

CITIZENS AGAINST EXPANDED GAMBLING



Kenosha Casino Approval on a Fast Tracked, Back-Room Deal

The City of Kenosha and Kenosha County is quietly setting up an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) for local approval of the Kenosha Casino, which will likely be on the agenda at the end of 2022 or early 2023. They are greasing the skids with recent media reports of a poll - paid for by the Florida Seminole Tribe - allegedly showing community support and an analysis of taxpayer financial impact which fails to tell the whole story (see below).

The details of the IGA should be publicly available with adequate time for Kenosha County residents to fully understand the impact of a casino, both economically and socially. The local elected officials negotiating the IGA should put the interests of Kenosha County residents first and foremost. Yet, elected officials are quietly rushing to strike a deal before public debate can occur.

Why? Because the facts about this casino cause more issues than they do benefit.

Kenosha County is one of the most prosperous counties in Wisconsin, a far cry from where we were even a decade ago. The prosperity we now enjoy is due to the deliberate effort to attract **good** economic development such as Uline and Nosco corporate headquarters and landing large new distribution and production facilities like Amazon and HARIBO.

This kind of sound economic development creates a bright economic future for Kenosha County even through catastrophic events like the COVID pandemic.

Impact of a Kenosha Casino on Wisconsin Taxpayers

The Wisconsin Legislative Research Bureau recently released a report that said the financial impact to taxpayers is less than originally thought. Conveniently, media reports failed to quantify “less” – which over a 10-year period could be nearly \$400M (\$250M per the [Potawatomi compact](#) and \$140M per the [Ho Chunk compact](#)).

This casino could cost Wisconsin taxpayers \$400M, with millions of dollars going to a Florida Tribe.

Casinos Are Not Good Economic Development

Good economic development accounts for many factors other than straight revenue. The increase in crime that comes along with a casino should be among the top concerns.

That isn't an opinion, it's a fact. According to a [panel study of Wisconsin Counties](#), **violent crime increases 30%** after the opening of a casino and **arrests increase 50%** in the community after the opening of a casino. In addition, in Wisconsin counties with a casino, arrests for forgery, fraud, embezzlement and receiving stolen property is about 50% above other counties.

Unlike the other tribes in Wisconsin, State criminal law does not automatically extend to the Menominee reservation lands. Therefore, it is very possible the state, county and city do NOT have jurisdiction over criminal conduct on the proposed Kenosha casino site. The potential lack of criminal jurisdiction by the state at the proposed Kenosha casino site was highlighted in a [2015 State Department of Administration review](#) of the prior Menominee and Florida Seminole casino proposal.

The Mirage of Jobs

Regional casinos leave behind far more gambling addicts than jobs. We are told one of the primary rationales for regional casinos is to “create jobs,” but facts show that casinos leave behind far more gambling addicts than jobs. Illinois has had an explosion of regional casinos in recent years. According to the most [recent numbers](#) made available by the Illinois Gambling Board, the total enrollment of citizens in the state’s voluntary Self-Exclusion Program was 11,119 and the total number of full and part-time casino jobs was 7,137 - almost 35% higher.

Impact on Small Business

Casinos not only have a negative impact on small local businesses such as restaurants, retail, and hotels, but they will also be a drain on an already over-taxed labor pool.

It is actually tough for businesses around casinos because they do all they can do to keep people from leaving the property. Cheap and/or free buffets, bars, shops, and hotels with plenty of parking. Some offer family friendly activities to help build the next generation of gamblers.

Casinos also attract an abundance of other business that do not hold to the high standard of economic development that Kenosha is accustomed to like check cashing stores, pawn shops, and strip clubs just to name a few.

Gambling Addiction

Regional casinos damage more than just a citizen’s financial well-being. Their predatory practices also severely harm the public’s health. At least [1 out of every 20 citizens](#) have had their lives turned upside down because they became addicted to commercialized gambling,

A [study](#) from the Research Institute on Addictions at the University of Buffalo found that people living within 10 miles of a casino or in a disadvantaged neighborhood were significantly more likely to develop a gambling addiction. The study revealed that living close to a casino increased the likelihood of developing a gambling disorder by **90%**.

Get Involved Today!

- Visit [CitizensAgainstGambling.com](#) and sign our petition to Stop the Kenosha Casino!
- Request a yard sign and send a post card to your local elected official (email info@citizensagainstgambling.com for yard signs and postage paid postcards).
- Call your Kenosha County Supervisor and if you live in the City of Kenosha, call your city council member too. Visit www.myvote.wi.gov and click on “my voter info” tab in the upper left-hand corner of the page to get contact info.
- Spread the word through your civic groups and churches.
- Write a letter to your newspaper’s editor about your concerns and why you oppose the casino.
- Like us on Facebook – Citizens Against Expanded Gambling and the Protect Kenosha Facebook Group to stay current
- Visit our website at www.citizensagainstgambling.com or email info@citizensagainstgambling.com
- Paid for by Citizens Against Expanded Gambling, Inc.