

# 5 Reasons to Stop the Norwalk Casino

On May 7, 2013 the people of Warren County are going to be voting on whether or not to legalize gambling in Warren County. Wild Rose Entertainment has proposed to build a casino in Warren County, and they have promised millions of new tax dollars for the county and schools, as well as hundreds of new jobs.

Our opposition, the gambling industry, has been spending big dollars to convince people that there is a need for a casino in Norwalk, and The FAMiLY LEADER would like to assist local residents looking to stop this vice industry from coming into their community. The FAMiLY LEADER is in need of \$5,000 to run a strong final push before the election. A gracious donor has contributed \$2500 to the cause. That means we just need an additional \$2500 by Tuesday to fund our final efforts.

**Please help us reach \$5000 to fund our final push in the next few days before the election and donate \$35, \$50, or**

**\$500.**

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## **1. This state of 3 million people already has too many casinos.**

The promises being made to Warren County are all stories Iowans have heard before: “If we build this casino it will bring in hundreds of jobs and jump start economic growth in our city.” Ever since legalizing riverboat casinos in 1989, Iowa has turned into a “Cornfield Vegas.” The state of Iowa has 18 casinos, with the proposed additions of Cedar Rapids and Norwalk, Iowa would house 20.

## **2. Economic development modeled after Nevada bankrupts the community.**

It appears that Iowa has become reliant on casinos to pay for its government, and as a source of economic development. It's as if we are trying to become another Nevada, which has the notorious gambling cities of Reno and Las Vegas. Unfortunately, Nevada is known for more than casinos. A few

other “accolades” include: **highest bankruptcy rate in the country, highest high school dropout rate, highest violent crime rate, third worst overall crime rate, fifth highest suicide rate, and according to Forbes Magazine, Nevada is one of the worst states to retire in.** Gallup polling also found Nevada to be the fourth worst state to live in, while her neighboring state, Utah, was rated the best state to live (Utah is one of two states in America that doesn’t allow gambling). For those who say gambling does not have an effect on culture, please explain Nevada.

### **3. Casinos have tremendous societal costs.**

Norwalk should carefully weigh if all these so-called “new money and jobs” are what Norwalk really needs. Norwalk is currently known as a quiet, safe community with excellent public schools and as a great place to raise a family.

Bringing in a casino would fundamentally change the city’s culture. The once quiet, peaceful town would be filled with a gaudy Vegas-like atmosphere. It would no longer be the attractive community close to Des Moines that young families desire to move to. Instead, “What happens in Norwalk, will stay in Norwalk.”

### **4. Norwalk doesn’t need a casino to grow and develop.**

As the Des Moines metro continues to grow more and more, young families will desire to move to communities like Norwalk. If they build the casino, all Norwalk will receive is short-term, quick growth with lingering socio-economic problems. Without the casino, Norwalk will continue to grow at a steady rate, but will grow in a way that will be much more beneficial for the community long-term. Waukee doesn’t have a casino, and it seem to be doing well. In fact, Hy-Vee and multiple other companies are looking to locate in Waukee. Norwalk will

benefit much more in the long-term if they choose to not build the casino.

## **5. Casinos make millions by taking millions.**

Casinos prey off of the most vulnerable in society who often turn to casinos out of a desperate last resort. Some get lucky and win big, but a vast majority find themselves on the fast track to bankruptcy. **What will casino customers have to show at the end of a gambling day besides an empty wallet and the constant sounds of slot machines echoing over and over in their heads?** Big, fancy casino buildings aren't built by giving away too much money. The only way casinos can give millions, is by making millions more off Iowa residents.

The state of Iowa should abandon the idea of an intentional vice as a source of economic development and government growth. Iowa needs to find true economic development that brings good paying jobs to our state and doesn't prey on the poorest of our society. **Norwalk, please protect the culture and image of your beautiful community and vote No on this casino.**

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