

CONSTITUTION REVISION COMMISSION
2017 - 2018

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
Fairwinds Alumni Center
Ballrooms A & B
12676 Gemini Boulevard, North
Orlando, Florida

March 29, 2017

5:00 - 9:01 p.m.

Reported By: Karen S. Rhine, FPR

1 THOSE PRESENT:
2

3 Chairman Carlos Beruff
4 Commissioner Lisa Carlton
5 Commissioner Timothy Cerio
6 Commissioner Erika Donalds
7 Commissioner Hank Coxe
8 Commissioner Don Gaetz
9 Commissioner Emery Gainey
10 Commissioner Anna Marie Hernandez Gamez
11 Commissioner Brecht Heuchan
12 Commissioner Arthenia Joyner
13 Commissioner Belinda Keiser
14 Commissioner Gary Lester
15 Commissioner Patricia Levesque
16 Commissioner Marva Johnson
17 Commissioner Roberto "Bobby" Martinez
18 Commissioner Rich Newsome
19 Commissioner Jimmy Patronis
20 Commissioner William "Bill" Schifino
21 Commissioner Chris Smith
22 Commissioner John Stemberger
23 Commissioner Pam Stewart
24 Commissioner Jacqui Thurlow-Lippisch
25 Commissioner Carolyn Timman
Commissioner T. Nicole Washington
Commissioner Fred Karlinsky
Commissioner Chris Nocco

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P R O C E E D I N G S

March 29, 2017

5:00 p.m.

MR. KITTINGER: My name is Fred Kittinger with the University of Central Florida on behalf of President John Hitt and our entire team of students, faculty and staff here at the university and it's my pleasure to welcome each of you here to the campus, and especially a very hearty and warm welcome to the members of the commission.

It is very important work that you have ahead of you and we are honored to have you here on campus. President Hitt is sorry he could not join all of you this afternoon. He's in Tallahassee. The Board of Governors are taking up several of our big issues today and tomorrow and, as you also know, it's the height of the legislative session so he is where he needs to be today, but he would love to be here with you today and sends his regards as well as his regrets.

A quick question for some of you on the commission. How many of you is this the first time you've been on UCF's campus? And how many is this the first time in probably like the last

1 five or ten years?

2 Well, I was a freshman here in 1977, just
3 before electricity was run on the campus. We
4 had about 8,500 students and at that time if you
5 had told me that one day we would have 64,000
6 students, that we would be the second or third
7 largest in the country, depending on how you
8 counted, if we would be the number one choice of
9 students as far as applications in the State of
10 Florida, if you'd told me that we would be
11 eleventh in the country for national merit
12 scholars in public universities and if you'd
13 told me that US News & World Report would rank
14 us as the fourteenth most innovative university
15 or college in the United States, well I would
16 have said whatever happy pills you're taking, I
17 want a bucket of those because I never imagined
18 successful growth here at UCF.

19 We have an adage that when it comes to
20 growth in the size, that it is scale times
21 excellence equals impact and for us that's
22 impact on our students and their future careers.
23 It's impact on the community that we serve
24 through our research and our community service
25 and it's also an impact that we have on the

1 State of Florida to the talent pipeline that we
2 help provide to the State of Florida and her
3 needs into the future.

4 Now I'll admit I'm not a constitutional
5 attorney. I was never an elected official and I
6 definitely did not stay at a Holiday Inn last
7 night. So the only advice that I can offer up
8 to our commission is advice that my grandmother
9 gave to me years ago and it's probably very
10 similar to the advice that you received from
11 your grandparents, parents or your your mentors
12 through the years and that is this.

13 If you do the right thing for the right
14 reason and you do it in the right manner, then
15 you will have earned a very good rest. So
16 here's my hope to each of you, both individually
17 as well as collectively on the commission, that
18 in the months ahead through the thousands of
19 hours of research, reading, writing,
20 discussions, deliberations and decisions that
21 you will make, at the end of the day each of you
22 will have earned a very, very good rest.

23 So on behalf of the University of Central
24 Florida, thank you for answering Florida's call
25 to serve her and again, welcome to the

1 University of Central Florida. Mr. Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you so much. I'd
3 like to welcome everyone to this public hearing.
4 I'm thrilled with the outcome. Already it's a
5 winning thing because we didn't expect this
6 turnout and we love it because this is about
7 your process. It's about the citizens of
8 Florida showing up and making a difference to
9 the document that regulates the State of
10 Florida, the constitution.

11 I'm sure every commissioner here is equally
12 as excited as I am. My name is Carlos Beruff.
13 I was appointed by Governor Rick Scott and I'm
14 the chairman of what is commonly called CRC
15 which stands for the Constitution Revision
16 Commission.

17 I'd like to thank our host. The facilities
18 are tremendous. Thank you very much. I'm sorry
19 that we had to close the doors. We're at
20 capacity, which is a wonderful thing. I hope
21 every meeting we go to and attend over the next
22 fourteen months is at capacity.

23 It's a pleasure to be in Orlando. I came
24 to Orlando for the first time in 1973, so
25 there's been a few changes in that period of

1 time. This campus is lovely and we will be back
2 in the fall if they let us. This is our first
3 stop. It's a good thing.

4 I'd like to welcome all our commissioners
5 that made it from different parts of the state.
6 I'd like to start by immediately to my right,
7 Commissioner Carlton, Commissioner Cerio,
8 Commissioner Coxe, Commissioner Gaetz,
9 Commissioner Gainey, Commissioner Gamez,
10 Commissioner Heuchan, Commissioner Joyner,
11 Commissioner Keiser, Commissioner Lester,
12 Commissioner Levesque, Commissioner Johnson, and
13 then to my left Commissioner Martinez,
14 Commissioner Newsome, Commissioner Patronis,
15 Commissioner Schifino, Commissioner Smith,
16 Commissioner Stemberger, Commissioner Stewart,
17 Commissioner Thurlow-Lippisch, Commissioner
18 Timman, Commissioner Washington, Commissioner
19 Karlinsky and Commissioner Nocco. Thank you for
20 being here.

21 As we start this kickoff campaign it's
22 really about the people who don't participate in
23 the process. It's a unique opportunity for one
24 individual to change the Constitution of Florida
25 without knowing anything about politics, without

1 being an attorney, just a good idea can make a
2 huge difference.

3 So we will start by first, I'd like to
4 recognize Mr. Cerio who is going to start by
5 giving us an invocation. Thank you.

6 MR. CERIO: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
7 Heavenly Father, thank you for providing an
8 opportunity for the public to gather to offer
9 comments on our State Constitution. We thank
10 you for our country and our form of government
11 and for the protections they provide.

12 You gave us two ears and only one mouth for
13 a reason, so I pray that as commissioners we
14 will carefully listen to the citizens of Florida
15 tonight here in Orlando and for the rest of our
16 listening tour. In your holy name I pray, Amen.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Now if you would all
18 stand, Commissioner Patronis will lead us in the
19 Pledge.

20 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: We have a record turnout
22 so far. This room doesn't hold any more people.
23 So we're going to take and limit everyone to
24 three minutes so that we can make sure we hear
25 everyone. The first speaker card is for Anne

1 Hellmuth. Please join us, Ms. Hellmuth. Thank
2 you.

3 MS. HELLMUTH: Thank you, sir. I
4 appreciate very much all of you being here
5 today. My name is Anne Hellmuth, H-e-l-l, like
6 heaven and hell and I come from Winter Park in
7 Orange County and I'm today speaking on behalf
8 of the League of Women Voters of Orange County.

9 I would just like to point out that the
10 League is non-partisan. We support neither a
11 party, nor candidates. We are all about the
12 issues and today our emphasis would be on the
13 Rules of Procedure that you'll be putting in
14 place for the coming public meetings that you
15 are going to be holding.

16 We are concerned about your proposed rule
17 that allows two members to discuss commission
18 business in private. This encourages, we feel,
19 the conduct of serial private meetings and
20 facilitates doing commission business out of the
21 public eye in violation of the spirit of
22 Florida's government and the Sunshine Laws. I
23 was a journalist for many years, so Sunshine
24 Laws are big on my mind, as they are on the
25 League's.

1 Therefore, you know, we feel that this
2 should be corrected in order to give everybody
3 the confidence in the openness and the
4 transparency of this CRC so that when we do have
5 your decisions and we have amendments to vote on
6 in the coming year, we know that they were done
7 through the best of will on behalf of all the
8 people. I thank you very much.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your
10 comments. Mat Staver. Did I pronounce that
11 correctly? Thank you.

12 MR. STAVER: Good afternoon. I'm speaking
13 on behalf of a number of constituents that we
14 represent throughout the State of Florida,
15 thousands frankly, on Article I, Section 23.

16 Representative John Mills was the primary
17 legislative sponsor of that article and it came
18 out of the post-Watergate and the informational
19 concerns with regards to government collecting
20 information on its private citizens.

21 He says, as the primary sponsor, that it
22 was designed to protect informational privacy.
23 Chief Justice Overton kicked off the 1977-78 CRC
24 making that same observation, that it was about
25 informational privacy, and he wanted to have

1 that addressed. That was addressed in Article
2 I, Section 23.

3 In 1987 the Florida Supreme Court said the
4 primary issue driving Article I, Section 23 was
5 the issue of informational privacy. If it was a
6 concern back then, which it certainly was, it's
7 definitely a concern even more so now, not only
8 with the government, but with private collection
9 of information and the distribution of
10 information.

11 And at the end of that Article I,
12 Section 23, the last sentence to alleviate
13 anyone's concern, but also to address the focus,
14 it says that this shall not be construed to
15 limit the public's right to access public
16 records.

17 It was to protect private individuals from
18 information being collected and then distributed
19 either by the government or private businesses,
20 but it did not interfere with the public's right
21 to access public records.

22 But in 1989 the Florida Supreme Court
23 essentially did a complete deviation and in that
24 decision NTW said that it applies to a minor's
25 right to abortion. From that time on this

1 particular Article I, Section 23 has basically
2 been used for abortion and not its original
3 purpose. It hasn't been used with regards to
4 any information, collection or any distribution
5 of information either by the government or by
6 private individuals, I should say private
7 companies or organizations.

8 My request to the commission, I don't have
9 any specific language, we can certainly present
10 some, is that this commission address Article I,
11 Section 23 to bring it back to its original
12 meaning and its original purpose and that it
13 does not apply to abortion.

14 It was never intended to apply. There's no
15 debate or discussion at all in any of the
16 legislative records and I've reviewed and
17 researched every one of those as an attorney and
18 it never had any discussion that would apply to
19 abortion.

20 We do need protection in this state with
21 regards to informational privacy which we're not
22 getting and because that particular amendment
23 was deviated in a wrong way, it's not going back
24 to its original purpose. So please address
25 that. Thank you very much.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your
2 comments, Mr. Staver. Michael Johnson.

3 MR. JOHNSON: Good evening, Chairman and
4 Commissioners. Thank you for having us here
5 today. I'm here -- I've got kind of a written
6 statement that I'm going to read from and then
7 talk openly.

8 I'm here to ask you to preserve the rights
9 and liberties of women, gays and all creeds and
10 religions of Floridians. I'll also ask that you
11 also protect the rights of free speech to be
12 able to criticize and point out evils within
13 those religions also and not deem it as hate
14 speech.

15 There is a part of what the legislature has
16 done, they passed a law and I'm asking that that
17 law be put into the constitution and ask the
18 voters of Florida to pass it, and in other
19 states that have already done this it passed
20 overwhelmingly seventy to eighty percent, and
21 that is the law that -- the legislation about
22 banning foreign rules and regulations based on
23 other people's religions from those other third
24 world countries that they want to put on women
25 in our society here.

1 Women are being beaten, being abused. Gays
2 are being thrown off roofs and we don't want
3 that kind of culture invading our country. So
4 what I'm asking you to do is to take the
5 legislation that's already out there that was
6 passed by the legislature and put it up to the
7 vote for the Floridians of this state here.
8 We've got to protect our own freedoms, our
9 values within our values.

10 I was with at the League of Women Voters a
11 couple of weekends ago and I asked the women
12 there what are America's common values anymore.
13 And guess what, fifteen women, not one of them
14 could tell me what our common values were. A
15 lot of people don't even want to salute that
16 flag. They don't want to say the Pledge of
17 Allegiance anymore.

18 We have to preserve our heritage and our
19 values. It's a great piece of legislation and
20 other states have passed it, other states are
21 putting it into their constitutions. I'm asking
22 and we plead with you guys and women to protect
23 our rights based on our culture.

24 The women in this room here in some
25 countries that are under Sharia law, they can't

1 dress the way women are dressed here today.
2 They can't speak. They're not allowed to do
3 anything. They're under submission.

4 So I'm asking you to -- and I also
5 presented earlier -- I think you got my note.
6 There was excerpts in the Florida legislation
7 that I passed out earlier and also
8 constitutional excerpts in other states that
9 passed the ban of Sharia law. Thank you very
10 much.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.
12 Mitch Emerson. Welcome.

13 MR. EMERSON: Thank you for having this
14 public meeting. I just wanted to ask, and I'm
15 not sure on the formatting of how this is. Can
16 you hear me? I'm not sure on the formatting. I
17 had a general question. I guess it could be
18 taken as a statement.

19 Speaker Corcoran and President Negrón who
20 appointed about half of you, announced that they
21 want to have their members, they said this
22 publicly, that they want to take up certain
23 controversial issues, things that -- I know in
24 this state I have personally fought for things
25 like fair districts, addressing things like

1 school vouchers and things like that.

2 In their statement they made it sound like
3 the people that they appointed are going to
4 bring up these issues again. I just wanted to
5 know of the folks who are appointed by the
6 legislature, are there private conversations? I
7 know that was addressed earlier. Are they
8 telling you to push it in a certain way?

9 I don't know if you're taking questions
10 right now. So if not, I'm just going to say I
11 hope you all remain independent. I hope you
12 follow the voice of the Floridians who came out
13 and fought against these things or fought for
14 these things. And thank you very much for your
15 time.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your
17 comments. I'm going to take a second and say
18 that we have an overflow room prepared. As
19 people finish and want to leave then we will
20 bring more people in who want to speak. So I
21 just want to make sure that the audience is
22 aware there is an overflow room for the people
23 that can't join us at the moment. Thank you.
24 Matthew Boggs. Okay. Thank you.

25 MR. BOGGS: Thank you, Chairman and

1 Commissioners, for taking the time to visit us.
2 I'm up here, as far as I'm concerned, as an
3 advocate for democracy, rule by the people. I
4 believe that if the Constitution of Florida is
5 to remain useful and relevant, it must be a
6 forward-thinking document. We must create the
7 avenues for democracy to run.

8 We must expand the sphere of democratic
9 participation by citizens. Their input must be
10 made a higher priority than it has been in the
11 past. It's for these reasons I believe that we
12 should institute referendum processes, recall
13 processes and initiative processes into the
14 Florida State Constitution.

15 All legislation passed by the Florida
16 Legislature and signed by the governor should be
17 subject to a referendum process. Assuming the
18 adequate number of signatures can be collected,
19 a question of whether the legislation will stand
20 or not will be put to the people of Florida.

21 The people of Florida will be given a means
22 to create legislation themselves and if an
23 adequate number of signatures are collected a
24 citizens legislation can be added to the next
25 elections ballot and decided on by the people.

1 This is in contrast to the current system
2 of constitutional amendments which are
3 relatively unwieldy and are making the Florida
4 Constitution into a patchwork of varying issues
5 addressed.

6 And probably the one that none of you want
7 hear, but it has to be said, all elected
8 officials serving in the State of Florida or its
9 municipalities should be subject to a process of
10 recall. This recall can only be triggered by a
11 petition from a certain percentage of that
12 official's constituents who voted in the
13 previous state election.

14 I am up here also as somebody who is
15 against term limits completely. They are simply
16 a no on democracy and I believe that these are
17 the avenues to stopping the progression of term
18 limits in local municipalities. I'm an aspiring
19 official and I'm willing to put myself up for a
20 recall election if I'm going to get elected.

21 I appreciate the chance to talk to you and
22 thank you very much.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.
24 Grayson Lanza. Did I pronounce that right?
25 Thank you.

1 MR. LANZA: Hello. Thank you for having me
2 today. Just for context, because I think it's
3 important, I'm a college student here at the
4 University of Central Florida. I'm a proud
5 Knight, but I think that's something to discuss.

6 A lot of times we hear, especially as
7 college students, about how we don't participate
8 in the political process, how we're lazy or not
9 reliable. I take issue with that particularly
10 because, for example, this was announced with
11 very little public notice, with very little
12 public hearing.

13 It's on our campus, but coincidentally our
14 SJ elections are actually concurrent with this
15 right now. I'm actually wearing a T-shirt for a
16 candidate.

17 So it's -- a lot of students have very busy
18 schedules. We work a lot of odd jobs and the
19 lack of announcement and reaching out to our
20 community has made it very difficult to get
21 students to come out to this commission and have
22 their voices heard.

23 And I wonder why because historically in
24 1997 and 1998 the commission didn't start this
25 process until the summer, like June, and then

1 started having questions and things happen in
2 June and it was well announced before.

3 So again, this is at our campus. We're one
4 of the largest universities in the country and I
5 think it's important we have a voice and
6 consideration and it doesn't seem like that was
7 happening. So thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.
9 We'll be back in the fall, so we'll have plenty
10 of notice for another meeting. Thank you so
11 much. Alexander -- I can't quite read -- is it
12 McClendar?

13 MR. MOLENAAR: Molenaar.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Molenaar. I saw that.
15 Okay.

16 MR. MOLENAAR: So in the CRC draft rules
17 there was a change. There was actually -- you
18 allow private meetings between members to
19 discuss commission business and actually every
20 other collegial body except the legislature is
21 required to give notice of any discussion of
22 official business.

23 Why is this necessary? We're concerned
24 about transparency as students. Why are private
25 meetings being allowed in this particular

1 commission? Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your
3 comments. Mr. Martin Perez, Jr.

4 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Mr. Chairman.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

6 COMMISSIONER JOYNER: Would you please have
7 each person give us their name themselves in
8 addition to your calling them up?

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Sure. Please announce
10 your name.

11 MR. PEREZ: Martin Perez.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

13 MR. PEREZ: I'm here representing the
14 college Democrats here at the university and one
15 issue that we have is the representation of
16 students, not only here at UCF, but around the
17 state.

18 Quick statement or question. What are you
19 guys doing for the student body in the ways
20 where they can represent -- have themselves
21 represented in front of the commission?

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I didn't quite understand
23 the question.

24 MR. PEREZ: What I'm trying to ask is how
25 is the student body, not just here at UCF, but

1 around the State of Florida being represented
2 within the commission and what kind of actions
3 will you guys be taking to represent students?

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: The first thing that this
5 commission is going to do is listen because
6 nobody has a corner on a good idea. Thank you.

7 Alex Berry. If you'd announce your name
8 when you come up to the front just to make sure
9 I'm pronouncing it right.

10 MR. BERRY: Alex Berry. And I didn't know
11 about this like a lot of other people. I was
12 working across the street. I've got to go to
13 school tonight, so I've got to leave.

14 I've been active in my own personal
15 political beliefs for a long time. I don't go
16 around and try and convince other people.

17 I pulled up some statistics to try to make
18 my point. Voters in Florida used to be
19 Republican and Democrat, one or the other as of
20 thirty years ago. And over the last thirty
21 years twenty-five percent of voters now are
22 independent because they don't like the
23 Republicans and they don't like the Democrats
24 and the trend is going up.

25 So to me that says that both parties are

1 failing the voters of Florida. I think the
2 presidential election is a prime example of
3 that. As a father, I talk to my children, I'm
4 ashamed of our presidential election on both
5 sides. When I talk to my friends and colleagues
6 I don't hear people saying I like this candidate
7 or that candidate. I hear I hated that
8 candidate more and that is just abhorrent to our
9 political system.

10 I didn't have a lot a time to prepare so
11 I'm just kind of going off the cuff.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: You're here.

13 MR. BERRY: I know that there's going to be
14 a lot of people in this room in particular
15 that's going to support one candidate or the
16 other with very strong convictions. I'm going
17 to go by the majority of Americans that I talk
18 to and I see in polls and everything else, if
19 you believe those of course, that are just
20 disgusted with the political process in general.

21 And I know that we as Florida voters can
22 only do what we can do in Florida, but as a
23 swing state, one of the most important swing
24 states in this country, we have a lot of say
25 about who gets nominated to the primary process.

1 So you can't have people swinging to the hard
2 right and left to get their core constituents.

3 So I would like to see an open primary in
4 Florida so that the primary candidates will go
5 towards what the majority of Americans are,
6 they're moderates. They're willing to
7 compromise unlike our politicians in Washington.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: This is an opportunity
9 for Floridians to speak up because one person
10 can make a difference. Only in the State of
11 Florida of fifty states do we have this process.
12 Thank you for coming forward.

13 MR. BERRY: I'd also like to say with my
14 twenty-nine seconds there are twenty-two other
15 states that have some type of open primary. I
16 certainly hope that y'all put aside partisan
17 politics and put aside special interests and you
18 look out for the voters in Florida.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Gary Bruhn.

