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# The \_\_\_\_\_ MICHIGAN GAMING \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter



## MYOHIONOW.COM CASINO VOTER INITIATIVE UPDATE

The organization MyOhioNow.com LLC (MyOhioNow) has been aggressively collecting signatures for an initiative proposal to be included on the November, 2008 Ohio ballot which, if passed, would pave the way for a \$600 million casino and resort to be built in Clinton County, Ohio near the Route 73 exit from Interstate 71. Developers describe this site as centrally located between the cities of Columbus, Cincinnati and Dayton.

If the initiative proposal makes the Ohio fall ballot and passes, it would restrict casino gambling to one site in Clinton County in Southwest Ohio. Previous attempts to amend Ohio's constitution to allow for casino gaming in the state have failed in 1990, 1996 and more recently in 2006.

Proponents of the proposal state that some defining characteristics which set this initiative apart from the unsuccessful prior attempts are the implementation of the "single-site casino" initiative as well as equal sharing of tax revenues across all of Ohio's 88 counties.

According to Rick Lertzman, co-founder of MyOhioNow, there are currently between 500-800 signature collectors working out of 12 offices across the state of Ohio. He predicts MyOhioNow will collect two times the required 402,205 signatures before the August 6, 2008 deadline, and has high hopes of the initiative being included on the November 4, 2008 ballot.

Phase one of the proposed project would be a 2,000,000 square foot development, including 180,000- 220,000 square feet of gaming space. Plans also call for an estimated 1,500 room suite-style luxury hotel, a 3,000 car parking garage, a large conference center, eight restaurants, a 12,000 square foot children's arcade, a championship golf course and a shooting

*(Continued on page 2)*

sports course. The proposed gaming facility will contain 4,000 to 5,000 slot machines, a poker room with an estimated 20 poker tables, another estimated 100 table games which would include craps and roulette.

“It (the proposed casino) will undoubtedly attract visitors nationwide as it will be the largest facility between New Jersey and Nevada,” said Rick Lertzman.

According to MyOhioNow.com, the plan for a casino would create up to 5,000 permanent jobs and 3,000 construction jobs. In addition, the casino could generate an estimated \$200,000,000.00 annually in tax revenues that would be divided among the 88 Ohio counties on a per capita basis.

## **PONTIAC CITY COUNCIL TO VOTE ON SILVERDOME SALE PROPOSAL**

The Pontiac City Council might vote as soon as tomorrow, July 10, on a resolution to sell the Pontiac Silverdome to Bloomfield Hills lawyer H. Wallace Parker, creating the potential for a proposed \$175 million indoor entertainment venue.

Last week, on June 26, the Pontiac City Council held its second and final public hearing seeking to gather community input concerning the potential sale of the Pontiac Silverdome for \$20 million. Other aspects of the plan include a conference center, restaurants and nightclubs. Previous rumors of Parker’s renovation included the possibility for a racetrack casino, yet expansion of gaming outside of Detroit’s three casinos and Tribal casinos would require a statewide and local vote by the host community in accordance with a constitutional amendment adopted in 2004 (Proposal 1 of 2004).

The Silverdome was originally built in 1975 for over \$55million and has a capacity of over 80,000 people. Since its inception, and until 2001, the domed facility was home to the NFL Detroit Lions. Since 2001, the stadium has hosted various other sporting events, yet currently does not have any regular users.

The Silverdome is located at I-75 and M-59 and sits on roughly 127 acres.

## **SAULT STE. MARIE TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS TRIBAL ELECTION**

On June 26, 2008 the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians (Sault Tribe) held its Board of Directors General Election in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. The Sault Tribe owns the Kewadin Casino properties in the upper-peninsula and is also the majority shareholder of Greektown Casino in Detroit, Michigan. Those elected as members of the Board will hold their respective seats for the next four years.

After the Sault Tribe Election Committee held a Unit I ballot recount on June 30, 2008 upon the request of Unit I candidate Nathan Wright, the official results were confirmed and certified.

As of July 1, 2008 the official election results are as follows: Darwin (Joe) McCoy, new Chairman of the Sault Tribe, Cathy M. Abramson (Unit I), Joseph V. Eitrem (Unit I), Bernard A. Bouschor (Unit I), Lana E. Causley (Unit II), Patrick D. Rickley (Unit III), and Tom Miller (Unit IV). There were not any Unit V seats up for election this term.

Recently, on July 2, the Sault Tribe’s new Chairman and the six newly elected board members took their ceremonial oath of office in front of supporters and family at the Kewadin Casino in Sault Ste. Marie.

Yesterday, July 8, the Sault Tribe’s Board of Directors held a special meeting where the first line of business was electing officers. Unit II Representative Lana Causley was selected as the new vice chairperson to the tribe, Unit I Representative Cathy Abramson will serve another term as treasurer and Unit I Representative DJ Hoffman was selected as secretary.

For more information on the Sault Tribe, visit their official website at: [www.saulttribe.com](http://www.saulttribe.com).