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NATION OK WITH SPORTS BETTING; ONLINE GAMBLING A DIFFERENT STORY

According to the most recent national poll by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind, a majority (51%) of registered voters favor legalizing sports betting in states where it is not currently legal. The poll also finds that 1-in-5 American men admit to betting on sports, and that they are the group most likely to support expanding legal sports betting. The overall result is up significantly from a March 2010 national poll by PublicMind which found only 39 percent supported the expansion of sports betting.

As in prior polls, men (60%) far outpace women (43%) in their support. While the 60+ age category is the only category showing less than a majority support (40%), even this figure is up significantly (from 27%) in the 2010 poll on the same topic.

"These national figures are similar to what we've seen in our recent polls of New Jersey voters," said Krista Jenkins, director of the poll and professor of political science at Fairleigh Dickinson University. "New Jersey is moving forward with its plans for sports betting in early 2013, despite federal lawsuits by the NBA, MLB and others to block it," she added.

The controversy over sports betting erupted after the New Jersey legislature passed laws allowing sports betting in the state, despite federal laws which limit sports betting to the four states that had permitted it before federal regulation was introduced. New Jersey has sued to have the federal law limiting sports betting overturned, even as the NCAA has pulled all tournaments out of the state in response.

Supporters of sports betting have argued that betting is already happening, just illegally, and results of the survey tend to support that argument. Thirteen percent of respondents – including 1-in-5 men (20 percent) – say that they've bet on sports in the past year. Eighty percent of people who have bet on sports recently say that they would support opening more states to sports betting. However, it's unclear how many would turn to legal sports betting – rather than office pools, and similar betting – if it were allowed.

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Americans are not as quick to support all new gambling ideas, as only a quarter (27%) favor allowing states to run betting games online. But even this number is up from the 2010 poll, when only 21 percent favored such a measure. Once again, support from men (36%) is almost double that of women (19%). The two older age categories, 45-59 (24%) and 60+ (14%) are among the least likely to show support for online gaming.

“It’s a real crap shoot,” said Jenkins. “On one side are economic benefits to a state, yet on the other is the concern that online gaming will make it too easy for individuals to get caught up in gambling,” Jenkins said.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University poll of 814 registered voters was conducted nationally by telephone with both landline and cell phones from December 10 through December 16, 2012, and has a margin of error of +/-3.4 percentage points.

*Methodology, questions, and tables on the web at: <http://publicmind.fdu.edu>
Radio actualities at 201.692.2846 For more information, please call 201.692.7032*

Methodology

The most recent survey by Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind was conducted by telephone from December 10 through December 16, 2012, using a randomly selected sample of 814 registered voters nationwide. One can be 95 percent confident that the error attributable to sampling has a range of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies by the size of that subgroup. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling error. This kind of error, which cannot be measured, arises from a number of factors including, but not limited to, non-response (eligible individuals refusing to be interviewed), question wording, the order in which questions are asked, and variations among interviewers.

PublicMind interviews are conducted by Opinion America of Cedar Knolls, NJ, with professionally trained interviewers using a CATI (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing) system. Random selection is achieved by computerized random-digit dialing. This technique gives every person with a land-line phone number (including those with unlisted numbers) an equal chance of being selected.

Landline households are supplemented with a separate, randomly selected sample of cell-phone respondents interviewed in the same time frame. The total combined sample is mathematically weighted to match known demographics of age, race and gender.

Sports Betting

Currently, the Federal Government allows sports betting in some states that had it before the practice was banned. Some states that don't have it have asked the federal government to allow them to have legalized sports betting. Should the federal government allow some new states to have sports betting?

