

Maine State Senator 1994-2000  
District Court Judge 1975-1992  
Maine Deputy Atty. Gen. 1969-1975  
Maine Assist. Atty. Gen. 1961-1969  
Portland Univ. Law Sch. 1957-1960  
Marine Corps, Korean War 1952-1955



**BENOIT**

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Honorable Donna M. Loring  
Maine House of Representatives  
3 StateHouse Station  
Augusta, Maine, 04333-0003

February 27, 2003

Dear Donna,

Bouquets to the Tribal leaders and members for the successful signature drive, to put the casino question to a public vote!

What I need, is a bunch of bumper stickers to give out in my area, to the many supporters of this measure. Right now, there are any number of neighbors and friends who regularly travel to Foxwood. They would rather travel to Cornishwood, or Westbrookwood, or where-ever-wood, here in Maine.

Twenty-five stickers would be put to good use. And while I'm at it, let me take this opportunity to indicate my interest in working one of the roulette tables.

Trusting this finds you well and industrious, I am

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John".

# STATE

**Joni Averill**

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## Poll: Majority of Mainers favor casino

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PORTLAND — Nearly 60 percent of Mainers said they would support a casino in Maine when read a question likely to appear on November's ballot about whether to allow a casino in the state, according to a poll released Thursday.

In a statewide survey taken April 4-17, 57 percent said "yes" when read the wording of the referendum question: "Do you want to allow a casino to be run by the Passamaquoddy Tribe and Penobscot Nation if part of the revenue sharing is used for state education and municipal revenue sharing?"

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Forty-one percent responded "no" and 2 percent didn't know or wouldn't answer.

But when asked a general question about whether they support or oppose the idea of building a casino in Maine, without mention of revenue sharing, 47 percent of the respondents said they supported a casino. Fifty percent opposed it and 3 percent didn't know or wouldn't answer.

"Clearly the wording of the question directs some people who otherwise oppose a casino to support it," said MaryEllen Fitzgerald, president of Critical Insights, the market research firm that conducted the survey.

According to the survey, support for the referendum question was strongest in central-western Maine, where 60 percent said they would support it, and northern Maine, where 66 percent favored the referendum. Demographically, support was strongest among people ages 18 to 34, those earning less than \$50,000 a year and people without a

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## Casino

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four-year college degree.

The poll said residents of southern Maine were least likely to vote "yes" on the casino referendum. Opposition was strongest among those 65 and older, registered Republicans, those earning more than \$50,000 a year and people with college degrees, the survey said.

The casino questions were

part of a tracking poll that Critical Insights conducts twice a year to gauge Mainers' opinions on local and national issues. The survey of 602 Mainers has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

When asked to identify the most important issue in Maine today, 24 percent of the participants cited unemployment. Twenty-one percent said the economy was the No. 1 issue, and 15 percent said too many taxes, followed by health care,

education and the environment.

Fifty-five percent of Mainers had a favorable opinion of President George Bush, 29 percent had an unfavorable opinion and 16 percent weren't sure. Seventy percent of participants approved of the president's handling of the war with Iraq.

However, only 35 percent of Mainers said Congress should approve Bush's tax cut plan. Sixty percent responded that Congress should not pass the president's tax cut plan.