

NO FAIRFAX CASINO

TAKE ACTION

The Honorable Abigail Spanberger
Governor
Commonwealth of Virginia
P. O. Box 1475
Richmond, VA 23218

March 15, 2026
Via email

Dear Governor Spanberger:

On behalf of the No Fairfax Casino Coalition, we request that you veto S.B. 756, which would add Fairfax County to the list of localities permitted to host a casino in the Commonwealth. Our coalition is a fully volunteer, grassroots coalition of more than 40 organizations and represents over 200,000 Fairfax County residents. We have worked thousands of hours over the past four years to oppose this legislation.

Our opposition is based principally on the following concerns. Most importantly, the residents and local elected leadership strongly oppose the legislation. In response to [a poll](#) conducted by Global Strategy Group in September 2025 – **75%** of residents oppose the Casino. Even when residents were told a casino might reduce their property tax, **70%** remain opposed. The poll, which included a broad spectrum of demographics, political affiliation, income level and ethnicity, clearly captures the vehement opposition to the Casino. 68% of Union members who were polled reject the casino. In addition, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors' 2026 legislative priorities clearly opposed the bill. As you are aware, the intent of the Casino legislation passed in 2019 was to provide localities who wish to site a casino in their jurisdiction with the opportunity to request permission of the legislature to do so. We did not ask for nor do we need a Casino in Fairfax County.

Autonomy over land-use decisions, intrinsically local decisions, will be completely eroded if the bill becomes law. State interference in these decisions often ignores local impacts, including traffic, safety and infrastructure; bypassing that process weakens local planning. Fairfax County has demonstrated its land use policies and processes work very well and should not be overruled by the legislature.

The economic development that has fueled Fairfax County will be jeopardized now that this bill was amended to identify Tysons as the targeted site. Pursuant to letters sent to the General Assembly, many businesses headquartered in Tysons believe that the area's designation as a planned business center is crucial to their long-term growth and stability. They argue that introducing a casino would undermine the professional environment and detract from Tysons' reputation as a hub for corporate operations and innovation.

Simply put Tysons is thriving and does not need a casino. Commercial vacancy rates in Tysons have been used as the rationale to support S.B. 756. However, the data does not support that argument. Moreover, S.B. 756's advancement through the General Assembly has not been subjected to the rigorous financial analysis traditionally conducted by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission for all previous casino authorizations. This omission represents a serious departure from established due diligence and is particularly concerning given that the revenue projections in the patron's public statements sharply contradict Fairfax County's independent economic analysis. The lack of a credible, state-level review underscores the profound uncertainty surrounding the bill's fiscal assumptions and potential community impacts.

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The speculative economic benefits cited by proponents do not outweigh these tangible financial risks or the strong opposition voiced by residents and local leaders.

Fairfax County's Board of Supervisors never asked for this legislation and consequently voted to oppose it in [December 2025](#) and reiterated that opposition in a letter to the Northern Virginia House Delegation on March 13, 2026.

Additionally, your career in law enforcement, intelligence, and national security gives you a unique understanding of the nexus between compulsive gambling, financial distress, and criminal acts. This is not a theoretical concern. [A 2024 letter](#) from 109 retired senior officials with top-secret clearances from the State, Defense, and Justice Departments, as well as the intelligence community, validates this risk. Those senior officials expressed, "acute concern," that a casino in Tysons, "Within walking or easy driving distance for tens of thousands of federal employees, civilian defense and intelligence contractors, and U.S. military personnel," creates a significant national security vulnerability.

Finally, our coalition is also deeply concerned that this bill has been adopted even as separate legislation to establish a unified statewide gaming commission failed to advance. As your Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry, Katie Frazier, affirmed in her testimony on February 10, in support of the House proposal that a unified regulatory framework is essential to ensure transparency, consistent oversight, and enforcement integrity across the Commonwealth, authorizing a major expansion of gaming in Northern Virginia before such a critical structure is in place would be premature and irresponsible.

For these reasons—we respectfully request that you exercise your veto authority under Article V, Section 6 of the Constitution of Virginia and return S.B. 756 with your disapproval.

Respectfully,


Lynne Mulston
Chair
No Fairfax Casino Coalition

cc: Jeffrey C. McKay, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors