



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dan Gilbert and Rob Walgate to Debate Issue 3 on WNEO/WEAO Fusion

*Debate will air live on Monday, Oct. 26, at 4:30 p.m. and on tape delay
on Fusion and Western Reserve PBS at 9 p.m.*

KENT, Ohio — Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009 — Cleveland Cavaliers majority owner Dan Gilbert and Ohio Roundtable vice president Rob Walgate will debate the pros and cons of Issue 3, Ohio's casino issue, on Monday, Oct. 26, at 4:30 p.m. at Kent State University, with students representing Ohio colleges serving as panelists. Western Reserve Public Media's Fusion channel (WNEO 45.2/WEAO 49.2) will air the debate live. Both Fusion and Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), the organization's primary channel, will air the debate on tape delay that evening at 9 p.m.

Western Reserve Public Media's Fusion channel can be found over the air at WNEO 45.2 and WEAO 49.2. Area cable positions for Fusion include Time Warner Cable, 368; Armstrong Cable, 416; and Clear Picture and Massillon Cable, 84. "Airing this debate live on Fusion is a perfect example of why we created the channel," said Trina Cutter, president and CEO of Western Reserve Public Media. "Our plan for Fusion is to make it a regional channel with a flexible schedule, which allows us to respond quickly to opportunities such as this one."

Gaming in Ohio: A Student Forum on Issue 3 is sponsored by KSU's Hospitality Management academic program and produced by the university's TeleProductions department. "A segment of our academic program covers casino management and operations," said Rob Heiman, KSU professor of Hospitality Management. "Given the importance of Issue 3, we thought the debate would be an excellent civic lesson for our students and a great way for viewers to hear arguments for both sides of the issue." Panelists to date include two KSU students, plus one student each from Ashland University, Ohio University and The Ohio State University.

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Issue 3 calls for an amendment to Ohio's constitution to authorize the four casinos. Gilbert is a financial backer of the casino issue and, together with Penn National Gaming, would have exclusive rights to build one casino each in Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus and Toledo. Walgate's organization, Ohio Roundtable, is a conservative public policy group that has led campaigns against expanded gambling in Ohio in 1990, 1996, 2006 and 2008.

About Western Reserve Public Media

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire.

Western Reserve PBS, a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.4 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels, Fusion (WNEO.2/WEAO.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO.3/WEAO.3) and V-me (WNEO.4/WEAO.4).

Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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