

Why Bowling Centers

In recent months, it has been proposed that Ohio's government expand its Lottery to permit the use of Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs). Bowling centers are also ideal venues for VLTs because we are high profile businesses in our communities. We are an important part of the social fabric of our neighborhoods and have the ability to responsibly monitor these terminals. The addition of VLTs will help not only our business' prosper by offering adults an exciting new opportunity, but it will keep the money right here in our community, a very positive benefit during very trying times.

Here are the facts:

- **Bowling centers have a consistent and thriving customer base.** Studies show that 25 percent of Ohioans bowled at least one time last year. They are our customers.
- **Bowling centers are owned and operated by Ohio residents.** Unlike the other gaming proposals, the revenues earned by our centers will not leave the Ohio. The average bowling center has been an affordable entertainment destination in their community for over 25 years.
- **Bowling centers would provide a limited and controlled number of VLT distribution points across the state.** There are bowling centers located in 300 communities across the state. The initial investment to build a new center today is over \$5 million.
- **Bowling center employees are trained to implement special events and contests.** VLTs would be a simple, popular addition to our bowling centers, much like Keno has been to our centers, as well as countless other bars and restaurants throughout the state. However, bowling centers are able to locate VLTs in discretely located private rooms, removed from the general traffic flow in their buildings.
- **Bowling centers are a source of employment and tax revenue for Ohio.** Last year our centers, contributed about \$20 million in state and local tax payments. We employ over 5,000 people.
- **Bowling centers provide resources to their communities.** As high profile members of our communities, we contribute to charitable organizations, host community events and provide a consistent entertainment option to patrons.
- **Bowling centers have gross revenues of around \$250 million.** Casinos estimate their gross revenues to be around \$12 billion. They will cause a massive redirection of Ohio's discretionary and recreational spending. Ohio's small businesses must be allowed to participate in this new economic activity.