today for Allen and for his sister that
24 didn't make it out and for thousands of greyhounds who
25 will never know a loving home or gentle touch.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ms. Wilson --

2 MS. WILSON: Please vote yes on Proposal 67 --

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

4 MS. WILSON: -- for the dogs. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 Ms. Arpen, Tracey Arpen. Oh. Mr. Tracey Arpen.

7 Excuse me.

8 MR. ARPEN: Tracey Arpen, and I'm a fifth-
9 generation Floridian, retired attorney and former
10 Deputy General Counsel for the City of Jacksonville.
11 The proposal before the Commission that's still under
12 active consideration could be considered some good,
13 some bad, and some awful.

14 In the good category, I hope you'll take a look
15 at -- one more look at open primary elections and
16 consider the open unitary elections system that's
17 worked well in Jacksonville for the last 20 years.
18 Failing that, I hope you will at least support
19 Proposition 39 and close the -- the write-end ballot
20 loophole that's been so abused here in the state of
21 Florida.

22 I support Proposition 91 on off-shore drilling.
23 I think you need the additional protection of a
24 constitutional provision because frank -- quite
25 frankly, I don't trust Tallahassee to do the right

1 thing every time.

2 On the other hand, in the awful category, I
3 oppose proposition -- Proposal 72 requiring a
4 two-thirds vote to raise tax -- any taxes and fees in
5 the State of Florida because that places an
6 unreasonably high bar on -- on raising the necessary
7 funds to provide services in the state. There are
8 already checks in place. You've got the Veto Power.
9 You've got the Power of the Ballot Box. And we don't
10 require a two-thirds vote to cut necessary services.
11 Why do we require two-thirds vote to raise the
12 necessary funds to provide those services?

13 Proposal 97 unduly restricts the right of
14 citizens to affect change through the initiative
15 process. The new threshold would be the highest in
16 the country. People who don't care enough to learn
17 about the amendments and to vote on them ought not to
18 be counted as no-votes.

19 And what's good for the goose is good for the
20 gander. If this is to pass, it ought to require 60
21 percent of the people voting in the election. Don't
22 forget when it was raised from 50 to 6 -- 60 percent,
23 it didn't get 60 percent, but it became law anyway.

24 And, finally -- I hope we've seen the last --
25 Proposal 95 is bad for Home Rule. It's an invitation

1 to endless lawsuits and it hurts the mom-and-pop
2 businesses.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Arpen.

4 While Mr. Rodriguez gets ready to speak, Trans
5 [sic] Christiansen, Daniel Greenberg, Alysa Wagner,
6 and Skylar Loveladay [sic].

7 Mr. Rodriguez, please. Thank you.

8 MR. RODRIGUEZ: Hi. My name is Jose Rodriguez,
9 and first of all, I want to start off by thanking you
10 guys for listening to each and every one of us. And
11 before I begin, I believe it's safe to assume that
12 every single person in here has had an experience with
13 a dog and we can all know that dogs are very, very
14 loving individuals who are sentient, who have the
15 capacity to feel love, feel pain, and suffer. And
16 that is why I'm urging you guys to vote yes on
17 Proposal 67 on supp- -- on ending and phasing out
18 greyhound racing.

19 Dogs are not commodities. They are not items to
20 be used and util- -- and utilized to create jobs, to
21 bet on, to enjoy seeing as they're dying, as they're
22 suffering, as they're legs are breaking, as they're
23 being drugged up. That is not a job. That is not
24 entertainment. That is animal cruelty and it's time
25 Florida kind of cut up with the rest of the states.

1 Forty states have made this illegal; yes, somehow,
2 here we are again, talking about this. I've been
3 talking for over two years now and somehow we're still
4 talking about it.

5 So I really, really urge you guys to make the
6 compassionate choice to vote yes on Proposal 67.

7 And, additionally, I also want you guys to vote
8 no on Proposal 94. It is -- I -- I mean as a
9 millennial, I can tell you that I don't know any
10 friends that are smoking anymore. And it's thanks to
11 these programs that are educating us on the -- just
12 negative effects smoking.

13 So thank you guys so much for listening. And,
14 yeah, have a great day.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

16 Mr. Christian --

17 MR. CHRISTIANSEN: -- -sen.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Trans Christian --

19 MR. CHRISTIANSEN: I apologize for my penmanship.
20 It's Travis Christiansen here speaking against
21 Proposition 33, which would require every single
22 county in the state of Florida to appoint their
23 superintendent.

24 Listen, this is the fourth CRC event I've been to
25 on this because my county is an A county who's had an

1 elected superintendent. We used to always say, "Play
2 schools are A schools," in all the elections.

3 I think you've heard a lot of this stuff before.
4 It's working for us. Why not keep it off the ballot
5 because the obvious concern because of all the
6 populated -- the way the population's distributed, we
7 can vote against it again and still get it anyway.

8 Now, those four CRC meeting I've been to, while
9 public opposition on this is not overwhelming, the one
10 single person I've heard speak in favor of 33 is one
11 of the sponsor's cronies. Do you really want to be
12 that appointee who ignores the people in favor of a
13 couple of political insiders? This is a
14 historic once-in-20-years CRC. Come on. There's
15 already an item in the Constitution that if the people
16 in any county want to appoint their superintendent, it
17 can go on the ballot and they can vote to do that.
18 And after that, it'll be appointed by the school
19 board.

20 I believe that school boards and superintendents
21 should be close to the people. Therefore, they should
22 be elected. Electing people is one of the way [sic]
23 that people -- its American ways -- one of the ways
24 people control their government of, by, and for The
25 People. So I'd like you to keep 33 off the ballot.

1 Thank you very much.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

3 Mr. Greenberg, Alysa Wagner, and Skylar -- I
4 can't pronounce the last name, if Skylar's in the
5 room.

6 MR. GREENBERG: Alysa Wagner had to leave, but
7 she did want to stand in support of Proposal 67.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Skylar did leave?

9 MR. GREENBERG: No, no. Alysa. Alysa.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Oh. Alysa. Okay.

11 Thank you, Mr. Greenberg. Please proceed.

12 MR. GREENBERG: I stand in support of Proposal
13 67.

14 You've heard from perhaps a dozen people that 40
15 states have already banned greyhound racing. So I
16 just want to plead, please do not let Florida fall
17 behind in basic decency. That's all.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you so much.

19 While -- are you Skylar?

20 MS. LOVELADY: Yes, sir, I am.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: How do you pronounce your last
22 name?

23 MS. LOVELADY: It's Lovelady.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'm sorry?

25 MS. LOVELADY: It's Lovelady.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Lovelady. Thank you.

2 Lovelady. Thank you. Please proceed. Thank you.

3 MS. LOVELADY: I'm a kennel attendant at the
4 Flagler Humane Society in Palm Coast.

5 Looking at the condi- -- looking at the
6 conditions these greyhounds are held in versus how we
7 care for our animals is a big jump. Not only do the
8 greyhounds die from injuries, they die from illnesses
9 that are transferred by being held in poor conditions.

10 According to the witness statements, the kennel
11 said they had a strong smell of urine. We at the
12 Flagler Humane Society proside [sic] love -- provide
13 love and comfort instead of drugs that drive them to
14 death.

15 Give the dogs a voice. Say yes to Proposal 67.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Carley Chandler
17 [sic], Bryan Wilson, Thomas Cashman, Shanon -- that's
18 a tough one -- Eve, Shanon Eve, and Joseph Taylor.

19 Thank you. Please proceed, Ms. Chandler.

20 MS. CHANDLEE: Chandlee.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Chandlee. Excuse me.

22 Chandlee.

23 MS. CHANDLEE: Good evening. My name is Carley
24 Chandlee. I am a born-and-raised Florida native. I
25 am currently working at the Flagler Humane Society at

1 Palm Coast Florida. I'm here today to encourage you
2 to vote yes on Proposal 67.

3 As a child, maybe ten years old, I can remember
4 my grandfather taking me to Daytona Beach Kennel Club
5 to watch the dog races. I can remember being so
6 excited to see the dogs because I'm an animal lover.

7 Getting there and walking through their doors, I
8 couldn't wait to sit down and watch the dogs. As they
9 lined up the dogs in their tiny little stalls, setting
10 up for the races, I can remember saying to my
11 grandfather, "Why do they put them in the tiny boxes?
12 They have no room in there." All I could hear were
13 the dogs barking, knowing that the dogs would -- or
14 the doors would open soon, getting to go -- the
15 freedom to run.

16 I used to think they loved to run the track.
17 But, as an adult, I now understand that the only thing
18 that they love was the feel -- the feeling of freedom,
19 freedom from their confined cages that they live in
20 day to day. They finally get those few minutes of
21 fresh air, not being forced to smell their own fecal
22 matter.

23 Why should these dogs be treated any different
24 than our dogs that are sitting at home on our couches,
25 cuddled up with us at night in their comfy beds.

1 These dogs deserve to have that feeling of freedom
2 every minute.

3 So please vote yes for the dogs.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 Mr. Wilson. Bryan Wilson. Thank you.

6 MR. WILSON: Good afternoon, Commissioners. The
7 state of Florida has a drug problem beyond just the
8 opioid crises, from which you've heard today from the
9 animal rescuers, there's also a serious problem with
10 greyhounds testing positive for cocaine. While too
11 many of them have just stated this is a fact, I have
12 some figures and statistics that I'd like to share
13 with the Commission today.

14 From October 6 -- from October 2016 to July 2017,
15 there were 25 cocaine positives at the Orange Park
16 Kennel Club, the tract that's closest to this very
17 building that we are meeting in.

18 In the last decade, 70 of the 73 positive cocaine
19 tests have been to Florida greyhounds. The two most
20 recent ones were in July of 2017. Speakers who
21 represented to you, the Constitution Review [sic]
22 Commission, have also had a disturbing trend that
23 continues these positive tests for cocaine.

24 Owner Gary Willis, through the industry, flew in
25 to speak, paid \$1,000 for fines when Geez Ray

1 (phonetic) tested positive for cocaine in 2010.

2 Greyhound trainer Stephanie Elrod who spoke
3 yesterday had to pay a \$700 fine, when her dog
4 fundrel- -- Funderella -- excuse me -- who tested
5 positive for the drug in 2015. These cases and all
6 the other positive tests for cocaine and all the other
7 drugs that are being given to these dogs are all
8 available from the Department of Pari-Mutuel Wagering
9 or through public records that have been constantly
10 coming out in the media.

11 We know the industry has a problem with -- even
12 some of its most ardent supporters are having problems
13 with their dogs testing positive with cocaine. And
14 these dogs aren't going out there and hitting up the
15 streets.

16 These public records show you how horrible this
17 industry is to their number one interest, and that is
18 the dogs.

19 So, please, vote for the dogs. Vote yes on 67.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thomas Cashman.
21 Thomas Cashman. Not present.

22 Shanon -- Shanon -- and if somebody could give me
23 a hand with that last name, I would appreciate it.

24 Joseph Taylor. Mr. Taylor, please speak well --

25 MR. TAYLOR: Let's see if I can adjust this.

1 My name is Joe Taylor. I'm an elected
2 superintendent of schools in Washington County. That
3 is to the west of here.

4 One of the individuals that you had spoke with
5 earlier -- or that had spoke earlier from Taylor
6 County is a member of PACE. That's a 13 school di- --
7 13-member school district contortion. All of us are
8 elected.

