

# The Future of Legalized Sports Gambling in the State of Illinois

By Jake Riepma

The attractive, click-heavy headlines of legalized sports gambling have been running ramped ever since the [Supreme Court's decision to lift the federal ban](#).

It's easy to get caught up in such a drastic, monumental decision made at the Federal level. It's also important to remember that the future of legalized sports gambling will now be determined by individual states.

While states like New Jersey and Delaware have already welcomed sports gambling with open arms, and several other states appear to be on the verge of following suit, the Land of Lincoln may be on the outside looking in.

According to [legalsportsreport.com](#), after months of serious consideration, Illinois sports betting appears to be on hold until a properly and carefully calculated proposal can be constructed and passed.

"I honestly can't think of any reason not to legalize it," Marty Alexander said. "The state's been hurting for money for as long as I can remember, and a simple easy way comes along to make some (income for the state of Illinois) and they don't do it. Unbelievable. So dumb."

Alexander lives and works in Chicago in the automotive industry, and enjoys recreationally gambling at Rivers Casino Des Plaines in Rosemont.

Supporters of the legalization of sports gambling say it would create a relatively simple revenue stream with taxable dollars as opposed to an industry that has operated in the black market for years and years. However, the world of sports gambling involves a number of important and complex layers to consider such as mobile betting, casinos, racetracks, and integrity fees.

Bob Susnjara of the Daily Herald who has been covering the topic believes the state of Illinois hasn't legalized sports gambling yet because they want to ensure their approach to regulating sports gambling is as effective as possible without any lapses in regulation.

"The will say we don't have to be first, we just need to do it right," Bob Susmjara said in an interview about the state of Illinois legalizing sports gambling.

Those opposed to the idea of legalized sports gambling say it's not as simple as an easy revenue generator. State Senator Steve Stadelman, has been on record saying there are several thorny issues that will have to be worked out before sports betting can become a reality in Illinois.

Many Illinois casinos support the idea of legalized sports gambling in the state of Illinois, but fear an overly regulated system with high taxes and fees. The belief is if the cost of legalizing it becomes too increasingly high, illegal bookies will undercut the regulated system and the black market of sports gambling will once again emerge.

Due to the complicated and layered nature of legalizing sports gambling, it is believed that a decision won't be reached by Illinois lawmakers in the near future. It seems all parties involved are planning to give the situation ample time and consideration to evaluate all factors involved with the decision.

In any case, if you're a sports gambler like Marty Alexander, you might want to move out to New Jersey, Delaware, or Nevada where sports gambling is a legal pastime for residents.