

KEY POINTS AND RESOURCES ON CASINO IMPACTS

Increased Crime Risks When a Casino Comes to Town

- **Casinos Attract Human Trafficking**
Traffickers use casinos to find victims—mostly **women and young girls**, but also men and boys.¹
- **Crime Rates Rise**²
 - **8.6% of property crimes** and **12.6% of violent crimes** in casino counties are linked to the casino.
 - Common casino-related crimes include **rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft**.
- **Crime Grows Over Time**
 - Crime is initially low when a casino opens but **increases as problem gambling rises**.³
 - **Problem gamblers**—including visitors—commit crimes as they exhaust their resources.⁴
- **High Social Costs**
 - Casino-related crime cost **\$75 per adult in 1996**—equal to **\$152 per person today**.⁵

A Casino Means More Traffic and More Danger

- **No Plan to Handle Increased Traffic**
 - The Tysons 40-year transportation plan does not account for thousands of additional daily casino-related vehicles, lead to greater congestion and gridlock.
- **Higher Risk of Drunk and Drugged Drivers**
 - A 24/7 casino means more drivers under the influence on the road, putting Tysons communities at greater risk.

¹ <https://www.americangaming.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/AGA-Preventing-and-Combating-Human-Trafficking-in-the-Gaming-Industry.pdf>

² Grinols, Earl L. and Mustard, David B, *Casinos, Crime and Community Costs*, The Review of Economics and Statistics, Vol.88-1, pp. 28-45 (2006)

³ Grinols

⁴ Grinols

⁵ Grinols

Casino Tax Revenue: No Solution for Fairfax County Schools' Funding Gap

- **State Keeps Most Casino Tax Revenue**

Under current law, Virginia would take 70% of gaming tax revenue from a Tysons casino. This is especially relevant because the location outlined in the casino bill has the potential to generate significant local tax revenue without a casino.⁶

- **Massive State Education Funding Deficit**

Fairfax County faces a **\$568.7 million shortfall** in state funding for K-12 education. If fully funded, the county could **lower real estate taxes by 17.5 cents**, saving homeowners an average of **\$1,300 per year**.⁷

- **Virginia's Failing School Funding** (2024 JLARC study on state spending for public schools⁸):

- Local governments bear a disproportionate share of K-12 education costs.
- Virginia funds schools at a lower per-student rate than national and regional averages.
- Virginia schools receive less funding than those in **Kentucky, Maryland, and West Virginia**.
- Lawmakers have not acted on recommendations to fix these issues.

- **Casino Revenue Falls Short**

A casino in Fairfax County is projected to generate **\$155 million casino tax revenue for Virginia**⁹—but Fairfax County would only receive **30% of its share**. That **won't come close** to closing the **\$568.7 million funding gap** for local schools.

Bottom Line: A casino won't fix the chronic problem of woefully inadequate state funding for Fairfax County public schools—acting on the recommendations in the 2024 JLARC study will.

⁶ From, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay Letter to Virginia State Senate and House Majority and Minority Leaders, January 26, 2024

⁷ From, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Jeff McKay Letter to Virginia State Senate and House Majority and Minority Leaders, January 27, 2025

⁸ <https://jlarc.virginia.gov/pdfs/reports/Rpt601.pdf>

⁹ <https://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2019-gaming.asp>

Casinos Fuel Gambling Addiction

- Living within 10 miles of a casino increases the chance of becoming a **problem gambler by 90%**.¹⁰
- **Problem gambling in Virginia has surged 125% since 2019**, especially among **young men** who develop addiction faster than ever before.¹¹
- **Lack of Support for Problem Gamblers**¹²
 - Virginia has only **107 treatment programs** – less than **2 centers per 100,000 residents**.
 - **Only 7-10%** of problem gamblers seek help.
- **Alarming Mental Health Risks**¹³
 - **31.6%** of problem gamblers experience **suicidal thoughts**.
 - **3.6%** attempt suicide.
- **Serious Financial Consequences**¹⁴
 - **Bankruptcy rates are 18% higher** in counties with casinos.
 - New American casinos are linked to **negative health, economic and social outcomes**.