9 Now, I think when you start looking at the rural
10 counties in a one-size-fit-all, it's not real. And
11 what you're saying is the value system of the
12 panhandle, which is where the majority of your
13 electorates -- there's 44 electorates in the state,
14 mostly rural and inland counties.

15 Now Pasco County's the largest. Escambia's
16 probably next behind that. They're elected also. So
17 you do have some fairly good-sized ones in there. But
18 when you swap out a value system and you say, "This
19 can fit for those," it's not that way.

20 School districts are businesses. I -- I am not
21 an ex-teacher. I'm none of those things. Actually, I
22 have a degree in accounting, a graduate from the
23 University of West Florida. I am a veteran. I have
24 been my own small business owner. I was in
25 construction management. I've been in different

1 things. And then I also ran for election. I took out
2 a sitting incumbent in a primary, won in the general
3 elections five years ago and was returned with no
4 opposition. Something in all of these districts are
5 that way.

6 Within the PACE 13 districts that I've described:
7 we have an attorney, we have an MBA, we have a retired
8 military, and then we have a small business owner that
9 is also, just like me, your nontraditionalist.

10 So do you think you can close the door on, you
11 know, just a certain group of people? That's what
12 this is intended to do. And I think there's something
13 very personally related to this. I -- I very much
14 appreciate the school board members who spoke in
15 support of the school superintendents and its elect.
16 It's important that people are able to touch us
17 directly. We are responsive. We do listen. And I
18 would certainly appreciate your nonsupport for this
19 one to go forward.

20 Thank you very much.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.

22 Shanon Jafflin is what I think the last name is.
23 Is there a Shanon Jafflin here? No. Shanon anybody
24 here?

25 Okay. Heather Yarmans; John Crawford, Clerk of

1 Court and Comptroller; Martha Bogdan; Aft [sic] Hooker
2 and Cheryl Gore please come forward. Thank you.

3 Oh. Okay. We will take a break as soon as these
4 people -- yes.

5 Go ahead, please.

6 MS. YARMANS: Thank you, Mr. Chair,
7 Commissioners. My name is Heather Yarmans. I'm here
8 on behalf of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action
9 Network.

10 I have to speak in support of Proposal 65, which
11 would include E-Cigarettes in the Clean Indoor Air Act
12 and to speak in opposition to Proposal 94, which would
13 fundamentally change the way that the Tobacco Free
14 Florida Program is funded.

15 As you've heard t at every stop in both Listening
16 Tours, To- -- Tobacco Free Florida has been
17 instrumental in driving down both youth and adult
18 smoking rates in our state. We have made incredible
19 strides against combustible products, but the
20 landscape of tobacco products is ever changing.

21 Youth rates for E-Cigarette use and similar
22 products are on the rise, including E-Cigarettes, and
23 the Clean Indoor Act is an important step in curving
24 the proliferation of these products and it is a much-
25 needed update to current law in Florida to truly

1 protect our citizens from both second-hand smoke and
2 aerosol. We still have so much work to do in Florida
3 in protecting our kids from the dangers that are
4 inherent in all tobacco products.

5 Please support Proposal 65 and oppose Proposal
6 94.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you --

8 MS. YARMANS: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- so much.

10 Mr. Crawford, Martha Bogdan, Aft Hooker, and
11 Cheryl Gore.

12 Go ahead, Mr. Bogdan [sic] --

13 MR. CRAWFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- Crawford.

15 MR. CRAWFORD: Pursuant to Article V and Article
16 VIII, when elected as Clerk and Comptroller for Nassau
17 County, by law, I became the auditor, the recorder and
18 custodian of all county funds. My office touches
19 hundreds of millions of dollars belonging to both the
20 county and the state, and ultimately the folks in this
21 room and across this state. In other words, there's
22 both the compelling county interest and state interest
23 here.

24 As comptroller, one of my first experiences was
25 the discovery of a multi-million dollar theft of

1 county and state funds within the Clerk's Finance
2 Office. This story is pertinent here because of the
3 pos- -- positive effect of Proposal 13 if passed. I
4 recall the response of the head of that department, to
5 whom my discoveries as internal auditor led me to
6 believe a major theft was occurring. Quote, "Please
7 don't use the word fraud or wrong-doing," end quote.

8 And so a thousand times since I have pondered
9 what the outcome of this internal audit would have
10 been had that person been my boss, or had this office
11 of the Clerk and Comptroller been reportable to the
12 county commission or a charter review commission or
13 some other entity instead of being constitutionally
14 required to report to the citizens who elected me.

15 The framers of our U.S. Constitution and our
16 beloved Florida Constitution understood the value of
17 separation of powers and checks and balances. They
18 understood that our Constitution is not to get more
19 and more power to governmental bureaucracies, but its
20 every word is to protect the liberties and rights of
21 the citizens we served.

22 Eroding the strength and independence of
23 constitutional officers works against the higher
24 interest of the citizens of our communities and of the
25 state of Florida.

1 Let me close by reminding all of us of why we
2 exist as public servants. It's those three little
3 words found in the beginning of the United States
4 Constitution and the Florida Constitution: We The
5 People.

6 In Florida's Constitution, Article I, Section 1
7 starts: All political powers inherent in The People.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

9 MR. CRAWFORD. Let's keep that safe.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

11 MR. CRAWFORD: Support Proposal 13.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you --

13 MR. CRAWFORD: Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- Mr. Crawford.

15 Ms. Bogdan, and Aft Hooker. And then after
16 Cheryl Gore, we will take a break.

17 MS. BOGDAN: Thank you, Commissioners. My name
18 is Martha Bogdan. I'm the executive vice president
19 for the American Lung Association of the Southeast
20 Region. So I'm speaking today on behalf of our Board
21 of Directors and our 300,000 volunteers.

22 As has been stated before, in 1997 the big
23 tobacco companies entered into the landmark tobacco
24 settlement agreement with Florida. And part of the
25 purpose was to attack the enormous public health

1 problems caused by tobacco use, including implementing
2 programs to prevent tobacco use among our youth.
3 Immediately after settlement, Florida created one of
4 the nation's best prevention and education programs in
5 the country. However, each year the American Lung
6 Association in conjunction with the public health
7 partners fought to keep the funding for the program.
8 But within a matter of just a few years, the Florida
9 Legislature virtually eliminated funding for this
10 program.

11 So that's why in 2006 the citizens of the state
12 banded together to pass Article X, Section 27 of
13 Florida's Constitution which set aside a mere 15
14 percent of the tobacco settlement money for tobacco
15 prevention and cessation program. And since this
16 citizen's initiative, Florida has rebuilt a model
17 tobacco prevention and education program with proven
18 results that have been stated earlier. This is due,
19 in large, to leaving the politics out of the funding
20 decisions.

21 So we can't let the decimation of this program
22 happen again. We need to keep our citizens healthy
23 and reduce future health costs and premature deaths.
24 I'm asking the members of the Commission to stand up
25 with the people of Florida rather than standing with

1 big tobacco and leave Proposal 94 off the ballot.

2 We're also supporting Proposal 65, which would
3 address the use of E-Cigarettes and vaping in the
4 Florida Clean --

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: All right.

6 MS. BOGDAN: -- Indoor Air Act. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Ms. Bogdan.

8 Art Hooker and Cheryl Gore. Cheryl Gore or Art
9 Hooker. They are not in the audience.

10 We are going to take a ten-minute break and we'll
11 reconvene.

12 Thank you very much.

13 (A break was taken from 5:21 p.m. to 5:43 p.m.)

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: If the following people will
15 start coming towards the microphone -- Kathy Swafford.
16 Kathy? Kathy Swafford.

17 I think it stays.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She's here.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: She's here. Yay. We'll --
20 we'll let her come up.

21 Aaron DiPie- -- DiPietro. Aaron DiPietro. Aaron
22 DiPietro. He's here? Hot dog. Aaron.

23 So we have Kathy, Aaron, John Santamaria, Jim
24 Blanchard, John Crowe. Please come to the microphone
25 and introduce yourselves. Thank you.

1 Kathy's first, if we've found Kathy. Oh, there's
2 Kathy. Great. Hi, Kathy.

3 MS. SWAFFORD: Hi. How are you?

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Whenever you're ready, dear.
5 You're next.

6 MS. SWAFFORD: My name is --

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Please proceed.

8 MS. SWAFFORD: -- Kathy Swafford. I am the
9 founder --

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Could you get a little closer
11 to the microphone, please? Like I said, it sounds
12 loud to you guys out there, but because those
13 speakers, if you look at them, are doing this instead
14 of at us. It's loud to you, but we can barely here
15 you unless you're right above that microphone.

16 Thank you.

17 MS. SWAFFORD: Yes, sir. My name is Kathy
18 Swafford. I am the founder and director of Safe Haven
19 of Northeast Florida, which seeks to protects child
20 abuse -- children of abuse. Sorry.

21 I am speaking in favor of Proposal 96, Marsy's
22 Law, both as a victim advocate as well as a victim
23 myself. My step-dad started molesting me when I was
24 11 years old and it continued for the next five years.
25 When he was convicted and went to prison, I thought,

1 finally, I didn't have to deal with him no more,
2 didn't have to see him, didn't to ever have to hear
3 from him.

4 I was wrong. He got out. He called me as I was
5 driving down the road one day and said, "I'm out."
6 And I said, "How did you get my number?" And he says,
7 "From a friend." So I asked him not to call me
8 anymore. But, unfortunately, this happens quite often
9 because victims are not notified when they're abusers
10 get out.

11 Through my experience as a sexual abuse victim as
12 well as my work with Safe Haven, it is clear that
13 Florida's criminal justice system does not work for
14 the victim. There are no real protections in place to
15 keep the victim from being victimized again.

16 Criminals strip children of their dignity and
17 take away their childhood. Then our justice system
18 forces them to relive this trauma through extensive
19 depositions and lengthy trials while also holding the
20 accused's rights as more valuable than the victim's
21 because the rights of the accused are specifically
22 listed in the U.S. Constitution and victim's rights
23 are not. Marsy's Law would add much needed balance to
24 the scales of the Florida Justice System.

25 No one was able to protect me from the pain that

1 I endured at the hands of my step-father both before
2 and after his conviction. If my advocacy can protect
3 one child, I have succeeded.

4 Please help me protect crime vic- -- crime
5 victims by voting on Proposal 96.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

7 MS. SWAFFORD: Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Aaron DiPietro. Go ahead,
9 please.

10 MR. DIPIETRO: Good afternoon, Commissioners. My
11 name is Aaron DiPietro. And thank you for giving of
12 your time to serve the state of Florida on his
13 historic commission.

14 To begin I would encourage you to oppose Proposal
15 33, which would require all school superintendents to
16 be appointed. Such a move should be decided at the
17 local level by each school district.

18 Second, I would encourage you to support Proposal
19 4 repealing the discriminatory Blaine Amendment.

20 And, also, I would ask you to support Proposal 72
21 requiring a super majority of the Legislature to raise
22 taxes.

23 Lastly, I ask this commission to bring back and
24 pass Proposal 22, the Privacy Restoration Act. This
25 proposal will restore Article I, Section 23 of our

1 state Constitution to the intended purpose of
2 safeguarding the private information of individual
3 citizens from unlawful government intrusion. The
4 original amendment was in the cla- -- the original
5 privacy clause was a good. Unfortunately, after the
6 judges in our state courts have twisted this clause
7 against its original intent and used it to strike down
8 common sense medical regulation designed to protect
9 women's health. However, this misinterpretation
10 lately contradicts the proceedings and debates by both
11 the previous CRC Commission and the Florida
12 Legislature during the adopt -- during the original
13 adoption of the privacy clause.

