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Tuesday, March 31, 2026 • PressofAtlanticCity.com

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## SJ officials push anew vs. North Jersey casinos

WAYNE PARRY  
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — Here we go again.

South Jersey is ramping up opposition to allowing casinos in northern and central New Jersey, with federal and state elected leaders asking the governor to quash the idea, and a think tank run by Atlantic County's Democratic chairman launching a campaign against it.

The moves come as New Jersey is again talking about asking voters to allow casinos in places other than Atlantic City, where the state Constitution has restricted them to since casino gambling began here in 1978.

Two Democratic state senators, Paul Sarlo of Bergen County and Vin Gopal of Monmouth County, have introduced legislation that would again place a referendum in front of

voters asking them whether to amend the Constitution to allow casinos outside Atlantic City, in this case at the Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford just outside New York City and at Monmouth Park in Oceanport, Monmouth County.

The last time the question was put to voters, in 2016, it was rejected by nearly 80% of those who cast ballots.

Sarlo, whose district includes

the Meadowlands, said in December that New Jersey should consider building "a world-class convention center and casino" there once the FIFA World Cup concludes this summer.

"We're going to have a lot of eyes on the Meadowlands next year and a lot of good will there," Sarlo said. "After we leave the world stage when the FIFA World Cup exits New Jersey, our next

focus should be constructing a world-class convention center and casino at the Meadowlands."

In a letter last Thursday to Gov. Mikie Sherrill, three members of Congress and 34 state lawmakers asked her to concentrate on making Atlantic City better instead of allowing gambling in other places that is likely to further damage an already fragile region.

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## LONG LINES? NOT AT ACY



PRESS ARCHIVES

While Transportation Security Administration checkpoint delays have plagued major airports around the country during the ongoing government shutdown, Atlantic City International Airport is touting the shortness of its security lines.

### Outside security contractors help local airport avoid TSA problems

NICHOLAS HUBA  
Staff Writer

EGGHARBOR TOWNSHIP — While Transportation Security Administration checkpoint delays have plagued major airports around the country during the ongoing government shutdown, Atlantic City International Airport is touting the shortness of its security lines.

"ACY's private security contractor performing TSA functions keeps screening running smoothly," according to a post on the airport's Instagram page. "Security waits under 10 minutes. No shutdown-related TSA delays."

Representatives from the South Jersey Transportation Authority, which

operates the airport, did not immediately return calls for comment.

Atlantic City International's American Airlines Landle service and private security have given the local airport an advantage during the shutdown, experts said.

"The long lines, delays, and flight cancellations at large airports in recent weeks are a threat to tourism during a busy travel season and have certainly made people wary of making travel plans," said Jane Bokunewicz, faculty director of the Lloyd D. Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality and Tourism at Stockton University. "While the negative publicity has perhaps become a liability for some of the busiest airports in the nation (especially

in the northeast with JFK, Newark, LaGuardia, and Philadelphia), it creates an opportunity for smaller regional airports, like Atlantic City International (ACY), to encourage travelers to consider smaller travel hubs."

Even after President Donald Trump ordered emergency pay for TSA agents to ease long security lines, major U.S. airports on Sunday were still urging travelers to arrive hours early.

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■ **INSIDE:** After weeks of chaos in U.S. airports, the TSA says the first paychecks in weeks are being sent to its workers. **Nation & World, A6**



Trump threatens to destroy Iran's infrastructure.

NATION & WORLD, A6



Your guide to spring softball in South Jersey.

SPORTS, B1

## PETA brings pig truck to AC, Margate eateries

HARAM SHAHID  
Staff Writer

ATLANTIC CITY — In front of a popular Gardner's Basin restaurant, PETA made a statement, not with pig squeals, but rather vegan bacon.

An hour before the restaurant's 11 a.m. opening Monday, a truck from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals idled outside Back Bay Ale House at 800 N. New Hampshire Ave.

Normally, the vehicle blares recordings of pigs being led into slaughterhouses — audio meant to amplify the stark images plastered across its sides of hogs packed tightly into barred cages. On the cab doors, a cartoon chef grins as he holds a decapitated pig by the ears.

The truck is part of PETA's "Hell on Wheels" tour, a nationwide campaign that stops at diners, delis and restaurants to push

for plant-based menu options.

But this stop struck a different tone.

After the restaurant agreed to explore vegan options, PETA went quiet — and went with samples, handing out smoky vegan bacon bits, plant-based cheeses and mayo, as well as BLTs and Italian hoagies from Greens and Grains, a vegan eatery.

"We made an agreement with the owner and just showed them

the variety of vegan options their menu could have," said Amber Canavan, associate director of vegan campaigns at PETA. "We wanted to show that there are ways of enjoying the texture of meat without sending pigs to the gas chambers."

Back Bay Ale House management did not respond to a request for comment.

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You'll want these buns on your Easter table.

LIVELY, D1

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