

CASINO-FREE PHILADELPHIA

Guide to First Senatorial Candidates on Casinos

Casino-Free Philadelphia does not endorse any candidates. However, many of them have endorsed us and the positions we hold.

We believe that people's positions on casinos is indicative on their stance on neighborhood empowerment, democratic principles, and commitment to protecting the City from harmful social development.

	ANNE DICKER (D)	LARRY FARNESE (D)	JOHN DOUGHERTY (D)	JACK MORLEY (R)
I would support legislation to prevent or eliminate casino slot parlors from the City of Philadelphia.	YES	NO	<i>No Answer</i>	NO
I would support legislation to create a 1,500-foot buffer between casino slot parlors and schools, places of worship, homes, parks and playgrounds.	YES	YES	<i>No Answer</i>	NO
I would refuse to grant SugarHouse riparian lands.	YES	YES <small>[under current circumstances]</small>	<i>No Answer</i>	NO
I would refuse to grant Foxwoods riparian lands.	YES	YES	<i>No Answer</i>	NO
I have created an economic plan to deal with the negative impacts of casino gambling in Philadelphia if they are built, including addressing the cannibalization effect of casinos on local businesses and the increased costs of law enforcement.	YES	YES	<i>No Answer</i>	NO
I believe that the majority of the surrounding neighbors in Northern Liberties and Fishtown oppose the proposed site of the SugarHouse casino.	YES	YES	<i>No Answer</i>	NO
I believe that the majority of the surrounding neighbors in South Philadelphia oppose the proposed site of the Foxwoods casino.	YES	YES	<i>No Answer</i>	NO

	ANNE DICKER	LARRY FARNESE	JOHN DOUGHERTY	JACK MORLEY (R)
What have you done to ensure reasonable standards in casino development?	I was a co-founder of Neighborhoods Allied for the Best Riverfront and Casino-Free Philadelphia. I have been a leader in the struggle to re-site Foxwoods and SugarHouse casinos. I took part in both Operation Transparency, and led the petition effort to get the 1500-ft buffer on the 5/15/07 municipal primary ballot. I helped organized political support among city council and mayoral candidates for CFP's Philly's Ballot Box campaign.	I volunteered with Casino Free Philadelphia to gather signatures to change the City Charter to create a 1500 foot buffer between neighbors and casinos. I have also offered free legal advice to Councilman Frank DiCicco in his efforts to relocate the casinos.	<i>No Answer</i>	Personally, I oppose gambling in Pennsylvania. I believe gambling makes weak people weaker.... In 2004 I was a candidate for the Senate of Pennsylvania and gambling was an issue. Every single person I spoke to support gambling. Gambling had such wide spread support in 2003-2004 that I promised not to vote against gambling had I won election.
How do you describe your plan to support/slow down/prevent building the two proposed casinos at sites along the Delaware River?	As a legislator in the General Assembly, I will introduce Rep. Babette Josephs 1500-ft buffer bill in the Senate. I will seek to remove the 10-mile buffer around racinos, and I will also refuse to grant either SugarHouse and Foxwoods casinos riparian rights.	First, I would not support riparian rights legislation for SugarHouse Casino. Without riparian rights, the casino can not be built. In addition, I would introduce legislation amending the Gaming Act to insure appropriate measures are mandated prior to construction: an economic impact study showing no negative impact, a traffic study showing congestion does not worsen and funding from the casino for increase public safety personnel.	<i>No Answer</i>	<i>No Answer</i>
Any other additions or comments about your position or responses to the above questions?	Where as both of my opponents have hired casino lobbyists or consultants to work on their campaigns, I hired an anti-casino activist. I myself am an anti-casino activist. If elected, I won't need to be lobbied to support the residents of the first district. The neighborhoods will have a real ally in Harrisburg who will be actively engaged on this and other issues related to crime, safety, public welfare and development.	The recent Supreme Court decision that forces the City to grant Foxwoods Casino zoning approvals is frightening and proves that this issue is fluid. I do not know where the issue will be when I take office. However, I pledge to do everything in my power to protect the neighborhoods I represent and my constituents' quality-of-life.	<i>No Answer</i>	The time to lobby against casino legislation was 2003. Now that gambling is legal and developers have spent tens of millions of dollars [the time is now inappropriate].

Please note: John Dougherty refused our repeated requests to answer these questions, informing us that they were not able to submit the questionnaire. Mr. Dougherty's campaign office number is (215) 925-0119 if you want to clarify his position on casinos in our city.