

Real Estate Magnate Pushes for a Casino in North Jersey

Written by Administrator
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Photo



Jeff Gural, the New York real estate tycoon, on the roof deck at the Meadowlands Racetrack in East Rutherford, N.J. Mr. Gural envisions a \$1 billion casino at the racetrack.

Credit

Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

Jeff Gural, the New York real estate tycoon, had cleaned up well.

The shaggy, steel-gray beard was gone. The customary khakis had given way to a blue suit. As he sat on a dais on Thursday at the [Meadowlands Racetrack](#) he has operated in East Rutherford, N.J., for over two years, a smile spread across his face.

A dozen elected officials were in the room to endorse putting a referendum before voters this fall to expand gambling to northern New Jersey and to support Mr. Gural's vision for a \$1 billion casino at the racetrack. In a surprise, Vincent Prieto, a Democrat who is the State Assembly speaker, also showed up to express his support.

Though he was not at the event, Gov. [Chris Christie](#), a Republican who had once been cool to the idea, has also become a proponent of a casino in the northern part of the state.

Building allies among elected officials and capitalizing on a growing momentum to expand gambling in New Jersey, Mr. Gural is seeking to edge closer to what has long been a tantalizing goal: a gambling site just a few miles from New York City.

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