20 MR. BRUHN: I'm Gary Bruhn, Mayor of the
21 Town of Windermere. I represent, Chairman,
22 Orange County Council of Mayors. That's our
23 twelve mayors here in Orange County. I'm also
24 president elect Florida League of Mayors
25 representing the four hundred and twelve mayors

1 across the State of Florida.

2 First of all, nobody said this, I want to
3 thank you for your time and your commitment.
4 Having served fourteen years I know what this
5 burden is and what it puts on your family. So
6 thank you for your dedication.

7 I want to talk today about Home Rule. One
8 of the great things about Florida local
9 government is Home Rule. In 1968 the voters
10 approved a constitutional amendment that said
11 local government has the right and the power to
12 do anything that's not denied them.

13 Every year Tallahassee chips away at us.
14 Take a look at the current bills right now. I
15 have one bill before us that wants to take away
16 our right to regulate any business in our
17 borders. We have another bill that's taking a
18 look and telling us that we have no right to
19 regulate any short-term rentals.

20 There's another bill that says the
21 telecommunications industry can put any device
22 boxes they want on our right of way, on our
23 public buildings. We cannot regulate it. We
24 cannot charge them for it. So that's what we
25 deal with typically.

1 What I want to let you know is local
2 government is the one that is closest to the
3 people and we are the ones that have been able
4 to react so very, very often.

5 In my fourteen years as mayor we've had the
6 internet gambling establishments pop up. It was
7 the local government that passed ordinances.
8 Who knows how much money we may have saved the
9 senior citizens. We had the pill mill
10 situation. Again, local governments passed
11 ordinances.

12 Each and every time that we pass these
13 local ordinances it took Tallahassee years to do
14 what we were able to do in months. We are the
15 people who go to the home improvement store.
16 We're the mayors and commissioners and council
17 members. We're stopped at the grocery story.
18 They know they have a voice with us. They know
19 we respond. We meet weekly, monthly. They know
20 they have a voice.

21 So my message is really very simple. When
22 you go and consider the charter revisions, what
23 would your mayor do? What would your local
24 governments do? How is this is going to impact
25 your neighborhood? How is this going to impact

1 your community and how is it going to impact
2 your city?

3 I would not doubt if you could pick up the
4 phone and talk to your local mayor. The bottom
5 line is that at the end of the day all our
6 legislators, all of us have to go back to a
7 local government and we should be very proud
8 that that local government is as responsive as
9 it is and you have a voice in it. Thank you for
10 your time and thank you for your service.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Rosemary
12 Wilson. As Rosemary Wilson comes up I'd like to
13 announce again that we are at overflow. So if
14 you've spoken, but you want to participate in
15 the meeting, but you'd like to give another
16 person an opportunity to speak, we are live
17 streaming into another room. So you can still
18 see and feel the meeting, but let someone else
19 into the room to give them an opportunity to
20 speak. Thank you. Rosemary.

21 MS. WILSON: Thank you. Again, my name is
22 Rosemary Wilson. I want to thank you first of
23 all for your time and your service. There's no
24 easy task. I recognize the magnitude of the
25 responsibility and of the commitment you have

1 made to better Florida's future.

2 I know I'm not as eloquent as Mayor Bruhn,
3 but I'm here to talk about my concerns regarding
4 Home Rule. The Florida Sunshine State has four
5 hundred and twelve cities, towns and villages,
6 each one different from the other. The one
7 thing the cities have in common is a commitment
8 to Home Rule, also known as local control.

9 Preserving Home Rule is a top priority for
10 the Florida League of Cities, for me personally
11 and it does have an effect on all of our cities.
12 As a local official elected I've seen the
13 importance of local self-government first hand.
14 Our City of Ocoee recently addressed a large,
15 mixed use project within our CRA to create a
16 major economic development within our city.

17 Legislation to weaken the CRA will take
18 away our ability that's given to us in the state
19 statutes preventing -- which will prevent misuse
20 and abuse of CRA funds. It's a great concern to
21 us at this time.

22 My understanding of this unique need of our
23 community coupled with our ability to act
24 swiftly allows us to reach a resolution in
25 record time. We leverage local resources,

1 solicit public comments and ultimately craft a
2 solution that will benefit our residents for
3 years to come. This is Home Rule.

4 The examples and so many others show us how
5 effective local self-government is. As a member
6 of the Florida League of Cities I'm proud to say
7 that our statewide organization has been a
8 united voice for municipal governments for
9 nearly a century.

10 As you tackle complex issues, please know
11 that the Florida League of Cities has a
12 comprehensive collection of data and statistics
13 related to municipal government and I know that
14 many of us within our cities will be more than
15 happy to talk to you about Home Rule.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Allison
17 Matos.

18 MS. MATOS: Hello. My name is Allison
19 Matos. I'm a recent graduate of UCF and I also
20 represent Women's March of Central Florida. And
21 so like everybody else, I thank you all for
22 being here and I echo their concerns that is it
23 was just announced very recently and I'm really
24 impressed by all the turnout.

25 And I understand that since you are

1 listening to us and you'll be back, but in the
2 draft rules you published you referred to
3 proposals for revisions to be submitted by the
4 public, but even though this will be taking you
5 a long time, it will take us a long time as
6 well.

7 So you haven't published anything to give
8 us a clue on how to submit proposals. So this
9 actually makes me question whether you do want
10 us to participate and when will you publish
11 information on how we can tell you all what
12 issues we'd like for you to consider? Thanks.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. For those of
14 you that aren't aware, we have a website, we
15 have Facebook, we have Twitter and Instagram and
16 we will take any proposal you have through
17 those. Those are the simplest ways to do it.

18 And you can also write, send a letter, or
19 come to a meeting and turn in a document and we
20 will make sure it gets properly taken care of.
21 Thank you. Atalia Santos. I'm going to skip
22 the middle name because I can't read it.

23 MS. SANTOS: My name is Natalia Perez
24 Santos. So I would also like to echo other
25 people that came before me and to speak a little

1 bit on the way in which the establishment of the
2 rules was handled.

3 As you all know, this commission has the
4 unique power on whatever twenty-two of you agree
5 on will be put on the ballot in 2018 for
6 citizens to decide.

7 So your proposed rules on open meetings and
8 records, quite frankly, don't give us the
9 confidence in the transparency of this
10 commission. That is why groups like the League
11 of Women Voters and the First Amendment
12 Foundation have already taken an active role in
13 expressing their concerns.

14 Moving forward I would like for you to guys
15 to consider just following the Attorney
16 General's manual on open government because,
17 quite frankly, without this insurance that this
18 commission is open and transparent, we as
19 citizens can't really ensure that our voices are
20 being heard louder than people who may have more
21 influence than us. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Sara Wissig.
23 Did I pronounce that right?

24 MS. WISSIG: Close.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: That's why we want you to

1 pronounce it so we get it right.

2 MS. WISSIG: Hi, my name is Sara Wissig and
3 thank you for having this event here today. I'm
4 a proud UCF alum. I got my Bachelors and my
5 Masters here.

6 Thank you especially to all of you on this
7 commission who are committed to a fair and
8 equitable Florida for all Floridians. I am
9 gravely concerned, along with others, that that
10 is not the case for everyone on the commission.

11 I would like to bring attention to the
12 presence of an open bigot on the commission and
13 I'm wondering for what political purpose someone
14 who has spent their entire life and career
15 demonizing lesbian and gay, bisexual and
16 transgender Floridians -- what political purpose
17 does it serve having John Stemberger on this
18 commission?

19 COMMISSIONER GAETZ: Mr. Chairman, I
20 object. This is not appropriate.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: With all due respect,
22 this is not appropriate. Thank you so much for
23 your comments.

24 MS. WISSIG: Thank you so much.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Heather Youmans. Is that

1 correct? Did I say that one correct?

2 MS. YOUMANS: Also close.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Close.

4 MS. YOUMANS: Thank you Mr. Chair and
5 Commissioners. My name is Heather Youmans and
6 I'm with the American Cancer Society, Cancer
7 Action Network. We are the non-profit,
8 non-partisan advocacy affiliate of the American
9 Cancer Society. Thank you very much for the
10 opportunity to speak here today and also for
11 your service.

12 I just wanted to speak in support of two
13 tobacco control related amendments that have
14 been added to the constitution through citizen
15 initiative processes. Article X, Section 20 was
16 passed in 2002 by more than seventy percent of
17 Florida voters and the amendment prohibits
18 smoking in most indoor places including
19 restaurants.

20 There's no question that making most of the
21 workplaces in the state tobacco free has
22 improved public health for both workers and for
23 patrons.

24 Also, Article X, Section 27 was passed in
25 2006 by more than sixty percent of Florida

1 voters. It makes up the state allocated portion
2 of the tobacco settlement money for tobacco
3 prevention education based on CDC best
4 practices. The public health impacts of this
5 program have been significant since its
6 implementation.

7 We have the lowest youth and adult smoking
8 rates in the nation and the Florida Department
9 of Health has estimated that it has saved the
10 state more than \$3.2 billion in healthcare
11 costs.

12 Both of these provisions in the
13 constitution have resulted in fewer
14 smoking-related deaths and made a positive
15 public health impact. ACS would like to make
16 ourselves available to any of you if you need
17 any information about the impacts of these two
18 provisions of the constitution. And again, we
19 thank you very much for the opportunity to
20 speak.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for that. Good
22 policy. Dr. Benita Tillman Brown.

23 DR. BROWN: Good evening. I'm Dr. Benita
24 Tillman Brown, a resident of Sanford, Florida.
25 I'm a graduate of UCF when the name was Florida

1 Technological University. I'm here to ask that
2 the commission, as you revise the Florida
3 Constitution, please consider two issues that
4 are already in our constitution.

5 One is Article IX, Education. Section 1
6 says the education of children is a fundamental
7 right of the people of the State of Florida. It
8 is, therefore, a paramount duty of the state to
9 make adequate provisions for the education of
10 all children that resides within its borders.

11 And Section 6 says, state school funds, the
12 income derived from the state school funds shall
13 and the principal of the fund may be
14 appropriated, but only to the support and
15 maintenance of free public schools.

16 I know everyone has a right to attend
17 wherever they want; private school, charter
18 school, parochial school, whatever. That's
19 their right. That's their privilege. The
20 commission needs to make sure that public money
21 for public schools are not decreased in order
22 for someone to go to private school.

23 My second issue is restoration of rights.
24 Florida Statute 940(05) talks about the
25 restoration of civil rights. Any person who has

1 been convicted of a felony may be entitled to
2 the restoration of the rights of citizenship
3 enjoyed by him or her before conviction.

4 Please continue to ensure that our felons,
5 if they've served their time for non-violent
6 crimes, please ensure that their rights are
7 restored and take away all the difficulty and
8 the burden offenses that are impending them from
9 having their rights restored. Just please,
10 Commission, consider that. That is a major
11 concern. Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mr. John Kemper.

13 MR. KEMPER: Good afternoon, Commission.
14 My name is John Kemper. I'm a member of the
15 Board of Directors for the ACLU of Central
16 Florida and also a retired IBMer.

17 I want you to know that your jobs are
18 extremely important in the fact that you can
19 actually place a revision on the constitution
20 directly and I know you'll agree with me that
21 this is very crucial and it should be in clear
22 light of the public.

23 And one other thing I'd like to mention
24 before I get into the issue that I have is when
25 you were introducing the commission you omitted

1 to introduce Commissioner Donalds.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I apologize for that. I
3 just read my list.

4 MR. KEMPER: Okay. The sections of the
5 constitution that I would like you to pay
6 particularly close attention to are Section 4 --
7 Article IV, Section 4 -- I'm sorry, Article VI,
8 Section 4 that has to do with disqualifications
9 and basically says if you've committed a felony
10 you're disqualified from voting.

11 Okay. I want you to take a look at that
12 and also along the same lines, Article IV,
13 Section 8 has to do with clemency. So if you
14 lose your right to vote, the only way that you
15 can have it restored is if the governor and two
16 people on his cabinet decide to restore your
17 rights.

18 Okay. As you probably already know,
19 Florida has some of the most restrictive laws in
20 the country which permanently disenfranchise
21 persons convicted of a felony. Currently over
22 one and a half million Florida citizens are
23 unable to vote because of a prior conviction.
24 There are six million people in the United
25 States that fall into this category and Florida

1 has twenty-five percent of those six million of
2 the entire country.

3 In thirty-eight states and the District of
4 Columbia most ex-felons automatically gain the
5 right to vote upon the completion of their
6 sentence. In 2011 the Florida Board of
7 Executive Clemency proposed for the governor and
8 three cabinet members to reverse the 2007 policy
9 change that automatically restored voting rights
10 to non-violent offenders upon the completion of
11 their sentence.

12 The new policy requires that all ex-felons
13 wait between five and seven years before even
14 applying to have their rights restored. These
15 long waiting periods coupled with a huge backlog
16 of applications, estimated now to be over
17 10,600, and the fact that the Clemency Board
18 only meets four times per year, discourages
19 ex-felons from applying.

20 Please consider placing an amendment to the
21 constitution on the ballot which would bring
22 Florida's antiquated laws which were enacted, by
23 the way, in 1860 as a reaction to freed slaves
24 getting to vote, in line with the majority of
25 the states in the rest of this country. Thank

1 you.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your
3 comments. I'd like to remind people again that
4 there are others that would like to participate
5 and we are live streaming in another room.

6 So if some of you could watch from the
7 other room and let new people in, that would be
8 great. Thank you so much. Jan Pierre
9 Rodriguez, please.

10 MR. RODRIGUEZ: My name is Jan Pierre
11 Rodriguez.

12 MR. BERUFF: I'm sorry.

13 MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's all right. Good
14 evening. So I want automatic voter
15 registration. When you turn eighteen you should
16 be automatically registered to vote. When you
17 get your driver's license that's your inactive
18 process.

19 Article VI, Section 4. So after time
20 served convicted felons should be automatically
21 registered to vote.

22 Also, for the primaries, Article VI,
23 Section 5, Clause A says that in the primaries
24 we vote on the first Tuesday after the first
25 Monday. Let's make it on a Saturday.

1 Then lastly, so on the primary process
2 again, so instead of having just somebody get
3 the majority of votes, if somebody doesn't get
4 the majority plus one, we should have a runoff
5 election. The top two contenders in the primary
6 for the presidential candidate should run
7 against each other. That's it. Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Mr. Chair.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, ma'am.

10 COMMISSIONER DONALDS: Can I make a
11 suggestion, a point of order just to respect the
12 time of all the individuals who are here to
13 speak, that we discourage the clapping. I know
14 the speakers probably appreciate the
15 encouragement.

16 The more people that we can get to speak,
17 the more that we can hear from those
18 individuals. I know there are a lot of people
19 waiting. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Dimitre Guenov.

21 MR. GUENOV: Hello. My name is Dimitre
22 Guenov. I just wanted to say thank you again to
23 the commission for coming out and hearing what
24 all of us have to say. I've been a long-term
25 resident of the State of Florida since 1992,

1 probably not as long as some of you guys, but I
2 absolutely love this state and I've remained
3 here ever since.

4 I've seen some really good changes and I've
5 seen some not so good changes, but I think
6 Florida remains a leader in the nation for
7 things like transparency, civil rights, property
8 law and more.

9 And so I'm here to ask the Constitution
10 Revision Commission to codify some of those
11 things for citizens to come. I'm asking that we
12 are all entitled to certain basic protections
13 such as a basic living wage as opposed to a
14 minimum wage in this state. I believe that the
15 school system should benefit all people
16 regardless of where they come from and I think
17 it's very important that we put in protections
18 for our educational system.

19 Florida should be able to compete in the
20 global economy. We're one of the largest states
21 in the nation and without a proper education
22 system we won't be able to meet those demands
23 that the new economy poses for us.

24 I ask that we strengthen the Growth
25 Management Act as opposed to weakening it so

1 that we have more control over the sprawl here
2 in the State of Florida. Lots of people come
3 into this state and I feel like we're hardly
4 able to keep up with demand.

5 We've placed lots of strain on our
6 resources through infrastructure that's now
7 deteriorating and decaying because we're unable
8 to properly manage growth. I think the Florida
9 Constitution should be strengthening those
10 growth management provisions as opposed to
11 weakening them.

12 I know the 2009 recession really set us
13 back, however, in light of all that we are where
14 we should be with or without the Growth
15 Management Act and I really feel like it has
16 helped put a lot of positive things here into
17 the State of Florida.

18 I took some notes to make sure I cover
19 everything. I also want to make sure that the
20 State Constitution continues to preserve the
21 requirements that the state not fund any
22 churches or religious sects known as the No-Aid
23 Provision.

24 I live in Altamonte and I've watched a
25 giant skyscraper in my backyard for the majority

1 of my life sit idly by and I think it's very
2 important and very powerful that the city and
3 the state has not gotten involved in that and I
4 continue to hope that we maintain that
5 separation between what we value as a state and
6 what private individuals choose to do as well.

7 And I also want to encourage the commission
8 to put in protections for fair voting districts
9 for all of Florida's residents. I think
10 everybody should be entitled to vote in the
11 district that they've been assigned and they
12 shouldn't change every couple of years. So I
13 think it's very important to put all of those
14 protections in.

15 So again, thank you very much to the
16 commission and thank you for helping us with
17 this process.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Anthony
19 Young.

20 MR. YOUNG: Good evening. My name is
21 Anthony Young. I'm a colonel in the United
22 States Army, also a councilman from Vero Beach,
23 Indian River County.

24 First of all, I want to share with you
25 after serving our nation and returning back to

1 Vero why I ran for government, why I ran for
2 City Council. I ran because I cared about my
3 home and I want to assure everyone sitting in
4 front of me that the most motivated public
5 servant you're going to find is the man or woman
6 who is concerned about their home.

7 Now, if you look at Vero Beach, we're at
8 ninety-eight years. In two years we'll be on
9 our centennial. I hope as you look forward to
10 the vision of Florida that you look towards a
11 vision that supports the people that are closest
12 to their community.

13 Also, separately I want you to take into
14 account the men and women who have provided you
15 the ability to do what you do and those are the
16 veterans. Remember every day that you come to
17 work, the security, the freedoms that you have
18 were guaranteed by the blood of those men that
19 were lost fighting for your rights.

20 Also, as you look to do your job remember
21 you have hundreds of thousands of men and women
22 who come back and bear no sign of their service;
23 traumatic brain injuries, post-traumatic stress.

24 So again, as a native of Florida, my
25 grandfather helped name the county, he was the

1 first mayor of Vero Beach, I say thank you for
2 what you've done, your dedication, and it means
3 a great deal to me that the men and the women
4 that are here, the expertise that you have are
5 going to protect the men and the women that have
6 made this state what it is. Thank you very
7 much.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Abigail
9 Youngless. Just to make a quick announcement.
10 At 6:00 we're going to take a five-minute break.
11 Okay? If anybody is looking for a break.

12 MS. YOUNGLESS: My name again is Abigail
13 Youngless. I'm not entirely sure as to how it
14 is that we can manage to work this into the
15 constitution, but I understand that the State of
16 Florida has a lot of potential in regards
17 specifically to solar energy.

18 Again, I don't know what we can do
19 specifically with the language and verbiage of
20 the constitution. I understand our
21 infrastructure is not nearly enough. It's
22 crumbling in some areas and it could be
23 significantly improved upon and I feel that
24 integrating the rebuilding of our infrastructure
25 and pairing that with things that are

1 environmentally sound and environmentally
2 friendly and environmentally neutral would be
3 beneficial to us.

4 Additionally, I would like to echo the
5 sentiments of many of my former -- I don't know
6 what to call them -- in that I feel the
7 restoration of rights for previously-convicted
8 felons is absolutely necessary.

9 So we currently have over 100,000
10 individuals serving time in prison this year.
11 Right? Many of these individuals, despite
12 having completed every single little hoop, nick,
13 cranny, hopping over every obstacle that's been
14 put in front of them are not going to have their
15 voices heard by -- through elections.

16 I feel that these voices are absolutely
17 necessary to hear specifically regarding issues
18 in our prison system. Recidivism rates, inmate
19 and security relations and the for-profit
20 prisons versus -- private prisons versus public
21 prisons. I feel that their voices are
22 absolutely necessary on these issues seeing as
23 we have had a dramatic increase in the amount of
24 inmates that we have in the State of Florida and
25 across the entire United States.

1 Thank you very much for hearing all of us
2 and tolerating some of our little gumptions
3 we've got going on today.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for coming.
5 Debbie Smith.

6 MS. SMITH: Hello. Thank you for allowing
7 us to come and share our opinions and our ideas
8 with you. My name is Debbie Smith. I'm going
9 to try to get through four points.

10 I moved to Florida in 1989. The first
11 thing I went to do was register to vote. I went
12 to register to vote and I was told I had to
13 choose. I had to chose Democrat or Republican.
14 And so I said well, I don't want to choose. I
15 want to be no party affiliation. Is that an
16 option?

17 Sure, you can do that, but you know you
18 can't vote in the primaries. I'm like, what?
19 Where I lived before I could. So that upset me
20 a little bit.