14 These records clearly show that the original
15 purpose was to protect citizens' private information
16 from unlawful government intrusion. Furthermore, if
17 judicial officials have twisted the privacy clauses in
18 these cases, what will stop them from misusing it in
19 future situations? We need Proposal 22 to clarify the
20 privacy clause to insure the future courts will not
21 twist the privacy clause in the future.

22 In addition, we must dispel with the myth that if
23 Proposal 22 is passed by the voters, abortion will be
24 outlawed in Florida. This is patently false. The
25 passage of this amendment will not change the fact

1 that Roe V. Wade will still be law in Florida as it is
2 in the other 49 states. During the previous public
3 hearings held by the CRC, this issue was of the most,
4 if not the most -- strongly-supported provision
5 brought up.

6 Please bring back and pass Proposal 22, the
7 Privacy Restoration Act. In the 21st Century
8 Floridians deserve these fundamental protections --

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you --

10 MR. DIPIETRO: -- to be --

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- Mr. DiPietro.

12 MR. DIPIETRO: -- clearly laid out --

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

14 MR. DIPIETRO: -- and clarified in our state
15 Constitution.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.

17 MR. DIPIETRO: Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. John Santamaria, Jim
19 Blanchard, John Crowe.

20 MR. BLANCHARD: My name is Jim Blanchard and I'd
21 like to tell you about me playing with greyhounds
22 since I was a young boy. And I still get to play with
23 them every day, 50 years later. But being the
24 president of the Florida Greyhound Association, I have
25 to defend our industry.

1 In Melbourne yesterday we had a lady from Palm
2 Beach describing how for years she very kept quiet
3 about how the greyhounds were not being taken care of.
4 I am also the national officer for Florida, and
5 inspector for south Florida. And I'm disturbed by her
6 for not contacting me or any other authority
7 concerning these allegations. We have strict national
8 welfare laws in our association and we do not hesitate
9 to ban someone for any type of abuse or neglect. We
10 also ban our members from doing any business with
11 those individuals.

12 As for all the injuries: For five years or more,
13 the FGA has tried to get a safety act bill passed,
14 even being sponsored by Senator Chris Smith of the CRC
15 several times only to find resistance from out-of-
16 state animal rights activists. They have no interest
17 in preventing injuries, just reporting them.

18 The out-of-state animal rights activists also
19 talked about racing being banned in 40 states. Not
20 true. But Idaho has banned greyhound racing and it
21 was done in the Legislature, not the Constitution.
22 Let our Legislators decide. See, P-67 does not belong
23 in the Constitution. C -- CBS Evening News out of
24 Newark came to my kennel several years ago. They
25 controlled the whole situation. They filmed all day

1 long. They found nothing wrong, and they weren't
2 there to do a puff piece.

3 I do have some literature I'd like to leave, if
4 that's okay. And I'm done.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank you.
6 Mr. Crowe?

7 MR. CROWE: Yes.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Please proceed. Thank you.

9 MR. CROWE: Yes. Hello, ladies and gentlemen.
10 My name is John Crowe. Thank you for allowing me to
11 speak.

12 I oppose CP-67. I was born and raised in a
13 greyhound business and I now run the family business,
14 which has been here 40 years. The greyhound industry
15 has been a tradition in the state of Florida for close
16 to 80 years that I can recall.

17 We have a farm and a racing kennel. There are
18 more than 15,000 related jobs that are directly
19 connected to the thing of the -- the care of the
20 animals. There are also some sub-connected jobs that
21 the greyhound business such as vets, meat suppliers,
22 just to name a few. These animals are athletes and
23 well-taken care of. If we don't take of them, they
24 won't take care of us.

25 I am a small business man with up to five

1 employees at a time, sometimes. And if this bill goes
2 on the ballot, I am giving you a face of a average
3 citizen who it will hurt and his family.

4 There are more people that care as I do, but
5 could not be here because they stayed behind to take
6 care of the dogs.

7 Again, I oppose CP-67 and thank you for your
8 time.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

10 Patti Kacer, Mellissa Evans.

11 Patti Kacer, Mellissa Evans.

12 MS. KACER: Hi. I'm Patti Kacer. And, yes,
13 you're right. It does sound really loud over here.

14 I am here to urge you to vote against Proposal
15 67. I've been involved in greyhound adoption since
16 1990. I have never seen any of the situations that
17 the people got up here today and mentioned. Never. I
18 have never seen dogs come in covered with tics,
19 covered with flees, with wounds that weren't healed.
20 Never since 1990 have I seen that.

21 I am a resident of Florida now. I moved with my
22 husband four and a half years ago from New Jersey.
23 That's where I did most of my adoption.

24 When I moved down here, I was fortunate. I met a
25 couple people. I got into a kennel. I got onto a

1 puppy farm. I saw happy -- happy, loving, being-loved
2 dogs to the point where my husband and I bought two
3 racers, then we bought two more. Not one of them --
4 in addition to the four adopters -- adoptees that we
5 have at home, not one of them has ever shown any signs
6 of abuse. Never.

7 I would like to be able to go home today and tell
8 my grandchildren: Next time you visit grandma, you
9 can go to the track. I want to be able to tell Frank
10 and Lettie (phonetic) and Sunny and Woozle, Breezy,
11 Robbie and Scotch that they -- their lives mean
12 something to you. I want to be able to tell their
13 mother, our Momma Zin -- KKY White Zin (phonetic) I
14 Like Zinfandel -- and I want to tell her five
15 daughters that they will live to race in the state of
16 Florida.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Thank --

18 MS. KACER: Thank you --

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- you very much.

20 MS. KACER: -- very much.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: While Mellissa Evans comes
22 forward -- if Christopher Maynard, Shannon Simpson,
23 Gary Willis, Randell Graham could line up, that'd be
24 great. Thank you.

25 Ms. Evans.

1 MS. EVANS: Good afternoon. My name is Mellisa
2 Evans and I'm here to oppose CP-67.

3 It was my dream when I was little girl to be able
4 to see and work with the greys once I was old enough.
5 When I was 20, I moved to Florida and I got my first
6 job as a lead-out. I thought I had the best job in
7 the whole world. I got to be able to touch those
8 greyhounds. I thought they were just a little bit of
9 a celebrity.

10 I've been fortunate to be able to live my dream
11 and I don't want Senator Lee or any out-of-state
12 activist to take away anyone else's dream. So please
13 vote no on 67.

14 Thank you very much.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

16 Shannon Simpson, Randell Graham.

17 Shannon Simpson. Thank you.

18 MS. SIMPSON: Good afternoon. Hi. I'm Shannon
19 Simpson. I've lived in Florida since '01 and I am the
20 trainer DQ Williams in -- here in Jacksonville.

21 Just a little bit about me. I came from Michigan
22 and didn't know much about greyhound racing and what I
23 did hear, wasn't very good. Fast forward; I barely
24 graduated high school, dropped out of college, thought
25 I'd be behind a cash register for the rest of my life.

1 But then I -- somehow I ended up in the greyhound
2 racing business, and it just gave -- it fills me with
3 so much joy to take care of these dogs every day to do
4 my best to make sure they're healthy and happy. And
5 it gives me purpose. I -- I don't want to do anything
6 else in my life. I just love my dogs and want to take
7 care of them to the best of my ability and I'd like to
8 keep doing that.

9 Thank you very much.

10 No on 67.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

12 Randell Graham and Gary Willis, Jane High and
13 John Pendergast please come forward. Thank you.

14 Mr. Graham.

15 MR. GRAHAM: Yes, sir. My name is Randell
16 Graham. I would like to urge you to vote no on
17 Proposal 67. I'm currently a trainer for the American
18 racing greyhound, and I've been a part of the
19 greyhound racing industry for more than 20 years.

20 Since the first time I stepped in a kennel at
21 ten-years old, I knew I was home. The first time I
22 felt eight greyhounds thundering passed me the first
23 time, I knew I wanted to train racing greyhound. I
24 then spent the next 14 years learning everything I
25 could studying the American grey- -- racing greyhound.

1 And I stand here today a trainer for the American
2 racing greyhound. I'm living my American dream.

3 Myself plus thousands of others are fully
4 invested in greyhound racing physically, emotionally
5 and financially. In my house alone, we have five
6 people with a combined 125 years experience racing
7 greyhounds and zero outside of racing.

8 I would also like to point out how this shows we
9 in the racing industry aren't just acquaintances or
10 co-workers, but we're a family.

11 In closing, while I urge you to vote no on
12 Proposal 67, I would like to remind you that voting no
13 does not mean you support greyhound racing.

14 My name is Randell Graham, and I'm living my
15 American dream.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Gary Willis, Jane High and John
18 Pendergast, and after them: Lee Pennington.

19 Please proceed, sir.

20 MR. WILLIS: My name is Gary Willis. I have a
21 greyhound kennel in Jacksonville. I'd like for you to
22 vote no on 67.

23 I -- my biggest fear is if it -- if it were to
24 pass, we'd have 15,000 greyhounds that we wouldn't be
25 able to afford to feed and care for them. So if they

1 want to phase us out it would be one thing; but this
2 would really be a bad thing. It'd be like a holocaust
3 for the dogs.

4 So please vote no on 67.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

6 Right there. Thank you.

7 MS. HIGH: Hi. My name's Jane High. I'm just a
8 voter from the lovely beaches area, and I am here to
9 support Proposal 67, to phase out greyhound racing
10 right into 2019.

11 It just so happens that 2018 is the year of the
12 dog. For Florida, please let that dog be a greyhound.
13 As is well-known for a number of years, greyhound
14 racing had been hopelessly entangled in the broader,
15 thornier issue of the regulations state-wide of
16 gambling. But there is no rational reason for these
17 dogs to be forced to run in circles, sometime drugged,
18 sometimes injured, even dying, month after month, year
19 after year in the heat and the humidity of our state
20 simply to enable other types of gambling that attract
21 people to the tracks.

22 I urge you to please place Proposal 67 on this
23 ballot and give We, The Voters a direct voice and
24 clear opportunities to demonstrate our common sense
25 about greyhound racing and compassion for the

1 suffering of these wonderful dogs.

2 Now is the time, and 2018 is highly appropriate
3 as the year of the dog for us to stop gambling on
4 their lives.

5 Thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: John Pendergast.

7 MR. PENDERGAST: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8 I'm John Pendergast from Ponte Vedra Beach. I've
9 lived in Jacksonville since 1963. I grew up on the
10 west side, which we used to call and still call the
11 best side of Jacksonville, near the Orange Park Kennel
12 Club.

13 I just want to echo what people have said
14 previously with regards to the harm to the greyhounds.
15 I think the greatest statistic that can be said is
16 that one out of three greyhounds die -- or one
17 greyhound -- racing greyhound dies every days
18 statistically. That speaks volumes.

19 I would like talk about the forced issue of
20 greyhound racing with gaming. Coupling these two
21 industries doesn't make any sense. The taxpayers --
22 and from a business standpoint, the Florida Times
23 Union on July 21st 19 -- or 2017 reported that the
24 Florida state taxpayers, the state of Florida spends
25 more money on propping up this industry in regulation

1 than it does in receiving revenue from that industry.

