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SUPPORT FOR SUPREME COURT RULING ON SPORTS BETTING

Fairleigh Dickinson University, May 29, 2018 – The U.S. Supreme Court’s recent decision on sports betting is supported by a sizable majority of Garden State residents, according to the most recent statewide survey from the Fairleigh Dickinson University Poll. Sixty-two percent of adults – the highest percentage observed by the poll – support allowing professional sports betting to expand beyond the four states where it is legal currently (Delaware, Nevada, Montana and Oregon). A quarter (25%) oppose the expansion, and around four-in-ten have paid attention to the ruling (44%).

“If support for the expansion is any indication of how widespread of a pastime this will become, New Jersey is poised to become a state with a lot of action around professional sporting events,” said Krista Jenkins, director of the poll and professor of political science at Fairleigh Dickinson University.

Legislators in New Jersey have been anticipating this decision and legislation was prepared in anticipation of a favorable Court decision. If passed, the state stands to benefit financially from the expansion. When asked if the additional revenue should be shared with professional sports teams, almost two-thirds (62%) responded no. A third support revenue sharing (34%).

“The matter of leagues requesting fees on sports wagers will be a heavily debated topic in the coming months. This is the historical chicken and egg scenario playing out with the sports leagues and the operators accepting sports wagers. The sports leagues believe that they should get a portion of the wagers or revenues because money is being made on their product. The sportsbooks and operators believe that the sports leagues are making more money because of sports wagering,” said Donald Hoover, Senior Lecturer at FDU’s International School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

The same survey asked respondents why they supported or opposed the expansion. Among those who are in agreement with the Supreme Court ruling, it’s the lure of more money for the state (47%) and the practicality of allowing something that’s already being done (39%) that motivates respondents. Among those who are opposed, worries about gambling addictions are, by far, the biggest concern with 44 percent who base their concerns there, with similar numbers pointing to the potential for organized crime (20%) and a belief that professional sporting events will appear less fair (19%).

The same questions were asked [nationally](#) before the Supreme Court ruling, and New Jersey mirrors the rest of the nation. Support for expansion among respondents nationwide is less robust (50%), but the belief that teams should not benefit from the revenue stream is identical to that found in New Jersey (62%). Practicality and morality also dictate the reasons behind support and opposition to an expansion. Sizable numbers of Americans – like those in the Garden State – fear an increase in gambling addictions, or recognize the potential for additional revenue in struggling states.

The most robust support for an expansion can be found among men and those with a penchant for wagering even without the imprimatur of legality. Almost three-quarters of men (71%) favor changing the law as compared with barely a majority of women (53%). And a chasm of difference separates those who have been to a casino recently or wagered informally through an office pool, for example, versus those who haven't partaken in betting. Seventy-three percent of casino goers support the expansion as compared with 57 percent of non-casino goers, and 81 percent of office betters give an enthusiastic yes to the Court's decision only 51 percent of those who haven't placed an informal bet saying the same.

Methodology - The Fairleigh Dickinson University Poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone May 16-May 21, 2018 using a random sample of adults in New Jersey aged 18 and older (N = 926). Results have a margin of sampling error of +/- 3.5 percentage points, including the design effect.

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.

Interviews are conducted by Key Research Solutions of Provo Utah, 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.

The total combined sample is mathematically weighted to match known demographics of age, sex, and race. 372 interviews were conducted on landlines and 554 were conducted on cellular telephones.

The sample was purchased from Marketing Systems Group and the research was funded by Fairleigh Dickinson University.

The Fairleigh Dickinson University Poll received an "A" rating from statistician Nate Silver's FiveThirtyEight blog. The ratings measure both accuracy and bias for all major polling services in the United States, providing an update to similar research the poll watchers conducted in 2014. The Fairleigh Dickinson University Poll's "A" rating puts it in the top 14 of the more than 380 polling institutes reviewed and graded from A+ through F. The Fairleigh Dickinson University Poll was found to have a 94 percent accuracy rate for predicting election results, and is one of only two A-rated polling institutes with zero bias to their rankings.

Tables

<i>The Supreme Court ruled recently that the federal government can't prevent commercial sports betting in places where it's not currently allowed. How much have you heard or read about this case?</i>													
	All	Gender		PID			Race		Age			Education	
		Male	Female	Dem	Ind	Repub	White	Non-white	18-34	34-54	55+	HS	College
A lot	18%	26	11	18	14	22	22	11	12	17	24	14	21
Some	26%	26	26	25	23	31	31	14	18	25	31	25	26
Just a little	28%	27	29	28	30	26	26	30	29	30	25	28	27
Nothing at all	28%	21	35	29	33	19	20	44	41	28	18	32	25
DK (vol)	1%	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	1	0
Refused (vol)	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0

The Supreme Court ruled recently that the federal government can't prevent commercial sports betting in places where it's not currently allowed. How much have you heard or read about this case?

	All	Been to a casino in last 12 months		Participated in an office pool in the last 12 months	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
A lot	18%	22	16	28	14
Some	26%	31	23	33	23
Just a little	28%	24	30	22	30
Nothing at all	28%	23	30	16	33
DK (vol)	1%	1	0	0	1
Refused (vol)	0	0	0	0	0

Do you favor or oppose [rotate] changing the law to allow people to place bets on sports in all states?

	All	Gender		PID			Race		Age			Education	
		Male	Female	Dem	Ind	Repub	White	Non-white	18-34	34-54	55+	HS	College
Favor	62%	71	53	63	54	66	62	63	69	67	53	31	63
Oppose	25%	20	30	24	34	23	25	24	18	20	35	24	24
DK (vol)	11%	8	13	10	10	10	10	12	11	10	11	11	10
Refused (vol)	2%	1	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	2	3	2

Do you favor or oppose [rotate] changing the law to allow people to place bets on sports in all states?