21 So as someone who refuses to chose sides I
22 feel disenfranchised that I cannot vote in the
23 primaries. So I would really urge you to
24 consider whatever it is you can do to make open
25 primaries available so, like the other

1 gentleman, we're not forced to choose a side
2 when we're not happy with those sides.

3 The other thing is I am an educator. I did
4 leave my last position December 31st. I thought
5 I would give charter schools a try and it lasted
6 five months. I have experience in public
7 schools, private schools and now charter
8 schools.

9 I know our constitution states that we are
10 to adequately fund our schools and that is not
11 happening. I see our public funds getting
12 redirected to vouchers to charter schools.

13 Those funds, as a taxpayer, I do not
14 believe will be used wisely. So I think
15 diverting money from public schools to watch
16 them fail -- diverting money to charter schools
17 to watch public schools fail is a bad way to do
18 business for our state and our children. I hope
19 that you can put a stop to that because it's
20 shameful and it's hurtful and it's wrong.

21 The other thing I wanted to mention was I
22 do agree with restoring the voting rights for
23 non-violent felons. When I was registering
24 people to vote recently I was surprised how many
25 people wanted to vote, but said they couldn't.

1 They looked like productive citizens to me,
2 but they had made a mistake in the past and they
3 were very upset that they were not allowed to
4 register or they wanted to join the military and
5 maybe made a mistake when they were young and
6 they were told they couldn't serve their
7 country. So that needs to be looked at as well.

8 And finally, I'm a true believer in
9 separation of church and state and I see too
10 many people's religious beliefs getting worked
11 into the bills that are being submitted. Thank
12 you.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Wes Hodge.
14 Thank you.

15 MR. HODGE: Thank you very much. My name
16 is Wes Hodge. I am the Chairman of the Orange
17 County Democratic Party. I am here today on
18 behalf of three hundred and thirty plus thousand
19 Democrats in Orange County. I want say good
20 evening to all of you and thank you for your
21 service. I appreciate what you all are doing
22 and I know that it's not a fun job.

23 As Democrats we would like to make the
24 world a better place for not only ourselves, but
25 our children. We want to live in a world that

1 is unified and accepting of everyone regardless
2 of their race, religion, sexual orientation,
3 gender or nation of origin.

4 We believe in openness and fairness,
5 accountability, fair districts and the ability
6 for every citizen to be involved. Today as I
7 look around I see only twenty-six of your
8 thirty-seven members present. This is also
9 being scheduled in the middle of the height of
10 our legislative session.

11 It shows that there is a lack of
12 consideration, not only for the fellow members
13 of this panel, but for the members of the public
14 at large. This is of great concern to many of
15 us.

16 This CRC does not seem to think that the
17 participation of all of us in this process is
18 important to them. It almost kind of seems like
19 this is a dog and pony show. When you announced
20 this hearing you gave us just seven days' notice
21 to try to get this thing together. You also
22 gave us no agenda upon which to address issues
23 or how to communicate with you guys. We just
24 had to kind of guess. I don't think that's very
25 democratic or fair.

1 In the future we hope that when you
2 schedule your public meetings you can give us an
3 agenda and an idea of some things that you would
4 like for us to discuss and give us enough time
5 to get people out and be involved.

6 We also hope that when you do schedule
7 you're mindful that most of us have 9:00 to 5:00
8 jobs and that you allow us to actually be
9 involved and participate in this process. Thank
10 you.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. We're going
12 to take a break. We'll reconvene in five
13 minutes. Thank you.

14 (Recess.)

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: We're going to call three
16 people up in order. So if the three can come up
17 we can get to all the people that want to speak.
18 Blaise Trettis, Paul San Giovanni and Michael
19 Hodapp. Thank you. Blaise, thank you.

20 MR. TRETTIS: Good evening, Chairman Beruff
21 and Commissioners. Thank you for serving on
22 this important commission. I am Blaise Trettis.
23 I am the elected Republican Public Defender for
24 the 18th Judicial Circuit, Brevard and Seminole
25 Counties, and I am here to make probably what

1 will be an unusual request about the
2 constitution and that is not to add to it, but
3 to delete a portion of the Florida Constitution.

4 What I am proposing be deleted are the last
5 two sentences of Article I, Section 12
6 pertaining to search and seizure. These two
7 sentences provide that the Florida Courts must
8 construe search and seizure issues in
9 conformance with the decisions of the United
10 States Supreme Court.

11 This provision was added to the
12 constitution in 1982. You might ask yourselves
13 what in the world could be wrong with that.
14 What I submit is wrong with that, ladies and
15 gentlemen, is that these two sentences of 1982
16 actually limit Floridians' freedom because it
17 eliminates federalism in the Florida
18 Constitution pertaining to search and seizure.

19 Federalism allows Florida Courts to
20 construe the State Constitution in a way that
21 provides greater protection and freedom to its
22 citizens than does the United States Supreme
23 Court.

24 So what this constitutional provision did
25 is actually limit Floridians' freedom and

1 prevents Florida Courts to provide more
2 protection.

3 I would also submit that this is very
4 important in these days of incredible
5 advancement and technology. We'll probably have
6 soon miniature, insect-sized drones with
7 listening devices.

8 As these technologies increase I think it's
9 more and more important that the Florida Courts
10 and Floridians be able to enjoy a greater level
11 of protection against search and seizure than
12 that provided by the United States Supreme
13 Court.

14 I'd also like for you to when considering
15 this proposal to consider the history that in
16 1982 when this was passed, why was it passed.
17 Back then was the cocaine cowboy days of South
18 Florida. If you remember Al Pacino, Scarface,
19 that came out in 1983. So I think there's a
20 very concerned public. More importantly, the
21 public was not given the effect of what the
22 constitutional amendment in 1982 would have
23 done.

24 It's reported in *Gross v. Firestone*, 422
25 So.2nd, 303, and in that decision you will see

1 that the amendment was just listed. It wasn't
2 explained. Compare that to Armstrong v.
3 Harrison, which is at 773 So.2nd where a
4 constitutional provision was stricken by the
5 Supreme Court for the precise reason that the
6 effect of the amendment was not explained on the
7 ballot, the effect being an elimination of
8 federalism, the elimination of Florida Courts
9 being able to construe the Florida Constitution
10 to provide more constitutional protection to
11 Floridians' freedom.

12 I please ask you to consider this and ask
13 you to propose an amendment striking these last
14 two sentences of Article I, Section 12. Thank
15 you.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you so much. Mr.
17 Paul San Giovanni and Michael Hodapp. We'd like
18 to accommodate the people that are standing. If
19 those people that are sitting in rows with empty
20 seats would move to the center towards the
21 middle so that we can accommodate more people
22 that would be wonderful. Thank you very much
23 for that effort.

24 MR. SAN GIOVANNI: Mr. Chairman and
25 Commissioners, my name is Paul San Giovanni.

1 I've been an attorney in Orlando for thirty
2 years. I am currently a member of the Board of
3 Governors of the Florida Bar. I represent the
4 Ninth Judicial Circuit which is made up of
5 Orange County and Osceola County where this
6 meeting is being held.

7 I'm currently Chair of the Budget Committee
8 and I also sit on its Executive Committee as
9 well as it's Strategic Planning Committee.

10 I'm not here to speak substantively to you
11 today, but what I want to do on behalf of the
12 Board of Governors and the Florida Bar is to
13 offer our services to you as an authoritative
14 and an unbiased resource for all of you.

15 The Florida Bar is made up of a vast array
16 of attorneys in various practice areas. We've
17 also designated certain committees and sections
18 that focus on particular areas of the law and
19 then we have Board certified attorneys who are
20 actually experts in their area.

21 I notice there's various attorneys on the
22 commission I thank you all for your work, as
23 well as thanking all of you for the work that
24 you are doing today.

25 Our experts are standing by. They're

1 ready, willing and able to assist you in any
2 areas that you need, including providing you
3 with information, providing you with research or
4 being a talking resource for you as you work
5 through very complex areas of the law.

6 Particularily or for example we've got tax,
7 we've got land use, as well as real estate
8 experts that are standing by to give you a hand.

9 As you weigh the potential revisions to the
10 constitution, that is the document that outlines
11 the legal responsibilities that the citizens
12 have with our state. We want you to know that
13 the resources of the Florida Bar are vast and
14 that our commitment to assist you in this
15 important work is absolute. Thank you.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Michael
17 Hodapp. Did I say that right? I can't read the
18 writing. I'm sorry. Please announce your name.
19 Thank you.

20 MR. HODAPP: All right. First of all, I'd
21 just like to apologize. I have a very bad
22 handwriting. My name is Michael Hodapp. I come
23 up here with a simple request. I'm twenty years
24 old. The last time you all met I was probably
25 in the crib.

1 I just want to say that this is a really,
2 really terrific opportunity for Floridians and
3 given it happens so rarely I'd like to see some
4 increased information available, particularly to
5 students.

6 I'm an accounting major. I don't
7 specialize in the constitution. Trying to learn
8 what to bring up to you all was quite a
9 challenge. I've asked a good amount of people
10 and it's just something that's very hard.

11 So I would strongly encourage that more
12 information is published, we get earlier
13 notification and really just try and work with
14 students because this is going to affect us for
15 the long run.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.
17 Paul Heroux, Traci Deen and Jacob Galvin. Thank
18 you.

19 MR. HEROUX: Chairman Beruff, by the way,
20 congratulations for pronouncing my name Heroux.
21 I have an X on the end of my name and generally
22 people panic.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I got one right.

24 MR. HEROUX: Chairman Beruff,
25 congratulations for pronouncing my name

1 correctly. I have to tell people the X is
2 silent like the B in plumbing as my brother used
3 to say. What we have here is, if you don't
4 mind, I normally like to speak, but I've reached
5 the age where curiosity is more important than
6 vanity, so I'm just going to read this.

7 I would like Florida to amend its
8 constitution to allow some form of statutory
9 initiative. Twenty-one states have such
10 initiatives all over the country from California
11 to Maine and from New Mexico to North Dakota.

12 The avenue of amendment by State
13 Constitution is a frustrating way for people to
14 have their voices heard, especially as is often
15 the case, as we all know, when it could be
16 better addressed in a statutory format.

17 Each of us has our favorite I'm sure. Mine
18 happens to be the one that had to do with pig
19 gestation and so on like that. Was it a good
20 statute? Heck yeah. Rotten amendment because a
21 constitution does it a different way.

22 The situation is one where we've seen those
23 amendments go through and unfortunately
24 legislators can slow down even a winning
25 amendment by how they interpret the situation or

1 how they go about implementing legislation to
2 put it through or whether they even put that
3 implementation through at all.

4 But the deafness of Tallahassee is a force
5 that you will probably see die several times on
6 your route and my whipping arm is tired so I
7 won't go there.

8 The initiative method with statute allows
9 people, as Mr. Boggs brought up earlier, to
10 bring a piece of legislation to Tallahassee by
11 vote. It can then be accepted, but if it is
12 amended or changed it must be on the ballot so
13 that the people can decide. Will it cure
14 everything? No. But it makes it one less way
15 to hide from the will of the people.

16 This is something that thrills me, by the
17 way, because as long as I have a second here,
18 the people who are here considering the time of
19 year and the situation that we're up against, I
20 think you'll be seeing this throughout the state
21 because there is an awakening of people with
22 regard to what their rights are and making sure
23 that they are not treated as privileges.

24 I should mention one of my other names is
25 X31904 because I did fifty-one months in the

1 Department of Corrections. Have my rights been
2 restored yet? No. I can speak at this
3 microphone, but I cannot raise my hand or make a
4 check on a box. I lost that because of
5 something I did.

6 People are going to show up and they're
7 going to show up in droves because they know if
8 they don't they're going to lose their rights
9 and they join me for what they didn't do. Thank
10 you.

11 MR. BERUFF: Ms. Deen. Thank you very
12 much.

13 MS. DEEN: Hi. Good afternoon,
14 Commissioners. Thank you for hosting this
15 meeting here in Orlando and really thank you for
16 your service to our great state.

17 MR. BERUFF: Your name?

18 MS. DEEN: My name is Traci Deen and I am
19 here to speak to you about protecting Florida's
20 heritage. I speak to you today as an attorney.
21 I have the great privilege of serving as the
22 Director of the Center for Earth Jurisprudence
23 which is an environmental legal center at Barry
24 Law School, but I also speak to you today as a
25 young woman. I'm a millennial and I hope that

1 you won't hold that against me. There are many
2 of us here in this room and really I think that
3 we represent the future of Florida.

4 But most importantly I speak to you as a
5 sixth generation Floridian. I speak to you as a
6 Floridian. I care a lot about this state and I
7 know that you do too. So I thank you again for
8 your service.

9 Today I am going to ask that you protect
10 that with which we should hold most dear and
11 that's the natural resources of this state.
12 Now, we each have an incredible opportunity to
13 protect the legacy Florida to ensure that clean
14 water and clean air is an enumerated right in
15 our Florida Constitution.

16 This issue, the protection of Florida's
17 future, is as bipartisan as they come. Right?
18 We all are entirely and utterly reliant on clean
19 air to breathe and fresh water to drink and
20 healthy soil to grow food in.

21 Frankly, our economy is reliant on a
22 healthy Florida as well. We have a
23 multi-billion-dollar eco tourism industry in
24 this state that sustains many Floridian
25 families. We are inextricably connected to the

1 health of nature whether we choose to
2 acknowledge that or not.

3 Our character today will be judged by the
4 Floridians of tomorrow. We have the discipline
5 and we have the capability of doing what's right
6 for our children and our children's children for
7 the Floridians of today and the Floridians of
8 tomorrow.

9 Our heritage depends on us setting the
10 standard today through this process. In order
11 to protect the rights of Floridians to be free
12 from possible contamination of both the water
13 and the air that we breathe and to know that
14 they're protected from these dangers by our
15 constitution.

16 Now, the reward is a vibrant, thriving
17 Florida with all Floridians' whose legacy is
18 protected. So we will be introducing an
19 amendment for your consideration shortly and I
20 do hope that you'll consider protecting the
21 rights of all Floridians to a healthful
22 environment. Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Jacob Galvin.
24 The next three speakers will be Shannon Joyce,
25 Kayla Infantino and Joe Pennisi.

1 MS. JOYCE: My issue was addressed. I'll
2 defer to the next person.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: And you are?

4 MS. JOYCE: Shannon Joyce.

5 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Jacob Galvin.
6 Is he in the audience? No. Mr. Galvin. Okay.
7 Kayla Infantino, Joe Pennisi and Bryn Taylor.
8 Bryn Taylor. Thank you. And you are?

9 MS. INFANTINO: I'm Kayla.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Kayla.
11 Remember, come up close to the mike so they can
12 hear you. Thank you.

13 MS. INFANTINO: Hi. Thank you all for
14 being here and hearing our concerns. My name is
15 Kayla Infantino. I'm a student here at UCF.
16 Recently there have been numerous bills brought
17 to different states that aim to restrict access
18 to safe and legal abortions under the guise of
19 protecting women and families.

20 One example of this bill is House Bill 19
21 which allows patients to sue their doctors up to
22 ten years after they had their procedure. This
23 causes insurance to go up considerably, as well
24 as discourages abortion providers from entering
25 their field, thus making it harder for those who

1 need abortions to access them.

2 In reality, abortion will happen whether
3 it's legal or not and preventing access to it
4 will only cause people to undergo unsafe
5 procedures. As a women, as a student and as a
6 native Floridian, I urge you to protect
7 reproductive rights by ensuring access to safe
8 and legal abortions. Thank you.

9 MR. PENNISI: Good evening, Chairman
10 Beruff, Commissioners. Thank you very much for
11 your service and for the opportunity to speak to
12 you here this evening. My name is Joe Pennisi
13 and I'm the executive director of the Florida
14 Policy Institute.

15 The Institute is an independent,
16 non-partisan, non-profit organization that's
17 dedicated to promoting widespread prosperity
18 through timely, objective analysis of state
19 policies as they impact economic opportunity.

20 My comments this evening will be brief. I
21 really want to speak to you a little bit about
22 the process. As you begin this incredibly
23 important task that you've embarked on, I want
24 to simply stress the importance of inclusion and
25 transparency in your process.

1 As the commission meets only once every
2 twenty years, maximizing participation from the
3 public, disseminating information on meetings
4 and locations broadly and in a timely manner is
5 of the utmost importance.

6 This should be a top priority to the CRC if
7 the goal here is genuinely to listen to the
8 voice of Floridians as the commission goes about
9 its work. I strongly urge members moving
10 forward to provide concise information on the
11 commission's structure, its rules, it's
12 procedures, instructions on how to testify and
13 adequate notice on meeting dates and locations
14 to maximize healthy participation.

15 I also urge the commission to provide
16 clarity as to how citizens cannot only make
17 their own proposals, but comment on the
18 proposals that are generated by the commission
19 itself.

20 And one final note is that I hope in going
21 forward that you will make sure that all of the
22 venues that you choose will accommodate everyone
23 who wants to come in and speak and testify.

24 And in that regard I have a very quick
25 suggestion for you. There is a lovely arena

1 reason across the street that has an incredible
2 capacity and I hope that when you return in the
3 fall you fill the place. Thank you so much.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: We'd love to see that.
5 Bryn Taylor.

6 MR. TAYLOR: Hello. My name is Bryn. I am
7 also a student at UCF like many of the other
8 people who have come up here. So I wanted to
9 talk about right to work.

10 So Florida is a right-to-work state, as
11 many of you know. For anyone who doesn't know
12 what right to work is, it basically means that
13 people are not required to pay dues to the union
14 in their workplace if their workplace does have
15 a union.

16 This is wrong because it weakens a union's
17 power by attacking their funding and basically
18 that's really bad because unions are the only
19 thing that protects workers from the employing
20 class and their employers.

21 So I would like a constitutional amendment
22 that gets rid of right to work and empowers
23 unions and their rights to continue to
24 collectively bargain and protect workers in
25 Florida. Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. The next
2 three speakers are Stephen Beale, Kathleen
3 Currie and Todd Catella.

4 MR. BEALE: Hello. My name is Stephen
5 Beale. I'd just like to say first of all thank
6 you very much for this opportunity. I've never
7 had the opportunity to experience something like
8 this since I may not have been born the last
9 time this happened.

10 On that note I would like to request that
11 you move to increase the frequency with which
12 these happen. Because if someone who is perhaps
13 forty years old now misses this chance, doesn't
14 realize that it's happening until it's too late,
15 they could ostensibly not be around for the next
16 time that it happens. Simple turns of fate,
17 unfortunate things.

18 I would like to see the frequency increased
19 to perhaps ten years or something less than
20 twenty in order that people may be able to
21 experience these more often.

22 I would also like to request that the
23 statutory initiatives be put into the
24 constitution because I have seen things come up
25 in the past that are being made into

1 constitutional amendments that perhaps the
2 constitution wasn't the best place to put these,
3 however, it seemed like the only option for that
4 policy to take that route.

5 I think opening up a different route would
6 make a more and more sensible way of enacting
7 policy that fits better and isn't necessarily
8 put into the constitution itself.

9 Also I would like to request that move be
10 made to restore the right to vote to previously
11 convicted, non-violent felons who have already
12 served their time in order that we can try and
13 reintegrate them to society more fully and
14 rehabilitate them. Thank you very much for your
15 time.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Kathleen
17 Currie, Todd Catella and Jill Heroux.

18 MS. CURRIE: Good evening. My name is
19 Kathleen Currie and I'm a member of the League
20 of Women Voters and I would like to thank you
21 all for taking the opportunity to -- the
22 privilege to be on this commission and this is a
23 very important job, especially since it happens
24 every twenty years and fortunately I'm still
25 around to be able to participate as well.

1 I was raised in a home where it was a very
2 strong political party, but we were raised to
3 make our own decisions and to follow those and
4 to follow whatever was the most important and
5 the most moral and sensible decision, whether it
6 be in your own life or in whatever you were
7 involved in.

8 So I would like to urge all of you to make
9 sure that that's what you do as well. As Anne
10 Hellmuth mentioned at the beginning of the
11 hearing, the League is very concerned about
12 several of the comments and the written
13 information that we've heard so far about the
14 commission in reference to records being
15 accessible versus those being open.

16 We want to urge you to please remember the
17 Sunshine Laws, which is to me -- that's like
18 gold, that's what politics should be about. I
19 realize it's not. I recognize and understand
20 that. As a political junky I'm fascinated by
21 it, but I'm also very frustrated and at times
22 right angered by it.

23 I think since this commission only meets
24 every twenty years, this is your opportunity to
25 make this commission shine and to be here to

1 listen to the public, to make sure that the
2 hearings are advertised far enough in advance so
3 that people can and will attend and that they
4 understand how important the things that they
5 want to say are heard and that you're not here
6 with your own prior agenda that was advised to
7 you by someone else. Thank you so much.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Mr. Catella.
9 Mrs. Heroux.

10 MR. CATELLA: Hello there. Todd Catella.
11 I live in Orlando, have since 1966. And first
12 off I do want to thank each and every one of the
13 commission members for your time and everything
14 that you're going to be doing not just today,
15 but in the future in all the workshops that
16 you're going to be working in, every
17 consideration, every issue that you're going to
18 be looking at, every thought and idea.

