



THE OHIO LOTTERY COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 13, 2025  
IN PERSON/VIA TELECONFERENCE

Members of the Commission

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

Ohio Lottery Commission Attendance (In-Person & Remote)

Michelle Gillcrist, Director, Office of Executive  
Nicole Kostura, Assistant Director, Office of Executive  
Marilyn Berrios, Office of Executive  
Nick Ciofani, Deputy Director, Office of Government and Community Relations  
Dan Carter, Acting Chief Legal Counsel, Office of Legal Counsel  
Caleb Alamo, Intern, Office of Legal Counsel  
Brendan Embry, Office of Legal Counsel  
Danielle Frizzi-Babb, Deputy Director, Office of Communications  
Tom Ackerman, Deputy Director, Office of Marketing  
Marni Santoro, Office of Legal Counsel  
Raymond Durant, Deputy Director, Office of Investigations & Security  
Ed Slyman, Deputy Director, Office of Finance  
Jimmie Hicks, Deputy Director, Responsible Gambling  
Sue Diamond, Office of Responsible Gambling  
Joan French, Office of Legal Counsel  
Daniel Davis, Office of General Services  
Martin Morrow, Product of Innovation  
Aaron Hurst, Product of Innovation  
Marisol Halligan, Product of Innovation  
Margaret Tomaro, Office of Legal Counsel  
Pam Strickland, Office of Product Innovation  
Simeonia Mays, Deputy Director, Office of Racino Operations  
Jon Dillinger, Office of Sports Gaming  
Tom Spayd, Office of Racino Operations  
Allison Turner, Office of Marketing  
Alexander Snyder, Office of Sports Gaming  
Percy Turner, Deputy Director, Office of General Services  
Jacqueline Cunningham, Office of Communications

Richard Kline, Office of Sales  
Molly Fanta, Office of Marketing  
Sandrell Wheeler, Office of Investigations & Security

Additional Attendees

Ed Dick, Jack Entertainment  
Kathy Lenhardt, Mahoning Valley  
Scott Chapin, Marcus Thomas  
Debbie Pirone, Marcus Thomas  
George Balajan, Intralot  
Carla Kuchta, Intralot  
Holly Guenther, Boyd Gaming  
Sarah O'Driscoll, Fahlgren  
Dustin Ensinger, Gongwer  
Zak Hart, Hart Inc.  
Milan Karna, OMHAS  
Joseph Schmansky, AGO  
Mark Basedow, Lotto.com Inc  
Anthony Aquillo, Success Group  
Jermel Carr, Intralot  
Steven Ranere, IGT  
Zac F. Lackey, Dickinson-Wright  
Sara Tait, Duane Morris  
Danny Eldredge  
Josh Deutsch  
Christine Hughes

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Matthew Blair called the meeting of the Ohio Lottery Commission to order at 12:03 p.m.

Commissioner Oath of Office

Chairman Blair welcomed new Commissioner Janet Weir Creighton on her appointment by the Governor to the State Lottery Commission for a term beginning August 2, 2025, and congratulated Commissioners Nita Gupta and Commissioner Jonathan Hughes on their reappointments by the Governor for a term beginning August 2, 2025. All three Commissioners were sworn in by Chairman Blair.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Sweeney moved to approve the July 9, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mingo; Commissioner Janet Weir Creighton abstained from voting. The motion was affirmatively voted upon by the other Commissioners present.

Approval of five (5) Scratch-Off Games in Proposed and Final Form

Martin Morrow, Deputy Director of Product Innovation, presented five (5) Scratch-Off Games in Proposed and Final Form:

- OLC Operating Procedure 1057, *Blizzard Bucks* (\$1.00)
- OLC Operating Procedure 1058, *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation* (\$2.00)
- OLC Operating Procedure 1059, *Let It Snow* (\$5.00)
- OLC Operating Procedure 1060, *Winter Green* (\$10.00)
- OLC Operating Procedure 1061, *Bonus Play Millions* (\$20.00)

Chairman Blair moved to approve five (5) Scratch-Off Games in Proposed and Final Form, with Commissioner Gupta offering a second to the Motion. The Motion was affirmatively voted upon by the Commissioners present.

