

The City of Norwalk wishes to let residents know that the referendum on the ballot on May 7th which would have allowed gaming in Warren County failed. This means that the consideration of a casino will no longer continue, as the voters of Warren County did not approve gaming.

The referendum generated a great deal of discussion, both positive and negative. While the voters ultimately decided that they did not wish to have gaming in their county, the City thanks Warren County Economic Development Corporation for having the courage to ask the question. It is the willingness to evaluate and consider the "big ideas" that will continue to serve the county well.

One of the issues discussed during the referendum that generated great response from a number of residents is the awareness of the City's financial challenges. Many residents had been previously unaware of the variety of financial challenges the City faces, such as having a significant imbalance in commercial and residential valuation. In classic Norwalk style, residents raised their voices in a chorus of helpfulness, offering to join together and identify solutions. To that end, beginning the second Saturday in June, the topics of focus at the Community Chats (held the second Saturday of each month from 9 to 10:30) will be the City's financial conditions and economic development plans. We are excited about the enthusiasm shown by residents in exploring these issues.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact the City Manager's office at 981-0228.

Thank you.

Election Results: <http://www.co.warren.ia.us/documents/Electionresults.pdf>