19 Some of these workshops are going to
20 probably have some public comment opportunities
21 in there as well. Hopefully you'll be doing
22 that.

23 I was able to participate in the Orlando --
24 excuse me, the Orange County CRC four-year
25 review and it was a first time for me to do that

1 and it was very helpful, very informative in
2 terms of the process.

3 Hopefully each and every one of you as
4 members will do everything that you can possibly
5 do to make sure you're fulfilling your
6 commitments to your responsibilities to this
7 committee.

8 Do your job. Fulfill your responsibility.
9 Don't slack on the task. There are things that
10 you're going to want to look at. There are
11 things that you're going to want to consider.

12 One of the things I did find in that
13 session in Orange County was some of the members
14 didn't fulfill their responsibilities to the
15 same level that they could have. When there are
16 meetings called, when there are workshops
17 called, there are members missing.

18 When there are things to be done, you
19 didn't have a quorum. Now, I know this is a
20 time constraint for you and it's going to be a
21 process and there's going to be political
22 pressure, there's going to be public pressure,
23 there's going to be pressure from all different
24 areas to do the things that you need to do, but
25 one of the things I'm asking you to do is do

1 your job. All right?

2 Take up the issues that are before you, the
3 thoughts, the ideas, the concepts, the things
4 that need to be addressed to make the
5 constitution of the State Florida better and
6 make it better.

7 If there are things that shouldn't be
8 there, take it out or make the amendment to get
9 us to choose to take it out. If there are ways
10 for the Supreme Court of the State of Florida to
11 be more under control to the people and not
12 legislate from their position, do that.

13 You know, I see too many times where we
14 pass something sixty, seventy percent and all of
15 a sudden a judge does something, the Supreme
16 Court of the State of Florida does something.
17 That shouldn't happen.

18 The people have spoken on an amendment that
19 took a lot of time to do and we should continue
20 the process of making sure that goes into action
21 and if it needs to be appealed, then a different
22 amendment and a different process.

23 There's a lot of work that goes into
24 putting something on a ballot for people to
25 consider. Everything that you're doing now is

1 going to end up for consideration and imagine
2 all this time, imagine all this effort that one
3 day and one judge and one session can blow it
4 all. Protect that. Protect your rights as
5 commission members and others in the future.

6 And I will say I defend religious liberty
7 and I'd ask you to consider that too. Thank
8 you.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Mrs. Heroux. Wanda
10 Ramos, you'll be next. Elizabeth Smock after
11 that. Thank you.

12 MS. HEROUX: Hi. My name is Jill Heroux
13 and I'm a native Orlandoan [sic], born here in
14 '52 and so I've seen a lot of change. I'm also
15 a former public school teacher, taught here
16 briefly, taught up in Georgia, a little away
17 from the state for a little while.

18 Obviously, I went through the public school
19 education through ninth grade and then went to
20 Baltimore, went to a high school there where I
21 was one of the top ten people in the school in
22 my senior year as far as grade point average.

23 So I competed very, very highly in a school
24 where they had a seventy-five percent
25 matriculation rate to graduate into college. So

1 we educated our children back in the '50s and
2 the '60s when I went here and we're not
3 educating them now.

4 Now, I'm a former school teacher. I am now
5 a licensed mental health counselor by the State
6 of Florida. I served thirty-two and a half
7 years with the Orange County government working
8 in the family services division and I'm nervous.

9 I believe very strongly -- I was hired in
10 1982. I believe very strongly in government and
11 the Sunshine and ethics. The appearance of a
12 conflict of interest is a conflict of interest
13 and that's what I was taught as a government
14 employee.

15 If it looked wrong, smelled wrong, even if
16 you didn't do wrong, it was wrong. So you
17 watched what you did and I'm not seeing that in
18 the State of Florida right now.

19 There's a lot of unethical behavior. There
20 is a move to legally block documents. We have
21 to have people fighting for the right to see
22 things that the government and the Sunshine says
23 that we have to have.

24 If that's something that the constitution
25 amendment review committee can address, we need

1 to, because if we don't have government and
2 Sunshine, then we have no way to hold our public
3 officials accountable and that is important to
4 me as a voter.

5 Another thing is I'm a strong believer in
6 separation of church and state. I am a
7 Christian. I have Jewish friends. I have Hindu
8 friends. I have Buddhist friends. I have
9 Muslim friends and friends who have no religious
10 affiliation.

11 I believe very strongly in the separation
12 of church and state from the standpoint that
13 religious institutions should not get my public
14 money because who says where it's going to go.
15 Is it going to go to Christians? Are you going
16 to have Christians fighting if it goes to a
17 Muslim? Why?

18 I strongly support public education. I am
19 very strongly concerned that we are under
20 funding our public teachers. I'm having friends
21 leave the public school system because they are
22 not allowed to do their job because they're
23 being legislated.

24 I have students I work with, programs that
25 were state-funded programs that children were

1 failing in the school. Ninth grade children who
2 are 16 or 17 years of age who are never going to
3 graduate because they started failing in the
4 third grade. It's seventy days of testing. We
5 need to work better at that.

6 And then the last thing is I'm obviously my
7 husband's wife and he is a felon. He's white
8 and we have the resources to be able to invite
9 him back into the community and so we didn't
10 have a reintegration problem.

11 There is no recidivism at this point, but
12 I've worked with families where their families
13 cannot even rent. They cannot get a job. I've
14 served children who have mental health problems
15 and their parents cannot get them services
16 because they are felons. They have no civil
17 rights and yet they have served their sentence.

18 And that is very, very important and it
19 disproportionately affects people of color.
20 Those laws are 1858 laws that are Jim Crow laws.
21 We need to come into the future and as that one
22 gentleman said, a quarter of our people cannot
23 vote. That is absolutely wrong.

24 They are still citizens of this country and
25 they deserve the right to vote. They also

1 deserve the right to hold licenses and rent and
2 get a job.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Ms. Ramos.
4 Ms. Smock. Michael Weinbaum.

5 MS. RAMOS: Hello. I am Wanda Ramos. I am
6 a proud Puerto Rican. I am a U.S. citizen. The
7 reason why I'm stating that is because I'm sick
8 and tired of all the employers I have in Florida
9 ask me for a green card.

10 So I wanted to make it count in this public
11 hearing as a statement. So please if there's
12 something you can do about that I would greatly
13 appreciate it. Thank you.

14 I have been a resident of Florida since
15 December 1999 and I am very happy that we moved
16 here. I have lived in other states, New York,
17 New Jersey, Connecticut and I have had great
18 opportunities over there, but we came here in
19 1999 and this is where my son grew up.

20 The schools of Florida are the schools that
21 my son went to. He was an ideal student and
22 went on to attend Valencia College and looking
23 to a great future here.

24 I am a homeowner and I have done great
25 things in Florida, but I have grown disappointed

1 of Florida in certain ways. I have seen how the
2 educational system is not getting the funding
3 that is needed and the funding for public
4 education here has been diverted to private
5 entities and to charter schools and that is not
6 right.

7 It's not right because if we have issues
8 within the educational system, the public
9 system, we need to fix them, not taking the
10 funding out to put it somewhere else and then
11 not fix the problem. I think that we need to
12 look at that issue in Florida.

13 We have many kids coming in here that are
14 now having a big portion of Puerto Ricans moving
15 here because of the economic issues there. I'm
16 also seeing that even if we are in charge of a
17 younger family member, we are still not
18 considering the residency status for them to be
19 able to pay in-state tuition.

20 So if I have a family member that I am
21 legally taking care of and he's a minor, even
22 though he has been here for more than year, he's
23 still not considered a resident to be able to
24 apply to an in-state tuition student for a
25 college. I wish that you would consider that.

1 I'm also concerned about women's
2 reproductive rights and I want to protect them.
3 I want to ask all of you to consider to protect
4 women's reproductive rights.

5 I think that there should be a separation
6 of church and state and although I am a
7 Christian, I think that when we are asking our
8 elected officials to consider certain actions in
9 regards to our government entities and
10 organizations, I think that if you're going to
11 talk about women's reproductive issues, then
12 include women in the conversation. So thank you
13 very much.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: We have a lot of people
15 that want to speak. Let's try to mind -- I
16 can't see the clock behind me. There's two
17 clocks. So I'd appreciate it if you'd try to
18 mind the clocks.

19 We almost have everybody accommodated in
20 the room. If there's any seats in the middle,
21 if you could shift again so some of the people
22 that are standing can be accommodated. Then I
23 think we'll have everybody in the room that's
24 wanted to be here all evening. Thank you.

25 MS. SMOCK: Thank you all very much. My

1 name is Elizabeth Smock. I'll try to keep this
2 really short so we can get more people in. I
3 know Mr. Heroux with an X mentioned this, but no
4 one's really -- when we talk about our
5 constitution here in the State of Florida I feel
6 like we need to strengthen it.

7 We have too many amendments that -- we've
8 had one person talk about Supreme Court justices
9 being able to just blow them out of the water.
10 It's not just the Supreme Court. Sometimes our
11 legislators as well.

12 I know amendments can be interpreted in
13 different ways, but for example, Amendment 1 has
14 been in the news lately as the funding that was
15 voted on by a majority of Florida citizens to
16 try to add to the environmental protection, the
17 lands needed to protect our environment here in
18 the state, and those funds are being diverted.

19 There may be good reasons for that, but if
20 the amendment is for land purchase and it was
21 voted on, then there needs to be something
22 besides just the legislative body being able to
23 turn that around and not use it in that way.

24 Again, if the amendment doesn't seem to
25 make sense, make it public, let people discuss

1 it, let people rewrite it. I'm not sure how all
2 of that works. I'm not the commission. You
3 are. Let's strengthen those so that if there is
4 an amendment that has been voted into the
5 constitution that it is acted on in a proper
6 manner. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Michael
8 Weinbaum, Saba Akram-Scales, Frank Vassel.

9 MR. WEINBAUM: Thank you again for setting
10 up this meeting. My name Michael Weinbaum. I
11 just wanted to echo some other people who said
12 it would be nice to have this more than once
13 every twenty years. That's a pretty slam dunk
14 constitution amendment, very easy to write.
15 Just pick a number of years less than twenty.

16 The next commission it would be nice if it
17 was appointed not just by the people who
18 appointed this commission, namely the governor,
19 the president of the senate, the speaker of the
20 house and the chief justice, but if other public
21 officials, even non-politicians, for instance,
22 the Florida Bar Association is already
23 recognized in our constitution to perform a few
24 functions. Perhaps they could be empowered to
25 appoint some people, get a little more

1 diversity.

2 As a personal note, before anyone questions
3 my personal motivations, I'm actually a
4 registered Republican. I think most of the
5 members of this commission are. Is anyone not
6 affiliated with a party on this commission?

7 MR. BERUFF: It's not a question and
8 answer.

9 MR. WEINBAUM: Okay. I'm going to go ahead
10 and assume no, being that most of you were
11 appointed by the senate president, house speaker
12 or the governor, which is fine. They are all
13 Republicans so it's unlikely they appointed
14 non-Republicans.

15 I recognize Ms. Joyner from a previous
16 public television viewing. I know she's a
17 registered Democrat appointed by a Supreme Court
18 Justice. He may have appointed some
19 non-partisans. I don't know.

20 The point is you guys are not, at this
21 point, representative of Florida and you could
22 be. You could be. One simple way to do that is
23 to get more people empowered to appoint this
24 committee. A bigger and more important way
25 would be to implement -- to change our primary

1 election rules.

2 Our constitution was last revised on this
3 subject in 1998 and was sort of fixed what was
4 proposed and I took advantage of this.

5 My Florida House District over in Winter
6 Garden, no Republicans decided to run. I'm a
7 registered Republican, so before 1998 I would
8 have had no primary vote at all and then the
9 Democrat would have be unopposed.

10 I got to choose. My favorite Democrat is a
11 registered Republican. However -- and you might
12 not know this. Some of you may not be from this
13 area. The race for the Ninth Circuit
14 prosecutor, no Republican decided to run again
15 because the Democratic incumbent was very
16 popular.

17 However, a Democrat challenger not only
18 showed up, but paid somebody to be a
19 non-partisan write-in which is under Article VI
20 of our constitution, Section 5; if there are
21 other candidates the primary becomes closed
22 again.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: You need wrap it up.

24 MR. WEINBAUM: I did not get a chance to
25 vote for state attorney and many other people

1 did not. And I have a proposed revision to said
2 section in this envelope.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Next speaker.
4 Saba Akram-Scales. Did I -- how badly did I do
5 that?

6 MS. AKRAM-SCALES: Thank you for your time.
7 I wanted to bring attention to Florida's restore
8 voting rights for certain former inmates who
9 have satisfied the conditions of their
10 statements.

11 There are thirty-eight states that
12 automatically restore rights. I wish Florida
13 would become one of those states because there's
14 no purpose in sending somebody to prison without
15 allowing them to integrate back into the
16 society, then we have not served the purpose of
17 what the justice system is supposed to be.

18 If you don't integrate people back into
19 society -- and voting is a basic U.S. citizen
20 right. So I wish the commission would consider
21 this heavily that they restore their rights
22 automatically.

23 MR. BERUFF: Thank you. Frank Vassel.
24 Joshua Caleb Barton. Pastor Demensio Barton.
25 Please come forward. Thank you.

1 MR. VASSEL: My name is Frank Vassel. Good
2 evening, Members. I'd like to say that your job
3 is a very difficult one and I pray that you will
4 do well.

5 MR. BERUFF: Could you say your name again,
6 Frank?

7 MR. VASSEL: Frank Vassel. Your duties are
8 a difficult one. Just from the presence of the
9 public here this evening and the conflicting
10 views, you already see what's popular and what
11 is not.

12 Your job is not so much to go with what is
13 popular or what will bring benefit to the people
14 of Florida and bring to society in a good way.
15 What is popular doesn't always mean it is
16 correct or best.

17 So your job is going to be difficult
18 because you may be going against the majority in
19 some cases. So be courageous, ladies and
20 gentlemen. Your reliance on the natural laws of
21 order may be one way to help decide in the
22 amendments to the Florida Constitution.

23 There are laws that are there that are
24 observable and that have been proven to make
25 society well. Those are the laws you need to

1 rely on. Respect of the opinions of the people
2 is important, but in the end what is best for
3 the people is your job.

4 If it fails, if you go with the majority or
5 with the majority and it fails, you're going to
6 be blamed. I'm really speaking about myself.
7 I'm going to speak unofficially and I make it
8 very clear, unofficially on behalf of the PTA.

9 There is one thing I'm going to say with
10 respect to education. Your job as you look at
11 the constitution, please let the language remain
12 regarding education that it should be uniform
13 and equitable.

14 That one statement I make to you and I make
15 it unofficially because I am not an official of
16 the PTA. So if they reject this statement this
17 evening, I am holding that to my claim only.

18 But I say it again, please let that
19 language remain regarding public education in
20 the Constitution of Florida, that it be uniform
21 and equitable. My colleague spoke earlier
22 regarding education. It should be for all
23 children, for the betterment of the children,
24 for all children no matter who they are.

25 When you make those amendments based on the

1 requests of the people, again, look at the
2 benefit it will bring. If it does not bring a
3 benefit, do not make it so. If it brings a
4 benefit, despite opposition, make it so. Thank
5 you again for your time.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Joshua Caleb
7 Brown [sic]. We're going to be taking another
8 break at 7:00 p.m. for five minutes in case
9 anyone wants to prepare.

10 MR. BARTON: Hello. My name is Joshua
11 Caleb Barton. We've had some pretty good
12 speakers. Let's see how I can top that, right?
13 Okay. So in the 1980s there was an amendment
14 that was passed. The CRC at that time proposed
15 and Florida people agreed on voting that
16 protection -- voting for the amendment that
17 protected our informational privacy. They
18 decided it was important and it was a needed
19 improvement. This amendment is Section I,
20 Article 23 [sic], which limited improper use of
21 our information by the government and other
22 entities.

23 This was a shining structure of protection
24 in a growing technological age. We needed it
25 back in the 1980s. Imagine how much we need

1 this now. It has been changed. The structure
2 of protection torn down by judges interpreting
3 this amendment to simply protect abortion and
4 not our informational privacy.

5 Now, I call for an amendment that fixes
6 this so there's no doubt that Article 23 [sic]
7 was concerning what it was originally intended.
8 This is not anti-abortion because both Democrats
9 and Republicans agreed this amendment was always
10 made with a specific purpose.

11 We need informational privacy. At least
12 seventeen states require government web based
13 sites or State Courts to establish privacy
14 policies and procedures or to incorporate
15 readable privacy policies and procedures on
16 their websites. Florida is not one of these
17 states.

18 Sadly, Article 23 [sic] is not being used
19 as intended. So that is what I would like to
20 present. And also, with that being said, I'd
21 like to touch on something that was also said
22 earlier and that judges should not be able to
23 overrule the people.

24 This process, our vote cannot be undermined
25 by a single judge saying I don't agree with the

1 people.

2 With that being said, going to another
3 issue and I dare mentioned earlier to have an
4 agenda of issues. Currently we're given free
5 speech to talk about whatever issues are close
6 to our heart. I think it should stay that way.
7 An agenda would only limit what sort of issues
8 we as the people could come and bring before
9 you, the committee. I thank you for the way
10 that things are right now.

11 The last is one of our mayors actually came
12 up and spoke about and that's local government.
13 I like that idea. Why? Because it brings due
14 power where it should be and that's closer to
15 the people.

16 These local people work around us. They
17 shop in our stores. Their kids are in our
18 schools. They sit beside us when we're at
19 events and games.

20 Home Rule is important. The proper amount
21 of power should be -- the proper amount of power
22 of the people should be where the people have
23 greatest access. Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. One more
25 speaker and we'll take a break. Demensio

1 Barton.

2 MR. BARTON: Hey, guys. Thank you. You've
3 heard it a lot of times and I just want to let
4 you know I appreciate what you're doing. A lot
5 of times the people who are serving are the
6 least appreciated, you know.

7 You represent us, but you represent also
8 someone who's actually been assigned to make
9 choices that matter, make choices that count.
10 You're handling something where a lot of
11 different opinions and a lot of different
12 subjects are coming up.

13 So when I'm bringing this up to you, I'll
14 let you know what I'm looking at. I'm saying,
15 man, due process is great. It's wonderful what
16 we have going on here. I'm listening to all
17 these words because all we have is a battle of
18 words. Everybody is just coming and we have all
19 these words coming from every direction.

20 I'm looking at you to protect those words.
21 I've listened to you and I've listened to the
22 discourse of everybody whether I agree with it
23 or not, in the end it's going to end up as a
24 rule, it's going to end up as an ability for the
25 State of Florida to choose as a state whether or

1 not they will or will not agree to make it into
2 a mandate for us to serve under.

3 When I'm looking I see things like our
4 definitions. How is it that we have things
5 where our vocabulary is changing and we have bad
6 and bad used to mean bad, but now bad can mean
7 good. And good used to mean good, but now good
8 can mean it's all right.

9 That may be all right for our public
10 internet discourses, our tweeting, our Facebook,
11 but that cannot be within our judiciary. When
12 we have words that have been set, they must be
13 maintained.

14 I ask you to hold our judges accountable.
15 We must have it set so that whatever discourse
16 has been taken care of in our public venue and
17 whatever has been agreed upon, it is final.

18 An example of that is the Article I,
19 Section 23. How can we have public discourse
20 and public remedy without accountability? We
21 must hold those in power accountable just as we
22 ourselves have to come from our busy days, our
23 different lives and we be held accountable to
24 our rights.

25 We have been given an opportunity in the

1 United States to have a voice. The voices
2 cannot be silenced. Thank you and you have a
3 good day.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: We will take a
5 five-minute break and reconvene in five minutes.
6 Thank you.

7 (Recess.)

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Ladies and gentlemen, we
9 want to hear everyone and we also want to be
10 very clear that we'll have another meeting in
11 Orlando in the fall. We wanted to start and get
12 the ball rolling. We'll have another meeting in
13 Orlando.

14 We have sixty-five speaker cards left. So
15 we would like to, with your approval, reduce the
16 time to two minutes, please, so that we can hear
17 everybody.

18 I understand that's not popular for some,
19 but it's fair for everyone and that's what this
20 is about. So the next speaker is Jeff Yonce,
21 Martin Van Luven, Alex Storer, Danny Roman.
22 Jeff Yonce.

23 MR. YONCE: Thank you for allowing me to
24 appear before this commission. My name is Jeff
25 Yonce and I'm one of those old codgers that you

1 hear about that lives in The Villages, but we do
2 vote. Old codgers do vote.

3 My recommendation for the constitutional
4 amendment would say in order for any candidate
5 to be eligible to run for the Office of
6 President of the United States, such candidate
7 must furnish his or her federal income tax
8 returns for the five most recent tax years in
9 order to qualify for office.

10 Now, what I want to make crystal clear to
11 each of you commissioners, this amendment is not
12 about being a Republican or a Democrat or an
13 Independent or a member of the Green Party.
14 Rather it's about the right of the electorate to
15 have pertinent financial information for any
16 candidate running for the Office of President so
17 that we, the electorate, can make a decision on
18 the qualifications of that candidate.

