



## **Tiverton Voters Lean Toward Support for New Casino Proposal**

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**TIVERTON, RI, June 8, 2015:** According to a mail survey conducted by Fairbanks, Maslin, Maullin, Metz & Associates (FM3) on behalf of the Twin River Management Group, fully 60% of Tiverton voters support the concept of a casino located on the Town's most northern border with Fall River.

Fulfilling a commitment made by John E. Taylor, Jr., chairman of Twin River Management Group, to the Tiverton Town Council, results of the direct mail effort were delivered to the Council today.

The survey was conducted in late April and early May of this year.

"In all honesty, we did not expect this level of support at this stage in our discussion with the community," said Mr. Taylor. "We remain very committed to developing our proposal with the direct advice and guidance of the community," he said.

Mr. Taylor has been leading a series of discussion groups within the community for the purpose of soliciting direction from residents. To date, seven such forums have been held with another six already scheduled and more expected through the month of June. The company hopes to hold forty by September. Additionally, a series of three to possibly four charrettes or public workshops will be held in the month of September, followed by an interim update to the Town Council in October and finally, a formal proposal will be presented to the Council in November.

### **Survey Highlights**

Tiverton residents are particularly interested in pursuing this type of dialogue according to the survey. Some 95% of residents believe that such a dialogue is important. For 92% of voters, locating the facility away from schools and residential neighborhoods is very important.

When it came to issues that motivate support, taxes and job creation dominated. Sixty five percent (65%) of voters said that generating new taxes is important, while 61% cited job creation as being important.

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Another significant finding of the survey was 69% of respondents believing that it is important to keep casino jobs and taxes in Rhode Island rather than letting them go to new casinos being planned in Massachusetts.

The architecture of the casino is also a major consideration for Tiverton residents. Seventy seven (77%) percent of respondents advised that the facility's appearance should fit in with the local character of the community.

When given the opportunity to state in their own words what they liked or didn't like about the proposal, 1,250 positive responses were offered while 605 negative comments were made. The three positive issues most frequently cited were new tax revenue for the Town (487), creation of new Tiverton jobs (335) and the proposed location of the facility (310).

The most commonly cited negative concern is the impact on local traffic (253).

Taylor reaffirmed his commitment to cooperate with the Town and State in developing a solution to the current congestion, while also anticipating the future needs of the project. "I am confident that we can be part of a better traffic solution," he said. "We are going to do this the right way. We want this to be a project that will benefit the community and also be a source of community pride," he concluded.

The survey was mailed to 5,821 registered voter households. The results were tabulated based upon the first 1,375 responses. The return rate was exceptionally high for this type of survey and is indicative of the community's keen interest in better understanding and contributing to the proposal.

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