



THE OHIO LOTTERY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 14, 2026  
IN PERSON/VIA TELECONFERENCE

Members of the Commission

Matthew Blair, Chairman  
Caryn Candisky  
Nita Gupta  
Jonathan Hughes  
Angela Mingo  
Martin Sweeney  
Janet Weir Creighton

Ohio Lottery Commission Attendance (In-Person & Remote)

Nicole Kostura, Assistant Director, Office of Executive  
Marilyn Berrios, Office of Executive  
Nicholas Ciofani, Deputy Director, Office of Government & Community Relations  
Charles Lopresti, Chief Legal Counsel, Office of Legal Counsel  
Dan Carter, Office of Legal Counsel  
Martin Morrow, Deputy Director, Office of Product Innovation  
Tom Ackerman, Deputy Director, Office of Marketing  
Danielle Frizzi-Babb, Deputy Director, Office of Communications  
Richard Perk, Deputy Director, Office of Sales  
Ed Slyman, Deputy Director, Office of Finance  
Jimmie Hicks, Deputy Director, Responsible Gambling  
Raymond Durant, Deputy Director, Office of Security & Investigations  
Greg Beyer, Deputy Director, Office of Internal Audit  
Joan French, Office of Legal Counsel  
Ron Fornaro, Product of Innovation  
Simeonia Mays, Deputy Director, Office of Racino Operations  
Jon Dillinger, Office of Sports Gaming  
Frances Mach, Office of Finance  
Tom Spayd, Office of Racino Operations  
Kenneth Dauenhauer, Office of Marketing  
Alexander Snyder, Office of Sports Gaming  
Percy Turner, Deputy Director, Office of General Services  
Richard Kline, Office of Sales  
Carla Reeves, Office of General Services  
Valerie Murphy, Office of Internal Audit  
Angela Brdar, Office of Sales  
Angela McCracken, Office of Sales  
Brent Collier, Office of Internal Audit  
Scott Basom, Office of Security & Investigations  
Terri Jones, Office of Marketing  
Sandrell Wheeler, Office of Investigations & Security

Azra Gusic, Office of Licensing & Bonding  
Ricky Neal, Office of Racino Operations  
216-324-4113

Additional Attendees

Ed Dick, Jack Entertainment  
George Balajan, Intralot  
Carla Kuchta, Intralot  
Joseph Schmansky, AGO  
Mark Basedow, Lotto.com Inc  
Kevin Davis, Miami Valley Gaming  
Carly Ringlespaugh, Ice Miller  
Sam Porter, Ice Miller  
John Oberle, Ice Miller  
Kathleen Lenhardt, Penn Entertainment  
Sarah Faust, Dickinson-Wright  
Sarah O'Driscoll, The Shipyard  
Tim Kelley, Penn Entertainment  
Spenser Hickey, Hannah News  
Zak Hart,  
Matthew Becker, Penn Entertainment  
Chris Volle, Jack Entertainment  
Christine Hughes  
609-384-3955

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Acting Chair, Matthew Blair, called the meeting of the Ohio Lottery Commission to order at 12:00 p.m.

Election of 2026 Officers

Acting Chair, Matthew Blair, announced that the Lottery Commission is required by law to have the annual election of Officers, including Chairman and Vice Chairman. Acting Chair Matthew Blair asked Commissioner Sweeney to preside over the meeting during the election of Chairman.

Commissioner Sweeney nominated Matthew Blair to be Chairman, with Commissioner Creighton offering a second to the motion. No additional nominations were given. The Motion was affirmatively voted upon by the Commissioners present.

Chairman Elect Blair resumed his role presiding over the meeting and called for the election for Vice Chairman. Chairman Blair nominated James Brady for the position. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Gupta. There were no other nominations. The motion was affirmatively voted upon by the Commissioners present.

Appointment of Audit Committee

The Chairman recognized Commissioner Angela Mingo, Commissioner Martin Sweeney, and Commissioner Matthew Szollosi for their years of service on the Commission Audit Committee.

Chairman Blair asked Commissioner Mingo to continue to serve as Chair of the Internal Audit Committee. Commissioner Mingo agreed. Chairman Blair then asked Commissioner Sweeney to continue his service as a member of the Audit Committee in 2026, Commissioner Sweeney agreed. Although Commissioner Szollosi was unable to

attend the meeting, the Chairman received word that Commissioner Szollosi will continue to serve as a member of the Audit Committee.

#### Recognition of Problem Gambling and Addiction Services Liaison

Chairman Blair recognized Commissioner Jonathan Hughes as the Commission's Problem Gambling & Addiction Services Liaison. Commissioner Hughes to continue to serve in this role.

#### Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Sweeney moved to approve the December 10, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Candisky. The motion was affirmatively voted upon by the other Commissioners present.

