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Poll Memo: Public Has Consistently Opposed Internet Betting

Fairleigh Dickinson University several times in recent years has polled New Jersey and the nation on the question of allowing internet betting, every time finding a majority of voters oppose it.

In February 2011 two-thirds of New Jersey voters (67%) said they opposed the idea, while 26% supported it. Opposition included even those who wager in office pools (56-38), as well as those who had been recently to a casino or a slots parlor (65-29). (See here for the original release of Feb. 21, 2011.) Opposition to internet-based betting was manifest despite that, in the same poll, voters supported legalizing sports betting.

What about on-line...gaming/gambling ...do you favor or oppose allowing New Jersey casinos to run betting games online, over the internet, for people in New Jersey?

							Play in	office		
				Party ID			pool?		Been to casino?	
	All	Men	Wom	Dem	Ind	Rep	yes	no	yes	no
Favor	26%	34	18	27	34	24	38	23	29	25
Oppose	67%	62	71	65	61	69	56	70	65	67
Unsure	7%	4	10	8	6	7	6	8	6	8

Similarly, in a 2010 poll of New Jersey voters, 61% opposed the idea of internet betting, while 28% supported it. (See here for the release of March 22, 2010.)

The FDU poll also has put the question of internet betting to voters nationally, most recently in December 2011, when 60% said they oppose the idea and 28% said they favor it. (See here for the release of Dec. 19, 2011.)

Now thinking about the internet... What about on-line gaming do you favor or oppose allowing casinos in your state to run betting games online--over the internet--for people in your state?

		gender		ideology			age				Bet?*		2010
	All	Men	Wom	Lib	Mod	Con	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	yes	no	
Support	28%	35	22	28	30	27	28	47	26	16	<mark>50</mark>	24	21%
Oppose	60%	55	65	54	58	66	52	43	65	73	44	<mark>64</mark>	67%
Unsure	11%	10	13	17	12	8	19	10	9	10	6	12	11%

^{*} Question was "In the past year, has anyone in your household bet on sports, or participated in an office pool?"

"Many states are beginning to push for this because they see it as new source of revenue," said Peter Woolley, the poll director and a professor of political science. "They want to get to the head of the line before every state is doing it. But internet betting may be arriving faster than the public is ready for it."

For more information, please call 973.443.8661