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The _____ MICHIGAN GAMING _____ Newsletter



GAMBLING EXPANSION BALLOT PROPOSALS

Next Tuesday, November 6, most voters will be deciding whether they want their state to be blue or red as numerous gubernatorial and state and federal senate and house seats will be up for grabs. In addition to the election of officials, however, there are numerous states that have gaming-related ballot proposals and referendums—Arkansas, Idaho, Florida, Louisiana and Missouri. Each proposal is briefly summarized below.

In Arkansas, voters will decide whether to expand casino gambling within the state. The proposal would permit casino gambling at Oaklawn Park, a thoroughbred racing track in Hot Springs, and at a West Memphis racing track. While both locations already offer video poker and other electronic games, if the proposal passes they would be allowed to introduce table games as well. The proposal would also legalize one casino in Pope (within two miles of Russellville) and one in Jefferson (within two miles of Pine Bluff) counties, thereby increasing the number of casinos in the state by four.

In Idaho, voters will decide whether to authorize electronic games to display results of historical horse racing. These games randomly select a video of a historical race. Players are not shown information such as the location, date of the race, or names of horses and jockeys, but are shown generalized data on the field and a player, just as with pari-mutuel wagering, chooses the top three finishers in the race. The player can then choose to view the entire race video or a shortened version showing the winners.

In Florida, there are two ballot proposals—one to limit any expansion of gaming in the state and another to ban greyhound racing by 2020. Amendment 3 would provide voters with the exclusive right to authorize casino gambling through a citizen initiative process—the legislature would not be able to pass legislation to authorize casino gambling without a state-

wide vote. Casino gambling includes card games, casino games and slot machines, but excludes pari-mutuel wagering on horse racing, dog racing or jai alai. Two of the largest contributors to the ballot measure committee supporting this initiative are Disney and the Seminole Tribe of Florida (who already have rights to operate casinos in the state because of a compact negotiated with Florida). Amendment 13 would ban greyhound racing, phasing it out by 2020.

Louisiana has a ballot proposal related to fantasy sports that is a bit unusual. Instead of a state-wide proposal, this ballot proposal provides the opportunity for each of Louisiana's 64 parishes to decide if voters want to allow fantasy sports for cash prizes. In a similar vote in the mid-1990s, 33 of the 64 parishes opted out of installing video poker machines.

Finally, Missouri has a ballot proposal that would amend the Missouri constitution to remove language limiting bingo game advertising. The proposal follows a ruling by a court that the restriction on advertising was unconstitutional. It would also allow a member of a licensed organization conducting bingo games to participate in the management of those games after being a part of the organization for six months. The current language restricts the waiting period to two years. Missouri law restricts operation of bingo games to charitable, religious, fraternal, veteran and service organizations which must use all the proceeds for their charitable or religious purposes.

MICHIGAN HORSE TRACKS TO OFFER 70 LIVE RACING DAYS IN 2019 AS THOROUGHBREDS POTENTIALLY RETURN

Per [orders](#) issued October 31 by the Michigan Gaming Control Board (MGCB), Michigan horse racing fans can expect 44 days of live standardbred racing at Northville Downs and 26 days of live thoroughbred racing at Sports Creek near Flint in 2019.

"We are cautiously optimistic about the reopening of Sports Creek and the reestablishment of thoroughbred racing in Michigan," said Richard Kalm, executive director, MGCB in a [press release](#) dated October 31. "The track must meet several licensing conditions before simulcasting and live thoroughbred racing can begin next year. It's good for the industry when fans can enjoy both harness and thoroughbred racing live in Michigan."

Northville Downs will offer live racing on Fridays and Saturdays from March 22 through June 8 and from Sept. 13 through Nov. 16. Northville Downs will offer 16 fewer live race dates in 2019 compared with 2018 when the track applied for and received 60 race dates. Simulcasting will operate throughout the year.

