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Jefferson doesn't need more gambling

Editor:

Citizens in Jefferson County face a choice Dec. 5: Will we fall for the propoganda Penn National is spinning? Or will we stand up for what we know to be the truth - that we do not need more gambling?

West Virginia is second only to Nevada in state reliance on gambling revenue. This gives out-of-state casinos way too much power and leads to corruption.

Table-gaming proponents overstate the revenue and understate the costs to get our vote. Penn National misleads us when they claim the 500 new jobs will average \$45,000. When questioned at a local forum, Al Britton admitted that they will pay dealers \$7 to \$10 an hour, with the rest in tips.

Penn National misleads us when they say we'll get millions for our schools. Their projections, which don't kick in until 2012, are based on biased projections by the state Lottery, which has a vested interest in promoting the casino.

[Penn National misleads us when they say it will be good for the local economy. There is a good reason they are not broadcasting how table games have affected the northern racetrack. The results from Mountaineer Park have been disheartening: purses are down about a third, races have been cut, and track owners are requesting a four month cancelation of winter racing. This will severely impact our local horse and farm industries, bedrocks in our local economy.](#)

Gamblers who come to play table games will only go to the casino; they won't stay in other hotels, eat in other restaurants or explore our beautiful county.

I urge you to go to www.VoteNoTableGames.org and review the many costs the proliferation of gambling will bring.

Vote no Dec. 5.

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[paragraph in blue: submitted, but not printed with original letter]