Feasibility of Establishing the Virginia Gaming Commission

October 20, 2025

Presentation of Hon. Chuck Anderson

Member, No Fairfax Casino Coalition

Member, Town Council, Vienna, VA

TOWN OF VIENNA since 1890

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TAKE ACTION

The No Fairfax Casino Coalition – Who We Are

- A coalition of 40 homeowners' associations (HOAs), civic associations, and one town government (Vienna, VA.)
- Collectively, our coalition members represent well over 100,000 residents, spread across Fairfax County.
- Entirely volunteers, NFCC accepts no money from gaming interests.
- One affected community – Vienna – made "No Casino" its #1 legislative priority (in 2025).

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Our Four Main Points:

1. A casino in Tysons (or anywhere in Fairfax County) is a bad idea.
2. A moratorium on new brick-and-mortar gaming operations should be imposed until the Gaming Commission is established and has concluded a holistic review of current and possible future gaming activity in the Commonwealth.
3. Under NO CIRCUMSTANCES should the General Assembly eliminate the local referendum requirement for proposed casinos.
4. State-directed casino authorization violates the principal of l[illegible]ntrol over land use

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Why a Tysons Casino is a Bad Idea

- The claimed benefits: increased tax revenues and extra jobs
- Potential costs:
  - Negative impact on commercial office market – Many Tysons traditional office tenants (e.g., 3 letter agencies, Fortune 500 HQs) may resist co-locating with a casino.
  - Curtailment of trend in Tysons to convert from pure commercial office to mixed use.
  - Loss of retail activity: substitution effects + traffic congestion = lower sales
  - Impact on local labor markets: drawing service sector labor force from other locally owned businesses
  - Social costs: increase[illegible] and personal

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Why We Need a Moratorium on Authorizing New Casinos Until the Gaming Commission is in Place and Has Done Some Initial Analysis of the Current and Future State of Gaming in Virginia

- The current situation with multiple agencies supervising various gaming activities is complex, inefficient, and ineffective, leaving some activities that are not controlled. Adding new forms and locations for gaming would make the situation worse.
- A central gaming commission is necessary to determine how much tax revenue is required and how those resources should be allocated to maximize the public benefit.
- Adding new forms of gaming without adequate study and supervision would only exacerbate growing problems with youth and problem gambling.
- This would be a temporary delay, which would ensure a better result long-term than the current ad hoc approach.

Do Not Drop the Local Referendum Requirement

- Casinos are a mixed bag and are not a good fit everywhere.
- The people most directly affected by both the potential “good” and “bad” should be the ones making the final decision.
- If casino operators and developers can lobby Richmond directly for new location approval, then Virginia could end up with damaging brick-and-mortar gaming over-saturation.

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Critical Land Use Decisions Should Remain with Local Jurisdictions

- The expertise for such decisions is local: counties, towns, and cities elected and appointed officials have greater knowledge of local economics, development goals, and culture.

Possible Tysons Casino: A Case Study in Why Local Control is Essential

- Localities are better able to consider *all* costs and benefits, including impacts on property values, public safety, traffic, local commercial lease market, and substitution effects.
  - Does the proposed casino fit within the area's comp plan?
  - What about proximity to schools?
  - How will casino traffic affect nearby businesses?
- Proponents never consider alternative use of the location in their claims (i.e., construction jobs cl[illegible]ay not be additive).

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Thank you

For More Information

www.nofairfaxcasino.org

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