



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

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MASSACHUSETTS MUST SAY NO TO CASINO GAMBLING – A LOSING BET FOR EVERYONE WHO LIVES AND WORKS IN THIS STATE.

The League of Women Voters of Massachusetts views with great alarm the possibility that casino gambling may be made legal in Massachusetts. Although legalizing gaming may appear at first glance to be a “painless” source of badly needed revenue for the Commonwealth, the reality is it would be a disaster and would increase expenses for all taxpayers.

“Gambling is no substitute for a reasonable tax policy,” said Diane Jeffery, President of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts. “Since the early 80s, League members have been fighting attempts to legalize casino gambling in this state, but now we are redoubling our efforts to fight against this. It is astonishing when our government leaders look to casino gambling as a fix to the state’s revenue woes. In reality, it is not a quick fix, it is no fix at all.”

Extensive research indicates that for every \$1 received in taxes from casino gambling, it costs taxpayers \$3. No matter how much the casino operators agree to give the state, the costs to the communities have proven to far outweigh the revenues.

Connecticut, New Jersey and Rhode Island all have casino gambling, and all have higher tax rates than Massachusetts. Studies show that these states pay higher taxes than Massachusetts in part because they need to make up for the unmet revenue needs that were promised by the casinos.

Small businesses near large casinos cannot compete with the heavily subsidized restaurants and shops at the casinos, causing many to close. Casinos strain the infrastructure of a community.

Roads and water supplies become overwhelmed, and increased petty and major crimes are a problem for local law enforcement. In addition, Indian tribes, as sovereign nations, are not required to provide good wages, benefits, and working conditions to their employees.

“The League is urging Massachusetts residents to make their voices heard now, before it is too late, and we are mired in the negative consequences of casino gambling for decades,” stated Ms. Jeffery. “The League of Women Voters, a non-partisan, multi-issue organization, has been advocating on critical issues of public policy for almost 90 years. At this time, the most critical issue facing our state is the possibility of casino gambling and the array of negative consequences it holds for the future of the citizens of Massachusetts.”

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