FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Charles Taylor's Head in the Sand Is No Defense

Either he didn't look or he didn't care. Voters deserve better.

SANFORD, N.C. (October 28, 2026) — Charles Taylor has filed a meritless lawsuit, attempting to distract voters from serious problems he has gotten himself into. He owns a building that by multiple independent accounts hosts an illegal gambling operation. That is what our organization has said, and that is what he should be worried about.

Charles Taylor wants voters to believe he is an innocent landlord. The law (G.S. 14-306.1A) says otherwise. The statute that makes it a crime to operate illegal video gaming machines makes it a crime to "allow" them to be operated, and five or more is a felony. The law doesn't let a landlord bury his head in the sand. He is held to what he knew or should have known.

Taylor also violated state ethics law, hiding this building on his sworn disclosure until the state told him to add it. His words: "**an omission on my part**." This, by the way, was not his first violation, as we now know he had to be asked to file the form after he missed the deadline.

Rather than do something about an illegal operation in his community, Taylor brought in partisan lawyers to punish people who talk about it before his campaign. This lawsuit is an attempt to silence questions a week before Election Day. It won't work.

Attorney Paul Cox represents the Sandhills Citizens Alliance in this matter. He said:

"The Sandhills Citizens Alliance communicated an important message to voters about a candidate on the ballot, drawing on reputable news articles. This sort of speech about a politician on the ballot deserves the highest level of protection under the First Amendment. Candidates who want to represent the voters should focus on answering voters' questions, including the questions raised by the Sandhills Citizens Alliance, not on trying to use the legal process to shut down those questions."

Look at the facts.

- A published investigation found, and shows photos of, illegal gaming machines in a building Taylor owns.
- The process describes players who “cash out” after playing if they win. That is not an arcade.
- Specific machines in this operation have been the subject of state raids elsewhere.
- The operator brags online about their operation and has posted about it for more than a year before and after Taylor bought it.
- All of this was known in the community and other people posted about it online.

Sandhills Citizens Alliance will defend this case, which is nothing more than a partisan press release masquerading as a legal document.

Mr. Taylor owes voters five answers:

1. Dark money gambling interests spent nearly $400,000 helping you win your primary. What do they expect in return?

2. Will you recuse yourself from gambling votes while you collect rent from a gambling room?

3. How much gambling money have you collected in rent?

4. Who sold you the building at 60 cents on the dollar, and why?

5. Your building is less than a half mile from a middle school. Is that where a gambling room belongs?

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Questions Charles Taylor Still Hasn’t Answered

First asked by Sandhills Citizens Alliance on October 23, 2026.

The tenant and the lease

1. Who is your tenant at 2101 Tramway Road? What is the business called, and who owns it?

2. You said you bought the building “with an existing tenant already in place.” When did that tenant move in? Who was its landlord before you?

3. Did you take over the tenant’s lease from the seller at closing? Have you read it? What are its terms, and when does it end? Your lawyer says he is not sure how long it has left to run.

4. What does the lease say the space can be used for? Does it require the tenant to obey the law?

5. How much rent do you collect each month? Who pays the rent, and how? By check, transfer or cash?

6. Will you release the lease?

7. Have you researched whether these are illegal gambling machines?

The purchase

8. Did you walk through the building before you bought it? Did you look inside? What did you see?

9. Did you have the building inspected or appraised before buying it?

10. Why did you pay $60,000, 60% of the county's assessed value, in a sale the county coded "not open market"? Who set the price? Was it lower because of the tenant?

11. Was the building ever listed for sale? How did you come to buy it?

12. How did you pay for it? No mortgage is on record.

13. Have you done other business with the seller?

What he knew and what he has done

14. When did you first learn there were 'gaming' machines in your building?

15. Have you been inside since you bought it? When were you last there? An employee told The Assembly that Mr. Taylor "doesn't come here."

16. Since The Assembly's story on October 11, what have you done? Have you contacted the tenant? Asked to see the machines?

17. Your lawyer says you will "certainly re-evaluate if something illegal is actually happening." What would you need to see? Who is checking?

18. The rules on your building's front door tell players to cash out at the cashier's window. What do you think that means?

19. Have you asked law enforcement or Alcohol Law Enforcement to look at the machines? Would you allow an inspection?

20. Your lawyer doesn't think you have "any current intention" of removing the tenant. Why not?

More questions worth asking

21. Has anyone listed the machines with Lee County for business property tax? County records show no business property listed at the address since 2009.