2 Think about it. The Florida state taxpayers are
3 paying more money to prop up this dying industry to
4 regulate it more than what they're taking in in
5 revenue, tax revenue, from this industry. It's a
6 dying industry. It needs to go away.

7 Finally, let the people vote on this. We're the
8 ones who have the right to vote on it. The gentleman
9 from the Florida Greyhound Association stated that it
10 should be, you know, the Legislators that should
11 decide. Well, we heard this previously. The
12 Legislators said no, we should let the people decide.
13 So this what this proposition does: Let the people
14 decide.

15 And I thank you for your time.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

17 While Mr. Pennington -- is Mr. Pennington in the
18 audience? No Mr. Pennington. Okay.

19 John Lashmet, Bennett Brown, Patricia DeWitt,
20 Evelyn Rogers, and Denise Mitchell -- if you could
21 come forward, that would be great. Thank you.

22 John Lashmet. Did I mispronounce that? Are you
23 John?

24 MR. LASHMET: Close enough.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: You're not?

1 MR. LASHMET: Um-hmm.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Close enough?

3 MR. LASHMET: Close enough. My name is John
4 Lashmet. I'm from Northern Colorado. I own and
5 operator a greyhound farm there, a fairly large one.
6 I have a race kennel here in Jacksonville, runs at
7 Orange Park. I have a race kennel at Derby Lane in
8 St. Petersburg. We welp our puppies at the farm.
9 We're all hands-on, raise them, train them, bring them
10 to Florida and race them.

11 We -- it's not a real lucrative business, but we
12 love it. We're hands-on. They're like one of our
13 family.

14 And if 67 would go through to vote, it could be a
15 financial ruin for us and our family, our helpers. We
16 have no less than eight people in Florida working all
17 the time, and five in Colorado. They're all going to
18 lose their job. They know nothing but raising
19 greyhounds and racing them.

20 So that's -- that would be gone. They're going
21 to have to go on welfare or food stamps or whatever
22 because that's all they know to do. And your feed
23 companies, your veterinarians, supply houses are all
24 going to loss money. And we will be financially
25 ruined. We have anywhere from two to three hundred

1 puppies on the farm at all times and we know every one
2 of them. It's not a puppy mill for us. We know every
3 last one of our puppies from the time they're born
4 until they're retired from racing.

5 I oversee the three adoption agencies that we
6 have in the state of Colorado. And it's a very run --
7 well-run deal when the dogs are very taken care of.

8 And I would not like to see this go on to vote.

9 Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

11 Bennett Brown.

12 MR. BROWN: Commissioners, thank you for your
13 service. My name is Bennett Brown. I've been a
14 business manager in Jacksonville for the past 42
15 years. I have two -- well, three sons and six
16 grandchildren, five of the grandchildren are girls.
17 And I am in favor of Proposal 22. I know it's not on
18 the amendment now. It's not on your agenda, but I
19 would urge to you to consider putting it back on and
20 voting for it. It was the most requested public --
21 the most requested proposal before you.

22 Proposal 22 on privacy would simply allow the
23 Legislature to adopt laws requiring minor girls -- and
24 I want to repeat that -- require minor girls to obtain
25 parent -- parental consent and to require a 24-hour

1 reflection period before an abortion sur- -- surgery
2 could be performed by the doctor. The Gallup Poll
3 shows that in our country over the past 19 years, 70
4 percent of the public are in -- in favor of parental
5 consent and the 24-hour waiting period.

6 Think about where this young girl, thirt- -- 15
7 year-old girl would get advice if she can't get a --
8 she's allowed not to go the patients. Is it the
9 father of the baby or is it a -- another girlfriend?
10 What kind of advice would she get?

11 And, remember, abortion stops a beating heart and
12 takes a life. And this has a -- this has been shown
13 for -- for many, many women to have a mental and
14 physical impact on the young girl for her entire life.

15 So, please, reconsider Proposition 22 and bring
16 it back for the safety of our children, our girls and
17 their babies.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Brown.

20 Patricia DeWitt. Evelyn -- Patricia DeWitt.

21 Are you Ms. Rogers?

22 MS. ROGERS: Yes.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Ms. Rogers. Come
24 forward, please.

25 MS. ROGERS: Good afternoon. Thank you,

1 Commissioners for this opportunity. I do appreciate
2 it.

3 I am Evelyn, Evelyn Ray Rogers, a resident of
4 Jacksonville. I was here with other residents of
5 Jacksonville who also were in red in support. I am --
6 I've been a Floridian for 18 years. I own a small
7 business, an insurance agency here in Jacksonville.

8 I stand here in support of Prop -- Proposal 62,
9 open primaries and Proposal 11, suffrage and elections
10 closing the write-in loophole.

11 Here's a discussion of the problem: The
12 individuals that are the gatekeepers of a fair and
13 impartial judicial system are the elected officials
14 that interpret and administer the law that governs all
15 citizens regarded -- regardless of party affiliation.
16 Therefore, the judges, the state attorneys, and public
17 defenders should be elected without the designation of
18 a political party affiliation.

19 Too often the closed primary system has been
20 abused when a member of the same party affiliation
21 presents himself or herself as a write-in candidate.
22 This has had the effect of disenfranchising other
23 registered voters. Further, it has happened that the
24 write-in candidates took the action with the consent
25 of a political party's dominant candidate. The

1 initial non-parties that approach would encourage the
2 most qualified citizens to run for public office
3 without the obligation to adhere to a partisan
4 platform and/or ideology.

5 Since all registered voters would be able to
6 select a candidate for the general election, the open
7 primary elections process for all offices would
8 generate more voter participation, interest, and trust
9 for the final candidates elected in the general
10 election.

11 I support open primaries. I support Proposal 11.
12 I thank you for this opportunity and we ask that you
13 close the write-in loophole.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, very much.

16 All right. Well, is it Ms. Mitchell?

17 MS. MITCHELL: Yes.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ms. -- as Ms. Mitchell gets
19 ready to speak, Belinda Gallogly, Karen Olson,
20 Samantha DiAgostone (phonetic) -- DiAgostine
21 (phonetic), Jordan Robbins, Cheryl Massaro -- if you
22 could, come to the podium.

23 Yes. Go ahead, Ms. Mitchell.

24 Thank you for -- (simultaneous speakers).

25 MS. MITCHELL: Good afternoon -- or good evening,

1 I guess. Thank you for this opportunity to speak.

2 I'm proud of the fact, as a Florida citizen, that
3 our forefathers had the insight that the Constitution
4 is a dynamic entity, not static, and to provide for
5 the progressive growth forward to promote the general
6 welfare of all of Florida citizens. We owe our
7 strength to our diversity of the populace. This is
8 not a theocracy. Our Constitution needs to afford
9 equal protection for everyone.

10 In 2012, the majority of people of Florida voted
11 overwhelmingly to keep this constitutional provision
12 when the question appeared on the ballot. And Florida
13 is in good company; 38 other states have similar
14 No-Aid provisions that protect the religious freedom
15 and the rights of everyone. Therefore, I ask you to
16 appro- -- oppose Proposition 4 and to keep what our
17 forefathers had intended.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

20 Belinda. No. Is Belinda in the audience?

21 Belinda is not in the audience.

22 Karen Olson, Samantha --

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Saman- --

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: How do you pronounce your last
25 name?

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's DiAgostino.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: DiAgostino.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Saman- --

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Samantha DiAgostino had
6 to leave, but she was in opposal of Prop 96.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay. Thank you.

8 Jordan Robbins.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Jordan Robbins also had to
10 leave and was in opposal of Prop 94.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay. And Cheryl Massaro.

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Belinda Gallogly had to
13 leave, also. But she is in support of Proposition 22.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: That's not here, but...

15 Cheryl Massaro.

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Same thing with Cheryl
17 Massaro. She's also in opposition of Prop 94.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay. Paul Brooks.

19 MR. MAYNARD: My name's Chris Maynard and I got
20 skipped, so...

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: You got skipped?

22 MR. MAYNARD: I was with the greyhounds, pretty
23 much.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Go ahead.

25 MR. MAYNARD: Okay. My name's Chris Maynard.

1 I've been with the greyhounds for about five years
2 now. Anything I can tell about you them is they're
3 happy to see us. I've been through hurricanes with
4 them with. When everybody fled, I was one of the few
5 people that stayed back to make sure that they were
6 all right. It's pretty much everything I learned to
7 do was just pet greyhounds and play with them, make
8 sure that they're okay.

9 I'm kind of nervous.

10 I just oppose CP-67.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much for your
12 time.

13 Paul Brooks, Ronald Saunders, Tanasha Parker.

14 Mr. Brooks.

15 MR. BROOKS: How you doing, everyone? Good
16 afternoon. My name is Paul Brooks. I am the vice
17 chair of Student Government Association of North
18 Campus at Florida State College at Jacksonville.

19 I would like to echo out some of the experiences
20 I've had at FSCJ and tell you how FSCJ has allowed me
21 to grow in maturity and become a better man not for
22 myself, but also for my community. FSCJ has given me
23 a chance to get into the culinary management program
24 where also -- where I have gained great experience
25 from within the kitchen and without, from cooking

1 inside of a food truck on Riverside to allow myself to
2 cook inside a restaurant called Blue Bamboo. If it
3 wasn't for FSCJ, I wouldn't have been given the
4 experience and the knowledge. And for truly that, I
5 am thankful.

6 Proposal 83 is to recognize Florida's --
7 Florida's college system in the Florida Constitution.
8 I believe the impact of FSCJ has had upon my life is
9 equal to the student experience in K-12 Florida and
10 the state university system of Florida.

11 So I please ask you to support Propo- -- Proposal
12 83.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

14 Ronald Saunders, Tanasha Parker, Destiny Cole,
15 and Wellington Barlow, please. Wellington Barlow.

16 MR. SAUNDERS: Good evening to the -- all the
17 Commissioners. I'm Ronald Saunders, a student
18 ambassador of Florida State College out of
19 Jacksonville.

20 I moved here from Los Angeles about three years
21 ago. I was at Glendale Community College and I was
22 looking for a college when I came to Florida that was
23 going to give me the same opportunities that I got
24 when I was in California. FSCJ has done that as well
25 as much more. I'm now the sport commentator for all

1 the sports teams. I'm the main tour guide at the
2 south campus and I tell everyone to whom I give a tour
3 with that you will be afforded the same opportunities.

4 Because of FSCJ, I have gotten the respect of my
5 family, other peers, my friends, and I will be the
6 first in my family to graduate college with bachelor's
7 degree.

8 So are we -- Florida State University -- are we
9 UF? Are we Miami? No. But the people that walked
10 these halls do get an opportunity to get an education
11 and hope to achieve their dreams. And I think that
12 it's something that garners respect.

13 So thank you to Commissioner Plymale as well as
14 Commissioner Washington for co-signing this and please
15 support Proposition 83.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

17 Tanasha Parker.

18 MS. PARKER: Hello. Good evening.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Good evening.

20 MS. PARKER: I am Tanasha Parker. I serve as the
21 student government vice president for the Florida
22 State College of Jacksonville. We are here today to
23 ask for your support in Proposal 83.

24 Florida State College of Jacksonville has allowed
25 me the opportunity to create an environment for

1 students in the community to learn and discuss common
2 social issues.