19 I'm sure that each of you recognizes the
20 right of the electorate to have all the
21 necessary information so that we can make this
22 decision and we can make it with all the
23 necessary information.

24 I believe that you also recognize the
25 overwhelming public support for this amendment.

1 I'm asking that you listen to the will of the
2 electorate and place this amendment on the
3 ballot.

4 Several other states have already enacted
5 similar legislation. We realize that if you do
6 not recommend this go on the ballot, we can
7 still follow through with a citizens initiative
8 and we can get over 700,000 signatures and it
9 would be placed on the ballot and it would be
10 approved by more than the threshold of sixty
11 percent.

12 We're asking you to do the right thing.
13 Listen to the voters. Put it on the ballot.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Martin Luven.

15 MR. VAN LUVEN: Thank you very much and
16 thank you for all serving. Let's see, I've
17 lived in Florida since 1978. I'm a combat
18 veteran and, by the way, I was on the Republican
19 Executive Committee of Broward County for about
20 ten years and I recognize that everybody on this
21 panel likes the Sunshine Laws very much.

22 I love disclosure. I want Florida to be
23 first and what I want them to be first in is to
24 add to the constitution in order for any
25 candidate to be eligible to run for the Office

1 of President of the United States such a
2 candidate must furnish his or her federal income
3 tax returns for the five most recent years for
4 public review in order to qualify to be listed
5 on any Florida ballot.

6 That's it. And, oh yes, and if I go over
7 and see Mr. Lester at his office with fifty
8 friends he's supposed to serve coffee and
9 donuts.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Commissioner, you're in
11 trouble now. Alex Storer, Danny Roman, Lawrence
12 Worley Tyree.

13 MR. STORER: Hello. My name is Alex
14 Storer. Thank you all for being here. I'm
15 currently a student here at UCF, so I appreciate
16 that this is being held on our campus.

17 So I think a lot of the political rhetoric
18 that we hear and a lot of the wording that's in
19 the Florida Constitution focuses on the idea of
20 freedom. Obviously, freedom is good, but I
21 think we have too much focus on hypothetical,
22 individual freedoms that don't function very
23 well with the economic realities of life as a
24 Floridian.

25 So I believe this was addressed by another

1 speaker, but this brings me to the topic of the
2 right to work portion which I believe is under
3 Section 1 or -- it's under the Declaration of
4 Rights, the rights portion.

5 And while this does protect the
6 hypothetical individual right for someone to not
7 have to be in a union in a union workplace, I
8 think the collective rights of the workers are
9 more important in that situation. After all, we
10 are a social species.

11 We have public institutions like the
12 government and like the constitution in order to
13 protect us and I think it's important that
14 strong labor unions are one of those
15 institutions to help protect workers and fight
16 for them. I believe that's all I have. Thank
17 you.

18 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Danny Roman.
19 Is Danny Roman here? No. You're next, Mr.
20 Tyree.

21 MR. TYREE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
22 commissioners. My name is Larry Tyree and I'm
23 here representing no one except myself. I
24 should tell you that my topic is the State Board
25 of Community Colleges and my perspective is one

1 who worked in eleven community colleges, six
2 states. I served as president of nine of them.
3 Five of those presidencies were interim. I
4 guess I'm the only person to have served as
5 president of the three of the community colleges
6 in Florida; in Panama City, in Gainesville and
7 in Key West.

8 For the benefit of the tens of thousands of
9 students who attend these twenty-eight state
10 colleges, some are still called community
11 colleges, but most are called state colleges.
12 One is even called the State College of Florida.

13 For the benefit of these tens of thousands
14 of students who attend these institutions, I
15 think it's imperative that we have our own
16 governing board at the state level.

17 The public schools have a governing board,
18 State Board of Education. The universities have
19 a governing board at the state level in addition
20 to their institutional boards and right now the
21 community colleges or state colleges are a part
22 of the governing system of the State Board of
23 Education.

24 And, as you can imagine, with the enormity
25 of the issues and the complexity of the issues,

1 often times these state colleges are overlooked
2 or the last to be heard or considered or
3 advocated for.

4 So I just ask you to consider the
5 possibility of adding the option to the people
6 of Florida of memorializing and creating a state
7 board of community colleges. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN TYREE: Thank you, Mr. Tyree. Pam
9 Dirschka. Tony Buscemi.

10 MS. DIRSCHKA: Hi. I'm Pam Dirschka and
11 I'm from Titusville, Florida. I'm a precinct
12 committee woman here, but I am representing
13 myself this afternoon.

14 I'm going to cut out a bunch. I was really
15 glad to hear the woman that spoke about the
16 environment earlier. It's under assault at both
17 the state and the federal level.

18 I've lived in Florida since 1980, most of
19 that up in the Panhandle. In 2013 we moved to
20 Titusville. I used to have a windsurfing
21 business up on Pensacola Beach, but now I'm not
22 even comfortable to go out in the water in the
23 Indian River Lagoon.

24 So I think that's something that we need to
25 pay a lot of attention to. It's encouraging

1 that there's been an effort in the state level
2 now to eliminate or not allow fracking. Florida
3 is so fragile that we really need to watch our
4 waters. It's really critical to all Floridians
5 that it be restored to an active eco system and
6 not what we have there now.

7 I'm going to share my time with my husband
8 who sent me a message to say that the Public
9 Service Commission must be changed from
10 legislature/governor selection, to an election
11 by the citizens or some mix of the two. The PSC
12 was complaining recently that only large,
13 wealthy homeowners were installing solar.

14 I would agree with that complaint and note
15 that the PSC created the rules that prevented
16 lower income people from options that might
17 allow them to participate and that is
18 third-party power agreements.

19 Solar had largely been opposed by the PSC
20 except for when the legislature ordered them to
21 offer rebates. Thank you.

22 MR. BERUFF: Thank you. Tony, please
23 pronounce your name for us.

24 MR. BUSCEMI: Good evening Chairman and
25 Commissioners. My name is Tony Buscemi from

1 Winter Park. I want to thank the prior speaker
2 for talking a bit about solar.

3 I am the head of an Orlando Chapter of the
4 Citizens Climate Lobby. We are a non-profit,
5 bipartisan group throughout Florida. I'm the
6 head of the Orlando Chapter. We have chapters
7 from top to bottom throughout Florida.

8 What we're trying to do is the impossible.
9 We're trying to bring Democrats, Republicans,
10 Independents together to do something about
11 climate change and we're making pretty good
12 ground actually.

13 I first got involved in it for my children.
14 I have a seven-year-old daughter and a
15 thirteen-year-old son and I've always been
16 worried what I'm going to be leaving behind for
17 them.

18 The more I got involved in the group I
19 realized that the problem is actually much more
20 immediate than I'd realized. It's not just
21 going to affect them down the road, but it's
22 going to affect me during my lifetime and
23 everyone during their lifetime.

24 Florida is uniquely susceptible to problems
25 related to climate change, whether it be sea

1 level rise, extreme weather, salt water
2 intrusion. We're actually in a pretty severe
3 drought right now here in Orlando and a lot of
4 you have districts on the East Coast and that
5 would have been devastated by Hurricane Matthew
6 last summer.

7 So what we're finding is that we're getting
8 a lot more bipartisan support from Florida
9 residents. My proposal would be for a
10 constitutional amendment that would require a
11 certain percentage of utility power generation
12 be generated by renewable sources.

13 Twenty-nine states have already done that,
14 including Texas and North Carolina where Duke
15 Energy, the largest utility in the country is
16 based. Illinois has one.

17 MR. BERUFF: You need to wrap up.

18 MR. BUSCEMI: So I would hope that you
19 would consider that and thank you very much for
20 your time.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Angela. I
22 only have one name on the card. There she is.
23 Angela, Cesar Esplanado I think and Rebecca
24 Wilkinson.

25 MS. MCHUGH (ph.): Hi. My name is Angela

1 McHugh. I'm here as a student at UCF, but I'm
2 specifically here in front of you today as a
3 representative of the Orlando Chapter of the
4 Democratic Socialists of America and one of our
5 biggest things that we're worried about
6 specifically with Florida is wage inequality.

7 Florida is one of the top five in the
8 country for wage inequality. One of the highest
9 grossing areas in terms of job growth is for
10 part-time minimum wage and minimum wage isn't
11 really livable right now as it stands.

12 So please, please consider that when you're
13 implementing this in terms of -- I'm sorry, I'm
14 not much of a public speaker -- in terms of
15 wages and what you can actually live off of.

16 As a student who lived off of minimum wage,
17 I can tell you I literally couldn't even afford
18 my rent, nonetheless food or basic other
19 requirements of living.

20 So please just consider that, especially
21 here in Central Florida where most of our jobs
22 are tourist based. They are mostly minimum wage
23 and that doesn't help a lot of our citizens in
24 terms of career growth. So thank you.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Cesar? Is

1 Cesar in the room? No. Rebecca Wilkinson,
2 Lyman Baker, Jan Harp.

3 MR. BAKER: I'm Lyman Baker and I'll just
4 resign my time so other people can have more
5 time.

6 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you so much.
7 Rebecca Wilkinson.

8 MS. WILKINSON: Same.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Jan Harp, David Brunell,
10 Randal Agostini I think.

11 MS. HARP: Hi. My name is Janese Harp.
12 I'm not sure what can be done about these
13 things, but the two things that are most
14 important to me are in regards to families and
15 homeowners insurance.

16 I'm dealing with issues with both right
17 now. For families, specifically parenting plans
18 and parent timesharing; to make changes to the
19 parenting plan. Right now the changes need to
20 be a significant change in circumstance.
21 There's nothing that really says what that
22 circumstance needs to be to be considered
23 significant.

24 So it would be more beneficial if a change
25 was determined to be significant or not early in

1 the petitioning process to save resources and
2 time. Right now the final judgments that we're
3 getting really aren't final.

4 A parent can decide they don't like the
5 terms of the plan on a whim and we're back in
6 court. So it would be nice if the final
7 judgments could be final.

8 For homeowners insurance, specifically in
9 regards to bad faith. There are some companies
10 that seem to consider having a third party
11 review a claim, your claim is being assessed and
12 that's all that they're responsible to do.

13 In my case I had significant water damage
14 in 2013. My son was seven months old when it
15 happened. He's going to be four years old next
16 week and I still don't have a payout from my
17 insurance company for \$75,000 in damage.

18 So for some kind of guideline change to be
19 enacted to have these insurance companies
20 properly process the claims, that would be very
21 beneficial and it's really important to me.

22 Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Please
24 announce your name when you come forward.

25 MR. AGOSTINI: My name is Randal Agostini.

1 Thank you for coming this evening. Thank you
2 for your service and your responsibility
3 attached to your service.

4 Article I, Section 3 known as the Blaine
5 Amendment restricts any religious organization
6 from receiving direct or indirect state
7 financial aid, essentially creating a state
8 monopoly to process our children.

9 When the Blaine Amendment was imposed on
10 our schooling system it was vastly different.
11 Though the amendment was specifically directed
12 to the Catholic Church, schools at that time
13 provided a Christian education with the belief
14 that all souls are capable of achieving
15 salvation.

16 It is well known that public schools no
17 longer allow prayer and Christian beliefs are
18 actually ridiculed, intellectual and physical
19 acts that are hostile and discriminatory to the
20 free exercise of religion, which in itself is
21 contradictory to what is stipulated in our Bill
22 of Rights.

23 Furthermore, there is no such commodity as
24 state funds. For education in Florida school
25 expenses are paid by citizen taxation. The

1 principle of using taxation for the common good
2 relinquishes all meaning when use of such funds
3 are purposely denied citizens on the basis of
4 their religion.

5 Since salvation is the most important
6 achievement for me and my progeny and since a
7 Christian education is fundamental to this
8 achievement, I am asking that you remove this
9 discriminatory and antiquated provision.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Kim Porteous,
11 Lynn Peterson and Zaineb Saied. Thank you.

12 MS. PORTEOUS: Hi. Thank you for being
13 here. I'm Kim Porteous. I'm very grateful --
14 actually no, I'm privileged to be a resident of
15 Orlando, Florida and the United States. I know
16 a lot of people who don't have that such
17 privilege.

18 I also am a woman. I noticed that right
19 off you guys are choosing so much about our
20 future and you're mostly guys. Women make up
21 fifty-one percent of Florida, forty percent of
22 you.

23 I'm also a victim of rape. I was raped by
24 a white man and one in five women are raped in
25 America and probably more than that.

1 And it's not only that, it's offensive that
2 we're not addressing that issue. Instead we're
3 attacking women's rights. Planned Parenthood
4 absolutely needs to be available, accessible.
5 Women need to have reproductive freedom.

6 We need to deal with our men issue raping
7 women, not what women do with their uteruses.
8 That should be off the table. It's insulting
9 that it even comes up.

10 It's been decision made and it should be
11 against all people and women and men should not
12 even address it at all. Women's rights have to
13 be protected. That's what you're supposed to
14 do, protect all of us.

15 Women need equal pay. Minimum wage is not
16 livable. We need a livable wage. We can't
17 expect our people to raise their families
18 without a livable wage. We need health
19 insurance. We need universal health insurance.

20 We also need prison reform. Since Governor
21 Scott has taken office four hundred and
22 ninety-four inmates have died from either
23 murder, homicide, suicide, pending
24 investigations. This is too much. Private
25 prisons must be stopped. We must have prison

1 reform. I want everyone to watch -- you better
2 watch the 13th if you think that you serve
3 anyone in America.

4 And voters' rights need to be absolutely
5 restored. African Americans have been attacked
6 left, right and center for decades and
7 generations and we need to have the right to
8 vote restored.

9 There are more African Americans in prisons
10 than there are representing in our country. We
11 have got to deal with our prison issue and we
12 need to give the voters rights back.

13 Gun laws. We need reasonable gun laws. We
14 also need --

15 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Lynn
16 Peterson, Zaineb and Carla Garcia.

17 MS. PETERSON: My name is Lynn Peterson and
18 you've been thanked many times for being here,
19 but I would like to thank the crowd.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

21 MS. PETERSON: I'm a member of the West
22 Volusia Audubon Society and a retired teacher
23 here in Florida and I learned of this meeting
24 just a few days ago which gave us fairly short
25 notice to gather our thoughts and respond to

1 your committee.

2 I decided to come here because I read about
3 some red flags raised recently in Florida about
4 our Sunshine Laws here.

5 And I would like to ask you to make sure
6 that no further erosions of these Sunshine Laws
7 occur so that we as constituents can trust that
8 we can access information if we want it and
9 we're getting the information about those things
10 that go on in our state.

11 I'm also here to ask you or to state to you
12 that Florida needs strong constitutional laws
13 for our water, air and lands that are
14 unequivocally necessary for life.

15 And I know you've heard this and I'm going
16 to say it again, not one single person can live
17 without drinkable water and breathable air. If
18 you don't help us protect that, we're in
19 terrible trouble. Actually I think we are.

20 I worked very hard on Amendment 1. I
21 worked nearly every weekend for almost a year to
22 gather almost a million signatures required and
23 then our state legislators terribly perverted
24 the use of that money.

25 I would like you to strengthen that so that

1 those perversions cannot occur and it can be
2 used in the way it's supposed to be used.

3 My last statement is we need to concentrate
4 our state money into public schools so that
5 everybody gets the same kind of education
6 regardless of anything.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Zaineb? Is
8 Zaineb here? No. Carla Garcia. Timothy Cook.
9 Timothy Shane Cook. Josafat Alvarez. We'll
10 keep going. Trevor Reilly. Valentina
11 Velasquez. No. Harry Scott Boggs. There he
12 is. Frank Coprio. Jeffrey Smith. And you are?

13 MR. BOGGS: I'm Harry Scott Boggs. Don't
14 start the time yet. Procedurally speaking,
15 again, the cards that were signed and delivered,
16 did you say at the beginning that this is going
17 to be on the Department of State website -- I
18 mean on the governor's website?

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: It's all being televised
20 and we'll have it on our own CRC website.

21 MR. BOGGS: On the CRC website.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes. Go ahead.

23 MR. BOGGS: Thank you. The cards that were
24 signed and delivered, they're not being shuffled
25 or anything.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: No, they're in the order
2 that we received them.

3 MR. BOGGS: Chronologically. Okay. I just
4 wondered. Now that we have a chuckle, this is
5 not going to be something to chuckle about much
6 because it's -- I guess I can just put it in the
7 form of a resolution.

8 Resolve that the CRC determine that a
9 constitutional amendment be proposed for the
10 State of Florida to severely limit Physicians'
11 Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment, POLST, or
12 it can be resaid that you move that legal
13 immunity for physicians or healthcare workers
14 invoking POLST be severely restricted.

15 This week in Hawaii on Monday that state
16 -- a lot of states are going through a cluster
17 boxing match with a lot of confusion. Hawaii,
18 Nevada and Maine all are going to try to,
19 through their legislatures, invoke
20 physician-assisted suicide.

21 It failed two days ago in Hawaii. It's
22 still pending in the other two states. I don't
23 know where to begin describing the threat that
24 POLST and physician-assisted suicide can invoke
25 on society. It's just too much to talk about.

1 Just think of a single person that you've
2 known who's vulnerable in your life, anytime in
3 your life who might be a victim of things like
4 physician-assisted suicide or POLST.

5 Lastly, the only thing is websites to look
6 into this,
7 disabledrightseducationanddefensefund.org or the
8 name of this one is going to throw you off,
9 notdeadyet.org in Rochester, New York. Check it
10 out. Thanks for your time.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Who's next?
12 Jeffrey Smith. Who's coming up?

13 MR. CAPRIO: Frank Caprio. You got it
14 close. Frank Caprio like Leonardo Di. First of
15 all, ladies and gentlemen, one thing I'd like to
16 ask you when you're pursuing this business is
17 keep things into perspective.

18 We have a Federal Constitution that's been
19 around for almost two hundred and thirty years.
20 We've only had twenty-seven amendments to that
21 constitution, ten of those being immediately
22 after its ratification which was the Bill of
23 Rights.

24 All I'm trying to say is be judicious in
25 what you propose. It would be better to propose

1 nothing than to propose something bad. Just
2 keep that in mind.

3 A couple of other things that I've heard.
4 Recall, ballot initiatives, referendums, they're
5 not in line with our constitutional republic.
6 They move us closer to a democracy which history
7 has proved is a failing system.

8 Government is not here to redistribute
9 wealth, to give from the people who make it to
10 give to the people who need it. Government is
11 not here to pick winners or losers in business.

12 There is one reason that we tolerate
13 government here in the country and that's to
14 protect our rights. To secure these rights
15 governments are instituted among men. That's
16 was written in a very famous document I hope
17 you've all read.

18 If there is one change that you would like
19 to make and people talk about Home Rule, the
20 ultimate Home Rule is Florida being a sovereign
21 entity in this republic. We're moving away from
22 that paradigm and as we do we see the results.

23 I would love a statement to say something
24 simply like the sovereignty of Florida is
25 absolute and that it is our duty to protect the

1 rights of the citizens that live in this state
2 from anybody who wants to violate them whether
3 it's domestic or foreign.

4 I see my time is running down. Real quick.
5 Washington, D.C. is one of the biggest violators
6 of our rights. Thomas Jefferson and James
7 Madison both agreed that there's a term called
8 nullification where the states reject
9 unconstitutional acts by the Federal Government
10 and they protect their citizens. I would hope
11 that you would think about that. I'll
12 definitely send you something.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Jeffrey
14 Smith.

15 MR. SMITH: Yes. My name is Jeffrey Smith.
16 I am the elected Clerk of the Circuit Court in
17 Indian River County, Florida. I'm here on
18 behalf of the Clerks of Court in the entire
19 State of Florida to offer our services to you
20 during this process, to thank you for your
21 service.

22 I'm a graduate of two universities at the
23 same time, UCF and FTU. So that tells you how
24 old I am. Thank you.

25 MR. BERUFF: Thank you. We have Arnold

1 Diehl, John Ti -- I can't read the writing.

2 John, T-i-t-k-a-r-i-c-h, something think.

3 Please go ahead.

4 MR. DIEHL: Thank you. I'm Arnold Diehl.
5 Twenty years ago people just like me asked the
6 CRC to add language drafted by a committee known
7 as Floridians for Medical Rights to the
8 amendments proposed by that commission.

9 Around the state commissioners heard from
10 sick people who were already using cannabis.
11 They were people who believed that they should
12 have the right to continue their cannabis use
13 under the protection of the law.

14 The commissioners agreed that this issue
15 was of grave concern, but in the eleventh hour
16 concluded that it did not rise to the level of
17 constitution protections. They believed that
18 the legislature should create expectations for
19 patients to use cannabis plant in their own
20 health concerns as supplemental treatment.

21 It took eighteen years and a threatened
22 constitutional amendment before the legislature
23 would even pick up the issue. For the last
24 three years the THC program and the legislature
25 allowing the terminally ill to access the

1 program has failed to meet the needs of the
2 people who are already using cannabis or those
3 who were promised relief under the existing
4 Florida Statutes.

5 Despite expensive studies on the use
6 cannabis federal laws prohibit cannabis use and
7 continue to be a stumbling block for the Florida
8 lawmakers. We understand the lawmakers swear to
9 take an oath to uphold the Florida Constitution
10 and the laws of the United States.

