



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MASSACHUSETTS

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League of Women Voters of Massachusetts remains opposed to casino gambling in Massachusetts – responds to release of Spectrum Gaming Group Report

Upon its initial review of the report released by Spectrum Gaming Group, LLC, the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts remains opposed to the introduction of casino gambling in the Commonwealth. The projected benefits under the governor's plan once again have proved to be overstated and the costs are not sufficiently accounted for in the report.

We find the most important point of this report is the warning that Spectrum Gaming offers when it states "In effect, the Massachusetts Legislature must take into account the political reality that once a casino is established and is generating tax revenue, employing people and attracting visitors, it cannot be easily undone in any practical sense." Once we open the door to expanding gambling, we won't be able to close it. Massachusetts's reputation as the place for history, education and culture should not be risked.

The financial ability of the Casino industry to return to the Legislature perennially to lobby lawmakers does not change the fact that expanding gambling will have a negative impact to our state that a casual observer might not see. It is has been the goal of our organization and many others who are truly independent voices, to study the facts. After continually doing just that, we remain convinced the overall impact of expanding gambling would fail to solve our fiscal crisis and would only serve to exacerbate it.

While we appreciate Spectrum Gaming Group acknowledging some of our many concerns of legalizing class 3 gambling in the Commonwealth, we remain skeptical of Spectrum Gaming Group as a voice of independent research. Their website remains a clear indication that their business is very much vested in the success of the gambling industry's ability to expand their business. "Spectrum Gaming Group is a who's who of insiders in the gambling industry" states Diane Jeffery, President of the League of Women Voters of Massachusetts.

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