



# Sen. McIlhinney rejects video gaming terminals

Tuesday, 8/1/17

I am writing to thank Ms. Tam St. Claire for her well-thought-out letter (July 25) regarding video gaming terminals (VGTs) and the current budget negotiations in Harrisburg.

Quite simply, I remain steadfast in my opposition to VGTs because I agree with the people I represent that this is simply the wrong option for our community and our state. Bucks County does not need up to 3,000 of these machines scattered throughout our communities with little to no concern for where they are located.

Bucks County taxpayers should not lose more dollars to Harrisburg by diluting the positive financial and economic impact that Parx Casino provides our communities. We should not balance the budget on the backs of Bucks County's — and Pennsylvania's — underprivileged.

There are better ways to reach an accord on the state budget that are responsible for today and tomorrow. If we do not work to achieve them, the same issues will arise again next year, the year after that, and forever.

In fact, I, too, am perplexed by self-described conservative leaders like Speaker of the House Turzai promoting this avalanche of gambling machines into every nook and cranny of our communities. That is why I will continue to oppose shortsighted budget gimmicks and work toward compromise-based, long-term solutions.

**State Sen. Chuck McIlhinney**  
**10th Senatorial District**