Approval of one (1) Administrative Game Rule in Proposed Form

Aaron Hurst, Product Manager, presented one (1) Administrative Game Rule in Proposed Form:

- 3770:1-9-986, Ohio lottery game rule nine hundred eighty-six (*Jackpot USA™*)

Chairman Blair moved to approve one (1) Administrative Game Rule in proposed form, with Commissioner Candisky offering a second to the Motion. The Motion was affirmatively voted upon by the Commissioners present.

Approval of seventeen (17) Administrative Rules available for Recission in Proposed Form

Daniel Carter, Acting Chief Legal Counsel, presented seventeen (17) Administrative Rules in Proposed Form:

- 3770:1-7-10, Ohio lottery commission game number ten
- 3770:1-7-13, Ohio lottery commission game number thirteen
- 3770:1-7-14, Ohio lottery commission game number fourteen
- 3770:1-7-20, Ohio lottery game number twenty (*Pick 3*)
- 3770:1-7-25, Ohio lottery game number twenty-five (*Pick 4*)
- 3770:1-7-101, Ohio lottery commission game number one hundred one (*Pick 5*)
- 3770:1-7-41, Ohio lottery commission game number forty-one
- 3770:1-7-96 - Ohio lottery commission game number ninety-six
- 3770:1-9-23, Ohio lottery commission game number twenty-three (*Rolling Cash 5*)
- 3770:1-9-53, Ohio lottery commission game number fifty-three (*Pick 5*)
- 3770: 1-9-55, Game rule number fifty-five (*Keno™*)
- 3770:1-9-959, Game rule number nine hundred fifty-nine + Appendix (*The Lucky One*)
- 3770:1-10-41 Ohio lottery commission game number forty-one
- 3770:1-12-28, Game number twenty-eight
- 3770:2-1-01, Authority and purpose
- 3770:2-1-02, Incorporation of by-laws
- 3770:2-9-01, Severability

Chairman Blair moved to approve seventeen (17) Administrative Rules available for Recission in Proposed Form, with Commissioner Brady offering a second to the Motion. The Motion was affirmatively voted upon by the Commissioners present.

### Approval of three (3) Administrative Rules in Final Form

Daniel Carter, Acting Chief Legal Counsel, presented three (3) Administrative Rules in Final Form:

- 3770:6-01, Personal information systems definitions
- 3770:6-03, Valid reasons for accessing confidential personal information
- 3770:6-04, Confidentiality statutes

Chairman Blair moved to approve three (3) Administrative Rules in Final Form, with Commissioner Creighton offering a second to the Motion. The Motion was affirmatively voted upon by the Commissioners present.

### Resolution to approve one (1) new EZPLAY® Game theme

Daniel Carter, Acting Chief Legal Counsel, presented a Resolution to approve one (1) new EZPLAY® Game theme:

- \$5 OH Keno

Chairman Blair moved to approve the Resolution with one (1) new EZPLAY® Game theme with Commissioner Mingo offering a second to the Motion and the Motion was approved by all Commissioners present.

### Resolution to Approve twenty-five (25) new Video Lottery Terminal (VLT) Game Themes

Daniel Carter, Acting Chief Legal Counsel, presented a Resolution to approve twenty-five (25) VLT game themes.

Chairman Blair moved to approve the Resolution with twenty-five (25) VLT game themes with Commissioner Gupta offering a second to the Motion and the Motion was approved by all Commissioners present.

### Introduction

Daniel Carter, Acting Chief Legal Counsel, introduced two legal interns:

Caleb Alamo, third year student at CSU, and Brendon Embry, third year student at Case Western Reserve.

