

What Negative Impacts Can We Expect From A Casino At Suffolk Downs?

Crime Goes Up

The NH Gaming Study Commission found that a single casino as proposed by Millennium Gaming for Rockingham Park would add more than 1,200 serious crimes each year in Salem and surrounding communities. Five casinos would add over 2,500 crimes per year, including more than 30 rapes.

Increased Real Estate Taxes

Susan Mendenhall, former mayor of Ledyard, CT, home to Foxwoods, said the impact from the casino on local services such as fire, police and particularly the school system has been significant. "We were just caught dead. You have no idea how much that has cost our town ... millions, and it is on the backs of taxpayers" - Norwich Bulletin, October 22, 2008

Drain On The Local Economy

"People will spend a tremendous amount of money in casinos, money that they would normally spend on buying a refrigerator or a new car. Local businesses will suffer because they lose customer dollars to the casinos." - Donald Trump, casino owner, "The Jackpot State", The Miami-Herald, March 27, 1994

Public Corruption

Massachusetts Senate President Therese Murray, an ardent casino supporter, was quoted in February 2010 expressing her concerns about corruption: "Every other state that's done gaming, someone goes to jail because it's done too fast, too sloppily."

Traffic Problems

"Senator Petrucci said his support for a Suffolk Downs casino would come with conditions ... one being a commitment from Suffolk Downs to finance a (sic) overhaul of the Route 1A corridor from the Sumner/Callahan Tunnels to Copeland Circle [Route 1] in Revere. [A 2009 traffic] study commissioned by Senator Petrucci, found that the corridor [along Routes 1A and 60 needs] almost \$500 million [in improvements to handle current traffic levels.]"
- East Boston Times, March 19, 2010

A casino at Suffolk Downs is hoping to attract 20,000 visitors a day. Neither the legislation proposed this year, nor the bill sent to the Governor's desk at the end of the legislative session last year contain provisions for handling the expected traffic problems.

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