22. Does the business have any permit from the City of Sanford? The City's permit system has nothing on file for the address, and the parcel's Office & Institutional zoning does not allow this kind of business.

23. In 2012, as a council member, you said you would "vigorously defend their right to exist until the courts prove otherwise" about internet sweepstakes cafes. Do you still feel that way?

24. Why was your ethics disclosure late?

25. If you are elected, your next disclosure must name anyone who pays you more than $5,000 in rent. Will you name your tenant now, before Election Day?

Sources

G.S. 14-306.1A(a), 14-309(b), 19-1(a), 19-1.1(1a); Complaint ¶¶ 6–7, *Taylor v. Sandhills Citizens Alliance*, No. 26CV001890-520 (Lee Co.); The Assembly, Oct. 11; The Rant, Oct. 14; NC Tribune, Oct. 23, 2026; NC State Board of Elections, American Conservative Fund independent expenditure reports, 2026 ($380,254.40 supporting Taylor); FEC, American Conservative Fund (C00927186) and Win for America (C00925586) receipts.

NEW: The alleged operator's own posts

Posted publicly on Facebook by the operator of the game room at 2101 Tramway Road. Mr. Taylor bought the building on December 31, 2025.

Grand opening of the new game room in Tramway.....

SHAMROCKS
2101 Tramway Rd

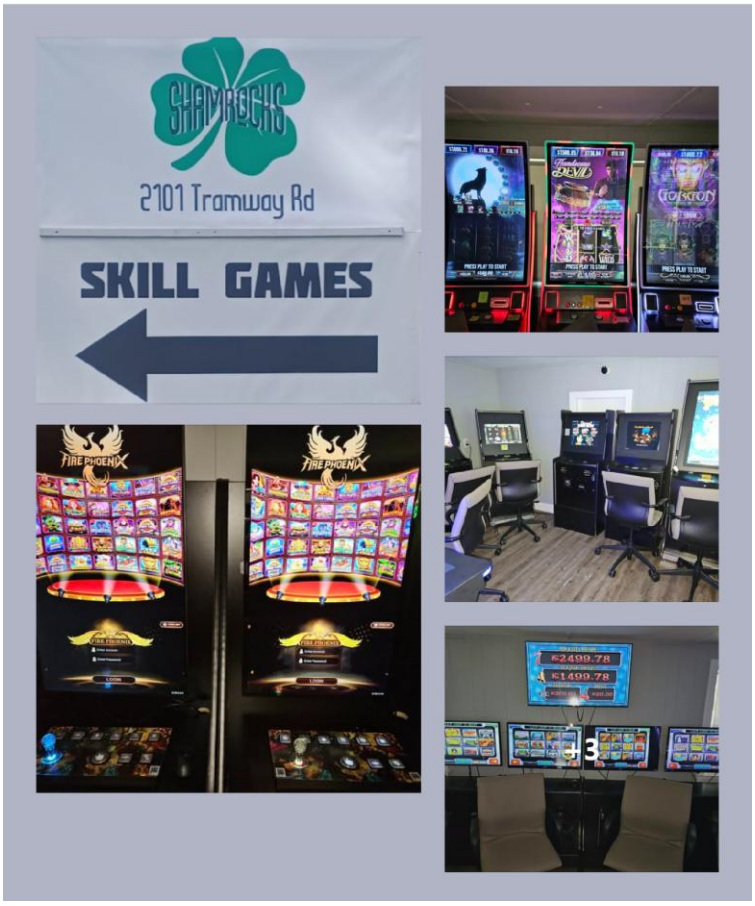
Come join the fun.

Open from 10am to 12am.....may change to 2am depending on volume of crowd.

Wheel spins and chances to win 20/20 for a whole month.
Come in to find out how.

See ya there ....

Come get Shamrocked



September 7, 2024: "Grand opening of the new game room in Tramway … SHAMROCKS 2101 Tramway Rd."



From the September 2024 grand-opening post: machines inside 2101 Tramway Road, showing credits and a $2.00 play amount.

Come see me at
SHAMROCKS
" HOME OF THE FREE MONEY WHEEL SPIN"



July 8, 2025: “Come see me at SHAMROCKS ‘HOME OF THE FREE MONEY WHEEL SPIN.’”

Come see me at
SHAMROCKS
" HOME OF THE FREE MONEY WHEEL SPIN"



July 8, 2025: the full photo from the same post, face blurred.