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VOTERS WEIGH IN ON CHALLENGING COURT DECISION TO STOP SPORTS BETTING IN THE STATE

Voters are divided over whether the Garden State should appeal a recent federal court decision halting legalized sports betting in the state, according to the most recent statewide poll of registered voters in the Garden State from Fairleigh Dickinson University's PublicMind. Almost equal numbers of respondents say an appeal is warranted (37%) or that the state should back off until the federal law banning sports betting in all but a handful of states is lifted (34%). A fifth are undecided (22%). Three-quarters (76%) have heard little or nothing at all about the court decision.

The last time a similar question was asked by PublicMind was in July 2012. At the time, 45 percent endorsed the state's goal of allowing the practice, with 38 percent opposed until the federal ban was no longer in effect. The percentage drop in support for legalization seems to be the result of the higher bar the state must now overcome given the federal court's decision.

"Given the inattention of voters on this issue, opinions either way are likely to be soft. And yet, it's certainly notable that the gut reaction of the electorate is one of indecision and hesitancy," said Krista Jenkins, professor of political science and director of PublicMind.

Regardless of what the federal government says about legalized sports betting in the state, voter opinion appears to be remaining relatively stable. In July 2012, 58 percent supported legalized sports betting with 29 percent opposed. Today those numbers are virtually unchanged -- 55 percent say they favor the practice with 28 percent opposed.

A sizable gender gap separates men and women on this issue. By an almost two-to-one margin (48 to 25%), men and women differ on support for an appeal with men significantly more likely than women to want the state to challenge the federal court ruling. Men are also far more likely to support sports betting in general, with almost two-thirds of men (62%) favoring the practice as compared with a bare majority of women (49%).

The same poll finds that recent betting experiences predispose someone to look upon legalized sports wagering favorably. Having been to a casino or slots parlor in the last 12 months or betting on sports in an office pool are experiences that distinguish people from their non-wagering friends and colleagues. Forty-eight percent of those who have been to a casino favor an appeal compared with a third of those who have not been to a casino in the recent past, and 42 percent of office pool bettors support an appeal compared with a third (33%) who haven't wagered on sports with co-workers.

Similarly, double digits separate those who have been to a casino or bet on sports in the office recently from those who have not when it comes to legalized sports betting in the abstract. Seventy-seven percent of casino-goers want to bet on sports legally compared with 49 percent who haven't been to a casino recently, and two thirds (67%) of office bettors support legalization compared with 49 percent who have not participated in an office pool.

“This is an issue that's been followed closely by a variety of players. Atlantic City casinos and a few racetracks are poised to benefit from a revenue and visitation boon, but professional and collegiate sports organizations have challenged the state's decision for fear that it will cause integrity issues with respect to the athletes and the games that they play,” said Donald Hoover, a professor in FDU's International School of Hospitality and Tourism Management and a former casino executive.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University poll of 702 registered voters in New Jersey was conducted by telephone with both landline and cell phones from September 30 through October 5, 2013, and has a margin of error of +/-3.7 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 September 30 through October 6, 2013 using a randomly selected sample of 702 registered voters who reside in New Jersey. One can be 95 percent confident that the error attributable to sampling has a range of +/- 3.7 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 landline 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.

Tables

Recently the 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld an earlier decision to stop New Jersey from allowing sports wagering at casinos and racetracks. How much have you heard or read about this issue?

	All	Gender		Age				Bet on sports?		Been to casino?	
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Yes	No	Yes	No
A lot	5%	8	3	4	6	5	6	6	5	9	4
Some	17%	22	13	4	20	17	20	22	14	27	14
Just a little	34%	34	33	29	29	37	36	32	34	33	34
Nothing	42%	34	50	62	44	38	36	37	45	29	46
DK/Ref	2%	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	2	2

Which of the following statements best describes how you feel, even if neither is a perfect statement? [Randomize] New Jersey should appeal the federal court decision to the U.S. Supreme Court or New Jersey should wait to allow sports betting until a time when the federal law banning it in all but a few states is repealed by Congress.

	All	Gender		Age				Bet on sports?		Been to casino?	
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Yes	No	Yes	No
Appeal	37%	48	25	38	47	35	30	42	33	48	33
Not appeal	34%	33	35	32	35	36	31	32	35	38	32
Neither	7%	6	9	3	4	9	11	8	7	3	9
DK/Ref	22%	13	31	27	15	20	27	18	24	11	25

JULY 2012: *Which of the following statements best describes how you feel, even if neither is a perfect statement? New Jersey should allow sports betting at race tracks and casinos even if federal law prevents it from doing so....orNew Jersey should wait to allow sports betting until a time when the federal law banning it in all but a few states is repealed by Congress?*

	All
Allow	45%
Not allow	38%
Neither	7%
Unsure	10%

Overall, do you favor or oppose legalizing sports betting in New Jersey casinos and at racetracks around the state?

	All	Gender		Age				Bet on sports?		Been to casino?	
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+	Yes	No	Yes	No
Favor	55%	62	49	57	61	60	49	67	49	77	49
Oppose	28%	25	30	26	27	23	34	20	31	12	32
DK/Ref	17%	13	21	17	12	17	18	12	19	11	19

JULY 2012: *Overall, do you favor or oppose legalizing sports betting in New Jersey casinos and at racetracks around the state?*

	All
Favor	58%
Oppose	29%
DK/Ref (vol)	13%

<i>In the past 12 months, have you bet on sports, or participated in an office pool?</i>							
		Gender		Age			
	All	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
Yes	24%	26	22	25	29	31	12
No	76%	73	78	75	71	68	87
DK/Ref	1%	1	1	-	-	1	1

<i>In the past 12 months, have you or anyone in your household been to a casino or slots parlor?</i>							
		Gender		Age			
	All	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-59	60+
Yes	37%	39	36	43	40	40	32
No	62%	61	64	57	60	60	66
DK/Ref	1%	1	1	-	-	-	2

Exact Question Wording and Order

US1 and US2 released October 11, 2013
 NJ1 through NJ3 released October 11, 2013
 NJ4 through NJ5 released October 8, 2013
 NJ6 through NJ8 released October 14, 2013
 NJ9 through NJ12 released October 8, 2013
 NJ13 released October 14, 2013

NJ14 Recently the 3rd US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld an earlier decision to stop New Jersey from allowing sports wagering at casinos and racetracks. How much have you heard or read about this issue?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Just a little
- 4 Nothing
- 8 DK/REF [vol]

NJ15 Which of the following statements best describes how you feel, even if neither is a perfect statement? RANDOMIZE

- 1 New Jersey should appeal the federal court decision to the U.S. Supreme Court
- 2 New Jersey should wait to allow sports betting until a time when the federal law banning it in all but a few states is repealed by Congress.
- 3 Neither [vol]
- 8 DK/Refused [vol]

NJ16 Overall, do you favor or oppose legalizing sports betting in New Jersey casinos and at racetracks around the state?

- 1 Favor
- 2 Oppose
- 8 DK/Refused [vol]

Sample characteristics – Registered voters

Gender

Male	49
Female	51

Age

18-29	12
30-44	26
45-59	32
60+	27
Refused	3

Race/Ethnicity

White	68
Black/African-American	12
Latino or Hispanic	10
Asian	5
Other/refused	5

Public employee household

Yes	23
No	75
Unsure/refused	2

Party identification

Democrat/Lean Democrat	46
Independent/DK/refused	19
Republican/Lean Republican	35

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