



St. Regis Mohawk Tribe

Chief James W. Ransom
Chief Monica M. Jacobs
Chief Mark H. Garrow
Sub-Chief Ron LaFrance Jr.
Sub-Chief Pamela D. Brown
Sub-Chief Stacy A. Adams

TRIBAL REFERENDUM

January 30, 2010

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Tribal Community Building Lobby

***Do you approve of the Tribe pursuing
off-reservation gaming in the Catskills?***

On January 30th, 2010, you will be able to vote in a referendum on the following question:
“Do you approve of the Tribe pursuing off-reservation gaming in the Catskills?”

This is an important decision and it is important that all Tribal members have the facts before voting. The current Tribal Council wants to be sure the tribal membership supports this project before proceeding. This referendum is scheduled for January 30, 2010.

The Catskills Casino Project

The potential Catskills casino would be developed on a 29-acre parcel at the Monticello Raceway in the Catskills owned by Empire Resorts. Located 90 miles from New York City, with a potential market of over 13 million adults, the proposed casino would be constructed in phases, based on its ongoing financial success.

The Tribe has been working on this project for nearly 15 years. Many people are wondering if this will ever become a reality, but in 2008 the Tribe came within one approval—the signature of the Secretary of the Interior—of obtaining final approval of its application to allow gaming in the Catskills. The St. Regis Mohawk Tribe is only the second tribe in history to obtain the “two-part determination” necessary to own and operate an off-reservation casino. In order to build the casino, the land must be taken into trust and the Tribe has successfully completed nearly all of the many steps necessary to have this done; all of the related approvals are still valid.

Helping Build A Better Tomorrow

412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, New York 13655
Phone: 518-358-2272

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do We Need Off-Reservation Gaming?

The Tribe is going through tremendous growth that is increasing the need for more and better services. Off-reservation gaming will provide the revenue necessary to meet these needs. Many tribes throughout Indian Country have successfully used gaming revenue to develop their economies and create on-reservation jobs for tribal members. The revenue generated will be brought back to Akwesasne for Akwesasnon.

Why Would Our Casino be Successful?

The Tribe retained a company to conduct a feasibility study, GVA Marquette. The company determined that a Catskills casino would return a significant profit to the Tribe. The study does take into consideration the downturn in the economy and increased competition in the Catskills area. Even in this economy a Catskills casino would be profitable. Copies of the GVA report will be made available for tribal members to review.

How Will the Tribe Pay for This?

The Tribe will not spend Tribal General Funds or money from the Akwesasne Mohawk Casino or Mohawk Bingo Palace on the Catskills project. The Tribe, through a separately created gaming corporation, will borrow money from its gaming partner or from a bank. The loan will be repaid from revenues from the Tribe's Catskills casino and from nothing else. It will be an entirely separate transaction and will not involve any tribal money. Furthermore, the funds to build the casino project would be borrowed at reasonable commercial rates.

What Will Happen to Our Casinos in Akwesasne?

The Akwesasne Mohawk Casino and the Mohawk Bingo Palace will not close if we own and operate a Catskills casino. The Tribe continues to invest in our local gaming facilities and just completed a successful expansion of the Akwesasne Mohawk

Casino. Both provide funds for much-needed programs and services for our community. However, the revenue they can generate is limited by lower populations and a small local market. Currently, the Tribe provides support to tribal members through donations, home fuel assistance, the senior's center, fire and police protection, health services, road construction, scholarships, home repairs and youth and cultural activities. Growth in our population requires additional funding for these services.

How Will a Catskills Casino Create Jobs for Tribal Members?

Ultimately, and based on future development, the project will create about 3,000 Catskills casino jobs. The Tribe demands Native preference in hiring and Tribal members who choose to work at the Catskills casino would have first preference to be hired provided they are qualified. While we believe that some Tribal members will move to Sullivan County and take jobs at that casino, many more jobs will be created when the revenue is invested in Akwesasne. Additional revenue will allow the construction of senior housing, schools, athletic centers, language preservation programs and the expansion of health care facilities in Akwesasne. This will create local construction jobs and jobs for teachers, nurses, caseworkers, health care aids, program managers, as well as jobs in the hotel, restaurant, hospitality and tourism industries.