Casino Tax Revenue is Unreliable and Unsustainable

- **Tax Revenue Declines Over Time**
- Data from **27 states** shows that **gambling tax revenue slows, reverses, or declines** after initial gains.¹⁵
- **Casinos Don't Solve Budget Problems**
 - Gambling revenue is **volatile and shrinks over time**.
 - The **money collected is relatively small** and **won't fund education or essential services**.
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¹⁰ Weaver, Kathleen, *Study Ties Risk of Problem Gambling with Proximity to Casinos and Other Gambling Opportunities*, University at Buffalo, 2005. <https://www.buffalo.edu/news/releases/2005/06/7369.html>

¹¹ Hawley, Carolyn, *An Exploration of Problem Gambling and its Association with Suicides and Suicidality*, webinar hosted by the Suicide Prevention Alliance of Northern Virginia, September 30, 2024.

¹² Hawley

¹³ Hawley

¹⁴ <https://stoppredatorygambling.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/The-Impact-of-Casino-Gambling-on-Personal-Bankruptcy-Filing-Rates.pdf>

¹⁵ Dadayan, Lucy, Tax Policy Center, *High Stakes: Casino Tax Revenue Trends and Their Impact on State Budgets*, https://www.lizkrueger.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Dadayan_NYC_Krueger_FINAL.pdf

- **No Long-Term Financial Benefit**
 - Despite claims that casinos boost state taxes, **there's little evidence they actually do.**¹⁶
- **Gambling is not a reliable or sustainable solution** for balancing the budget.¹⁷

Casinos Lower Home Values and Hurt Local Budgets

- **Home Values Drop Near Casinos**
 - A study by the **National Association of REALTORS®** found that **home values decline by 4% to 10%** near casinos.¹⁸
- **Lower Property Values = Budget Shortfalls**
 - **66% of Fairfax County's general fund** comes from **residential property taxes**.
 - When **home values fall, property tax revenue decreases**, leading to **budget gaps**.
- **Casino Tax Revenue Won't Fill the Gap**
 - Declining home values create a **long-term revenue loss** that **casino taxes can't offset**.

Casinos Don't Grow Local Economies

- **No Evidence of Economic Growth**
 - A **2002-2017 study** found that **casinos did not boost retail growth**, and that **employment grew slower in casino areas** than in non-casino areas.¹⁹
- **Casinos Hurt Local Businesses**
 - Instead of generating new economic activity, **casinos cannibalize existing businesses**, leaving local economies **no better off** than before.²⁰

¹⁶ Scavette, Adam, *Casinos and Regional Economies: Has the Game Changed?*, https://www.richmondfed.org/publications/research/economic_brief/2022/eb_22-28

¹⁷ Dadayan

¹⁸ National Association of REALTORS®, *Economic of Impact of Casinos on Home Prices: Literature Survey and Analysis*, 2013

¹⁹ Krutz, Jonathan, *Do Casinos Create Economic Development?: A 15-Year National Analysis of Local Retail Sales and Employment Growth*. <https://doi.org/10.18122/td.1939.boisestate>.

²⁰ Krutz

- **Limited Job Creation**
 - **Job gains are minimal** and mainly occur in **low-density areas without nearby casinos.**²¹
- **Broken Promises**
 - The **economic benefits promised** by casino developers and state governments **failed to materialize**²²
- **The Costs Outweighs the Benefits**
 - Hosting a casino creates **economic harm** that **outweighs any benefits by up to 6:1.**²³

Casino Jobs Do Not Pay A Living Wage in Fairfax County

- **Low Pay, Not Sustainable Income**
 - The **2019 JLARC Study** projected a **median casino wage of \$33,000**, aligning with **national gambling industry wages.**²⁴
- **Well Below Fairfax County Income Standards**
 - **Fairfax County's median income** is **\$150,113 per household** and **\$69,971 per individual.**²⁵
 - **Casino wages are at best 49% of the county's median income**, making them insufficient to support workers in the area.

²¹ Scavette

²² Mutari, Ellen and Figart, Deborah, *Just One More Hand: Life in the Casino Economy*, Rowan & Littlefield, 2015.

²³ Grinols

²⁴ <https://jlarc.virginia.gov/landing-2019-gaming.asp>

²⁵ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/fairfaxcountyvirginia/PST045223>