

Casino Survey Preliminary Results

Following an open town meeting regarding the casino gambling issue is the Town of Wawarsing, the **Chamber of Commerce** continued its quest in gathering public opinion regarding this issue. A casino survey was sent to every **Chamber** member whose membership had been received prior to the end of May. The following letter was sent out to over 100 members of the **Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce** —

Dear Chamber Member:

The Town of Wawarsing Supervisor, Dr. Richard Craft, contacted us several months ago requesting our views regarding the casino gambling issue facing the Town of Wawarsing. A project such as this will have a permanent impact on our town, whether it materializes or not. Our town officials want our opinions.

To obtain public opinion, your chamber organized the first in a series of town meetings to address the topic of casino gambling. The June issue of the **Chamber's** monthly magazine, **Wawarsing.Net**, has an overview of the evening's program. The next town meeting is being planned for the early fall.

Our next reply to our town's official's request will be the results of the enclosed survey. This survey is being sent to all our chamber members for completion. We are being given an opportunity to have a say in our future; do not forfeit this chance.

Please complete and return the enclosed survey by June 15th.

Feel free to add any comments regarding this topic.

Thank you in advance for your time and input in this very important issue we are facing.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mark R. Craft
Chamber President

The following statistics reflect the survey forms returned to date; although not near the total of those sent out, enough responses have been received so far to indicate a general attitude on most questions; as more responses come in, the data will be updated.

➤ 1. Do you feel the chamber should take a position on a casino in our town?

50% yes, 25% no, 21% undecided, 4% no opinion given.

➤ 2. Are you in favor of a casino in the Town of Wawarsing?

46% yes, 28% no, 21% undecided, 5% no opinion given.

➤ 3. If the chamber does take a public position on casino gambling, which you disagree with, will it affect your future involvement with the chamber?

21% yes, 70% no, 4% undecided, 5% no opinion given.

➤ 4. The traffic impact study prepared for the Modoc Indian Nation states that we could anticipate an increase of 7-13% in traffic north of the proposed site at **Kelly's Farm**. The study feels that **Route 209** can accommodate this. Do you agree with this statement?

42% yes, 58% no.

➤ 5. Do you think the state should help us with any increase in traffic we will experience from 2-3 casino sites in Sullivan County?

92% yes, 4% no, 4% no opinion given.

➤ 6. If a casino comes to our town, do you think taxes will: 38% increase, 8% decrease, 38% remain the same, 16% no opinion given.

➤ 7. If funds are sent to us by the county to offset the impact a casino would have on our community services, who should administer the funds?

88% local government, 12% county government

➤ 8. Do you anticipate an increase in your business to come from:

25% casino guests, 54% casino worker, 17% casino operations, 4% no response.

➤ 9. How do you think a casino will impact your business?

8% negatively, 50% positively, 17% no impact, 25% no opinion given

➤ 10. How do you think a casino will impact your personal life?

25% positively, 38% negatively, 25% no impact, 12% no opinion given.

➤ 11. It has been suggested that the Town of Wawarsing receive 80% of the yearly \$15 million payment the county will receive from the Modocs; do you feel this is:

54% enough, 21% not enough, 4% too much, 21% no opinion given.

The **Ellenville-Wawarsing Chamber of Commerce** thanks its members who invested the time to complete and return the surveys sent them. Opinions and concerns regarding the casino issue are wanted, and need to be shared.

Therefore, a modified version of the survey is included in this issue for any reader of **Wawarsing.Net** to submit. We will also consider putting an email version on our website, or having an interactive poll version at our companion Yahoo! listserv site.



Birth thru 6 years Ellenville & Poughkeepsie!

Kindermusik
with Miss Katie

Katie Taylor
Licensed Kindermusik Teacher
PO Box 277, Kerhonkson, NY 12446
845-647-7291
ktyville@ulster.net

a good beginning
never ends

845-647-3601 1-800-649-3665 FAX 845-647-6826

It's A Cinch

BOOKKEEPING AND TAX SERVICE
TAX & FINANCIAL CONSULTANT
DEBT COUNSELING

HEIDI STACK
P.O. BOX 404, 162 CANAL ST., ELLENVILLE, NY 12428