### Office of Finance Report

Chief Fiscal Officer Ed Slyman provided the financial update for the month of July. The total traditional lottery games sales for the month of July were \$357.9 million, which is \$6.2 million or 1.8% higher than the same time period last year. Draw-based game sales were \$163.2 million, \$6.1 million or 3.9% higher than last year. Daily Draw games category sales were \$65.9 million, up approximately \$4 million or 6.5%; July marks the fifth consecutive month of year-over-year sales growth for this game category. Multistate game sales were \$20.8 million, down \$1.1 million or 5.2% lower when compared to the same time last year.

Mr. Slyman reported that Keno sales were \$52.6 million, up \$2.7 million or 5.5%. This represents the third consecutive month of year-over-year sales growth for this game. Quick Play Sales were \$13.9 million, up \$0.9 million or 6.7% versus last year. Scratch-Off game sales in July were \$194.7 million, up \$94 thousand or 0.05% higher than last year, The \$10 product line led all price points with \$46.5 in sales. This price point accounts for approximately 23.9% of the sales. The \$20 price point followed with \$41 million in sales and accounted for approximately 21.1% of the sales. The VLT revenue for the month was \$119.7 million, up \$4.2 million or 3.7% higher than last year. Mr. Slyman noted that \$79.2 million was distributed to the Racinos as commissions earned and \$40.1 million represented revenue for the Ohio Lottery.

Lastly, CFO Slyman reported that the total prize expense equaled 68.1% of sales, which is higher than normal. Pick 4 prize percentage was 80% relative to sales. Mr. Slyman stated that this represented approximately \$6.9 million more than what was anticipated. Powerball, Lucky for Life, and EZPLAY Tap also had higher than anticipated payouts. Operating expenses were relatively normal and right on par with forecast.

## Director's Update

Director Michelle Gillcrist reported that the Lottery's transfer to the Lottery Profit's Education Fund (LPEF) for the month of July was approximately \$116.5 million and this represents profits from traditional products and VLTs. This is approximately \$3.5 less than our budgeted commitment for the month, and \$1.1 million less than last July. Director Gillcrist noted that the annual commitment specified in the biennium budget for FY 26 is \$1.465 billion.

Director Gillcrist publicly acknowledged a retiring employee for his years of service to the lottery, Chris Ughrin, from the Information Technology division since 2009.

Director Gillcrist stated that, as mentioned last month, Ohio hosted the National Council on Problem Gambling's annual conference last month in Columbus. That conference provided a great opportunity to share what is referred to as the "*Ohio Model*" but also learn how problem gambling is being addressed in other jurisdictions and to share best practices. Director Gillcrist was pleased to report that the lottery's Responsible Gambling Program Manager, Susan Diamond, was recognized and won the 2025 NCPG Service Award. *This prestigious award is presented to someone whose influence resonates across programs, partnerships, and people-often working behind the scenes, but always with intention and impact.*

Director Gillcrist informed the Commission that Jimmie Hicks and Susan Diamond headed up the lottery's team at the race for "*Run for Recovery*" at the Cleveland Zoo. The lottery is a sponsor, and it helps support recovery and organizations that provide individuals that have various addiction issues with treatment and services.

Director Gillcrist shared that she had attended the NASPL – Professional Development Seminar. Director Gillcrist stated that it was a great opportunity to hear from experts around the lottery industry and the recovery community.

Director Gillcrist took a moment to share that the lottery is all about giving back to education. Generous employees participated in the Fox 8's "Stuff the Bus" school supply drive that is done every year. Fox 8 reported that this year's drive was the largest in its 19 years of the campaign, receiving more than \$60,000 and enough school supplies to fill 12 school buses.

Lastly, Director Gillcrist noted that the next Commission meeting has been moved to September 17<sup>th</sup>, due to a schedule conflict.

## ADJOURNMENT

With no further business before the Ohio Lottery Commission, Chairman Blair informed Commissioners that the next meeting will be held on September 17, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. via teleconferencing and in person. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Michelle Gillcrist  
Director



Matthew Blair  
Commission Chair