#### Internal Audit Update

Audit Committee Chair Mingo provided an update on the December Audit Committee meeting. Key agenda items included a report from the Auditor of State and a review of the Internal Audit Departments conformance with the new Global Internal Audit Standards.

Audit Committee Chair Mingo informed the Commission that the Auditor of State provided a report on the results of their annual Financial and IT controls audit for lottery operations, no material issues were identified during the audit.

Results of the Electronic Funds Transfer and Retailer Payments and Adjustments Audit were discussed. Audit showed no material issues, though six recommendations were identified for the Finance team to implement.

The Internal Audit Department's conformance with the new Global Internal Audit Standards was reviewed and discussed. There are 15 guiding principles within the Standards. The department generally or fully conforms with the first five guiding principles discussed.

Progress on prior audit recommendations continues, with five issue recommendations in the second quarter and continues to track issues in various stages of completion.

#### Resolution to Approve forty-five (45) new Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) Game Themes

Charles Lopresti, Chief Legal Counsel, presented a Resolution to approve forty-five (45) VLT game themes.

Chairman Blair moved to approve the Resolution with forty-five (45) VLT game themes with Commissioner Candisky offering a second to the Motion and the Motion was approved by all Commissioners present.

#### Office of Finance Report

Chief Fiscal Officer, Ed Slyman, provided the financial update for the month of December. The traditional lottery games sales for the month of December totaled \$449.6 million, an increase of \$17.2 million or 4% compared to last December. Mr. Slyman stated that this marks an all-time monthly sales record, surpassing the previous record of \$441.1 million set in January 2021. Sales exceeded forecast by \$31.9 million or 7.6%. Daily Draw games generated \$64.5 million, up \$1.8 million or 2.9% year-over-year.

Mr. Slyman reported that In-State Lotto Games had \$6.6 million in sales, up \$0.5 million or 8.8%. Multistate games generated \$71.3 million in sales, up 47%, driven by the \$1.817 billion Powerball jackpot won on December 24, 2025. This was the second-largest jackpot in Powerball history and the second largest in U.S. lottery history generating the third-highest cumulative sales total of \$76.2 million. Mega Millions sales declined year-over-year, primarily due to a high jackpot run last year. Mr. Slyman noted that sales surged about 22% during the recent PB jackpot run.

Keno achieved \$56.7 million in sales, up \$0.5 million or 1% compared to last year. Scratch-Off game sales in December totaled \$236.5 million, down \$9.6 million or 3.9%. Holiday-themed tickets accounted for \$142.4 million or 25% of total sales. Over the 12-week holiday season, sales decreased by \$8.1 million or -5.7% versus the same time last year.

Prize expense as a percentage of sales was 62.0% slightly lower than normal. Mr. Slyman noted that this is typical for the month of December, as many tickets are given as gifts and redeemed the following month.

December Video Lottery Terminal Revenue equaled \$116.5 million, with \$77.1 million paid to racinos as commissions and \$39 million retained by the lottery. December net win declined by approximately 1.5%, primarily due to fewer weekend days compared to last December.

Lastly, CFO Slyman provided the Commissioners with a detailed Year-to-Date Financial Performance.

#### Director's Update

Assistant Director, Nicole Kostura, provided the update on behalf of Director Michelle Gillcrist. Assistant Director Kostura noted that the CFO Slyman's presentation highlighted strong fiscal year-to-date performance and expressed gratitude to staff, partners, retailers, and racinos for their efforts in receiving these results. Assistant Director Kostura stated that it notes that this success is significant given the competition from gaming and other entertaining options.

Assistant Director Kostura reported that the lottery's transfer to the Lottery Profit's Education Fund (LPEF) for the month of December was approximately \$148.3 million. This is approximately \$13 million higher than last year, and \$18.1 million more than the budgeted commitment for the month. Fiscal Year-to-Date, the lottery has transferred approximately \$806.3 million to the LPEF, which is nearly \$41.1 million ahead of the Fiscal-Year-to-Date commitment and \$37.8 million more than last year.

Assistant Director Kostura recognized an employee retiring in the month of February. Delorese Sommer, Lottery Sales Representative in Region 3/Dayton office.

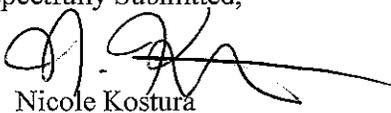
Assistant Director Kostura discussed the upcoming Responsible Gambling initiatives, including the Ohio Problem Gambling Conference that will be held in February, and the new public awareness campaigns.

Lastly, Assistant Director Kostura reminded the Commissioners to kindly respond to an e-mail that was sent regarding selecting a date for the November 2026 commission meeting due to the Federal Holiday in observance of Veterans Day on November 11, 2026.

#### ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Ohio Lottery Commission, Chairman Blair informed Commissioners that the next meeting will be held on February 11, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. via teleconferencing and in person. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
p.p. Nicole Kostura

Michelle Gillcrist  
Director



Matthew Blair  
Commission Chair