11 After the passage of Amendment 2, the Ninth
12 and Tenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution
13 protect Florida from federal intervention under
14 our marijuana program. However, the legislature
15 seems content to give sick people extractions
16 and preparations for the plan.

17 Since support of the idea of the cannabis
18 plan and all uses have been beneficial to humans
19 we think the people are years ahead of the
20 lawmakers and the legalization. The incremental
21 steps towards cannabis reform or waiting on
22 federal government for guidance is not
23 acceptable.

24 Therefore, we are asking the commission to
25 put the rights of adults to cannabis to Division

1 of Election Serial Number 15-20 on the 2018
2 ballot. We must bring as many people as
3 possible under the rule of law and its
4 protection so that no person is left outside the
5 rule of law.

6 We ensure that no one is going to jail for
7 the cannabis plant. We ensure no one is forced
8 to the mental health treatment, no other reason
9 than the possession of the plant.

10 We want a valid public safety concerns.
11 Legalization saves taxpayers money on petty
12 possession crimes. The legislature craft
13 rules --

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: You need to wrap up.

15 MR. DIEHL: -- cannabis industry under
16 Sunshine where the public's health is concerned.
17 I just want you to know one last thing because I
18 should have had three minutes.

19 The proposed amendment that we provided you
20 today has received signatures from over 10,000
21 people around the state. We have supporters in
22 forty-nine counties who have signed the
23 petition. Over the coming months you will hear
24 from them.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

1 MR. TITKANICH: Good even, Mr. Chairman.
2 My name is John Titkanich and I'm the city
3 manager for the City of Cocoa. First I'd like
4 to thank each of you for your service to our
5 state and for the immense responsibility that
6 you have upon you in helping to shape Florida's
7 future.

8 The State of Florida is not homogeneous.
9 We are a state of more than twenty million and
10 by 2020 our anticipated growth will be
11 twenty-two million.

12 Currently more than half of our residents
13 live in incorporated areas. If the current
14 legislative session has demonstrated one clear
15 intent it is to substitute its wisdom for that
16 of local communities and the more than three
17 thousand elected local officials to
18 self-determine their future and adopt community
19 standards important to the residents of
20 counties, cities and towns.

21 Home Rule, in spite of it's incorporation
22 in the State Constitution in 1968, is for all
23 intents and purposes under attack. Local
24 governments address the needs and provide the
25 necessary services our collective constituents

1 expect from government daily in the trenches.

2 Legislature has been filed that will return
3 us to the days prior to voter-approved Home
4 Rule. Should this pass in either this session
5 or a future session, the legislative process
6 will be mired with untold bills by local
7 government seeking parental authority to act on
8 behalf of the citizens they serve who are
9 petitioning them to address a certain matter.

10 I would like to believe this body use the
11 government closest to the people best serves the
12 interests of we the people and arguably to make
13 government more accountable to the people they
14 serve year round.

15 Elected officials are in the community,
16 they're meeting folks on a daily basis twice a
17 month at council meetings. Unfortunately it
18 appears the wisdom of the legislature is that
19 they know best for our community.

20 Skipping to the end I respectfully
21 encourage the commission to fully review and
22 clarify the principles of Home Rule and our
23 State Constitution, revisit and propose
24 revisions to strengthen Article VIII, Sections 1
25 and 2 of our State Constitution to ensure that

1 Home Rule is a fundamental principle embedded in
2 our constitution, a standard that cannot be
3 merely preempted by the legislature absent
4 deliberate consideration to the impacts of local
5 governments and the constituents they serve and
6 should be --

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. We've got it.
8 Cleve Josephs, Deborah Green, Suz Remus.

9 MR. JOSEPHS: My name is Cleve Josephs. My
10 main issue here is open primaries and
11 restoration of voter rights. I'm a naturalized
12 U.S. citizen. Every time there's an election I
13 go out and I vote.

14 It's just very frustrating when you look at
15 the turnout for the elections, like the last
16 gubernatorial election. I think thirty percent
17 of Floridians that were eligible to vote turned
18 up. So theoretically fifteen percent of
19 eligible Floridians elected our governor.

20 You know, someone spoke earlier about the
21 competition of this commission. Ninety percent
22 of you are political appointees, forty percent
23 by the governor, fifty percent by the
24 legislature.

25 So I'm also wondering did I drive half way

1 across town in hot traffic for an academic
2 exercise. Are you guys listening to what we
3 have to say, but you're going to go behind doors
4 and do what you want to do?

5 The governor has done several things that
6 have attacked voter rights. Voter rights seems
7 to be a big topic here. So I would ask that
8 there be some transparency on the website, you
9 put out some sort of a rubric.

10 How are you guys and ladies going to decide
11 what you propose as constitutional amendments?

12 Are you going to keep some sort of a tally
13 as to what topics are being brought up? There
14 needs to be some transparency, because again,
15 ninety percent of you are political appointees.

16 Again, I drove across town for this and I
17 just feel like I wasted my time unless there is
18 some transparency.

19 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you for your time.
20 I'd like to opine on that. Everything that we
21 produce will be on our website. So there's no
22 -- you'll be available to pick and choose
23 whatever document you want to review.

24 Everything that's sent into the public will
25 be on the website. We will be completely

1 transparent in the policy and you can opine on
2 the documents as you read them. Thank you. Ms.
3 Green.

4 MS. GREEN: Deborah Green, retired
5 community college professor. Thank you,
6 Commissioners, all of you. The constitution is
7 an expression of our shared values and a value
8 that was identified as very important as the
9 belief in the importance of conservation land
10 and our parks. That was demonstrated by the
11 2014 seventy-five percent voting for
12 Amendment 1.

13 The fact that it has not gone as we
14 anticipated I think is because the procedure of
15 nominating lands under the Florida Forever
16 program which was started in the '60s, it's all
17 very worked out. Ranking of lands by endangered
18 species, recreation value, water resources; all
19 these things.

20 The fact that it was almost forgotten by
21 the legislature, perhaps because of term limits,
22 they don't have enough historical memory of the
23 process since it hasn't been emphasized for
24 quite a while, but in any case, perhaps it
25 should be removed from the legislature and just

1 the process that worked to get all of these
2 millions of acres of lands into the public hands
3 for water purposes, aquifer recharge, flood
4 control, as well as recreation and wildlife
5 habitat, that perhaps that same procedure should
6 be codified in the constitution and just this
7 money that's been designated just follow that
8 procedure rather than having to go through the
9 legislature who perhaps is not familiar with the
10 process.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Suz Remus,
12 Derek Ryan, Mark Schmidter.

13 MS. REMUS: Hi there. I'm Suz Remus and
14 I'm a recent graduate of psychology and I will
15 be actually walking here at UCF in June.

16 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Congratulations.

17 MS. REMOS: So I'm really excited about
18 what I have to bring to you. Right now we have
19 two bills in the Senate and the House and it has
20 to do with psychological child abuse.

21 And it states that -- let me look down
22 here. Our bill states that it's relating to the
23 child abuse laws in 39.01 and 39.201. The two
24 main parts it discusses what is harm for a
25 child.

1 We're amending those child abuse laws to
2 include child psychological abuse. It states
3 that paragraph M, the subsequent 30 of 39.01 and
4 it reads, 39.01 definition; when used in this
5 chapter unless context otherwise requires, harm
6 to a child's health or welfare can occur when
7 any person inflicts mental injury as defined in
8 Subsection 42 on the child through the use of
9 manipulation or psychological abuse including,
10 but not limited to parental alienation, which we
11 are amending to say pathogenic parenting, which
12 creates a significant developmental pathology.

13 This is the first criteria for a child to
14 have this -- to be diagnosed for child
15 psychological abuse. So parental alienation
16 which creates a significant developmental
17 psychology, personality disorder pathology or
18 delusional psychiatric pathology as diagnosed by
19 a mental health professional licensed under
20 Chapter 490 or Chapter 491.

21 What it moves on to is it says for purpose
22 of mandatory reporting requirements this section
23 on child abuse includes harm or mental injury as
24 these terms are defined.

25 The Board of Psychology within the

1 Department of Health shall revise the
2 requirements for renewal of a license to
3 practice psychology pursuant to 490.007, Florida
4 Statutes to require continuing education
5 regarding child psychological abuse, including
6 but not limited to abuse by manipulation and
7 parental alienation.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: You going to have to wrap
9 up.

10 MS. REMOS: I will wrap up.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: With more complicated
12 matters like that, if you write the narrative
13 and turn it in to us, we have teams of people
14 that will be working with us and attorneys that
15 can get through this and then respond in
16 accordance with your comments.

17 MS. REMOS: Great. I did have my act
18 together, but I would say that this underpins
19 all of society. There's going to be a lot of
20 people changing because this is family and we're
21 going to find out that every citizen has to be
22 made accountable for this law.

23 MR. BERUFF: Thank you very much. Derek
24 Ryan, Mark Schmidter, Doug Hedd, H-e-d-d. James
25 Guldi. Who's speaking?

1 MR. RYAN: My name is Derek Ryan. I am a
2 recovering Republican and very proud
3 Libertarian. I am actually the chairman of the
4 Libertarian party of Orange County and I
5 appreciate you guys coming here very much.

6 I'm a big fan of small government, a former
7 ideal with the Republican party. So I'm
8 certainly a fan in that regard.

9 I'm here to tell you that as the chairman
10 of the Libertarian party of Orange County I
11 believe in small government. I believe in the
12 abolishment of crony capitalism which is the
13 unholy marriage of government and
14 incorporations.

15 I believe in an absolute free market with
16 minimal regulation that empowers the small
17 business owners and job creators of the state
18 and promotes free competition to drive the costs
19 of goods and services down.

20 I believe we should deschedule cannabis
21 immediately and promote the production of
22 industrial hemp. Florida should absolutely lead
23 the United States in the goods that can be
24 created from a plant called hemp. You can't
25 even smoke it. You cannot get high. Please do

1 some research, guys.

2 I grew up in Apopka, Florida where we used
3 to have orange groves spreading all across.
4 Western Orange County. You used to be able to
5 own small businesses in Apopka. You could have
6 a few acres and have a nursery and have a small
7 business and profit and provide for your family.

8 That's gone away for many reasons, cold,
9 freezes, et cetera, et cetera. Hemp can do that
10 again. When hemp comes to Florida let's not
11 make it so that five or six ag companies in the
12 state -- my dad just retired from one of those
13 five that will be medicinal cannibis growers. I
14 have a little insight on it.

15 Let's make it free. Let's make people
16 where if you have a small piece of land you can
17 grow hemp and you can sell it to brokers and
18 introduce goods into the market and you can have
19 a small business and grow your family and be
20 successful.

21 I'm kind of a passionate kind of guy. I
22 believe governments should stop trying to solve
23 things that the free market can solve much
24 better such as education, healthcare, insurance,
25 wages; basically everything will be better if

1 government will get out of the way and let the
2 free market do it.

3 On behalf of the Libertarians in Orange
4 County, Florida I ask that you do not promote
5 any constitutional amendment unless they reduce
6 the size of government and empower the
7 individual rights to life, liberty and the
8 pursuit of happiness, promote a healthy and free
9 market and get out of the way of small business
10 owners and promote free competition.

11 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Next speaker
12 please.

13 MR. SCHMIDTER: My name is Mark Schmidter.
14 I've been here forty years. I'm one of the
15 people of Florida. I'm a resident of Orange
16 County. I've raised two sons and buried three
17 dogs.

18 Basically what I'm here for is a notice of
19 fraud for the lack of authority from we the
20 people. The only way a valid constitution can
21 be written or revised is by the people or the
22 delegates selected by the people for that
23 purpose. You are not any of those delegates
24 selected.

25 I put this piece of paper on there so

1 you've got a copy of it. Article I, Section 1
2 of the Constitution of the State of Florida, all
3 political powers inherent in the people, not in
4 the revise commission, even though I did read
5 your flyer here that it was supposedly licensed
6 twenty years ago, but it's unconstitutional.

7 Article I, Section 5. The people have the
8 right to peaceably assemble and instruct the
9 representatives and to petition redress of
10 grievances. We the people hereby declare the
11 Florida Constitution Revision Commission is
12 unlawful, lacks any authority from we the people
13 and you're impersonating public servants. Even
14 though I like all you guys, basically you're
15 illegal.

16 Article I, Section 1 makes it clear that
17 all political powers inherent in the people and
18 only the people can choose the delegates. The
19 people did not choose you people. I gotta let
20 you know that.

21 Okay. And delegates to make or revise the
22 constitution, then and only then can the
23 revision process take place. The fact that each
24 of you on the revision commission are acting
25 outside the delegated authority of we the people

1 makes you impersonating a civil servant and
2 you're also acting in the color of law which is
3 a felony.

4 Neither the current governor nor the
5 Florida Legislation has the delegated authority
6 from the people, us, to appoint you to an
7 unlawful revision code. Thank you very much.
8 Mark Schmidter, Administrative Investigator for
9 the Florida People's Statewide Grand Jury.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Next speaker. Thank you.

11 MR. HEDD: My name is Doug Hedd. I sort of
12 disagree with the last testimony. I think Mr.
13 Pennisi's remarks earlier about the process, you
14 have to pay a lot of attention to it to require
15 legitimacy.

16 I have been much involved over the years in
17 Orange County's charter review process and I
18 think that it has given me some sense of some
19 solutions for some of the problems you might
20 face.

21 One is I think you ought to get a bunch of
22 academics together to assist you in just writing
23 up an entirely academic twenty-five-page or
24 thirty-page history of this process and how the
25 constitution has been revised, how such

1 commissions as yours have been created.

2 I think that such history would inform the
3 public. They would have a better understanding
4 of the scope of your services and the scope of
5 what you can provide us.

6 I'd also suggest that as ideas come forward
7 that your deliberating process has got to be
8 open and transparent, not just the hearing
9 process, but as you are deliberating over the
10 ideas that are coming to you today, each of them
11 should either be sponsored or should find a
12 sponsor amongst your members and then should be
13 delegated to some kind of committee structure
14 where you can flush it out and really review it
15 in a fair and adequate process.

16 I think that open process for deliberations
17 is really the thing the citizens are looking
18 for. They're not looking for demonstrations in
19 their capacity to stand at microphones. They're
20 looking for demonstrations of the idea that
21 you're really listening to them, really
22 considering their ideas and really flushing them
23 out. Thank you very much.

24 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

25 MR. GULDI: I am James Guldi, a Florida

1 native and I also -- I'm a non-attorney member
2 of one of the 18th Circuit grievance committees
3 in Brevard County. That's related to the topic
4 that I'm addressing here, judicial term limits.

5 We've heard a lot about this recently in
6 the media and in the legislature and I want to
7 just stand here and say that I'm opposed to the
8 imposition of term limits on judges, especially
9 at the Supreme Court and at the Court of Appeals
10 level.

11 We already have a democratic process that
12 provides for retention or non-retention and
13 there's rarely any action on the non-retention
14 front.

15 Those serving in a judicial capacity make a
16 significant commitment and the attorneys on the
17 commission I'm sure are familiar. If a judge is
18 going to serve, he or she is going to commit a
19 significant portion of his or her career and to
20 step aside from the practice of law for many
21 years and then to have the prospect of going
22 back and starting over again is something that I
23 think is too much to ask of someone who's
24 already going to be sacrificing considerable
25 time and effort. That's the limit of what I

1 want to say. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.

3 Diane Jones, Debbie Soto and Shariee

4 Hollingsworth.

5 MS. JONES: Hello, everybody. My name is

6 Diane Jones. I'm from Sanford, Florida. I work

7 for Organize Florida via the Racial Justice

8 Committee. I'm not very knowledgeable about the

9 constitution, but these are the issues that are

10 dear to me and I wish you would write an

11 initiative and place it on the ballot so Florida

12 can vote on it.

13 They are Ban the Box. One, Two, Three

14 Strikes You're Out law. A lot of people are in

15 prison for non-violent crimes. They've been

16 there a long time and I wish that Florida could

17 vote them out.

18 Second chances, third, fourth, fifth, sixth

19 chances for returning citizens. I don't think

20 anybody has the right to constantly pry in your

21 past for a whole lifetime. There should be a

22 time limit on that.

23 School or prison pipelines. I don't know

24 what we can do about it, but I wish there was

25 something on the ballot so that we could vote on

1 it, so that we could do something about it that
2 way.

3 Privatization of prisons is just another
4 form of slavery. That's all I have to say.
5 That's all I know, but I wish I could vote on
6 these issues instead of somebody deciding that
7 they should be and I have no power to change it.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Debbie Soto
9 and Shariee Hollingsworth.

10 MS. SOTO: Good evening. My name is Debbie
11 Soto. I'm the president of the Board of
12 Directors of Organize Florida. I'm a proud
13 product of Miami Dade and Broward County
14 Schools.

15 So I would like to ask you to stop taking
16 the funds away from education. This is the
17 future of not only our state, but our country
18 and we should be investing more into education
19 so that we are better prepared to meet the
20 challenges and opportunities of a global
21 economy.

22 Do not invest in religious groups funding
23 because there is the separation of church and
24 state. Those much needed citizen funds should
25 benefit all citizens, not a select few. Invest

1 those dollars where they're needed most and that
2 is in education.

3 As a first generation child of immigrant
4 families, I'm very proud of that, Florida
5 heavily relies upon its tourism and agricultural
6 industry which are heavily employed with
7 immigrant workers.

8 As such we should be on the forefront and
9 take a stand and make sure that we take measures
10 to change the constitution to finally and once
11 and for all address immigration reform in a just
12 and humane manner, understanding that these are
13 people and not numbers.

14 What Mr. Trump is proposing is cruel and
15 inhumane and we in Florida should not take his
16 side on that. This country was founded and
17 built by immigrants, so let's not belittle those
18 lives and let's not forget that the Declaration
19 of Independence is pro immigrant. Who are we to
20 change the words our forefathers worked so
21 diligently to draft and enforce?

22 Lastly I'd like to say please do not take
23 away a woman's rights. Our bodies are our
24 choices. The government does not control our
25 bodies and if you are going to try to control

1 our bodies, have some women say, because what I
2 see here is a bunch of men trying to tell us
3 women how to handle our bodies. Thank you.

4 MR. BERUFF: Shariee Hollingsworth.
5 Melissa Martin. Arthur Dutton. Yes, ma'am.
6 Please come forward. Thank you.

7 MS. MARTIN: Good evening, Mr. Chairman.
8 Melissa Martin. I'm from Cocoa. I was born and
9 raised in Orlando. I retired from the Marine
10 Corps as a staff judge advocate a couple of
11 years ago. I moved my family to Cocoa for many
12 reasons, but I'll just cut to the chase.

13 My heart is with the multiple oaths of
14 office I took. So for the U.S. Constitution,
15 the Florida Constitution, the people, the
16 passion; I can talk about it and write it up
17 later.

18 So three ideas for your consideration.
19 First, ranked choice voting. If you could just
20 write that down for me so I don't have to waste
21 time talking about it. I believe it is
22 something that we can definitely look into and
23 see if it's in the best interest of the people.
24 Some people believe so.

25 Second thing. A hundred dollar credit for

1 taxpayers to provide their candidates of choice
2 during elections. That is also something I will
3 follow up on and provide the necessary section
4 amendments, et cetera, for your consideration.

5 That in a sense is helping to provide more
6 power and voice of the people by way of money
7 equals speech to the candidates of their choice
8 so candidates and public officials, once they
9 take office, they will be beholden again to the
10 people and not just their few campaign donors
11 that really, truly pay their way to office.

12 So the third one is the most important of
13 course and it's about accountability. I believe
14 that the people have a right to expect loyalty
15 from their public officials and I think that
16 right is inherent in the oath of office. I
17 believe by general law I think that the
18 commission should consider writing something
19 into our Declaration of Rights perhaps,
20 Amendment 28 of the constitution, Article I. I
21 will talk more about that later. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

23 MR. DUTTON: My name is Anthony Dutton and
24 I reside in Melbourne in Brevard County.
25 Unfortunately none of the members of the

1 commission are from that part of the state.

2 I am also a former director of the Florida
3 League of Women Voters and I'm currently a
4 director and first vice president of the Space
5 Coast League of Women Voters.

6 So I would like to just address a few
7 procedural matters rather than substantive
8 matters today. I'd like to ask that you hold
9 public hearings around the state so we can
10 comment after the commission has decided which
11 issues it wants to give serious attention to.
12 These people, as you can see, care about those
13 issues.

14 Would you very soon publish information
15 about how we ordinary Floridians can tell the
16 commission what issues we want to bring forward
17 and to bring forward on our own and exactly how
18 we would do it procedurally.

19 And finally I strongly encourage you to
20 require commission members to attend the
21 hearings unless they have some emergency that
22 requires them not to be here. I know it's a
23 burden, but you all asked to be part of that
24 burden.

25 Secondly, please try not to permit

1 attendance by telephone. You really can't pay
2 attention on the phone for three or four hours
3 and you don't know who else is on the phone.

