



February 3, 2015

Gambling Action Alert



RAUNER APPOINTS SPRINGFIELD ATTORNEY to head GAMING BOARD

Judge Aaron Jaffe will not be re-appointed to head Illinois' Gaming Board. Instead, Governor Rauner is looking to Springfield corporate attorney Don Tracy to fill those shoes.

... During the 2010 election, Tracy said on the campaign trail that he was opposed to the expansion of gambling. That year, the socially-conservative [Read more](#)

The **Chicago Tribune** reported: Tracy said his "only agenda is fair, honest and efficient regulations". He said he would not lobby for or against the expansion of gambling but indicated he would be vocal in providing input on legislation. [Read more](#)

Casino revenue declines; some call gambling market saturated

While debate over the rejection of Kenosha's Hard Rock Hotel & Casino project continues, gambling industry insiders are mulling the overall business climate for the gaming industry.

In Atlantic City, four out of 10 casinos, including the Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino, closed in 2014.

In Illinois, casino revenues have fallen 44 percent since 2007, said Tom Swoik, executive director of the Illinois Casino Gaming Association. Swoik said his association is fighting any expansion of gambling in Illinois, believing there is no room in the market. [Read more](#)

Letter: Airport video gambling a bad idea for Springfield

A retired airline pilot writes: I have had the opportunity to view gambling from a distance in various terminal buildings around the system, especially in Las Vegas but also in Atlantic City and around Tunica, Mississippi. There are always behavior problems when travelers leaving the host city lose in a final attempt to regain losses experienced during their visit.

Most important to me in the airport setting is the exposure of children to the fascinating bright flashing lights on a video poker machine. [Read more](#)

State rep's view: Is video gambling worth the cost?

I write today to tell you I'm having this internal struggle. Citizens enjoy spending their money on gambling; it is a financial risk and reward "game." Now that we know \$50 million nets the city \$206,000 in tax revenue and comes with additional moral implications, is this worth it for us? [Read more](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. **Pray** for the new chairman and members of the Illinois Gaming Board.
2. **Contact** your County Clerk for the names of candidates running for the Feb. 24 Mayoral/City Council Primary elections and the April 7 election for local officials in your community. **Ask the candidates their position on video gambling.** (NOTE: In 2013 many newly-elected local officials overturned the bans on video gambling.) **Know where the candidates stand on the issue of video gambling in advance of the April 7 election.**
3. **Write** a Letter to the Editor.
4. **Forward** to 10 others.

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