	All	Party			Gender		Age			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Men	Women	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
Allow	51%	52	58	48	60	43	62	61	52	40
Don't allow	33%	33	23	40	29	37	26	26	35	41
Neither	4%	4	7	2	4	4	3	2	4	6
Unsure	11%	11	10	9	5	16	10	10	10	12
Refuses	1%	-	3	1	1	-	-	1	-	2

	Race		Been to a casino in last 12 months		Participated in an office pool in last 12 months	
	White	Non-white	Yes	No	Yes	No
Allow	51	52	61	48	80	48
Don't allow	34	34	22	36	16	34
Neither	4	4	4	4	-	4
Unsure	11	8	12	12	3	13
Refused	1	2	1	-	-	1

In the past twelve months, have you bet on sports, or participated in an office pool?

	All	Gender		Race		Education		
		Male	Female	White	Non-White	HS or Less	Some College	College+
Yes	13%	20	8	13	15	12	15	12
No	85%	78	91	85	85	86	84	85
Don't Know	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
Refused	2%	2	1	2	-	1	1	2

Online Gambling

And how about online gambling. Do you favor or oppose allowing states to run betting games online, over the internet?

	All	Party			Gender		Age			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Men	Women	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
Favor	27%	27	31	26	36	19	39	41	24	14
Oppose	60%	59	58	63	53	67	52	42	63	76
Neither	5%	5	3	5	5	5	3	8	5	3
Unsure	7%	9	8	5	6	9	6	9	7	7
Refused	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1

	Race		Been to a casino in last 12 months		Participated in an office pool in last 12 months	
	White	Non-white	Yes	No	Yes	No
Favor	27	29	37	24	54	24
Oppose	60	59	50	63	41	62
Neither	5	6	5	5	2	6
Unsure	8	6	8	7	2	8
Refused	1	-	-	-	-	-

2010 Sports Betting (national sample)

Currently, betting on sports – like football games and basketball games – is legal only in Las Vegas and on a limited basis in Delaware. Do you support or oppose changing the law to allow people to place bets on sports in all states?

	All	Gender		Age			
		Men	Women	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
Support	39%	45	34	57	40	39	27
Oppose	53%	50	55	37	53	52	63
D/K	8%	6	11	6	6	9	10

NJ Sports Betting (New Jersey sample)

Now, just thinking about casinos in New Jersey, do you favor or oppose making sports betting legal in New Jersey race tracks and Atlantic City casinos?

	May 2012	Oct 2011	April 2011
Favor	60%	52	53
Oppose	26%	31	30
Unsure	14%	17	17

2010 Online Gambling (national sample)

Currently, it is not legal in the U.S. to place bets over the internet. So you support or oppose changing the law to allow people to place bets over the internet?

	All	Gender	
		Men	Women
Support	21%	29	14
Oppose	67%	61	73
D/K	11%	10	13

Exact Question Wording and Order

US1, US2, and US4 released December 19, 2012

US3 released December 18th

US5 Currently, the Federal Government allows sports betting in some states that had it before the practice was banned. Some states that don't have it have asked the federal government to allow them to have legalized sports betting. Should the federal government allow some new states to have sports betting?

- 1 Yes, allow new states
- 2 No, don't allow new states
- 3 Neither [vol]
- 8 DK [vol]
- 9 Refused

US6 And how about online gambling. Do you favor or oppose allowing states to run betting games online, over the internet?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 3 Neither [vol]
- 8 DK [vol]
- 9 Refused

D6 In the past 12 months have you, or anyone in your household, been to a casino or slots parlor?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK [vol]
- 9 Refused

D7 In the past twelve months, have you bet on sports, or participated in an office pool?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 8 DK [vol]
- 9 Refused

Sample characteristics – Registered voters**Gender**

Male	48
Female	52

Age

18-29	14
30-44	26
45-59	29
60+	30
Refused	1

Race/Ethnicity

White	72
Black/African-American	13
Latino or Hispanic	9
Asian	2
Other/refused	4

Census region

Northeast	19
Midwest	22
South	32
West	27

Education

HS or less	29
Some college	34
College graduate	37

Party identification

Democrat	34
Independent	39
Republican	26
Other	1
DK/Refused	1