If the order conditions for Sports Creek are met, AmRace & Sports may offer simulcasting after Jan. 1, 2019. The MGCB may suspend or revoke the license if the track operator fails to fulfill the conditions in the order. The order will allow live thoroughbred racing on Fridays and Saturdays from June 15 through Sept. 7. Simulcasting will operate throughout the year.

[Click here for a 2019 Horse Racing Calendar.](#)

LINCOLN PARK MAN TO PAY \$45,650 IN RESTITUTION FOR EMBEZZLING CHARITABLE FUNDS

Per a [press release](#) dated October 31, Donald G. McDonald from Lincoln Park, was sentenced on October 23 to five years' probation and ordered to pay \$45,650.50 in restitution for crimes against two Wayne County charities. The embezzlement was uncovered through a joint investigation by the Michigan Attorney General's Office and the Michigan Gaming Control Board. McDonald will also pay \$3,385 in fines and fees for felony embezzlement, forgery and three misdemeanors, including larceny by conversion and two charitable gaming license violations.

McDonald, a former Moose Lodge treasurer, admitted embezzling up to \$25,000 from Lincoln Park Moose Lodge No. 1665 and the Lincoln Park Women of the Moose No. 1036. Although McDonald's term as treasurer ended in 2014, state investigators reviewed the organization's records between 2013 and 2016. The organizations estimated up to \$100,000 was missing, and McDonald was the only person accused of wrongdoing.

"We appreciate the cooperation of the charities in helping bring Mr. McDonald to justice," said Richard S. Kalm, executive director, Michigan Gaming Control Board. "Unfortunately, these organizations fell victim to an unscrupulous person who took advantage of his fellow members' trust by siphoning funds away for himself."

Both organizations were licensed by the MGCB to conduct charitable gaming events, and some of the stolen funds were proceeds from those fundraising events.

The investigation resulted from a tip received by the MGCB, which urges the public to report illegal or suspicious gambling-related activity to its anonymous tip line, 888-314-2682.

THREE MEN CHARGED AFTER VIDEO GAME BUSINESS RAID

Three men, former Flint Police Chief Bradford Barksdale, Adam Crossnoe and Alvin Crossnoe, were charged with felony charges in connection with running a video poker room according to an article on MLive.com. Barksdale, 66, was arraigned on three felony counts, while the other two defendant face single counts.

The arrests came after the state raided the video game parlor. All three defendants are free on bond, but are prohibited from going to any gaming establishments as a condition of their bonds according to the [article](#).

SECOND ANNUAL U.S. SPORTS BETTING POLICY SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON DC

The U.S. Sports Betting Policy Summit is being held in Washington DC. **Details are as follows:**

Dirksen Senate Office Building
50 Constitution Avenue Northeast
Washington, DC 20003
Room : SD-106
Thursday, November 15
8:00am—11:30am

Confirmed Panelists are:

- **Ted Leonsis**, *Monumental Sports & Entertainment*
- **Andy Cunningham**, *Sportradar*
- **Dr. Laila Mintas**, *Sportradar*
- **Naima Stevenson**, *NCAA*
- **Jeff Stonebreaker**, *Major League Soccer*
- **Clarence A. Nesbitt**, *National Basketball Players Association*
- **State Representative Brandt Iden**, *Michigan House of Representatives*
- **State Senator Bill Coley**, *Ohio State Senate*
- **Christian Genetski**, *FanDuel Group*
- **Keith Whyte**, *National Council on Problem Gambling*
- **Danielle Her Many Horses**, *National Indian Gaming Association*
- **Joe Weinert**, *Spectrum Gaming Group*
- **Art Manteris**, *Station Casinos*
- **Daniel Wallach**, *Gaming Law & Sports Betting Attorney*

"With a powerful agenda and being located in the offices of the US Senate, the US Sports Betting Policy Summit should be an extraordinarily high-profile event. We look forward to moderating the first session and contributing to the important dialogue," said Michael Pollock, Managing Director of Spectrum Gaming Group, which is organizing the event with Sportradar and Revolution.

Anyone interested in attending the Summit can [RSVP by clicking here](#).