4 And lastly, please give ample notice. I
5 know this meeting was called in a hurry to get
6 it started, but please give ample notice of
7 meetings to both members and the public so that
8 the most number of people can participate.
9 That's my comments for now. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Scott Cromar
11 and Stephanie -- I can't pronounce -- that's
12 you? Okay.

13 MR. CROMAR: My name is Scott Cromar. I
14 want to tell you all about an experience I had
15 little while ago. I was collecting signatures
16 to restore voting rights to people who had
17 served their time, felons who had served their
18 time.

19 I think this is a really important issue.
20 As I was talking to people, I talked to people
21 who were Republicans, who were Democrats, people
22 of all colors, people of all backgrounds, of all
23 ages and these people signed my petition, not my
24 petition, the petition to restore people's
25 rights.

1 The question I ask is have you ever done
2 something stupid in your life? I know I can't
3 ask you guys to raise hands. Maybe you smoked
4 pot. Maybe you served on an illegal commission.
5 I don't know.

6 One single stupid decision should not
7 define your entire life. The current system
8 shows no mercy. It shows no humanity. It is
9 un-American. The American way is that we allow
10 people to vote. We allow people to have a say
11 in their society.

12 If we want people who have served their
13 time to reintegrate into society and become
14 full-fledged members of society again, we have
15 to give them a voice and a way to have a say in
16 it. Thank you very much.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.
18 Stephanie.

19 MS. LIVIGNI: My name is Stephanie Livigni.
20 Thank you for the attempt. I'm a graduate
21 student here at UCF in interdisciplinary studies
22 with a focus in mental health and justice and
23 advocacy which is what I've come to talk to you
24 about today.

25 Florida is at the bottom of the list when

1 it comes to the mental health services funding
2 per citizen. Mental illness and addiction is
3 something that affects everyone, whether it is a
4 personal struggle or that of a family member or
5 a loved one.

6 I see no mention of mental health care in
7 the current constitution, so I'd urge you all to
8 include it in the language regarding healthcare
9 to be specific about including mental healthcare
10 as well in order to practice and stigma.

11 In addition to that I would also urge the
12 committee to revise the definition of marriage
13 in Article I, Section 27 to recognize same sex
14 marriage as the Supreme Court has done and to
15 ensure that sexual orientation and gender
16 identity are protected classes in Article I,
17 Section 2.

18 The LGBT community in Orlando would really
19 appreciate that. Thank you all for your time
20 and your attention.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.
22 Sara Grimes. Diamond -- and I can't pronounce
23 it. Devalle. Irwin -- yes, ma'am. Please go
24 ahead.

25 MS. GRIMES: Hi. I'm Sara Grimes. I would

1 like to ask you to please revisit our
2 constitution and the laws that deal with auto
3 insurance. I feel that there's is a great need
4 to revisit this and revise the current laws that
5 we do have on the books.

6 First of all we have personal injury
7 protection and, as you all know, that has a
8 \$10,000 limit for medical care. This was set
9 almost thirty years ago and our costs have risen
10 dramatically in that time, so that \$10,000
11 covers virtually nothing if you have an auto
12 accident. Just one trip to the hospital and
13 that coverage is gone.

14 We're stuck here with our UIM policy that
15 is marketed to the citizens to take over and
16 cover our medical needs if you're in an auto
17 accident with an uninsured driver or an
18 underinsured driver.

19 And I've found that this is extremely
20 lacking and it's processing by the insurance
21 company that claims process is virtually
22 non-existent because the insurance companies
23 really don't want to pay out on those policies.

24 I have information that in Texas the
25 insurance companies get a billion dollars a year

1 from people paying in for the uninsured motorist
2 coverage.

3 I don't know what it is in here in Florida,
4 but I'm going to guess it's a similar amount.
5 So that is a lot of money that is not going out
6 in claims.

7 The claim process is just very convoluted
8 and once you've had an accident, you go to the
9 hospital, then you need further care.

10 I have tried for me myself. My auto has a
11 big X on the back that says hit me. So when I
12 had tried to get further care, I've called like
13 the Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, various
14 doctors and everything. They will not see you
15 if they know that it's auto related.

16 This is a travesty because we'll all be
17 involved in an auto accident sometime and
18 medical care is very important for our recovery,
19 for our society for being productive members.

20 Once you're denied the medical care you're
21 really kind of locked out of our society. I'm
22 sorry.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: I think your issue is
24 worthwhile, but you need to write this to us and
25 just send us an e-mail through our website which

1 gives you more freedom and more time to address
2 it.

3 MS. GRIMES: Okay.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

5 MS. GRIMES: Okay. Also, can I just bring
6 up two other issues? The Medicaid expansion --

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: There are other people
8 that want to be heard.

9 MS. GRIMES: -- the Medicaid expansion in
10 the state and the ADA disability laws need to be
11 revised.

12 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Diamond.

13 MS. DELVALLE: Hi. My name is Diamond
14 Delvalle. I just want to thank everybody for
15 coming today and everyone as well. I first want
16 to talk about something because I brought it up
17 to my senators and I really haven't had a
18 response for several months.

19 In the 2016 election Hispanics in Florida
20 were unregistered to vote because of their
21 origin, their Latino or Hispanic name origins.
22 I wanted to talk to you guys about that issue,
23 bring awareness to it and what are we going to
24 do for the next coming elections with the
25 unregistering of Hispanic voter citizens as well

1 in America.

2 Also, I'd like to talk about public schools
3 because I do teach in public schools. I don't
4 want to defund them. I want to continue funding
5 them. We need to really focus on learning
6 disabilities, students who have learning
7 disabilities and behavioral issues. They don't
8 really have any funding or any educational
9 guidance to help them develop as citizens.

10 Also, police reform as well. I notice that
11 we're hiring new police officers. I would like
12 for police reform to include education covering
13 intense deescalation tactics, as well as
14 diversity of religions and culture.

15 I believe that police officers should very
16 well learn human anatomy, as well as mental
17 health and disabilities as well. There should
18 be influence of that.

19 Also, for small businesses I notice Florida
20 is really big for corporations and really big on
21 people with a lot of money. I am a small
22 business owner. If you guys can focus on small
23 businesses and how we can also grow as well and
24 make a difference. I think that's it.

25 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: You did great. Very

1 good. Thank you.

2 MS. DELVALLE: Oh, and also no oil
3 pipelines in Florida. Thank you. One second.
4 I'm organizing a community unity event in
5 Sanford, free food, free bounce houses to
6 everybody. On Facebook Community Unity Sanford.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Irwin.

8 MR. EISENSTEIN: Irwin Eisenstein.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Irwin.

10 MR. EISENSTEIN: The first issue I want to
11 raise is one of legal aid because Florida is one
12 of four states in the country that doesn't have
13 public funding for legal aid.

14 Sixty to eighty percent of all Floridians
15 can't afford lawyers. About twenty years ago in
16 a case called Serena Dunn versus Florida Bar
17 they came to an agreement related to having
18 other than lawyers assist because right now the
19 UPL practice is enforced by the Bar, the same
20 people who can't afford to do the legal process.

21 Instead of following that approach, I think
22 I've seen Kentucky that has online divorces that
23 can be done by the individuals rather than a
24 lawyer. There are a lot of other forms that
25 could be put online.

1 By the way, I have a Masters in data
2 processing and a J.D. from Barry and I've passed
3 two Bars, but I've been disqualified probably
4 for suing judges which relates to qualified
5 immunity.

6 Some people said why don't we make judges
7 accountable. You can't. It's qualified
8 immunity. The only way that can change is if
9 there's a legislative initiative.

10 The idea of Rules of Professional Conduct,
11 again, another issue. Very rarely enforced by
12 the Bar, only one or two things. I can point
13 out five or ten of them that they're not
14 following. They're supposed to self-report. It
15 very rarely happens.

16 Bail reform. Right now if someone is in
17 jail on a non-violent crime, they can be held in
18 jail for forty, fifty, sixty days sometimes. We
19 pay for it as citizens. You have to speed up
20 that process and if they're no flight risk, it's
21 a violation of the eighth amendment.

22 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Matt
23 Anderson, Desmond Meade, Christopher Radcliffe,
24 Dave Finnigan. I'm sorry. Marge Anderson.

25 MS. ANDERSON: Marti. I have something I

1 want to say. I'm just going to go ahead. Hi.
2 I'm Marti Anderson and I volunteer for
3 Southeastern Guide Dogs for the Blind, Pet
4 Alliance, Pets by Judy, Golden Retriever Rescue,
5 Lab Rescue and I'm here to speak on behalf of
6 the animals who cannot speak for themselves.

7 According to the Orlando Sentinel, there
8 were more than forty-eight thousand dogs and
9 cats that were euthanized in the past two years
10 in Central Florida alone.

11 Across the state last year more than two
12 hundred thousand shelter animals were euthanized
13 or died before they had a chance to be adopted.

14 Pet stores sell puppies. I'm going to skip
15 that part. At these mills puppies are separated
16 from their mothers at a young age and exposed to
17 unsanitary conditions, shipped off to be sold at
18 six to eight weeks which is bad for their
19 development.

20 It causes behavior problems and it's kind
21 of a vicious cycle. They end up back in the
22 shelters and many of them are euthanized.

23 One of the hidden costs to those who
24 purchase the puppies are that they also purchase
25 genetic and hereditary problems that these dogs

1 get. It's heart conditions, cancer, eye
2 problems, all kinds of things, so your vet bills
3 go up.

4 When puppy mill operators are investigated
5 or raided because of puppy cruelty, it can cost
6 up to hundreds of thousands of dollars and also
7 to rehabilitate rescue groups that come in and
8 try to rehabilitate these animals it can cost
9 millions of dollars.

10 The United States -- it is estimated by the
11 Humane Society of the United States that
12 millions of dollars are spent each year on
13 solving the problem.

14 MR. BERUFF: Marti, if you could wrap up.

15 MS. ANDERSON: Anyway so I'm sorry. The
16 thing is that you guys have a chance to do
17 something about it by putting something on the
18 ballot that says let's diminish the number of
19 puppy mills.

20 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

21 MR. MEADE: Good evening. My name is
22 Desmond Meade and I'm here to do two things.
23 Number one, to dispel a couple of misconceptions
24 as it relates to felon disenfranchisement and
25 number two, is to make you, the commission, an

1 offer that you can't refuse.

2 Number one, disenfranchise is over 1.68
3 million people, right, Floridians. Now, when
4 you look at that number and we understand that
5 this issue, this impacts African Americans.

6 The reality is that African Americans only
7 account for a third of the citizens that are
8 being disenfranchised in the State of Florida.

9 So that means that there are over a million
10 people in this state that cannot vote because of
11 a prior felony conviction that don't look like
12 me. Guess who they look like, Mr. Chair. They
13 look more like you. And so that's number one.

14 Number two is the State of Florida convicts
15 over 170,000 Floridians each year for felony
16 offenses and of those over 170,000 less than
17 twenty-five percent of them even are sentenced
18 to prison.

19 So that means we have over seventy-five
20 percent of people who cannot vote that didn't
21 spend a day in prison. They're out here in our
22 communities. They're in our families. They're
23 in our congregations and even in some cases in
24 our pulpits.

25 This is an issue that can do three things.

1 Number one, it can increase public safety. The
2 parole commission study showed that it reduces
3 recidivism. Number two, it can increase
4 contributions to the tax base and save Florida
5 taxpayers over a billion dollars annually. And
6 number three, it is the right thing to do.

7 I leave with this because I think it's the
8 most important of all. That when Jesus was on
9 the cross and the criminal asked him to be
10 saved, Jesus didn't tell him he had to wait five
11 or seven years. He said this day he shall enter
12 into paradise. So restoring a person's rights
13 after they've served their time is the moral
14 thing to do.

15 And the offer that you cannot refuse is
16 that the citizens of Florida have already done
17 the work for you. All you need to do is adopt
18 their initiative that's already been to the
19 Florida Supreme Court and will be getting
20 clearance any day now where we have collected
21 petitions in every single congressional district
22 in the State of Florida and we did so without
23 one penny.

24 They all volunteered and so we ask this
25 commission to consider just adopting what the

1 citizens of Florida have already said that they
2 want. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

4 MR. FINNIGAN: I'm Dave Finnigan. A lot of
5 people have spoken about environmental things.
6 I want to give you a bullet point list of things
7 that need to get done.

8 First, Article 2, Section 7 of the
9 constitution says that it's the policy of the
10 state to preserve and protect natural resources
11 and scenic beauty. It's already in there. All
12 I want you to do is add a little bit.

13 So I'm going to run through a bullet point
14 list. First, let's put a price on carbon with
15 dividends for each citizen. Second, institute
16 goals for renewable energy aiming at fifty
17 percent by 2040 and ninety percent by 2100.

18 Third, remove restrictions on citizens and
19 community organizations producing their own
20 energy. Fourth, halt development of open lands.
21 We should be building up, not out.

22 Fifth, create energy efficiency building
23 codes. We don't have them here. We should.

24 Sixth, create an alternative transportation
25 network that does not use fossil fuels. Look up

1 Transit X. It will work.

2 Seventh, remove state preemption for
3 organizations at the local level, counties and
4 cities for removing poisons like pesticides and
5 herbicides from the environment. The state has
6 preempted that right.

7 Eighth, put sea level rise into the school
8 curriculum at every level. Ninth, and last and
9 most important, is create a commission on sea
10 level rise for Florida.

11 We are in an incredible threat right now.
12 We are the most threatened state and we've done
13 very little. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Melissa Martin and then
15 we have Jennifer Clark. By the way, we're past
16 our 8:00, but we're going to keep going. Okay,
17 folks, just keep coming up. Jennifer Clark,
18 Brendan Derrig, Scott Cox. Yes, ma'am. You
19 are?

20 MR. CLARK: My name is Jennifer Clark. I'm
21 a resident of Melbourne in Brevard County. I'm
22 here as a citizen to address issues of voting
23 access and enfranchisement.

24 Primarily amongst of these that I haven't
25 heard so far mentioned is gerrymandering. I

1 know that Florida has recently addressed the
2 issue of its heavily and embarrassingly
3 gerrymander districts, but I do not feel that it
4 has gone far enough.

5 I ask that we enshrine in the constitution
6 the guarantee of free and fair elections by the
7 permanent prohibition of selective district
8 creation by political party and establish an
9 independent commission or council to create the
10 districts moving forward, especially as we see
11 continued population growth with nine of the top
12 twenty-five growth areas in the nation being
13 located here in Florida.

14 This and additional measures are vital to
15 maintaining the promise that our government
16 remains, as was said in the past, of the people,
17 by the people and for the people and, by the
18 way, corporations are not people.

19 In addition to that initiative, which I
20 feel is very important, the other issues that
21 would go towards voter enfranchisement, as has
22 been mentioned a few other times here today,
23 automatic voter registration, the end of closed
24 primaries, which someone just recently pointed
25 out, would be solved by the right to choice

1 voting system which was recently adopted by the
2 State of Maine. I encourage everyone to look
3 that up.

4 We need to expand options for valid voter
5 ID as a driver's license or the typical kind of
6 concept of voter ID is not always easily
7 obtainable by all citizens and, therefore,
8 represents a form of voter suppression.

9 We need the reinstatement of voting rights
10 as many people have spoken about. Campaign
11 finance reform, anti-corruption measurements and
12 again, the Home Rule not overriding the local
13 districts. And I thank you for your time.

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you.

15 MR. DERRIG: Thank you. My name is Brendan
16 Derrig. So the Chairman has said several times
17 tonight that the purpose of this commission is
18 to provide a voice for those who don't normally
19 participate.

20 So I'd like to speak on behalf of the
21 largest group that doesn't participate. As it
22 has been said many times tonight, about ten
23 percent of Floridians cannot vote because they
24 are former felons, despite the fact that less
25 than twenty-five percent of those convicted of a

1 felony don't spend a single day in jail.

2 Now, the effect of these policies is that
3 over the last eight years about two thousand of
4 the over a million former felons in Florida have
5 received clemency and have been enfranchised to
6 vote and since 2010 the just applications for
7 restoration have dropped ninety-five percent.

8 Now, this is effectively a policy which
9 casts out one-tenth of Floridians out of our
10 society. It's not coincidence that it
11 disproportionately affects the poor and people
12 of color.

13 We are in one of the largest democracies on
14 earth. So I implore you, there is nothing more
15 undemocratic or more un-American than the
16 disenfranchisement of our citizens. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Scott Cox.
18 Raquel Lozano.

19 MR. COX: My name is Scott Cox and I thank
20 you all for being here, Mr. Chairman and
21 Commissioners. The issue I'd like the
22 commission to reconsider is the age laws in the
23 constitution. It's Article III, Section 15 of
24 the constitution. That's legislature in terms
25 of qualifications of legislators.

1 And basically the first sentence from that
2 is each legislator shall be at least twenty-one
3 years of age and I'd like to see that lowered to
4 eighteen years of age.

5 I believe when that was written into the
6 Florida Constitution that was before 1971 which
7 is when the voting age was lowered to eighteen
8 and I believe that should be changed.

9 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Got it. Thank you.

10 MS. LOZANO: Hello, everyone. My name is
11 Raquel Lozano and I am here to discuss about the
12 voting process. I am for an inclusive voting
13 process for no person should be excluded from
14 the process which includes felons, the elderly,
15 minorities and anyone that is not affiliated
16 with the Democratic or Republican party.

17 Florida has seven parties to choose from
18 and the number of no-party affiliation is
19 growing drastically. So I hope that you all
20 consider that and go for an open primary instead
21 of a closed one so that way we can include more
22 people.

23 I'm also here to represent my mom who is
24 technically my grandmother who adopted me at a
25 young age. She is seventy-two years old and has

1 been here for thirty years. Specifically we're
2 from Orange County, but we live in Belle Isle.
3 And while my mom is a proud American, she is
4 originally from Mexico.

5 She constantly faces challenges in regards
6 to the voting process. First, there are few
7 Spanish news stations and they offer limited
8 information about state and local government and
9 there are about four million people that are
10 Hispanic and about half are eligible to vote,
11 but they only make up eighteen percent of the
12 eligible voters in Florida. So to me that's
13 kind of whack.

14 Anyways, and while the mail-in ballots
15 allow me to assist her in voting, what about
16 other elderly people that do not have someone
17 that they can rely on to either explain the
18 voting process or to explain what's on the
19 ballot?

20 And while I appreciate that you included
21 the Spanish translation, keep in mind that the
22 elderly don't exactly have the best eyesight, so
23 maybe something can be done about that to appeal
24 to the elderly group.

25 And whether or not they have obtained basic

1 information, information regarding the voting
2 process and government should be easily
3 attainable to all. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you so much. Milka
5 Lucas-Dominguez.

6 MS. LUCAS-DOMINGUEZ: My name is Milka
7 Lucas-Dominguez. I'm twenty-six years old and
8 I'm studying to be a social worker. It is an
9 honor to be here.

10 I actually learned of this opportunity
11 yesterday and even though it's a process done
12 every twenty years, it would be appreciated if
13 more coverage is done for the public because of
14 its importance.

15 I would like to state the constitution
16 needs an update, especially on enforcing
17 healthcare coverage for all Floridians and
18 hopefully pave the way for other states to
19 follow suit, including the women's rights that
20 make decisions on abortion.

21 My mother was a rape victim who was
22 impregnated and then had miscarriage due to
23 complications with cancer. She survived, but
24 this is not the case for many others.

25 An idea for better healthcare would be

1 implementing a pay-in system like we do for
2 Social Security and unemployment. I beg that
3 this story helps consider my main concern.

4 Also, I'd like to add that we continue
5 funding public schools and non-profit
6 organizations such as Planned Parenthood.

7 Please revise reinstating voting rights to
8 those who have committed felonies and served
9 their time, especially if they have to pay state
10 taxes.

11 Unfortunately, not everyone is privileged
12 and the State Constitution must reflect the
13 needs of all Floridians. Thanks to this past
14 election I have made it a point to not only show
15 up, but to also speak up and pay attention to
16 what's going on at home right here in the State
17 of Florida.

18 I'm proud to be here and thank you again
19 for listening to me and for allowing me to
20 exercise my right to democracy.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Lydia Pisano,
22 Anthony Rogers-Wright, Jim Howe.

23 MS. PISANO: Good evening. My name is
24 Lydia Pisano. I'm the mayor of the City of
25 Belle Isle and I want to congratulate all of you

1 on your appointment and thank you for your
2 service.

3 One of the biggest things is defending Home
4 Rule. There are a lot of issues, as Mayor Bruhn
5 mentioned way earlier, that if it went before
6 the legislature right now that are truly going
7 to impact our communities and our residents, one
8 of them being the Vacation Home Bill.

9 Imagine us having to explain to our
10 residents why their neighbors next door are
11 moving in and out every other day. So things
12 like that we really need to preserve Home Rule.

13 It's huge and when we have to explain
14 unfunded mandates that we did not budget for in
15 the previous year and now all of a sudden we
16 have to cut out something else to compensate for
17 where we're lacking.

18 The other thing, municipal elections, I
19 think that should be under the jurisdiction of
20 the municipalities. Something that we have an
21 issue with now that just started in the past
22 year, sovereign waters.