3 In February Florida State College in Jacksonville
4 allowed our student government association to host a
5 health awareness -- again, entitled "Dying to Learn
6 Health Crises in the Black Community." This event
7 fostered an environment that gave the students and the
8 community resources to HIV, sickle cell, and diabetes
9 programs. Florida State College of Jacksonville
10 provided me the opportunity to coordinate and
11 facilitate this event with community vendors such as
12 Quest Diagnostics and the Sickle Cell Foundation.
13 These events have improved my leadership abilities and
14 are preparing me to be the future leader of tomorrow.

15 On behalf of the Florida State College of
16 Jacksonville, I would like to thank the Commissioners
17 for their time, especially Commissioner Washington and
18 Plymale for recognizing the need for this change
19 within the Florida Constitution.

20 I ask that you all support Proposition 83, which
21 will recognize the Florida College System, which
22 continues to enhance our lives and impact the
23 community that we live in.

24 Again, on behalf of the Student Government
25 Association, we thank you for your time.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

2 Destiny Cole in the audience? Destiny Cole is
3 not in the audience.

4 Mr. Bar- -- Wellington?

5 MR. BARLOW: I am. Wellington Barlow is my name.
6 I'm a 1983 graduate from the University of Florida
7 with a degree in political science and a 1985 graduate
8 from the law school. And I practiced law from --
9 internship in the state attorney office under A.
10 Austin in town. And I was public defender for about
11 two years. I've been in private practice now for
12 about 31 years. I represent -- I'm speaking on behalf
13 of -- or I'm going to submit a proposal for an
14 amendment to Prop 96 because I believe that this bill
15 -- or this proposal right now is a little bit
16 unbalanced.

17 I represent victims of crimes, some of them were
18 initially defendants who were found not guilty by a
19 majority of women jurors who heard a case and found
20 out and determined that the defendant was really the
21 victim of a false accusation of rape. Some of these
22 people facing life in prison, two of them in juries
23 that were predominately women found them not guilty.

24 So what I want to do is permit -- submit a
25 proposal -- excuse me -- to criminalize false

1 accusations of rape because I think that this needs to
2 be balanced out.

3 As far as my research is concerned, the United
4 Kingdom and Australia are the only two countries that
5 really get involved in this. Florida has a law right
6 now in the books that's one-sided. It's in
7 794.011510. A person who falsely accuses a person
8 listed in paragraph whatever. But it's always talking
9 about someone falsely accusing a police officer or
10 correction officer or probation officer. This law
11 needs to be extended to anybody's who's accused
12 falsely of a crime. The bill in particular, the
13 proposal says -- the part that I really have a problem
14 with is, it gives the victim the right to refuse a
15 deposition or interview. That's not going to work in
16 the criminal justice system because the people who're
17 really guilty of rape will be getting off on appeals
18 because of the provision.

19 Thank you very much.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

21 Jose Vega, Russell Smith, Candace Kelly, Andrew
22 Fredriksen -- please step forward.

23 Jose Vega?

24 MR. VEGA: Yes, I'm Jose Vega. I'm an immigrant
25 who is a -- proud to be a United States citizen. I

1 live in Jacksonville for 44 years and 6 months.

2 I'm -- I'm very sad and confused when I see
3 thousands of young people coming from Iraq,
4 Afghanistan, their own militaries from the Army, Navy,
5 Marines, some of them -- they are homeless, many. The
6 reason is they don't find a job.

7 I support E- -- Proposal 20 -- 29, E-Verify, but
8 one is bad (inaudible). We need to take care of
9 people first, and later take care of the illegals.

10 I got another question over here. The sergeant's
11 in Endusa (phonetic), he was killed. He was in police
12 force for an illegal immigrant who was in the state of
13 Florida for -- from 1994. He -- the only reason he
14 stay in Florida is be- -- because he worked. Somebody
15 gave the job to him and he hunt -- and he had no
16 business to be in Florida.

17 If you want to be -- you know, I'm an immigrant.
18 I'm an immigrant. And I am sure that they are good
19 people. But America is not a third-world country. It
20 have rule [sic]. It's a law. We need to respect the
21 rules and the law. I believe we need to put in
22 E-Verify to be sure every company respect the law and
23 don't hire illegals. They can start the process to be
24 legal, but they have to -- from the beginning they
25 come into the country, they have to respect the law

1 like everybody else.

2 Thank you for your time.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Vega.

4 Russell Smith.

5 MR. SMITH: Good evening.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ms. Kelly and Andrew
7 Fredriksen, please.

8 MR. SMITH: Good evening. Many people have come
9 up here and thank you for your service. I think I
10 speak for everybody when I applaud you for your
11 endurance. We've been out here a long time and we
12 respect the fact that you've given us all an
13 opportunity to speak.

14 I've been practicing law in the state of Florida
15 since 1980 and I'm proud to represent the more than
16 1,200 members state-wide of the Florida Association of
17 Criminal Defense Lawyers. I'm here today to urge you
18 to vote no on Proposal 96. I want to talk about
19 concerns we have with flaws in both the concept and
20 the application of the proposal.

21 First, conceptually: Generally speaking,
22 constitutions are places where we enunciate broad
23 principals. And statutes are where we detail the
24 application of those principals. For instance, the
25 Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution

1 simply says, quote: The right of The People to be
2 secure against unreasonable searches and seizures
3 shall not be violated.

4 The Fifth Amendment -- or the Sixth Amendment,
5 rather, says: The accused shall enjoy the right to be
6 confronted with the -- with the witnesses against him.
7 It doesn't say how or when it means that the statutes
8 and court decisions.

9 Crafting stat- -- specific details of these broad
10 concepts should be left to Legislatures and courts
11 because the Devil is in the details. Detailed
12 amendments are more susceptible to successful
13 constitutional challenge. Why? Because they can't be
14 easily changed.

15 If the details of Proposal 96 conflict with the
16 Fifth and Sixth Amendments to the United States
17 Constitution, the only solution may be to totally
18 invalidate it. You will have achieved exactly the
19 opposite of what you set out to achieve, because it
20 can't be fixed.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Smith. Candace
22 Kelly, Andrew Fredriksen, Daniel Dales- -- Dalesio,
23 Vik Slen, Michael Haus, and Eric Griffin.

24 Yes, ma'am. Please proceed. Thank you.

25 MS. KELLY: Hi. I'm Candace Kelly.

1 Commissioners, City of Atlantic Beach here in Florida.
2 And I'm here to remind you the Power of Home Rule,
3 because you're all from different places and you've
4 been traveling around the state. And the problems in
5 Atlanta Beach are not the same as Gainesville or
6 Palatka or Key West or Tallahassee. And the Power of
7 Home Rule allows us to mold our environment to suit
8 us.

9 So we're particularly worried about Proposition
10 95, which has, in fact, died in committee. But I
11 think Tom Lee intends to bring it back again. And
12 we'd like to remind you that the commerce and trade
13 and labor is different in every municipality
14 throughout the state and that you should allow us, the
15 cities, to rule our own people.

16 It's a front to localism. And it -- it hinders
17 our business climate. So please don't resurrect
18 Proposition 95, and please remember Home Rule.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

21 Mr. Fredriksen. Is there an Andrew Fredriksen?
22 No Andrew Fred- --

23 Daniel Dalesio. Mr. Dalesio, then Vik Slen,
24 Michael Haus, and Eric Griffin.

25 Go ahead, Mister --

1 MR. DALESIO: Good evening Commissioners.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- Dalesio.

3 MR. DALESIO: I, again, as others, thank you for
4 your service and your endurance. It's been long for
5 everybody here today.

6 I'm here to request respectfully that Prop --
7 Proposal 99 be re-instituted. That's a proposal that
8 dealt with the patient's right to know about adverse
9 medical incidents. It's probably the shortest number
10 of words contained in any proposal that's been
11 discussed and probably the least emotional for
12 everyone.

13 A little bit of my background: I grew up in
14 Philadelphia. Go Eagles. Go Jaguars. It's a great
15 place to be. I was 25 years as a Navy judge advocate.
16 I came down here on military orders as a commanding
17 officer in the legal service office, retired as a
18 circuit military judge. I did prosecution, defense.
19 I was a trial judge for six years. I went on to
20 juvenile justice programs. And now I'm involved with
21 health care. I'm a senior litigation attorney with
22 the -- it's a state university system, a self-
23 insurance program. We take care of all the
24 professional liability defense for the University of
25 Florida; Shands Hospitals as well as Florida

1 International; to my children's delight, Florida
2 State -- I've got two 'Noles grads -- and so on.

3 So I'm here, though, really on my own because of
4 my love for the law. I've been in the Law for 44
5 years. I'm a leisure -- a legal educator. And I
6 really encourage you to reinstate the two provisions
7 that we're amending: Article X, Section 25 to allow
8 the recognition in the Constitution of the
9 Attorney/Client Privilege, and the Attorney Work
10 Product Privilege.

11 I would never in 44 years expect that we would
12 need a constitutional provision to do that. But our
13 Supreme Court back in October of 2017 called that into
14 question with the Edwards versus Thomas case, which I
15 think some of you are aware of.

16 So I think clients, no matter who they are, have
17 a right to understand that when they are seeking legal
18 services, there's going to be protection of
19 confidentiality. That's in jeopardy right now.

20 So I really request -- this was voted down only 4
21 to 3 in committee that we resurrect it.

22 THE COURT: Thank you.

23 MR. DALESIO: Thanks for your attention.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

25 Vik Slen. Is Vik here? Vik's not here.

1 Michael Haus. Michael Haus, not here.

2 Eric Griffin. I'm sorry.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. Yeah. Sorry.

4 Eric had to leave and get back to the greyhounds to
5 let them outside. But he would just like to say vote
6 no on Proposition --

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Vote no --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- 67.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- 67. Okay.

10 Rebecca Couch, Lisa Cray.

11 Rebecca Couch, Lisa Cray. Is this Rebecca?

12 Hi, Rebecca.

13 Lisa Cray, Karen Hughes and Thu Ngujen (phonetic)
14 I'm sorry. I'm going to mispronounce that one.

15 Go ahead.

16 MS. COUCH: Thank you. I'm here to oppose
17 Proposal 71. I am an elected school board member for
18 Duval County Public Schools. This proposal would
19 create a parallel system of free public schools in
20 which one would not operate under the control of local
21 elected school boards. And one would be accountable
22 to the electorate under school board authority, the
23 other would not. This completes the constitutional
24 mandates for a uniform and efficient system of free
25 public schools. It creates taxation without

1 representation, particularly because now we share a
2 capital millage with charter schools.

3 Today we heard on our school board agenda 12
4 renewals for charter schools. We have about 36 here
5 in Duval County. This would create an alternative
6 charter authorizing board that is not held accountable
7 to the people through elections, yet they would be
8 determining if charter schools would be allowed to
9 open and, thus, receive taxpayer dollars through
10 capital property taxes.

11 We had two on our agenda, interestingly, that
12 will be requesting to move locations. They will get
13 capital dollars this year, be able to invest those in
14 the privately-held asset of the charter school company
15 and then close, sell that building that was upgraded
16 with the property tax money, and then relocate to a
17 new building that they can then use the capital
18 millage for. This is not going to protect the
19 taxpayer and there's no way to hold them accountable
20 through this process.