Why Would New York State, Sullivan County and Monticello get Revenues from Our Catskills Casino?

We will pay New York State, Sullivan County and the Village of Monticello under our Gaming Compact and local agreements. The state will get a percentage of our slot revenues. Under the two prior agreements, the Tribe has agreed to pay Sullivan County \$15 million and the Village of Monticello \$5 million per year. These payments will be used for economic development and improvements in Sullivan County and Monticello that will, in turn, contribute to the development of the Catskills

casino. These payments were vital in obtaining approval of a compact from the Governor and support from the county and village.

Will Tribal Members get Per-Capita Payments?

Currently, we continue to have unmet needs in the areas of health, education, infrastructure and basic services to tribal members. Although per capita payments are currently not feasible, once these needs are fully met, the Tribe could consider providing per capita payments to all Tribal members. Any future per-capita payments will largely be dependent on developing the Catskills casino.

If the Referendum Passes, What Will be the Next Step?

In January 2008, the Department of Interior issued a guidance memorandum that stopped our project because it would be located off the reservation. This meant that Interior would not agree to take this land into trust for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe to conduct gaming. Now, indications are that the Obama administration may lift this guidance. The Tribe will take steps to get our land-into-trust application back to the Department of the Interior.

We will also have to re-negotiate an agreement with Empire Resorts. Tribal Council will bring the details of that agreement to the community in public meetings before signing it.

Niawen for your willingness to learn more about this important question and we encourage you to participate in the upcoming referendum.

The St. Regis Mohawk Tribal Council

Voting

At the Time of Voting an Eligible Voter Must:

- Be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- Be an enrolled member of the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe.
- Reside in the United States for at least six months immediately prior to the election.
- Have their name on the most current eligible voters list.

To Vote by Absentee Ballot an Individual Must:

- Contact the Tribal Clerk's office to request an "Absentee Ballot Application."
- Tribal Clerk's office shall confirm the eligibility of the voter.
- Upon confirmation of eligibility, the Tribal Clerk's office shall send via registered mail one "Absentee Ballot Application" and one "Ballot" for each position.
- The application must be notarized and returned with ballots.
- Ballots must be received by 12:00 p.m. the day of the Election.
- In-home voting will only be available for home bound eligible voters residing on the US portion of the St. Regis Mohawk Reservation or within the area designated by the Election Board as the tribal land claim area. A member of the Election Board and a Notary will be available to provide this service.

Availability of Absentee Ballots

- Absentee ballots will be available starting Monday, January 4, 2010 through Wednesday, January 27, 2010.
- Ballots must be returned to the Tribal Clerk's Office no later than Saturday, January 30, 2010 at 12:00 noon.
- Ballots will not be mailed out to absentee voters after January 27th.
- To vote by absentee ballot or check your voting eligibility, please contact the Tribal Clerk's office at 518.358.2272 extension 261 or 271.

TRIBAL REFERENDUM

January 30, 2010

9:00 AM – 5:00PM

Tribal Community Building Lobby

*Do you approve of the Tribe pursuing
off-reservation gaming in the Catskills?*

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Off-Reservation Gaming

BENEFITS

- Feasibility study conservatively estimates an average of \$37 million per year of tribal net profits in the first seven years of operation.
- Opportunities for tribal members to get construction contracts and jobs.
- Employment opportunities for tribal members to work at new casino.
- Revenues would fund tribal programs, health and education needs and create jobs in Akwesasne.

RISKS

- A separately chartered tribal corporation would borrow money to build casino.
- In the unlikely event that the casino fails, the Tribe's credit rating could be harmed.



St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, NY 13655

U.S. POSTAGE PAID
MAILED FROM
ZIP CODE 13655
PERMIT NO. 26

POSTAL PATRON