23 As you know, the states control the
24 waterways. We have a lot of lakes in Belle
25 Isle. It's a municipality in South Orlando and

1 we have control of Lake Conway. The state
2 waterways, even though we have our own police
3 department, we can't enforce anything in the
4 waters unless they're driving recklessly.

5 There's going to be a huge accident with
6 water skiers which we have right now going on
7 and our police department are not allowed to
8 pull them over for speeding in the lakes unless
9 they're reckless. So something needs to be done
10 with that where we can control some of the
11 waterways.

12 Something else in our Lake Conway area is
13 duck hunting. Let me make it clear. I'm not
14 trying to take away anybody's hunting rights or
15 gun rights, but the issue is imagine waking up
16 in your backyard on your lakefront property to
17 the sounds of gunfire. It's happened in
18 multiple locations and also it's unsafe.

19 We're a highly-populated area. So if you
20 can please look at the sovereign waters and when
21 you write the amendments if you can please make
22 them clear so people can understand them.

23 The biggest issue we get is people don't
24 vote on the amendments because they do not
25 understand what the intent is. One of your

1 fellow commissioners who is not here today, Mr.
2 Frank Kruppenbacher, he is our city attorney and
3 he has been our interim city manager in the
4 past. So he's well aware of a lot of these
5 issues. He'd be a great resource or please
6 reach out to your elected officials. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Anthony
8 Rogers-Wright. Jim Howe. Trevor Tezel.

9 MR. HOWE: Thank you. I'm Jim Howe. I'm
10 here on behalf of Local 3108 of the
11 Communications Workers of America and on behalf
12 of my local I would like to encourage this
13 commission to view the changes proposed to the
14 State Constitution from the point of view of we
15 the people, that is the people of Florida, with
16 special attention and emphasis given to working
17 people, the overwhelming majority of the people
18 in the state, minorities, blacks, Latinos, gays,
19 other minorities, Asians, students and the
20 retired. We the people should take precedence
21 and this constitution should represent our
22 interests and our views.

23 In particular, on behalf of my local, I
24 would like to encourage this commission to enact
25 legislation that will do away with the so-called

1 right to work, which encourages lower wages and
2 poor working conditions and undermines the
3 democratic rights of workers on the job when
4 they have voted for a union and been denied the
5 participation of all the membership that reap
6 the benefits from that local from the contract
7 and from, you know, the better working
8 conditions.

9 If you don't have democracy in the
10 workplace and all the members that are gaining
11 the benefits are not in the union, then the
12 rights of the majority are undermined.

13 Furthermore, we would like to encourage a
14 \$15.00 an hour minimum wage with automatic
15 annual increases for the cost of living.

16 In addition, speaking for myself from this
17 point forward, I would also urge the commission
18 to enact constitutional guarantees for clean
19 water, clean air. Many of the issues that were
20 brought up by other speakers, women's rights,
21 the rights to abortion, healthcare, democracy --

22 MR. BERUFF: You need to wrap up.

23 MR. HOWE: -- all of this if you look at
24 this from the standpoint of the majority and
25 enact their wishes and not the interests of

1 special interests, that should be seen as your
2 task. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you, Mr. Howe.
4 Anthony Rogers-Wright, Trevor Tezel, Gary Stein,
5 Charles Behrens I think. Yes, sir.

6 MR. TEZEL: I'm Trevor Tezel. I'm
7 originally from Cocoa Beach, Florida and now I'm
8 a second year law student at the University of
9 Florida.

10 I'm just here today to add my voice to the
11 growing chorus it seems like supporting
12 automatic restoration of rights for ex-felons.
13 It's a very common sense thing and like some
14 other speakers I want to focus on some of the
15 arguments against it.

16 So when the U.S. first achieved
17 independence six percent of people could vote
18 and slowly every categorical exclusion was
19 eliminated; race, gender, wealth, illiteracy.
20 Felony status is the only one that's still
21 there.

22 That was the justification for it. It was
23 the idea of it not distorting the voter pool,
24 which is the same justification of how we've
25 disenfranchised other classes of people in our

1 history. So it's the same logic that still
2 applies here today.

3 Someone mentioned recidivism rights
4 earlier. One study showed twenty-seven percent
5 for those who didn't have their rights restored
6 and twelve percent for those who did. Another
7 person mentioned that less than a quarter
8 actually spend time in prison.

9 It's not only that. This is one of the
10 most unique aspects of the criminal justice
11 system as I've been noticing through law school.
12 It's the only punishment that isn't meted out in
13 the courtroom by the judge along with other
14 punishments and other losses of liberty which I
15 think is a very kind of perplexing issue and
16 gets to the whole point of this in the first
17 place.

18 Somebody was bringing up the clemency
19 process which is a joke in this state at this
20 point. It's at the whim of whoever the governor
21 is. We saw it the last year of Charlie Crist.
22 We had 50,000.

23 It dropped by eighty percent in the first
24 year of Rick Scott and then another ninety
25 percent to bring us to four hundred in his

1 second year in office. That is in no way
2 creating consistency in our laws and giving
3 anybody an idea to be put on notice on when they
4 will be able to get their rights restored.

5 Polls have shown over eighty percent of
6 people support ex-felons getting their right
7 back to vote and the U.S. has been cited even by
8 the U.N. Committee on Human Rights for its
9 felony disenfranchisement laws.

10 We don't need to follow international law,
11 but why not follow it if it's a stupid law that
12 we're violating? Thank you.

13 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Anthony Rogers-Wright.
14 Gary Stein. Please come forward.

15 MR. STEIN: My name is Gary Stein and I'm a
16 proud resident of Pasco County and I'm also a
17 proud father of my daughters who are products of
18 Florida public schools and also one who is a
19 graduate of UCF in marketing.

20 My degree is a Masters in public health
21 from Johns Hopkins. I spent two decades in the
22 Center for Disease Control and also worked as a
23 program manager as head of the Tobacco Control
24 Program for the Department of Health here in
25 Florida.

1 Now currently I have written a book which
2 is soon to be released called the Great Green
3 Hope which is about medical cannibis.

4 As you know, the electorate just approved
5 by seventy-one percent the bill to include
6 greater access to medical cannibis for those
7 with debilitating conditions which includes my
8 wife and my daughters.

9 I came here from Tallahassee. I did drive
10 here all the way from Tallahassee today.
11 There's a lot of confusion as to create
12 legislation due to the rules of this very
13 important amendment.

14 I think the biggest problem they have is
15 basically a problem in its paradigm. The
16 paradigm is basically a problem of the lexicon
17 itself.

18 See, there's these two words. There's
19 marijuana and there's cannibis. If you do a
20 search of those two words and look at all the
21 bills that have been filed, you'll see two
22 separate lists with only a little bit of overlap
23 and yet the bills are actually -- no matter what
24 topic they are, they don't seem to coalesce with
25 exactly which one they're talking about.

1 There's a lot of confusion as to what exactly
2 we're even talking about.

3 There's a very simple solution. We need to
4 get rid of one of those words and that word
5 needs to be marijuana and I'll explain why.

6 The word marijuana itself is not a proper
7 term. It's a slang term that arose in Mexico in
8 the late 1800s in part because they could not
9 pronounce the Chinese word who introduced them
10 to the plant which they called Ma Huang Hua
11 which sounded like marijuana so they used that
12 word when they were smoking it as an inebriant.

13 In U.S. law the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act
14 listed cannibis as a medicine. That was its
15 first actual appearance in U.S. law. In 1937
16 when they created the law called the Marijuana
17 Tax Act --

18 MR. BERUFF: You need to wrap up. There's
19 people waiting behind you. Please.

20 MR. STEIN: This has already been submitted
21 to you. I'm just going to paraphrase it very
22 quickly.

23 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: No, I'm sorry. We really
24 have to move on here. It's two and a half
25 minutes and there's people behind you. I

1 apologize.

2 We'll take the document. You're welcome to
3 come back in October when we come back to
4 Orlando and depending on the size of the crowd
5 either we'll allow six more hours for testimony,
6 but we will let you continue your discussion,
7 but not this evening. Thank you.

8 MR. STEIN: I just want to make one quick
9 point and then I'll walk away. That is that the
10 whole concept of using the word marijuana
11 instead of cannibis for that law was for a
12 racially-biased program which was against
13 African Americans, against --

14 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Cannibis. Please let's
15 let this next gentleman speak. Thank you.

16 MR. BEHRENS: My name is Charles Behrens.
17 I'm from Orlando. I'll try to be brief because
18 many people have already spoken about climate
19 change. I'd like to keep this to three points.

20 Put a tax on carbon, give subsidies for
21 renewables, especially solar and offshore wind
22 power, and given that animal agriculture is the
23 biggest source of greenhouse gasses I'd like to
24 see placement of heavy taxes on the Florida
25 livestock industry.

1 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Is Mr. Stein
2 here, Gary Stein? Oh, you just spoke. Sorry
3 about that. Erin Favus. No, Erin isn't here.
4 Jody Rogers. Is Jody Rogers in the audience?
5 Come on forward. Matt Barringer. Fannie
6 Benites. Yes, ma'am.

7 MS. ROGERS: Hi. Thank you for being here.
8 Thank you for this opportunity, this is somewhat
9 terrifying opportunity. My name is Jody Rogers.
10 I'm an Orlando resident, a small business owner,
11 more like a micro business owner.

12 I wanted to urge you to when you're
13 considering things, specifically so many people
14 have spoken about the environment, I'd like to
15 see some really even extreme regulations with
16 environment.

17 Florida is fragile. Florida is special and
18 we need extra protections. In addition to the
19 obvious benefits of clean air and clean water
20 and clean soil, our tourism depends on it. If
21 we wreck our environment we wreck our economy.
22 So beyond the obvious I would hope that we get
23 some extreme measures with that.

24 We've heard from a couple of people talking
25 about separation of church and state and some

1 Christians specifically saying that they were
2 behind stronger protections for separation of
3 church and state. I'm not a Christian, but I
4 want those protections too.

5 And last, all Florida citizens deserve
6 equal rights. This means women's rights over
7 their body and this means our LGBT community. I
8 hope that we'll have enshrined recognition for
9 equal rights on all of those topics. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Matt
11 Barringer, Fannie Benites and Joshua Valentin.
12 And we're getting down to the end.

13 MR. BARRINGER: Greetings to the council.
14 My name is Matt Barringer. I'm a resident of
15 Titusville. I also have the privilege as
16 serving as the vice mayor there. I'm here on
17 behalf of our city, as well as a few statements
18 for myself.

19 First, I'm a disabled veteran, graduate of
20 UCF, public school teacher. I have multiple
21 businesses. I do that so I can teach.

22 My time, like yours, is valuable so thank
23 you for your time. I hope just to take a minute
24 of yours.

25 I've come to talk to you about Home Rule

1 and here's why. When the constitution was
2 adopted for the State of Florida the population
3 was about 40,000 people. The population of
4 Titusville right now is about 45,000 people.

5 So we're trying to do with a very limited
6 knowledge scope of power what the entire state
7 tried to do. Most recently we've seen and
8 experienced what has happened to Home Rule and
9 this is the problem.

10 It's that if you're trying to look at a
11 revision that we could possibly make specific to
12 our constitution, I think it's fairly simple.
13 It goes something like this.

14 In short, the state has granted powers.
15 I'm very comfortable with that and we're
16 chartered by the state, but the use of those
17 preemptive powers is beyond I think the scope
18 and intent of the most recent adoption which is
19 the 1973 that expanded Home Rule power.

20 In the 1960s it was a small window that
21 municipalities had to operate within. Beyond
22 that a revision was made to expand those so that
23 municipalities could do what they needed to do
24 in order to run the government within the local
25 community.

1 All I'm asking for you to do is look at the
2 scope and the parameters of that and
3 specifically that the state not be able to
4 impede on those powers. I'll leave that -- it's
5 probably about one or two words that need
6 changed. I'll leave that for you all to figure
7 out. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Fannie
9 Benites, Joshua Valentin, Rebecca Bando.

10 MR. VALENTIN: Hello. I'm Joshua Valentin.
11 I'm working with a local organization. I don't
12 want to name them because I don't represent
13 them. They're non-partisan.

14 We're putting a petition forward to say
15 that no person may appear on the ballot for
16 reelection to the office of mayor, commissioner
17 or district commissioner of the City of Orlando,
18 Florida if by the end of the current term of
19 office the person who will have served in that
20 office for eight consecutive years.

21 If anybody wants to learn more about that,
22 you can just go right over there. Maybe that's
23 something you guys could look at going forward
24 on the state level.

25 Also, I've noticed -- I kind of came here

1 with a list of things I wanted to bring forward
2 to you guys, but listening to what everybody
3 else is saying I realize that there are too many
4 differences of opinions.

5 For example, some people are talking about
6 climate change. These scientists on climate
7 change isn't finalized yet. There are many
8 scientists that are saying one thing and many
9 that are saying another.

10 I don't think that you guys should tax an
11 individual for breathing carbon. That would be
12 like taxing for breathing oxygen. You shouldn't
13 do that. There should be no carbon tax.

14 Also, I think that in listening to what
15 everybody's differing opinions are, I don't
16 think that you guys should put forth any
17 amendments at all.

18 I was listening to what the guy was saying
19 about you guys being an illegal organization. I
20 don't know if that's true. I've never heard
21 that, but I just think that the more government
22 gets involved in our daily lives, the more
23 corrupt things become.

24 Like Orange County Public Schools is the
25 tenth largest district in the nation. We have

1 203,000 students and we have a budget of \$4
2 billion. So if you do the math that would be
3 \$19,000 per student and only \$7,000 actually
4 goes to the student.

5 So I think maybe a more efficient way to
6 invest that money in our students would be to
7 give the parents that \$19,000 credit and let
8 them have school choice instead of having this
9 huge bureaucracy of Orange County Public Schools
10 which isn't as efficient as it needs to be.

11 I'm not saying that's what we should do.
12 What I'm saying is when you have huge
13 bureaucracies a lot of this tax money doesn't
14 get used efficiently and it would be more
15 efficient if we let the people serve themselves.
16 That's all I have to say. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you. Fannie
18 Benites. Rebecca Bando. Carmen Torres. Carmen
19 Torres in the room? Somebody coming up.
20 Kristin Clapper.

21 MS. TORRES: Yes. Good evening. My name
22 is Carmen Torres. Thank you for having this
23 commission, this public meeting rather.

24 And I heard someone say earlier that you
25 will come back in the fall. So I hope that we

1 can have another more open and better organized
2 meeting.

3 I was standing outside for maybe -- I got
4 here like 5:05 and they told us that we couldn't
5 come in, that it was full and then it wasn't
6 until maybe a half hour later that they opened
7 up the overflow for us. And so here it is, you
8 are past your time as a result. Right?

9 MR. BERUFF: We're going to stay here until
10 we're finished.

11 MS. TORRES: Thank you so much. I really
12 appreciate that. So having said that, will you
13 establish a rule that no proposal will be
14 adopted without public comment, period, please?

15 I also wanted to talk about I am a former
16 member of the NYPD and I retired from the
17 Corrections Department here in Orange County.
18 I've been a resident for the past twenty-four
19 years in Orange County, transplant from New
20 York.

21 And I get and appreciate people's fears,
22 but recently due to the ban that POTUS passed,
23 that's still stalled, there's been a lot of talk
24 possibly passing draconian laws that will
25 further vilify the immigrant community such as

1 making a first-degree crime a third-degree
2 felony for someone who is undocumented and I
3 find that is so unconstitutional.

4 My ask of the commission is please do not
5 consider such suggestions that can further
6 aggrieve and suppress the rights of productive
7 citizens to vote in the future. This is another
8 suppression. The law is the law is the law and
9 it should be the same for everyone. Thank you.

10 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you and thank you
11 for your service. Kristin Clapper. Mr. or Ms.
12 Kuperman, Aubrey Kuperman. Did I say that
13 right?

14 MS. KUPERMAN: You did. So a few things.
15 Number one, I worked five years in food service
16 front of house. So I recognize the face that
17 you have. It's the same face I used to have
18 when people tried to come in after we closed.
19 So I'm going to make this as quick as I can.

20 I won't even talk about minimum wage. My
21 big thing here is, and I might have missed this
22 because I was also stuck outside since I arrived
23 a little late, and I work on campus so it's my
24 own fault, but what I really wanted to touch on
25 is juvenile justice.

1 We are one of the only states left and we
2 do prosecute more children in this state than
3 any other state in the nation. That's
4 despicable. That's embarrassing. It's time to
5 put it into the constitution, put an end to it
6 and get it fixed. That's it. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Camara Williams, Esquire.

8 MR. WILLIAMS: Good evening. It's actually
9 Camara Williams. I'm a proud member of the
10 Florida Bar and I see our president sitting
11 here, Bill Schifino, as well as a member of the
12 Leadership Academy Class IV.

13 It's already been stated numerous times
14 regarding the restoration of rights of felons.
15 As a former criminal defense attorney one thing
16 I want to make notice is that ninety percent of
17 all cases actually end up on a plea. Ten
18 percent more of the cases go to trial.

19 For a number of reasons a lot of people
20 plea out because, you know, they deem it
21 economically available to them and they can't
22 afford a trial. They can't afford to go forward
23 and see what are the chances of me actually
24 getting convicted of a crime.

25 So what happens is you have ninety percent

1 of the people actually have cases they actually
2 end up subject for the rest of their lives
3 because of what are sometimes economic problems.

4 So what I want the committee to consider is
5 that when restoration of rights -- recidivism is
6 actually a high problem regarding our felons.
7 So one of the things we can do to actually
8 incorporate putting them back into society is
9 actually consider their rights being restored as
10 a civilian, as a full rights civilian for voting
11 in our country.

12 One of the things you see is that a lot of
13 these citizens when they come back into society
14 they don't feel like they have the ability to
15 actually participate in the democracy which is a
16 crying shame.

17 What happens is when you don't feel a part
18 of the society, you actually go back into what
19 you know in your previous life and you go back
20 -- and recidivism and you go back into crime and
21 you don't feel a part of the society.

22 So one thing the committee really has to
23 consider is what are we looking for in our
24 citizens if you actually believe in equitable
25 justice in regards to being sent back to

1 rehabilitation. It's already been stated a
2 number of times. I just thank you guys for your
3 time and have a good evening.

4 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Thank you very much.
5 Lourdes. There you are. Lourdes Quevedo. If I
6 do it in my Spanish I do it pretty well.

7 MS. QUEVEDO: Thank you for staying here.
8 I'm really nervous. I did not plan on speaking
9 today. I came with my friend Suz sitting over
10 there. She spoke earlier about psychological
11 child abuse and I felt compelled to put that a
12 little bit in context of when it happens. It
13 happens in family court and divorce.

14 I'm in year seven of this nightmare. I
15 have a gifted child who was honor roll, played
16 baseball, was picked up by Duke, did math,
17 science and robotics and within the past three
18 years he's been diagnosed with PTSD, conversion
19 disorder, anxiety, depression, put on Valium,
20 Effexor, Prozac as a result of this process.

21 This is the way that we're tackling this
22 problem by passing these bills so that we can
23 identify this issue early on in the process
24 instead of waiting seven years for a child's
25 life to be destroyed.

1 But I want to address judicial
2 accountability and efficiencies. While the
3 courts are not the ones perpetrating this
4 horrible act, the process in the courts is
5 enabling it.

6 Whether we don't have enough judges, the
7 judges are not educated on it, in the end the
8 well-being of a child is being determined by
9 which parent has the most money and who can go
10 on and keep this process going the longest.

11 So who's speaking up for the kids? Because
12 my child is about to be held back now a second
13 time and it just keeps getting delayed and
14 postponed and there's no end to the number of
15 motions that can be filed. They get selected
16 for hearing sometimes. Sometimes they don't.

17 And so I want to beg that judicial
18 accountability be addressed because I would like
19 to believe that you think children are
20 important. So thank you for hearing me.

21 CHAIRMAN BERUFF: Yes, they are. Thank you
22 very much. I have no more speaker cards. Is
23 there somebody that I left out? Thank you all
24 for coming this evening and talking to us. We
25 will see you in the fall.

1 We'll give you more notice and feel free to
2 go to our website and start communicating with
3 us sooner than later. Our next meeting is in
4 Miami a week from tomorrow and on Friday in Boca
5 Raton. So go to our website if you want
6 specifics. Thank you very much. I'll entertain
7 a motion to adjourn.

8 COMMISSIONER GAETZ: So moved.

9 (Proceedings concluded at 9:01 p.m.)

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1 CERTIFICATE OF REPORTER

2
3 STATE OF FLORIDA]

4 ss:

5 COUNTY OF SEMINOLE]
6

7 I, KAREN S. RHINE, FPR, hereby certify that
8 I was authorized to and did report the foregoing
9 proceedings and that the transcript is a true and
10 complete record of my notes and recordings.

11 I further certify that I am not a relative,
12 employee, attorney or counsel of any of the parties,
13 nor am I a relative or employee of any of the
14 parties' attorneys or counsel, nor am I financially
15 interested in the outcome of the foregoing action.

16 DATED this 12th day of April, 2017.
17
18
19

20 *Karen S. Rhine*

21 KAREN S. RHINE, FPR

22 (Electronic Signature)
23
24
25