

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Fairfax County Residents Demand Immediate, Unbiased, Fiscal Review**

January 29, 2026, Fairfax County, VA — Citizens and members of the No Fairfax Casino Coalition are sounding the alarm as the Virginia General Assembly pushes casino legislation forward, disregarding the urgent need for an independent, current, fiscal impact assessment on the local budget. Coalition members are asking for real answers—not projections. The JLARC Fiscal Impact Review dated January 28, 2026, discusses the state impact and cites the outdated data from the 2019 JLARC report. Additionally, it cites estimated revenue at 50% less than the figures the patron of SB 756 is providing to the public and Senate committee members.

Senator Scott Surovell, sponsor of SB 756, touts the bill as an economic “game-changer” for Fairfax County and the Commonwealth. But the lack of debate in Richmond suggests that these claims are being rubber-stamped without evidence or scrutiny, despite his previous failures to get a casino bill passed and the glaring absence of an up-to-date independent fiscal analysis. The only “review” thus far has focused solely on impact on state finances—leaving Fairfax County in the dark. Unfortunately for Fairfax County residents, the General Assembly and JLARC continue to rely on obsolete estimates from 2019, ignoring profound changes in the region’s economy and gaming landscape.

During the January 23 General Assembly Senate Gaming Subcommittee hearing, coalition members presented testimony regarding the absence of an updated fiscal analysis for a Northern Virginia casino since 2019. The former JLARC report relied on speculative and unverified projections, estimating \$155 million in gaming tax revenue and the creation of 3,200 jobs. Since that time, significant changes have occurred within Virginia’s economic landscape, including the opening of new casinos across the state, rapid growth in online sports betting and iGaming, the proliferation of illegal skill games at convenience stores and gas stations, and the growth of casinos by neighboring states.

“Seven years have passed since that report,” said coalition spokesperson Lynne Mulston. “The gaming industry has exploded, unemployment is rising, development is slowing, and families have less money to spend. Because of these circumstances, we are urging the General Assembly to defer action on this bill and to seek a fresh, comprehensive analysis. Virginians deserve facts, not fantasy. Additionally, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) has made clear in their 2026 Legislative Agenda that they explicitly oppose a casino and any legislation that authorizes a casino in Fairfax County without any request for such legislation, and the BOS has made no such request.”

Mulston added, “The No Fairfax Casino Coalition is asking for transparency and accountability. We urge the Senate Finance and Appropriations committee to halt SB 756 immediately—passing it by indefinitely—until a credible, independent fiscal review is conducted concerning the fiscal impact a casino might have on this county. Anything less is a betrayal of public trust and an abdication of responsible leadership. An important precedent was set during the 2024 General Assembly session, when Senate President pro tempore Louise Lucas requested an earlier casino authorization Bill, SB 675, to be carried over for further review. By calling for a new JLARC study to replace outdated 2019 projections, Lucas underscored the significance of basing major policy decisions—like casino authorization—on current and accurate fiscal analysis instead of relying on obsolete information. Unfortunately, a new JLARC study focused on Fairfax County has yet to be performed. So, we are calling for real facts, real analysis, and real accountability—before decisions are made that will echo for decades. The public is watching, and we will hold our representatives accountable.”

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No Fairfax Casino Coalition  
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