21 I also wanted to speak to Proposal 43, which is
22 the term limits for school board members. Uniquely,
23 Duval County, through our city charter, has term
24 limits for school board members and I support that.
25 In fact, I probably voted for it. But it was a local

1 decision held by local people in Duval County. And I
2 think that Duval County should not be making that
3 decision for Baker County, Nassau County, Clay County.

4 We also have an appointed superintendent. We are
5 going through our second search for an appointed
6 superintendent right now in the seven years --

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Wrap up. Thank you.

8 MS. COUCH: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Lisa.

10 MS. CRAY: Hi. Good evening. I am here to ask
11 to you oppose Prop 94. I work for the American Heart
12 Association here on the first coast. And from heart
13 disease to cancer, we hear an ounce of prevention is
14 worth a pound of cure. And we know that tobacco is
15 damaging and addictive. And, if adopted, Prop 94 will
16 do irreparable harm to a program that has consistently
17 driven down smoking rates.

18 Our coalition today includes the American Heart
19 Association, the American Cancer Society, The American
20 Lung Association. We are here to campaign for Tobacco
21 Free Florida and protect that here in our state.

22 The fact that we stand together to stop this
23 proposal says a lot. We work together to create a
24 culture of health. And tobacco companies spend more
25 than 24 times what Tobacco Free Florida spends on

1 marketing in one year.

2 As a parent and an advocate, I ask you to vote no
3 on Prop 94.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 Karen Hughes. Thu -- I'm -- I'm going to
6 mispronounce his name. The last name is N-G-U-Y-E-N,
7 first name T-H-U. Is he in the audience? No.

8 Karen Hughes.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Karen Hughes had to leave.
10 But on behalf of the American Lung Association, she
11 strongly opposes Prop 94.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Opposing 94. Thank you.

13 Elizabeth, D-E-C-O-U-X. How do we pronounce
14 that? I'm sure it's French.

15 MS. DeCOUX: It is. It's DeCoux.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay. Thank you.

17 MR. DECOUX: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you
18 for this opportunity. I have been a resident of
19 Jacksonville for 14 years. I have been a legal
20 educator for 20 years. My areas of specialization
21 include animal law. I have taught animal law for 20
22 years. I have spoken at conventions nationally and
23 internationally about animal law. My articles have
24 been published in numerous journals across the
25 country. I have supervised multiple student projects

1 on many animal law topics. And I can tell you without
2 reservation that I would be hard-pressed to find a
3 crueller industry than greyhound racing. And I rise
4 here tonight to speak in favor of Proposal 67 and ask
5 you to give the voters of Florida an opportunity to
6 say no to this cruelty.

7 Our nation and our state in the past have been
8 faced with junctures at which we had to choose
9 compassion and justice over follow-the-money. And I
10 suggest to you that we have to do that now, that the
11 economies change, new jobs develop, people get
12 retrained. But these animals are the most trusting of
13 all. Man's best friend, woman's best friend. And I
14 ask you to please give them not only mercy, but
15 justice.

16 Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your comments.

18 Catherine Hudson, Joyce Moritz, Lanelle Phillmon,
19 and Connell Crooms.

20 Are you Ms. Hudson?

21 MS. HUDSON: Yes, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Please step forward. Thank
23 you.

24 MS. HUDSON: Thank you. Thank you for coming and
25 listening to us.

1 I am a constituent of St. Johns County and I
2 wanted to come and speak on some of the active
3 considera- -- considering proposal, Proposition 4,
4 specifically.

5 Unfortunately, I believe it would be fiscally
6 irresponsible to support that legislation. And I do
7 that -- not mean that in terms of the actual money to
8 the institutions. The lawsuits that would come out of
9 that proposition, Florida is -- it's been transparent
10 and has happened over and over again with favoritism
11 of individual religious organizations or over-
12 religious organizations versus nonreligion. The
13 lawsuits and the money that it will cost, it's just
14 not worth it. We have thousands of faith-based
15 nonprofit organizations that do a wonderful job for
16 the state of Florida already.

17 In addition, Proposition 11 for the primary
18 elections -- and, obviously, there are a lot of people
19 here supporting completely open primaries.
20 Unfortunately, I understand the issues that you can
21 run into with that in different partisan efforts.

22 For me, personally -- and that was more of a
23 semi-closed primary -- in the case where there are
24 only people running from one party, in that case
25 someone could vote. And that's my case where in my

1 county -- in St. Johns County, I could not vote for
2 sheriff because the only people running for that
3 office were not a part of my party. So, in that
4 situation -- I mean I think people should be, in that
5 situation, able to vote for the people that are going
6 to represent them when there's no competition.

7 Thank you very much.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

9 Ms. Moritz.

10 MS. MORITZ: Good evening. My name is Joy Moritz
11 and I work for Quitdoc Foundation. I'm a community
12 health advocate assistant and a SWAT coordinator for
13 Clay County, Florida. I am here today to let you know
14 how successful the Tobacco Free Program is. Taking
15 funds away from tobacco prevention and education will
16 have a negative effect for the state of Florida.

17 In Clay County, I have ten SWAT Clubs in our
18 public schools ranging from Grades 7 through 12th. We
19 have an average of 300 students. SWAT Students make a
20 difference within our schools and communities, our
21 health clubs -- I'm sorry.

22 Our SWAT Clubs are educated on the dangers of
23 tobacco products. They take their knowledge and
24 educate their peers and local elementaries. SWAT
25 Clubs participate in many state and nationwide events

1 such as The Great American Smokeout, through which we
2 week -- which is actually this week -- and Tobacco
3 Free Florida week.

4 As a community health advocate, we attend many
5 events such as health fairs, partnership meetings, and
6 summits to further education -- to further educate our
7 local communities on the harmful effects of tobacco
8 products and even provide them free resources on how
9 they can quick smoking for good.

10 It's more financially prudent to continue
11 educating our youth and adults on the risks and health
12 problems that smoking can and will cause versus paying
13 for high medical costs that smokers will require when
14 they suffer from cancers and other illnesses that are
15 caused by tobacco products.

16 Since Tobacco Free Florida started over ten years
17 ago, they have helped over 159,000 people quit smoking
18 and helped adult and teen smoking rates to decrease.
19 From 2006 to 2016 the adult smoking went from 21 to
20 15.8 percent. With teens it went from 10.6 to 3
21 percent, which is a 71 percent dis- -- decrease.
22 Based on this and results, our healthcare has
23 decreased by 15 percent in a ten-year period, which is
24 a total of \$3.2 billion. This is as a result of a
25 decrease in smoking.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ma'am, can you please wrap up?
2 Thank you.

3 MS. MORITZ: Thank you so much.

4 Oh, and we --

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Lanelle Phillmon, please.

6 MS. MORITZ: Can I give these? These are --

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes.

8 MS. MORITZ: Okay.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Lanelle Phillmon.

10 MR. PHILLMON: Good after- --

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Please proceed.

12 MR. PHILLMON: Good afternoon. My names is
13 Lanelle Phillmon and I'm a native Floridian. I'm a
14 27-and-a-half year veteran of the United States Navy
15 and I make my home here in Duval County.

16 During my service, I witnessed other less-
17 developed nations as they struggled for their fight
18 for fair and open elections. Here in Florida we
19 should not have citizens that -- that do not have a
20 vote or a voice.

21 I ask for support of Proposal 62 to being on the
22 ballot. I am not an NPA, but I do respect my fellow
23 citizens' right to vote in each and every election.

24 As a Christian, a woman, and the daughter of a
25 registered nurse with over 41 years of nursing

1 experience, I've come to understand three simple
2 things: Unless you invite me into your bedroom, your
3 doctor's office, or your circle of -- of prayer,
4 chances are, I do not belong in any of those places
5 and neither does our government.

6 I am asking you to oppose Proposal 4 and to kill
7 the zombie Proposal 22.

8 As a gun owner, a veteran and a child -- a child
9 the grew up in a home with a violent, alcoholic
10 parent, I strongly urge our state representatives and
11 our -- my fellow gun owners to find real solutions to
12 our gun violence.

13 In my childhood home, violence and the threat of
14 gun violence was a reality and a regular probability,
15 not a possibility. We need gun safety regarding those
16 with domestic violence, those who have regular
17 violence regarding mental health concerns, and those
18 with a violent past or a violent history. Our
19 children are literally now dying for us to make some
20 sort of action here that makes sense.

21 And as someone who spent the last 13 years of
22 service in leadership roles in the Navy, I always
23 encourage my sailors to speak up and speak out any
24 time leadership gave them the opportunity. And I also
25 encouraged my leaders to listen any time their junior

1 people spoke up. Leadership roles are actually a
2 sacred positions of servants. So as I've seen empty
3 chairs and bobbing heads here today with electronic
4 devices, I would ask and encourage each of you that
5 while you are here to be as mentally present as you
6 possibly can. These are the voters of the state of
7 Florida who have come here to speak and I ask that you
8 listen.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Ms. Phillmon.

10 Connell Crooms. Connell Crooms.

11 Bernadette Miror [sic], Andy Johnson, Olivia
12 Whitten, Deidra Dunnell.

13 Is Bernadette Miror in the house? No.

14 Andy Johnson. Is this Mr. Johnson? Thank you.
15 You're next, Mr. Johnson.

16 Olivia Whitten, Deidra Dunnell, Colby Wise -- if
17 you could step up to the microphones, that would be
18 great.

19 Go ahead, Mr. Johnson. Thank you.

20 MR. JOHNSON: Hi. I'm Andy Johnson. A long time
21 ago I represented half of Duval County in the Florida
22 House of Representatives. And one of the first
23 accomplishments I had over there was that my friend --
24 he used to be my friend, but now he's become a
25 politician; back then he wasn't a politician. My

1 friend State Senator Dale Gates (phonetic) helped me
2 create Hospice for Florida. And then 50 states copied
3 what we did. So I thought it was a pretty good thing.

4 Shortly after I got elected, our incoming
5 speaker, the Speaker Designate, was angry with the
6 Constitution Revision Commission. They had done a few
7 things in '78 he didn't like and so he wanted to send
8 them a message and he wanted a vote -- a unanimous
9 vote that we were going to repeal the provision of the
10 -- of the Florida Constitution that gives us the
11 Commission. The vote was 119 to 1. I was proud to be
12 the only person voting against him on that.

13 I thought then and I think now that at least
14 technically -- at least theoretically -- it ought to
15 be a good idea to have this Commission once every 20
16 years. But I think that in '78 and in '98 the
17 Commission did a better job of sorting out the good
18 from the bad, the wheat from the chaff. I think that
19 this time around the Commission has voted for too many
20 bad things and killed too many good things. I don't
21 mean to be impolite in saying that. I think you ought
22 to find a way to re-open some of the ideas, since
23 you're now saving a special little black spot for your
24 own ideas to insert in at a later date. There are
25 things we need to address that haven't been addressed

1 such as creating a local right -- a local option for
2 local governments who might want to impose tougher
3 environmental rules than we get from the state, pr
4 such as perhaps having some reasonable, finally
5 serious legislation -- serious action against the
6 assault weapons that everybody here wants. I think
7 you ought to re-open that since you're now still
8 holding open slots for your own ideas at a later time.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. Thank
10 you for your comments.

11 Olivia Whitten, De- -- is Olivia Whitten in the
12 house?

13 Deidra Dunnell. Deidra Dunnell.

14 Colby Wise, Mario Norris.

15 Oh, I'm sorry. Who are you, sir?

16 MR. WISE: Colby Wise.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Colby Wise. Thank you,
18 Mr. Wise. Please, go ahead.

