



YES on 1A

Californians for Indian Self-Reliance

Basic Facts

Questions & Answers

On March 7th, Vote Yes on 1A and No on 29

Proposition 1A... The California Indian Self-Reliance Amendment on the March 2000 State Ballot

Prop 1A is needed to resolve a legal technicality that threatens to shut down Indian gaming on tribal reservations throughout California.

For more than a decade, Indian casinos on reservations in California have provided jobs that take thousands of Indians off welfare and vital funds not otherwise available for education, housing and health care for tribal members.

But in recent years, Nevada casinos that want to kill competition from California Indians have created a political dispute that threatens to shut down Indian gaming in our state. This issue seemed settled in 1998 when voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 5, an initiative that said California tribes could continue to have gaming on their own land. Californians passed Prop 5 by nearly a 2-to-1 margin, even though the big Nevada casinos spent millions on a negative scare campaign to defeat it. Unfortunately, the Nevada casinos filed a lawsuit to block California's voter -approved Indian gaming measure from taking effect. In 1999, this lawsuit managed to get Prop 5 overturned and ruled unconstitutional on a legal technicality.

To resolve this technicality, a new Indian gaming measure has been placed on the March 2000 state ballot – a constitutional amendment called Proposition 1A: the Indian Self-Reliance Amendment. Prop 1A has already received approval from Governor Gray Davis, the California Legislature and the vast majority of California Indian tribes. The final step needed is approval by California voters. Voter approval of Prop 1A will make it clear – once and for all – that Indian gaming on tribal lands is legal in our state. If this important amendment is not passed by voters, Indian casinos in California will be shut down and the jobs and economic benefits they provide to Indians and non-Indians alike will be lost.

A YES vote on Prop 1A will promote Indian self-reliance, benefit our state's economy – and keep our word to California Indian tribes.

For most of the past century, Indians on reservations in California lived in extreme poverty, welfare dependency and despair. Then, in 1988, federal law recognized the right of Indian tribes to have limited, regulated gaming on their own federally-designated tribal land. Since 1988, Indian casinos in California and 27 other states have provided many tribes with jobs that take Indians off welfare and generate revenues to provide decent housing, clean water supplies, better education and health care for their people. Today, California Indian casinos on tribal lands support nearly 50,000 jobs for Indians and non-Indians and generate \$120 million annually in state and local taxes. On reservations with casinos, unemployment has dropped nearly 50%; welfare has been cut by 68% and, in some cases, eliminated entirely. By preventing the shutdown of Indian gaming in California, Prop 1A will allow Indians to continue their progress toward economic self-reliance – so they can stay off welfare, take care of themselves and pay their own way. If Proposition 1A fails, tribes throughout the state would face a shutdown of casinos on their own land, even though California voters, our Governor and state legislature have all given previous commitments to allow Indian gaming to continue. If Indian gaming in California is shut down, it would be devastating for California Indians and bad for California's taxpayers and economy. The only real winners would be Nevada and its rich Las Vegas casino owners.

Prop 1A provides clear legal authority for regulated gaming on federally- designated tribal lands.

Proposition 1A is a simple constitutional amendment that provides clear legal authority for California tribes to

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conduct specific regulated gaming activities on their own land. Prop 1A does **not** expand Indian gaming outside of Indian lands. It simply allows federally-recognized California tribes to continue to have gaming on federally-designated tribal land, as provided by federal law. The Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) allows Indian gaming on reservation lands to create jobs and provide funds for education, housing, health care, economic development and other services for tribal members. Under this law, Indian tribes and state governments must negotiate gaming agreements – called tribal-state compacts – that specify the details for Indian gaming on reservations. Last summer, Governor Davis and the majority of California tribes negotiated and signed compacts for Indian gaming in our state. These historic agreements were then sent to the legislature, where they were overwhelmingly approved by more than a 2/3 majority with strong bipartisan support from Democrat and Republican legislators. The next crucial step in this process is for voters to approve Proposition 1A. Voter approval of 1A will allow California's tribal-state compacts to go into effect. The basic terms of these agreements are as follows.

Prop 1A implements California's Tribal-State Compacts for Indian Gaming

Limited gaming allowed on tribal lands — California Indian tribes will be allowed to continue limited gaming at Indian casinos on federally-designated reservation lands. Permitted games include slot machines, house-banked card games, lottery games and parimutuel wagering.

Revenues shared with non-gaming tribes — Revenues from Indian gaming must be shared with non-gaming tribes to support education, health care, housing and economic development programs on reservations that don't have casinos.

Protections for local communities and the environment — For any significant new construction related to an Indian casino, a tribe must prepare an environmental report on any potential impacts to areas outside the reservation, allow the public to comment on the report and make good faith efforts to mitigate any impacts.

Strict regulation — Indian gaming is strictly regulated. In addition to direct regulation by tribal governments and federal government agencies including the National Indian Gaming Commission, the Department of Justice, the FBI, the IRS and the Department of the Interior, the compact provides for new oversight by the state.

Limits on the number of casinos and slot machines — Although most California tribes are located in remote areas where a casino is not practical or where market conditions will only support a small gaming facility, the compacts also set certain legal limits. Specifically, no reservation will be allowed to have more than two gaming facilities or more than two thousand slot machines.

Revenues shared with state and local governments — Gaming tribes will pay a percentage of their revenues to state and local governments, using a sliding scale (ranging from 7% to 13%) based on the number of gaming machines they operate. These funds will be dedicated to support local programs and services in nearby communities, and to reimburse state and local agencies for their costs to regulate Indian casinos.

Employees have option to join labor unions — Employees working in most non-management jobs at Indian casinos will be allowed to join labor unions if they choose to do so.

Standard minimum ages for patrons — The minimum age for a patron at an Indian casino will be 21 in any area where alcohol is served. In areas where no alcohol is served, the minimum age will be 18, the same as for the state lottery.

Agreement valid for 20 years — The terms of the compact will be valid for 20 years with the option to extend. Changes may be re-negotiated after three years, but must be jointly agreed to by both the tribes and state, and approved by the federal government.

You can help by joining our statewide coalition – and by voting YES on Proposition 1A.

A statewide coalition that includes the vast majority of gaming and non-gaming California Indian tribes and thousands of California people from all walks of life has been formed to support the California Indian Self-Reliance Amendment. You can help the campaign to protect the rights of California Indians by becoming a member of our group – YES on 1A: Californians for Indian Self-Reliance.

Becoming a member of our coalition will cost you nothing. It simply shows that you support the Indian Self-Reliance Amendment. And, on March 7, we hope you'll be sure to get out and vote YES on Prop 1A. Voter turn-out is often the most important factor in primary elections, so every vote counts!

For more information about the California Indian Self-Reliance Amendment and the issues involved, just call us at 1-800-248-2652 or visit our website at www.yeson1A.net.

This voter information authorized and paid for by:
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