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INDIAN GAMING POPULAR IN ARIZONA; ARIZONANS SUPPORT TRIBAL GAMBLING INITIATIVES

Indian gaming is popular in Arizona, with one-third of Arizona adults saying they gambled in a casino on Indian land in Arizona during the past year. A slightly larger number say they are likely to gamble in an Indian casino during the coming year, according to *Grand Canyon State Poll* results released this week. Three-quarters of Arizonans believe casino gambling provides more advantages than disadvantages to Indian tribes in Arizona. The Arizona public supports many gaming provisions emerging from within the Indian community, including increasing the number of slot machines available at Indian casinos, targeting state revenues from slot machines into health care and college scholarships, allowing tribes to sell their slot machine allocations, and raising the minimum casino gambling age in Arizona to 21. Arizonans oppose allowing slot machines in parts of the state other than on Indian reservation land.

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* is conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University. The survey was fielded between March 29 and April 3, 2002. Survey results are valid at a +/- 5 percent margin of error, with a 95 percent confidence level.

ARIZONANS LOVE LOTTERY TICKETS AND CASINO GAMBLING

According to recent survey results, Arizonans love to gamble. During the past year, 51 percent of adults in Arizona say they bought lottery tickets. Eighteen percent of lottery ticket buyers say they play the lottery “often.” One-third of adults say they gambled at a casino on an Indian reservation during the last year, and a third of this group say they play “often” or “sometimes.” Forty-three percent of Arizonans say they are either “very likely” or “somewhat likely” to visit a casino on an Indian reservation in Arizona during the next year. One-quarter of Arizonans took a trip and gambled in Nevada during the past year. Sports track betting is much less popular in Arizona. Four percent of adults say they bet at a horseracing track in Arizona during the last year, three percent placed a bet at an off-track betting site, and one percent bet at a greyhound dog racing track in Arizona.

Indian gaming issues are in the news lately as the Arizona state legislature convenes in a special session called by Governor Hull to focus on provisions of an Indian gaming compact. At the same time, several tribes are organizing to place an Indian gaming initiative on the November 2002 ballot.

INDIAN GAMING BRINGS MORE ADVANTAGES THAN DISADVANTAGES

Three-quarters of state residents (74%) believe casino gambling provides more advantages than disadvantages to Indian tribes in Arizona. A majority of Arizonans (51%) support increasing the number of slot machines available at Indian casinos. Fifty-eight percent say they would be more likely to support increasing the number of slot machines in Indian casinos if they knew that a portion of revenues went back to the state budget.

Fifty-six percent of Arizonans, on the other hand, oppose allowing slot machines in other parts of the state, outside of Indian reservations.

TRIBAL INITIATIVES ARE SUPPORTED

Many provisions of the Indian gaming initiative now slated for the November 2002 ballot are widely supported by Arizonans. Governor Hull would like a portion of slot machine revenues to go into the state's general fund, while the Indian gaming initiative would target revenues for health care programs and college scholarships. Fifty-six percent of Arizonans support the targeted approach for handling slot machine revenues, while only 14 percent support putting revenues into the state's general fund. One-quarter of Arizonans have no preference for how this money is handled.

While Indian tribes throughout Arizona are allowed to have a specific number of slot machines on their land, tribes are not currently allowed to sell their unused allocation to other tribes. The proposed Indian gaming initiative would allow for the selling of allocations. One-half of Arizonans believe tribes should be able to sell a portion of their allocation to other tribes. One-third of Arizonans oppose this practice.

Under current law, 18 year olds are allowed to gamble in casinos on Indian reservations in Arizona. The proposed gaming initiative would raise the minimum gambling age to 21. By a margin of two to one (64% to 33%), Arizonans support raising the minimum gambling age to 21.



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**GRAND CANYON STATE POLL
BACKGROUND MEMO**

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted between March 29 and April 3, 2002. A random sample of 405 Arizona residents was asked questions regarding their attitudes concerning gambling issues in Arizona. Survey question results are subject to a sampling error of +/-5.0 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in the population versus a scientific sample taken from the population. Sampling error does not take into account additional sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The data referred to in this release are presented below.

Did you ... in the last year? Did you ... often, sometimes, or rarely?

	Yes	Often	Some- times	Rarely	(N)
Buy lottery tickets	51%	18%	31%	51%	(206)
Gamble at a casino on an Indian reservation	35%	9%	24%	67%	(141)
Gamble at a casino in Nevada	26%	4%	23%	73%	(105)
Bet at a horseracing track in AZ	4%	11%	13%	77%	(17)
Bet at an off-track betting site	3%	15%	---	85%	(13)
Bet at a greyhound dog racing track in AZ	1%	25%	25%	50%	(4)

Are you very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely to visit a casino on an Indian reservation in Arizona during the next year?

	<u>%</u>	
Very likely	18%	N = 403
Somewhat likely	25%	
Somewhat unlikely	14%	
Very unlikely	41%	
Don't know	2%	

Overall, do you think casino gambling provides more advantages or disadvantages to Indian tribes in Arizona?

	<u>%</u>	
More advantages	74%	N = 400
More disadvantages	15%	
Don't know	10%	

Some people would like to increase the number of slot machines available at casinos on Indian reservations. Are you very supportive, somewhat supportive, somewhat opposed, or very opposed to increasing the number of slot machines available at casinos on Indian reservations?

	<u>%</u>	
Very supportive	22%	N = 402
Somewhat supportive	29%	
Somewhat opposed	15%	
Very opposed	19%	
Don't know	15%	

If a portion of money generated by slot machines on Indian reservations went back to the Arizona state budget, would you be more likely or less likely to support increasing the number of slot machines available at casinos on Indian reservations?

	<u>%</u>	
More likely	58%	N = 398
Less likely	25%	
Makes no difference	13%	
Don't know	4%	

Some people say that if slot machines are allowed on Indian reservations in Arizona, then slot machines should also be allowed in other parts of the state. Are you very supportive, somewhat supportive, somewhat opposed, or very opposed to allowing slot machines in other parts of the state?

	<u>%</u>	
Very supportive	14%	N = 403
Somewhat supportive	23%	
Somewhat opposed	20%	
Very opposed	36%	
Don't know	8%	

Do you prefer that the state's portion of money from slot machines go into the state's general fund, go directly into specific healthcare programs and college scholarships, or do you have no preference in how this money is used?

	<u>%</u>	
Into the state's general fund	14%	
Into specific healthcare programs and college scholarships	56%	N = 401
No preference	28%	
Don't know	2%	

Today, each Indian tribe in Arizona is allowed to have a specific number of slot machines, but not all tribes are using their total allotment. Do you think Indian tribes should be able to sell a portion of their allotment to other tribes?

	<u>%</u>	
Yes, should be able to sell	50%	
No, should not be able to sell	36%	N = 402
Don't know	14%	

Under current law, 18 year olds are allowed to gamble in casinos on Indian reservations in Arizona. Do you think the minimum age for gambling at Indian casinos should remain at 18, or should the minimum age be raised to 21?

	<u>%</u>	
Remain at age 18	33%	
Raised to age 21	64%	N = 403
Don't know	3%	