	All	Been to a casino in last 12 months		Participated in an office pool in the last 12 months	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
Favor	62%	73	57	81	54
Oppose	25%	17	29	12	31
DK (vol)	11%	9	12	6	13
Refused (vol)	2%	2	3	2	

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

	July 2012	October 2013
Favor	58%	55%
Oppose	29%	28%
Dk/Ref (vol)	13%	17%

March 2015
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 New Jersey to have sports betting, or should the law remain the same?

Allow in NJ	50%
Remain the same	41%
DK (vol)	8%
Ref (vol)	1%

<i>Which of the following reasons best explains why you favor making sports betting legal in all states? [N = 577]</i>													
	All	Gender		PID			Race		Age			Education	
		Male	Female	Dem	Ind	Repub	White	Non-white	18-34	34-54	55+	HS	College
More tax revenue for states	47%	48	46	47	46	50	50	42	44	54	43	45	48
People are already doing it	39%	38	39	40	36	36	37	40	37	36	42	37	40
Will make sports more exciting	8%	7	10	8	11	7	6	12	12	6	7	13	5
Other (vol)	5%	6	3	4	5	6	5	3	6	3	4	3	5
DK (vol)	2%	2	2	1	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	1
Refused (vol)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

<i>Which of the following reasons best explains why you support making sports betting legal in all states? [N = 577]</i>					
	All	Been to a casino in last 12 months		Participated in an office pool in the last 12 months	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
More tax revenue for states	47%	47	47	47	47
People are already doing it	39%	38	39	41	37
Will make sports more exciting	8%	6	10	6	9
Other (vol)	5%	8	2	6	4
DK (vol)	2%	1	2	0	3
Refused (vol)	0	0	0	0	0

<i>Which of the following reasons best explains why you oppose making sports betting legal in all states? [N = 230]</i>													
	All	Gender		PID			Race		Age			Education	
		Male	Female	Dem	Ind	Repub	White	Non-white	18-34	34-54	55+	HS	College
Promotes gambling addiction	44%	41	47	45	39	47	46	39	35	53	44	40	49
Opens the door for organized crime	20%	19	21	19	22	22	17	28	20	15	23	21	20
Changes the expectation that the event or game is fair	19%	19	19	20	15	22	18	20	32	18	13	21	17
Other (vol)	10%	16	7	12	12	6	10	11	6	9	14	10	10
DK (vol)	5%	4	6	3	12	5	7	1	7	5	4	8	3
Refused (vol)	1%	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0	2

<i>Which of the following reasons best explains why you oppose making sports betting legal in all states? [N = 230]</i>					
	All	Been to a casino in last 12 months		Participated in an office pool in the last 12 months	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
Promotes gambling addiction	44%	48	44	30	47
Opens the door for organized crime	20%	20	20	21	20
Changes the expectation that the event or game is fair	19%	18	19	13	20
Other (vol)	10%	7	12	26	8
DK (vol)	5%	7	5	10	4
Refused (vol)	1%	0	1	0	1

If betting on professional sports becomes legal and taxed in New Jersey, would you approve or disapprove [rotate] of the state sharing some of the tax revenue with the teams?

	All	Gender		PID			Race		Age			Education	
		Male	Female	Dem	Ind	Repub	White	Non-white	18-34	34-54	55+	HS	College
Approve	34%	37	31	36	27	32	30	43	45	27	32	34	34
Disapprove	62%	60	64	58	68	66	65	54	51	69	63	62	61
DK (vol)	4%	4	5	5	5	2	4	4	5	3	5	4	4
Refused (vol)	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1

If betting on professional sports becomes legal and taxed in New Jersey, would you approve or disapprove [rotate] of the state sharing some of the tax revenue with the teams?

	All	Been to a casino in last 12 months		Participated in an office pool in the last 12 months	
		Yes	No	Yes	No
Approve	34%	32	35	30	35
Disapprove	62%	63	61	66	60
DK (vol)	4%	5	4	4	4
Refused (vol)	0	0	0	0	0

Exact question wording and order

US1 and US2 withheld for future release
 NJ1 through NJ3 withheld for future release
 W1 through W3 withheld for future release
 CITY1 through CITY6 withheld for future release
 N4 and NJ5 withheld for future release

NJ6 The Supreme Court ruled recently that the federal government can't prevent commercial sports betting in places where it's not currently allowed. How much have you heard or read about this case?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Just a little
- 4 Nothing at all
- 8 Don't know (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

NJ7 Do you favor or oppose [rotate] changing the law to allow people to place bets on sports in all states?

- 1 Favor [Ask GAME3]
- 2 Oppose [Ask GAME2]
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

NJ8 Which of the following reasons best explains why you oppose making sports betting legal in all states? (READ LIST)

- 1 Promotes gambling addiction
- 2 Opens the door for organized crime
- 3 Changes the expectation that the event or game is fair
- 5 Other (vol)
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

NJ9 Which of the following best explains why you favor making sports betting legal in all states? (READ LIST)

- 1 More tax revenue for the states
- 2 People are already betting illegally
- 3 Will make sports more exciting
- 5 Other (vol)
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

NJ10 If betting on professional sports becomes legal and taxed in New Jersey, would you approve or disapprove [rotate] of the state sharing some of the tax revenue with the teams?

- 1 Approve
- 2 Disapprove
- 8 DK (vol)
- 9 Refused (vol)

Weighted Sample characteristics

Male	49%
Female	51%
Democrat (with leaners)	48%
Republican (with leaners)	31%
Independent	16%
18-34	28%
35-59	35%
60+	35%
White	64%
African-American	11%
Latino	15%
Asian	7%
Other/refused	4%