

RESOLUTION # 195-2016
OPPOSING BALLOT QUESTION #1 NORTH JERSEY CASINO
NOVEMBER 3, 2016

WHEREAS, Public Question No. 1 proposes a State constitutional amendment to permit casino gambling in two additional counties in this State; and,

WHEREAS, the voters will consider Public Question No.1 on the November 8, 2016; and,

WHEREAS, a history of studies conclude expanding gaming outside of Atlantic City would not increase revenues for the State and, in fact, lead to a net loss of jobs, small businesses, and revenue to the State. Those studies include:

- * The American Gaming Association found the rate of those who gambled in casinos at least once per year has remained relatively constant for decades.
- * The Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee confirms that as each new casino opens, it only serves locals as a greater share of its patronage.
- * Stockton University concluded one casino alone in North Jersey would draw from 41.8% of Atlantic City's existing customer base. This was confirmed by a Deutsche Bank study which said a North Jersey casino will draw from a 40 miles radius, cutting deep into Monmouth County which is critical to Atlantic City's market.
- * While Deutsche Bank estimates two North Jersey casinos will generate \$500 million in gaming revenue, Stockton University estimates Atlantic City casinos will lose \$500 million in gaming revenue.
- * The Greater Atlantic City Chamber estimates there would be 14,500 job losses and the closure of two to four Atlantic City casinos if casino expansion were approved.
- * The Morowitz Study concludes there will be a loss of up to 30,000 jobs, a loss of up to \$1.4 billion in gaming revenue, and the closure of three to five additional casinos, creating a significant increase in regional unemployment and housing foreclosures.

WHEREAS, the legislative sponsor of Public Question No. 1 testified before the Assembly Judiciary Committee that there were no independent studies supporting North Jersey casinos, and:

WHEREAS, there is no specific tax rate set on the possible North Jersey casinos making it impossible to determine how much if any tax revenue will be generate and, therefore, no guarantee that seniors, the disabled, the horse racing industry, or Atlantic City will receive any funding from North Jersey casinos, and;

WHEREAS, any North Jersey casinos will require substantial infrastructure improvements at their location and there is no additional State funding for those improvement, and;

WHEREAS, unemployment in Atlantic County remains above the state average and Atlantic County's foreclosure rate is still the highest in the nation, and;

WHEREAS, the net loss of casino jobs will hurt the hard working middle class men and women of Atlantic County, who are the very people the casino industry was intended to help; and,

WHEREAS, any further decline in casino property values in Atlantic City will increase property taxes throughout Atlantic County; and

WHEREAS, the legalization of casino gaming in surrounding states has already oversaturated the gaming market, opening casinos in other locations in New Jersey municipalities will only serve to cannibalize our own gaming market.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, this governing body opposes Public Question No. 1 and strongly urges all of our residents to also oppose Public Question No. 1 on November 8, 2016.

ROLL CALL:

NAME	MOTION	SECONDED	YES	NO	ABSTAINED	ABSENT
Becker			X			
Amodeo		X	X			
Blumberg	X		X			

DATE: November 3, 2016

CERTIFICATION

I, Johanna Casey, City Clerk of Margate City, Atlantic County, do hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Commissioners of the City of Margate City at a meeting of said Commission held on November 3, 2016 and said resolution was adopted by not less than a two-thirds vote of the members of the Commission.

Johanna Casey, RMC, City Clerk