

## Johnson, Krista

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**From:** Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller <noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 4:23 PM  
**To:** Comments, BCC Agenda

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### Live Form

Topic Mask Mandate  
BCC Agenda Date 8-10-2021  
Your Stand on the Issue Oppose

### Comments

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Board of Pinellas County Commission, First, I want to thank you for the hard decisions you've had to make over the past year and a half due to the COVID-19 crisis response. I know it's not easy and I don't presume that you've taken any of these decisions lightly. I didn't see any items on the agenda suggesting you are going to make a decision on mandating masks again, so I'm not sure if a decision is going to be made today. I would like to say that I'm in opposition of any further mask mandates. It's time to have confidence in the people to make the right choice for our families, our community, and ourselves. According to the CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report on July 30, 2021, the CDC stated that decision makers should assess several factors to update the need for layered prevention strategies: the level of SARS COV-2 community transmission, health system capacity, vaccination coverage, capacity of early detection of increases in COVID-19 cases, and populations at risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19. These layered strategies are needed in the short term to minimize preventable morbidity and mortality. I'm confident that you will use this layered approach when making your decision. I would like to point to a couple of items from this report that I hope will help in making a decision. It is clear that there is no one sure way to fight this disease, rather a series of measures are required to minimize it's further spread. In the report the CDC recommended, "Basic public health measures such as staying home when sick, hand washing, and regular cleaning of high-touch surfaces should also be encouraged", not just wearing mask. One word that was repeatedly used in the report is "recommends". For instance, the CDC recommends community leaders to "encourage vaccination and universal mask in indoor public spaces in addition to the layered prevention strategies to prevent further spread." This is a recommendation and therefore, I believe it should be a choice that is left to the individual and not a mandate. Lastly the report also stated, "No

one strategy is sufficient to prevent transmission, and multiple interventions should be used concurrently to reduce the spread of disease.” Lets make sure we are reminding people to wash their hands, wipe down surfaces, cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze, and if an individual starts to feel sick, they should stay home and get tested if COVID-19 symptoms appear. This can be done through Public Service Announcements, social media, targeted marketing, and the assistance of news media affiliates. Let’s use a layered approach, reminding people that multiple steps should be taken to help reduce the spread of this disease. There has been too much focus on just one action, wearing a mask. Again, let the individual decide if they want to wear a mask versus mandating them, but also remind and encourage them to make good personal and public health choices. Ultimately it’s their choice to decide what is best for them. I’m confident that our residents will use common sense. I believe masks should be a recommendation from the commission as a part of a layered approach, not a mandate. Let the people choose. I know this is a weighty decision and I will be praying that God gives you the wisdom to make the best decision for the residents in Pinellas County. Thank you for your service! Kind regards, Debbie Buschman.

Citizen Name	Debbie Buschman
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## Johnson, Krista

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**From:** Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller <noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org  
**Sent:** Monday, August 9, 2021 2:29 PM  
**To:** Comments, BCC Agenda

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### Live Form

Topic State of emergency

BCC Agenda Date 8-10-2021

Your Stand on the Issue Oppose

Comments I oppose you all bringing back the state of emergency. We are not in an emergency. And stop trying to figure out how you can force people to get vaccinated. It's a personal medical decision between people and their doctors, not the commission members! And do not add additional taxes on us with the gas tax. You guys recently voted to raise our taxes in a pandemic so you can find the money you need elsewhere.

Citizen Name Heidi Hilliard Natole

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## Johnson, Krista

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**From:** Pinellas County Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller <noreply@mypinellasclerk.org> on behalf of noreply@mypinellasclerk.org  
**Sent:** Friday, August 6, 2021 11:13 AM  
**To:** Comments, BCC Agenda

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### Live Form

Topic State of emergency

BCC Agenda Date 8-10-2021

Your Stand on the Issue Oppose

Comments I strongly oppose any enactment of a state of emergency, and ANY COVID MANDATES. This has literally ripped our community apart. Its now a war between masked/ vaxxed vs normal people who want to be left alone to live a naturally free life. I am 46 years old, a mother of a 4 & 6 year old, yoga practitioner, fitness trainer. I teach my family how to be healthy. I believe in our strong immune system. I have never had any problems with neighbors, community members, anyone. I have had 1 speeding ticket my whole life. I would do anything for anyone who needs help. Ur vote to have the mask mandate last year turned me into the "bad guy" because i chose to breathe freely. My children and i were kicked out of stores, and denied entry EVERYWHERE. Our life was a living HELL. We FINALLY got back a sense of normalcy. Our lives returned to normal. DO NOT MAKE OUR LIVES A LIVING HELL AGAIN. DO NOT PIT NEIGHBORS AGAINST NEIGHBORS. DO NOT TEAR OUR COMMUNITY APART. COVID DID NOT TEAR US APART, GOVERNMENT TORE US APART. WE WANT TO BE FREE TO CHOOSE OUR OWN HEALTH PRIORITIES.

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