

Dear Editor,

On November 4th, the people of Ohio spoke their will in clear and unambiguous terms regarding casino gambling. The people in overwhelming numbers approved them. By any reasonable measure it amounted to a landslide victory for the issue, and a clear impartation of electoral intent.

And so it is, that the movement to prevent the implementation of the people's will sincerely bothers me. Put simply, elections mean things. Statewide votes have statewide impact, local results of the vote notwithstanding. The effort to undo the will of the people regardless of how well intentioned the proponents may be, is undemocratic. It is a betrayal of the heritage of democracy that is every Ohioans birthright.

The movement to oppose a casino in Columbus is a not in my back yard movement of the worst kind. They cite local election results in opposition to the issue. The problem with the citation is that they know that statewide elections don't work that way. It is disingenuous to insinuate otherwise. The movement is an attempt to bully Penn National into giving up its victory and not build a casino in downtown Columbus. They are attempting to win a victory in the process of crafting the final language for the Ohio Constitution that they did not win at the ballot box.

To be blunt, the exact language that was approved by voters should be inserted into the Constitution. To do anything less is a betrayal of our democratic principles. To do anything less, insinuates that the voter's right to make decisions through the initiative process is something less than sacrosanct. Penn National should build the casino in Columbus exactly where the initiative stated they would. Anything else breaks faith with the ballots cast on the issue. No other considerations should enter into the equation. Elections mean things after all.

Sincerely,
Todd French
Columbus, Ohio