19 MR. WISE: Hello, Commissioners. My name is
20 Colby Wise. I live in Bradenton, Florida. I'll begin
21 by saying thank you. I sincerely appreciate you
22 holding these hearings and the work that goes to -- to
23 holding them and presenting them. You, your staff and
24 others are doing a great job. Thank you all.

25 I speak today to urge you to revisit the proposal

1 I submitted, Public proposal 700,000 and make it
2 active for consideration by the Florida -- by the
3 entire Revision Commission. I strongly believe the
4 issue of cannabis rights and benefits to Floridians
5 are worthy of being debated and voted on by this
6 entire Commission.

7 I didn't write the amendment I submitted.
8 Basically, I copied Floridians for Freedoms currently
9 active ballot initiative Right of Adult to Cannabis.

10 This initiative is completely volunteer-based,
11 grassroots campaign to make cannabis our adult right
12 here in Florida. I'm an active member of Floridians
13 for Freedom. And, like me, none of our members
14 receive payment. We have zero special interests
15 funding us or influencing our campaign.

16 Our proposal will give adults 21 and older the
17 civil right to cannabis. The personal liberties given
18 by this proposal belong protected in our Constitution
19 and cannot be granted through Legislative action.
20 More importantly, this issue should be decided by
21 Florida voter themselves; and, therefore, needs to be
22 placed on the ballot.

23 Our grassroots campaign has collected nearly
24 40,000 signatures from voters throughout the state.
25 We've submitted signed petitions to no less than 65 of

1 Florida's 67 Supervisors of Elections offices. And of
2 the 30,000 signed petitions we've turned in so far,
3 over 22,000 signatures have been validated.
4 Unfortunately, our efforts only count towards 2020.
5 And even though we are on tract to get this before
6 voters in 2020, the estimated more than 60,000 arrests
7 that will take place during our wait absolutely makes
8 waiting two years far too long.

9 Your Commission's help is needed. Please place
10 Public Proposal 700,000 --

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

12 MR. WISE: -- on our ballot.

13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Wise.

15 Mario Norris, Catherine Robinson, Hana Kusumoto,
16 and Beth Emerson -- if you could step forward. Thank
17 you. Please proceed.

18 MR. NORRIS: Hi. My name's Mario Norris and I
19 serve on the board for Florida Smoke Free Association
20 as well as being a small business owner in this state.

21 I'm here to oppose Constitution Proposition 65,
22 and I'm going to tell you why. In the early 1900s,
23 infant mortality rates were at 20 percent in urban
24 areas. Now, what happened at the same time is
25 pasturization came out. Our law makers and our elites

1 denied pasturization because they didn't understand
2 it. This lasted for nine years.

3 We had a 20 percent infant mortality rate for
4 nine years in urban areas because they couldn't go
5 milk the cow and the milk was getting warm sitting on
6 their front porch and it was getting the bacteria in
7 it, which was killing them. Now, as soon as they
8 accepted this science, the infant mortality rate in
9 urban areas dropped to a low single digit. Now, this
10 happened -- all of these -- all of these babies died
11 because people denied a technology that they didn't
12 understand. Now, the American Cancer Society has come
13 out this week and said that -- that vaping is better
14 than smoking. The Royal College of Physicians -- the
15 same institute that told us that cigarettes were bad
16 -- has come out and told us how detrimental to public
17 heath it will be to choke these products out.

18 Now, if we continue to classify these products as
19 cigarettes and treat them the same, that's how they're
20 going to be viewed by our population. Tran- --
21 conversion is going to be nearly impossible. The
22 Royal College of Physicians and Public Heath England
23 have both stated, 95 percent less harm -- zero harm
24 for second-hand. So it seems like it would just be
25 more of annoyance to people than it would be to public

1 heath, which doesn't seem like a constitutional issue
2 to me.

3 Now, at the same time, I don't believe that it's
4 a senator's place or the Constitution -- a
5 constitutional right to tell business owners what they
6 can and cannot do. I believe the free market will
7 work that out. With the majority of the population
8 not smoking or vaping, they will chose to go somewhere
9 else.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

11 MR. NORRIS: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ms. Robinson, Kusumoto.

13 Is there another -- is there an Olivia in the
14 audience? Olivia -- and I cannot make out the last
15 name, neither one of us.

16 Is there an Olivia in the audience? No Olivia.

17 Okay. Ms. Robinson, Catherine.

18 MS. ROBINSON: Hi. My name is Catherine Durkin
19 Robinson. I am the executive director of the Florida
20 Parent Network. I represent over 107,000 children who
21 are on waiting lists to go to charter schools in
22 Florida. Here to say something about those parents is
23 -- is a parent herself.

24 MS. NATHANSON: Thank you for giving us the time
25 this evening. My name is Rebecca Nathanson. I'm

1 here to support Proposal Number 71 sponsored by Erica
2 Donalds. My child attends a local charter school and
3 I well-recall the anxiety wondering if he'd get one of
4 the limited seats available. So knowing that there's
5 over 100,000 students in Florida on a waiting list
6 disappoints me and I think we can do better. So
7 that's why I support the alternative proval [sic] --
8 approval program to get more charter school seats
9 available.

10 And I also strongly support Proposal Number 10 to
11 promote civic literacy in public education.

12 MS. ROBINSON: Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Hana Kusumoto. Beth [sic]
14 Emerson.

15 MR. EMERSON: It's Bert.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'm sorry?

17 MR. EMERSON: It's Bert.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Bert.

19 MR. EMERSON: Bert, yes.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Bert.

21 MR. EMERSON: Most people call me "Bud," but --

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'm sorry. It looks --

23 MR. EMERSON: Don't mind the --

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- like a "T-H" to me.

25 MR. EMERSON: -- handwriting.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Welcome Bert.

2 MR. EMERSON: Don't write very well, I guess.

3 I'm 84 years old, lived in Florida since 1955.

4 And I don't really understand how in America Proposal

5 Number 4 could come up. Most countries, I think,

6 probably do direct some part of tax proceeds to

7 religions. That's probably the reason they're not the

8 greatest country in the world. I think America is the

9 greatest country in the world and I think they owe a

10 great deal of that to our First Amendment. And I

11 think that Proposal 4, here, is contra to our First

12 Amendment and that's a good part of the reason, I

13 guess, I'm against it, to the extent some feel we are

14 slipping perhaps from our position as number 1.

15 Perhaps it has to do with the encouraging over the

16 last 50 years of religion into our school system.

17 Just my belief, whatever -- for whatever it's worth.

18 Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

20 Joan [sic] Hickox, Nancy Roberts. Joan --

21 MS. HICKOX: Joanne.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I'm sorry. Joanne, please

23 pronounce your last name.

24 MS. HICKOX: Hickox.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Hickox. Thank you.

1 MS. HICKOX: First of all, let me ask God to
2 bless you-all with wisdom way beyond your years as you
3 deal with all of these issues.

4 My name is Joanne Hickox and I'm a reverend and I
5 have been running for 18 years a ministry called
6 "Seniors on a Mission." And I take independent living
7 seniors that are 70, 80, and 90-year-olds on day-long
8 mission trips. They can't go to Africa and build an
9 orphanage, but they can go to a local nonprofit and
10 work for the day.

11 And I -- I just come from a mission trip for four
12 hour with 40 seniors, and I will tell you that they
13 would rather die than go to some of the living
14 facilities that we have here. And I just want to
15 bring up to you that they fear losing their
16 independence. They fear being lost in a system. They
17 fear losing their voice.

18 I ask you to please think about your mom and dad
19 as you consider Proposal 88. It's the fastest area of
20 population growth and we can hardly keep up with the
21 needs of this amazing group of citizens. At the very
22 least, let's let them speak for themselves.

23 To be honest, I wish people were as passionate
24 about their senior adults and their care as they seem
25 to be about dogs.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

2 Nancy Roberts. Is Nancy --

3 MS. ROBERTS: I'm here.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Welcome. Thank you.

5 MS. ROBERTS: Thank you for still staying and
6 still listening. I am in support of Proposal 67 to
7 phase out greyhound racing. I want to thank the
8 sponsors -- the sponsor of this proposal and the
9 co-sponsors for the work they've put into it.

10 I feel that greyhound racing is a definite
11 exploitation and severe abuse of helpless animals.
12 And this is something that is just not acceptable and
13 it's something we should not tolerate. And now we
14 have an opportunity to do something about this and to
15 have it on the ballot if at all possible so people can
16 vote and take a stand.

17 As one speaker said, "these dogs deserve
18 justice." They are subjected to many inhumane
19 episodes. Their environment, their cages are small.
20 They are -- I have read where they are fed meat and
21 raw meat that is from downed animals and some of the
22 dogs have died from this, others have been sick. And
23 these dogs are not lovingly cared for, as people would
24 say. Maybe a few, but not the majority.

25 It is a dying industry, and the industry should

1 die, not the dogs. They should not be subjected to
2 drugs that are not in their best interest. Females
3 are given anabolic steroids. They're very unkind
4 things.

5 So much had been said in their defense. And I
6 just ask all of you to please give this proposal a
7 chance to be on the ballot so the people can chose.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Ms. Roberts.

9 Nathan DiPietro, Rebecca Nathanson. Nathan
10 DiPietro, Rebecca Nathanson.
11 Michael Geraro [sic], Christine Montufar.

12 MR. DiPIETRO: Well, good afternoon. My name is
13 Nathan DiPietro and I want to thank each Commissioner
14 for taking hours upon hours of your time to listen to
15 the desires of Florida. Thank you for wanting to
16 accurately represent the people of our state and not
17 merely your own interests.

18 First, I would ask you to support Proposal 72 and
19 4. And, second, I would like to say that I'm
20 disappointed that Proposal 22 was voted down recently
21 in the Judicial Committee, despite the fact that it
22 was likely the most-supported topic during last year's
23 state-wide hearings. I am more disturbed that even
24 though three Commissioners were unable to attend the
25 committee meeting, the proposal was allowed to be

1 tabled by two votes anyway.

2 The people of Florida have and will continue to
3 urge you to approve the Florida Privacy Restoration
4 Act to restore the privacy clause to its originally-
5 intended meaning. When the privacy clause was first
6 passed by the Legislature and approved by the State,
7 they wanted, as the Center for Government
8 Responsibility put it in 1980: "To constrain the
9 collection of information about individuals and not
10 limit public access to information properly
11 collected," end quote.

12 With the vast technological resources available
13 to our state government that can be used both for good
14 or bad, privacy is a vital part of our Constitution.
15 The privacy clause ensures that all Floridians are
16 protected from wrongful use of government power to
17 collect and distribute private information when
18 there's no justifiable reason to do so.

19 Unfortunately, activist judges have traded this
20 original purpose of the privacy clause for their own
21 created meaning. This is why we need Proposal 22,
22 because the private clause was not written with the
23 intent to overturn common sense laws designed to
24 protect the health and safety of women in Florida.
25 The clause was also not intended to put abortion

1 clinics into a specially-protected class, separate
2 from every other type of medical facility.

