

SUBSCRIBE NOW
and receive a
\$10 gift card.

ADVERTISEMENT

Our people make YOUR printing...better.



EXPERIENCE
TECHNOLOGY
SERVICE
CONFIDENCE

COMMUNITY

Lafayette

jconline.com weather cars jobs homes apartments classifieds si



JOURNAL & COURIER
LAFAYETTE - WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

Search

- Website (7 days)
- Archive (1999-)

Past week: Wed | Tue | Mon | Sun | Sat | Fri | Thu | Archive »

Local News

- ▶ Crime/Courts
- ▶ Government
- ▶ Education
- ▶ Campus News
- ▶ State

Nation/World

Sports

Business

Entertainment

Purdue

Life

Opinions

Obituaries

Technology

Health and Fitness

Community Guide

Columnists

Special Features

Forums

Photo Galleries

Sound Slides

Archive

NEWS

PUBLISHED: 09-21-06 5:00 AM EST

[E-mail this article](#) [Printable version](#)

Should video gambling be legal?

By **SOPHIA VORAVONG**
svoravong@journalandcourier.com

Jessie Nobile owns the bar Mom's Place north of downtown Lafayette, where customers come in daily wanting to play electronic gambling machines and win some cash.

They get upset, and sometimes tear up, after learning Nobile doesn't keep the illegal devices anymore. Nobile can only guess that they then go "underground" to play.

"It's ridiculous when that money could stay here, in the community," said Nobile, one of 50-plus people who attended a public meeting Wednesday at American Legion Post 492 in support of legalizing video gambling in Indiana.

The West Lafayette session was the seventh one held statewide this month by the Indiana Licensed Beverage Association. The aim is to form a coalition with bars, taverns, fraternal clubs and social clubs to convince lawmakers to support legislation.

Beverage association president Don Marquardt, owner of Timber's Casual Dining & Lounge in Angola, said the organization recently commissioned a third party to examine the benefits of legalizing the machines. The study, done in 2002 and 2003, found that five electronic gambling devices taxed at 30 percent could yield \$3 million for Indiana, he said.

If legislation is passed, the group proposes allowing counties where the machines are played to get \$1 million, of the proceeds.

Currently, electronic gambling machines are not regulated in Indiana, meaning the owners do not pay state. Illegal devices can and have been found in not only bars and taverns, but gas stations, bait shops and laundry facilities.



(By John Terhune/Journal & Courier)

Don Marquardt, president of the Indiana Licer Beverage Association, speaks to members of Legion Post 492 on Wednesday to gain support for legalized video gambling in taverns and clubs. He is traveling the state to make its case for legalizing video gambling.

What you can do

On the Net: Learn more about the Indiana Licer Beverage Association's push to legalize electronic devices at <http://www.indianalba.com/>.

Contact local legislators about your thoughts on the proposal:

- Indiana House of Representatives: (800) 382
- Indiana Senate: (800) 382-9467
- Online: <http://in.gov/legislative>

INTERACT

- [Email News](#)
- [Mobile News](#)
- [Forums](#)
- [News Feeds](#)
- [Photo Galleries](#)

QUICK HELP



- [Subscribe Now](#)
- [Order Back Issues](#)
- [Home Delivery Help](#)
- [How to Advertise](#)
- [Job Opportunities](#)
- [NIE Program](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [More Help...](#)

[Place an ad](#)

GANNETT LINKS



- [USA Today.com](#)
- [USA Weekend](#)
- [Gannett Websites](#)
- [Gannett Foundation](#)

Marquardt said legalization could limit the number of machines allowed at a business and the locatio

"We have a problem that needs to be addressed," he said.

However, Lafayette police Chief Don Roush has concerns. He cautions that gambling is not a victiml some may believe. Several complaints the agency receives come from family members whose loved too much, he said.

"The most common complaint I hear about gambling is that those who gamble affect not only their pe income, but the families they live with and support," Roush said. "To that end, it affects the society w

He said the Lafayette Police Department will continue to investigate complaints so long as video gam in Indiana.

As recently as June, officers seized 16 suspected video poker machines from an arcade repair shop, Pass, off North Ninth Street after a customer complained to Mayor Tony Roswarski's office.

And criminal charges of professional gambling, money laundering and corrupt business influence we March against Lafayette businessman Rodger L. Heer after police raided his former all-ages nightclu in 2004.

Then, LPD received more than a dozen complaints from customers who said they lost money playing gambling machines. Police removed 38 machines from the business.

Lafayette resident Marissa Baugh said she is hesitant to support legalizing the machines because th could lead to gambling addiction.

"Yes, you can buy lottery tickets. But do people stand there, scratching and scratching tickets, until th Baugh said. "I don't know. I think with the machines, they keep feeding it money until they win."

Dave Heath, chairman of Indiana's Alcohol and Tobacco Commission, which regulates and licenses said leaders in the tavern industry have tried for years to legalize video gambling. He said now they a about it the right way" by hosting the informational meetings and keeping contact with legislators.

"If they were legal, there would be no more problems," Heath said, noting that he is not opposed to it a shot" in the General Assembly.

He compared the video gambling machines to horse racing, lotteries, riverboats and other games of were once illegal.

Currently, the State Excise Police, the Alcohol and Tobacco Commission's enforcement arm, hunts c seizes machines found in Indiana.

State Rep. Sheila Klinker, D-Lafayette, said she's not eager to expand gambling but would be willing legislation if the bill is well-controlled.

That would include limiting access to minors and the machines' locations. She suggests starting with such as the American Legion, to see possible benefits before allowing other businesses to host the c

"I think it goes on anyway, so we need to look at it," Klinker said. "It's been going on in the state prett without anyone paying taxes. If indeed legalized, we would receive those taxes."

STORYCHAT

[Post a Comment](#) [View A](#)

White Collar gambles on stock market. This is just blue collar investing. It should atleast be a choic who want risk their money. They have earned it and already paid taxes on the money once. It shou the individual.

Posted: Thu Sep 21, 2006 11:32 am

[Post a Comment](#) [View A](#)

Related news from the Web

Latest headlines by topic:

- [Lottery](#)

Powered by [Topix.net](#)

[jconline.com](#) | [weather](#) | [jobs](#) | [cars](#) | [homes](#) | [apartments](#) | [classifieds](#) | [shopping](#) | [dating](#)

Use of this site signifies your agreement to the [Terms of Service](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) (updated 6/7/2005).
Copyright © 2005, Federated Publications, Inc. A Gannett Site.

XML [Get RSS feeds of J&C headlines](#)

Partners

Jobs: [CareerBuilder.com](#) | **Cars:** [cars.com](#) | **Apartments:** [apartments.com](#) | **Shopping:** [ShopLocal.com](#)

Gannett Indiana Network

[Indianapolis](#) | [Fishers](#) | [Lafayette-West Lafayette](#) | [Marion](#) | [Muncie](#) | [Noblesville](#) | [Richmond](#)