



December 21, 2016

Gambling Update & Alert



Internet Fantasy Sports gambling

The *Wall Street Journal* reported DraftKings and FanDuel are revamping to capture casual fans way of long shot odds. The forecast for expected revenue has been lowered by \$13 Billion, reflecting greater than expected burnout and many states where this form of gambling is illegal.

The top 1% of people betting on DraftKings account for 32% of the entry fees and collected 47% of the winning over the past 6 months, the WSJ reported in the December 6 article *Daily Fantasy's New Reality*. One former tech professional gambles on fantasy sports full time and says it requires spending hours each day building lineups and doing research-not a fantasy lifestyle.

Casino expansion

The basic arguments against casino gambling have not changed. Many of those who gamble can least afford it, gambling away the money that was supposed to pay household expenses for themselves and their families, a Virginia newspaper editorialized.

Casino owners are the ones who are betting on a sure thing. **Everything about the casino economic model is designed to ensure that the house wins and the gamblers lose.** And politicians who look at casinos as revving generators of tax revenue are blinded to the heartbreak they bring to so many families every day. **The revenues they raise help pay for the safety-net social programs that become even more expensive because of the personal gambling losses of those who depend upon them.**

... There are indications that **when the economy sours, state budgets that depend on casinos for revenue suffer a double whammy, losing both that money, as well as income and sales tax revenues.** [Read more](#)

Video Gambling

Holidays are a time when gambling interests ask local officials to discuss overturning the ban on video gambling and local officials can pass ordinances to allow video gambling while the public is not watching. Be vigilant if you live in a community with a BAN on video gambling.

In April, 2015, 60% of the voters in Palatine voted on a referendum to keep the BAN. However, **Palatine officials will discuss overturning the ban on video gambling at the Village Board meeting on January 9th.** If you live in Palatine or know anyone who does, please ask them to attend this meeting and/or contact Village Trustees to voice their opposition. [Results of online poll](#) asking if Palatine officials should lift the ban on video gambling: 53% voted NO and 47% voted YES.

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

1. Current Legislature will be in session on January 9 - 11, 2017. Send a Christmas card to your State Senator and State Representative and ask them to OPPOSE all gambling bills.
2. If you live in a district with a newly elected Legislator, send them a note of congratulations and let them know you OPPOSE gambling-Internet Sports gambling, Chicago casino and other casino expansion, video gambling/slots at racetracks, expansion of video gambling, Internet Lottery, etc.
3. **Share this Alert** with your faith community.
4. **Forward** to 10 others.

Have a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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