3 It is time to restore the original meaning to
4 this crucial clause in our Constitution. Florida has
5 clearly spoken. You have listened. Now I ask you to
6 act and please revive and approve the Florida Privacy
7 Restoration Act.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

9 MR. DiPIETRO: And may God bless and guide you
10 all as you seek to represent this --

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you --

12 MR. DIPIETRIO: -- great state of Florida.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: -- Mr. DiPietro.

14 Michael Geraro.

15 MR. GERARD: Yes. Michael Gerard.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Gerard.

17 MR. GERARD: Yes, sir.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Excuse me.

19 MR. GERARD: All right. It's okay.

20 I'm a Florida native, west side, Duval County,
21 lived here all my life in Jacksonville. I oppose
22 Proposal 67. I think it's a great injustice to the
23 greyhounds. Without regulations, greyhound racing's
24 going to continue in all forms. It still does in this
25 day in almost every state in the United States. And

1 that's a misconception that y'all have been led. It's
2 just in an amateur non- -- nonpari-mutuel way. The
3 bill only eliminates pari-mutuel wagering. You're
4 limiting out the big -- the big guys.

5 In Senator Lee's own words, we have evolved as
6 we -- as we take care of our animals -- the way we
7 take care of our animals. I mean there's no better
8 example of evolving and taking care of animals as
9 there is with the greyhounds. I mean we're very
10 transparent.

11 In today's society where everyone has a cell
12 phone and a video camera, if all of these great
13 injustices really happen, where is the video evidence?
14 Where is this at? There's so many lies and mistruths
15 being spoken in this room, it's unbelievable.

16 I've raised and raced dogs for 50 years, my
17 entire life. My family's done it before pari-mutuel
18 wagering from the early 1900s. We've lived here in
19 Jacksonville since the 1950s. I have a farm. My
20 family does it: My daughter, my granddaughter, my
21 son. We all are involved in greyhound racing, so many
22 people. We love these dogs more than most people love
23 their family.

24 Spend some with me. I live on the west side of
25 Jacksonville. I invite every one of you to come spend

1 some time with me if you think I'm wrong.

2 I oppose 67 greatly and it's a great injustice to
3 the dogs. There will be no pari-mutuel inspections,
4 no urine samples, tests and drugs. There's so much
5 that can go wrong with amateur racing without the
6 regulations. There's too many dogs in this country --
7 if you think greyhound racing is just going to
8 disappear, you can go to any state and find an amateur
9 event on any weekend.

10 I believe that y'all know that there's been a lot
11 of mistruths here.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

13 MR. GERARD: 67 is wrong.

14 Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Gerard.

16 Christine Montufar.

17 MS. MONTUFAR: My name is Christine Montufar and
18 I've lived in Florida for 29 years. I'm a mother of
19 two, one of which attends college here.

20 I'm here because I want to see the FCRC bring
21 back Proposal 62 for open primary. I have been a
22 life-long Republican until September 11th. At that
23 point in my life, I no longer felt the desire to
24 blindly support one party, but those based on my
25 beliefs and my conscious no matter which party that

1 was. I became an informed voter. I did not and do
2 not care if they are Republican, Democrat,
3 Independent, Progressive, et cetera. But for this, I
4 am being penalized.

5 There are 3.4 million taxpayers in Florida who
6 are registered as no-party affiliation or
7 independents. That's 27 percent of the electorate
8 that help fund primaries through our tax dollars but
9 are not allowed to vote in them. That is taxation
10 without representation. Florida is one of only nine
11 closed-primary states in the country and has one of
12 the lowest primary election voter turnouts.

13 Statistics have shown that 84 percent of our
14 elections are decided in the primaries, not the
15 general election. As someone who is sick and tired of
16 choosing between the lesser of two evils when it comes
17 to our general election, I demand that my voting
18 rights be upheld.

19 The Constitution takes voters' rights so
20 seriously that it has at least four different
21 amendments addressing it. It states that the right of
22 the citizens of the United States to vote shall not be
23 denied or abridged by the United States or by any
24 state on account of race, color, or servitude in
25 Amendment 15, nor because of sex in Amendment 19, nor

1 by reason of failure to pay poll tax or any other tax
2 in Amendment 24, nor on account of age for those 18
3 and older in Amendment 26.

4 What that says to me is that our Founding Fathers
5 made it very clear that all citizens who are eligible
6 should have the right to vote, period. To prevent
7 those of us who do not wish to pledge allegiance to
8 one party from voting in the primaries is to deny us
9 our basic rights.

10 For the state of Florida to allow this to go on
11 is, for me, a continuation of its attempts to
12 manipulate the election process, which is done through
13 gerrymandering, voter suppression, denial of the
14 rights of felons to have served their time, and
15 denying the rights of those of us classified as
16 independent voters.

17 If we truly wish to see these elections that are
18 representative of all people especially in this
19 current climate, then the only way forward is to allow
20 all citizens their constitutional right to vote in all
21 elections --

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23 MS. MONTUFAR: -- regardless of party
24 affiliation.

25 THE COURT: Thank you, Ms. Montufar.

1 Jan MacClean. Jan MacClean.

2 Tammy Alan, Paula Wright.

3 Let's -- you can speak, ma'am. And you are...

4 MS. ALAN: My name's Tammy Alan.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Okay.

6 MS. ALAN: First, I want to congratulate you for
7 showing what a human being really is, Commissioner
8 Gaetz, for coming down and shaking your hand, I hope,
9 of your still friend. It really touched my heart.

10 Again, my name is Tammy Alan and I'm a supporter
11 of Proposal 71. And I believe that parents and
12 students have the right to choose what school that
13 they attend.

14 I chose to send my kids to charter schools
15 because of bullying and violence that they tolerated
16 during their time at their zoned school. And,
17 unfortunately, they were not getting the help that
18 they needed. Unfortunately, many kids are falling
19 through the cracks because parents are not aware that
20 they have a choice to send their kids to places other
21 than their zoned school. And even if they do know,
22 there are often waiting lists so long that they often
23 age-out of the school that they are waiting for. I
24 believe that it is a crime to have these students who
25 have to wait on these waiting lists to not get the

1 help or the school they need.

2 We moved from Maine to Florida. Yeah. I know.
3 Big temperature difference. And if I was to move
4 anywhere else and have the kids go to another charter
5 school only to find out they were going to be placed
6 on a waiting list, they will lose so much school time
7 and be further behind.

8 I would also classify bullied in gifted
9 academically students as a necessity to no-waiting
10 lists. Imagine if a parent wants to send their child
11 to school anywhere and they can't due to the fact that
12 their schools around them have waiting lists and the
13 only other option is to home-school them. And often,
14 that's not even an option since most the time parents
15 are working all day and no one is there to teach them.

16 A child like my oldest who is 15 excelled in
17 everything in her school but one class, which forced
18 her to conform to the school's pace. But now she's in
19 an on-line high school, and, at the age of 16, can
20 actually graduate high school and get the speed she
21 needs and the ability to grow.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank --

23 MS. ALAN: All schools need to realize --

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

25 MS. ALAN: -- this.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Ms. Alan. Thank you
2 very much.

3 MS. ALAN: Thank you very much.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Jan MacClean.

5 MS. MACCLEAN: Yes. My name is Jan MacClean.
6 And I waive my time in support of Proposal 67.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Could you step forward so we
8 can hear you?

9 MS. MACCLEAN: I'm sorry. Can you hear me now?

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yeah. Now I can.

11 MS. MACCLEAN: My name is Jan MacClean and I
12 waive my time in support of Proposal 67.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you so much.

14 Paula Wright and Angela Tlack.

15 MS. WRIGHT: Good evening, Chairman and CRC
16 members. I am Paula D. Wright, Chair of the Duval
17 County School Board. Thank you for your opportunity
18 to serve us and to speak regarding Proposal 43.

19 In Duval County, board members are term-limited
20 by our city charter, so I do not stand for me. I
21 stand before you because every citizen should have the
22 right to decide who represents them county by county.
23 Local control is the most important tool we have to
24 ensure that the local needs of our community are being
25 addressed.

1 The election of school board members should not
2 be treated as a one-size-fits-all process because all
3 children -- our children -- children's education
4 requires purposeful, unique, and specific resources
5 based on varied district needs. In 43 school
6 district, board members are elected, at large, 21 by
7 single member districts; the remaining by a
8 combination. Unlike all other state offices
9 currently subject to learn -- to term limits, all
10 Florida school elections are nonpartisan.

11 A review of board elections from 2010 to 2016
12 shows 65 percent of board races are competitive; more
13 importantly, about 41 percent of all board races
14 result in the election of a new school board member.
15 So citizens are paying attention to whom they elect
16 and re-elect for school board members.

17 Unlike our Florida Legislators, term limits seem
18 to encourage allowing a term-limited legislator to
19 remain in office unchallenged until the term limit is
20 reached. Why is this? Glad you want to know. It is
21 because education is a local issue and where concerns
22 are raised, where solution are offered. Our
23 constituents call us, e-mail us, some still write us,
24 stop us at church, and share their happy stories in
25 the grocery store and mall. School board members have

1 been and will be accessible when -- and when they are
2 not, citizens voice their concerns.

3 Proposal 43 only targets school board members.
4 It appears discriminatory and punitive. Keep
5 education local because it is a local issue.

6 I ask that you do not --

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

8 MS. WRIGHT: -- support Proposal 43.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Ms. Wright.

10 Angela, if you could pronounce your last name
11 because I can't read it.

12 MS. TLACK: Tlack. It rhymes --

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: It is Tlack.

14 MS. TLACK: -- with shellac.

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Tlack. Okay.

16 MS. TLACK: I blame my husband for that one.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

18 MS. TLACK: So, hi. I'm Angela Tlack and I live
19 here in Jacksonville and I would like to speak up
20 about opposing Proposal 22.

21 I heard tonight some people mention that, you
22 know, imagine a minor who hasn't consulted their --
23 their parents on an unplanned pregnancy. You know,
24 the concern that I have is the -- the premise that
25 there's -- maybe they have a stable home life; maybe

1 they have a parent they can talk to, and that's not
2 case for everybody. We're all in different
3 circumstances. They may not have a strong family
4 support or a strong network. So to sort of assume
5 that everybody is this, you know, middle-class,
6 everything's-great-we-should-all-talk-to-our-parents
7 just isn't real life.

8 And I also don't believe that my medical
9 decisions -- personal medical decisions should be
10 anybody's business but my own. Will the results of my
11 mammogram be covered under privacy? How about my PAP
12 smear? Because once you open this door to stop
13 privacy from medical procedures, then where do we draw
14 the line?

15 If privacy -- if privacy doesn't cover abortions
16 or cosmetic surgery or mandatory surgery, it --
17 it's -- you know, it's such a gray line. Where do we
18 define what's okay to cover under privacy and what's
19 not? And, ultimately, it's my business. And it's
20 their business and their business. And everyone's
21 circumstances are so individual, there's no way to
22 blanket regulate that.

23 And that's all I have to say. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

25 Ms. Tlack is our last speaker, so we will adjourn

1 this meeting. Thank you so much for waiting and for
2 listening to everybody so politely. We appreciate it.

3 Have a nice evening.

4 (The hearing was adjourned at 7:09 p.m.)

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CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

10

11 STATE OF FLORIDA)

12 COUNTY OF DUVAL)

13

14 I, Naomi McCracken, Court Reporter and Notary
15 Public in and for the State of Florida at Large, do hereby
16 certify that I was authorized to and did report the
17 foregoing proceedings; and that the transcript, pages 1
18 through 269, is a true record of my stenographic notes.

19

20 DATED this 8th day of March 2018.

21

22 _____

Naomi McCracken, Court reporter

23

24

25