



## Issue 6 Clinton County Casino

Issue 6 will amend Ohio's Constitution to authorize one privately owned casino in the State of Ohio at a site located in southwest Ohio in Clinton County.

The casino will be required to pay a tax of up to 30% on its gross receipts, a portion of which will be distributed to all Ohio counties based on population to be used at each county's discretion.

The tax percentage payable by the casino will be reduced in the event another casino is authorized in Ohio. It shall not exceed the lesser of twenty-five percent or the percentage payable by any other casino operations.

Issue 6 requires the casino operator to make a minimum initial investment of \$600 million for the development of the casino property. It will also authorize the casino to conduct any game permitted in the State of Nevada, or any state adjacent to Ohio, except bets on races or sporting events. Only persons age 21 and over would be permitted to place wagers.

A Gaming Regulatory Commission would be established.

### Pro Arguments <http://myohionow.com>

All Ohio counties will share the wealth from revenue generated by the resort casino. Approximately \$211 million in tax revenue is projected to be divided among Ohio's 88 counties based on population, and each county will decide how to best spend their money.

The world-class destination resort expects to create up to 5,000 permanent jobs with average salaries of \$34,000.

A minimum of \$600 million will be spent on developing the resort casino project. Phase One of the project will include a facility featuring approximately 5,000 slot machines, 150 table games (including blackjack, roulette and craps), and a 20-table poker room. A luxury hotel with approximately 1,500 rooms, and a championship golf course and shooting sports course will also be developed.

### Con Arguments <http://www.votenocasinos.com>

Casinos and slot machines harm families and seduce gamblers, especially those with lower incomes. Gamblers can quickly lose large amounts of money within casinos. Studies have indicated that the problems of gambling addiction double when gambling opportunities are placed within 50 miles of the gambler.

Incidents of crime (substance abuse, prostitution, assault and battery, etc.) often increase around casinos.

Projected revenues from this casino are overstated and offer no guarantees. While individual counties will receive some monies, the state will not receive any revenues. Due to the "competition clause" in Issue 6, tax revenues could greatly decrease if another casino is authorized, especially one controlled by a Native American tribe that would not have to pay taxes to any state or county entity.

Passage of Issue 6 will establish Ohio as a Class III gambling state under the federal *Indian Gaming Regulatory Act* making it easier for Indian casinos to open in Ohio.

The Ohio Constitution should not be used as a tool for private companies to set up exclusive monopolies, take money out of Ohio, and exempt themselves from local zoning ordinances. The gambling owners will reap extensive monetary gain and have a constitutionally protected monopoly in the State.

### Church Teachings & Focus Question

Games and schemes of chance are not in themselves contrary to justice. The Church recognizes, however, that a variety of social ills can become associated with any form of gambling. According to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, forms of gambling "become morally unacceptable when they deprive someone of what is necessary to provide for his needs and those of others. The passion for gambling risks becoming an enslavement."

In previous Catholic Conference of Ohio statements on gambling, a distinction was made between charitable bingo and casino gambling. While there are a variety of social ills that can also be associated with charitable bingo, the gambling stakes are much lower and 100% of the proceeds are used for charitable purposes. The Catholic Bishops of Ohio would prefer, and in fact have encouraged, our institutions to raise needed funds through alternative forms of fundraising, where feasible.

Is Issue 6 well conceived and in the long-term best interest of the people of Ohio?

### Catholic Conference of Ohio Position

**The Catholic Bishops of Ohio are opposed to Issue 6. The Catholic Conference of Ohio believes casino gambling is not in the best moral, social and economic interests of the citizens of our state. Furthermore, the Conference believes that the Ohio constitution should not be amended primarily to benefit a single private entity. The Conference encourages a NO vote on Issue 6.**