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V.C. of Poinciana Area Council
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V.C. of Osceola Resort Area Council
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V.C. of Downtown Kissimmee Area Council
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V.C. of Hispanic Business Council
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V.C. of Celebration Area Council
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V.C. of Four Corners Area Council

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*denotes Chamber Trustee

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A Resolution of Support Opposing Additional Gambling in Florida by Supporting the Voter Control of Gambling Amendment

WHEREAS, the *Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce* represents approximately 900 small, medium and large companies, organizations and governments in Kissimmee and Osceola County; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the *Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce* is to champion Kissimmee and Osceola's community and businesses and leading a prosperous regional economy; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce* fashions its ongoing work by focusing on the issues that matter most to their members, their businesses and their community; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce* support and advocate for specific strategic initiatives that will help advance the journey to economic prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce* understands that Florida voters have, on three separate occasions, rejected the legalization of high-stakes casino gambling in Florida; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce* understands that multiple studies reveal that, when introduced into developed tourism economies, casino gambling has devastating effects on established local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce* understands this fact was proven in Atlantic City, New Jersey, where 40 percent of local restaurants and one third of the local retail establishment closed following the introduction of casino gambling; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce* understands that efforts by out-of-state and international gambling conglomerates will continue to push for the expansion of casino gambling across Florida, and that expansion will harm businesses and families where gambling expands; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce* understands that gambling lobbyists have enormous influence over politicians and that influence often leads to gambling expansion that is harmful to local businesses; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the *Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce* understands Florida voters, not politicians and gambling lobbyists, should have the exclusive authority to decide on issues dealing with gambling expansion; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the *Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce* supports the efforts to help "Voter Control of Gambling Amendment," achieve the goal of placement on the 2018 general election ballot in Florida; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the *Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce* supports the efforts to pass the "Voter Control of Gambling Amendment" by the required 60 percent margin.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of the *Kissimmee/Osceola Chamber of Commerce* this 8th day of December, 2017.

Kissimmee/Osceola County Chamber of Commerce



John Newstreet, President
Kissimmee/Osceola County
Chamber of Commerce



Chris Gent, Chairman of the Board
Kissimmee/Osceola County
Chamber of Commerce