

Gambling: Is it a problem? What should we do?

Your responses to the following questions will be useful in determining what residents in Pflugerville think about gambling. [50 participated in town meeting and 27 turned in surveys]

1. Here is a list of principles on which policies about gambling might be based. How important do you think each one is?	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Not sure
a. People who want to gamble have a right to risk their money on games of chance.	13	10	2	0	0
b. Gambling leads to many social ills.	7	5	5	7	2
c. It is not the job of government to save people from themselves.	8	6	6	4	0
d. Gambling should be legal but strictly controlled.	9	6	4	4	2
e. Voters should have the right to approve or reject gambling in their communities	15	6	3	1	1
f. Gambling is immoral and should be illegal.	2	2	5	14	2
2. Look at the list in question #1 again. How strongly is each principle actually reflected in our current policies?	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Not sure
a. People who want to gamble have a right to risk their money on games of chance.	9	7	3	1	3
b. Gambling leads to many social ills.	2	7	5	2	5
c. It is not the job of government to save people from themselves.	4	5	6	2	2
d. Gambling should be legal but strictly controlled.	8	5	1	2	4
e. Voters should have the right to approve or reject gambling in their communities	5	3	4	4	4
f. Gambling is immoral and should be illegal.	1	2	4	9	4
3. How concerned are you about the issues listed below?	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not at all concerned	Not sure	
a. Gambling harms those least able to afford it.	7	9	8	2	
b. Limits on gambling would bring more government control into our lives.	4	5	12	3	
c. Banning gambling will lead to the loss of jobs and tax revenue.	3	6	9	1	
d. Without strict controls, the social problems caused by gambling will get worse.	6	5	7	1	
e. Legal gambling makes addicts of many people who would never have gambled otherwise.	4	4	16	2	
f. State governments are too dependent on money they make from gambling.	4	12	8	2	

4. What benefits do you foresee from allowing gambling in Pflugerville?

- Survey #3: None really. We have been here this long without it so we don't need it.
- Survey #4: None.
- Survey #5: None.
- Survey #6: Tourism, jobs, ancillary services (e.g., restaurants), revenue.
- Survey #7: I really don't see a lot of benefits. I do see some. Jobs (full or part-time). Potential for other businesses as other entertainment.
- Survey #8: None.
- Survey #9: People who would come and spend money locally.
- Survey #11: Generated revenues.
- Survey #12: Small tax revenue increase, attract other businesses, brand for Pflugerville.
- Survey #15: Bring more people into city to spend money. Bring more tax.
- Survey #16: Gambling is already here.
- Survey #17: Jobs, commercial growth, lower taxes, more city services.
- Survey #18: Misleading questions. We are not allowing gambling. We are allowing horse racing. That allows pari-mutuel betting on horses.
- Survey #19: None.
- Survey #20: Gambling is not illegal in the state of Texas. Gambling benefits the whole state.
- Survey #21: Increased revenue and recognition.
- Survey #22: A center for additional retail/eating venues.
- Survey #23: Gaming has become an acceptable form of recreation in our country. Horse racing and associated gaming will make Pflugerville a destination where people will come and spend their money.
- Survey #24: Hopefully reduce property taxes.
- Survey #25: Helps diversify tax base.
- Survey #26: More tax revenue for the city to lessen the property tax burden. Attract visitors to the city, also attract new business to the city. Make Pflugerville a destination for people in the Austin area.
- Survey #27: None.

5. What are your three greatest concerns about gambling in Pflugerville?

- Survey #1: More cost to support new roads to the racetrack. Lotto—no concern. Bingo—no concern (small venues). Slot machines—very concerned.
- Survey #3: Welfare of the people. How others will see our city. Will lose the family community feeling.
- Survey #4: Morality, traffic, drunk driving and crime.
- Survey #5: Image it gives of our city (negative image). Potential harms to the citizens of our community. The gamble we make in waging our future on something that has proven it has a significant downside.
- Survey #6: Traffic, limited revenue to the city, close-minded righteous citizens.
- Survey #7: The racetrack not making it.
- Survey #8: Lose our image of a great family city. Social problems.
- Survey #9: Will video terminals be a bad idea?
- Survey #11: Traffic, crime, noise.
- Survey #12: Traffic, large area with minimal tax revenue per acre.
- Survey #15: May cost more than it brings in. May hurt and reduce quality of life.
- Survey #17: Traffic.
- Survey #18: None.
- Survey #19: Crime. Loss of income and disposable income that could support legitimate businesses. Social problems.
- Survey #20: I have confidence that the authorities will make sure gambling does not effect Pflugerville.
- Survey #21: Traffic, traffic, traffic.
- Survey #22: Drunk drivers.
- Survey #23: None.
- Survey #24: None.
- Survey #25: Financially unwise—government expenditures will exceed tax revenue gain.
- Survey #26: Traffic, noise.
- Survey #27: Traffic—all kinds. Prostitution. Assault. Loss of revenue.

6. What are some likely trade-offs that the community would have to accept if gaming is allowed in Pflugerville?

- Survey #1: Bar & grills showing races and betting ongoing. Fundraising using betting as a tool. Casino style rooms in restaurants for better/dinner meal.
- Survey #3: Increased traffic. Peace and quiet.
- Survey #5: Loss of individuals who will leave because they oppose living with a gambling venue. The attraction of individuals who have a higher level of use for gambling services.
- Survey #6: Traffic, divisiveness in community.
- Survey #7: I think it will create changes, however, they don't have to be tradeoffs.
- Survey #8: Lose family-oriented people. As a high school teacher we catch students gambling in our schools and we're already struggling with other moral issues and how could this help our children?
- Survey #9: More traffic.
- Survey #11: Traffic congestion, higher crime rates, immorality issues among our Christian citizens.
- Survey #12: Occasional crowds.
- Survey #15: Improve social service to help people and family hurt by gambling.
- Survey #17: Traffic.
- Survey #18: This will have minimal impact on Pflugerville.
- Survey #20: I would be real surprised if we really feel the negative—only if we look for it. I see more positive.
- Survey #21: Increased traffic for revenue.
- Survey #22: Increased police presence there and less other places.
- Survey #23: When and if the racetrack happens people in Pflugerville will have to accept that: (1) people want to come to Pflugerville for recreation; (2) people want to spend their money (\$) in Pflugerville; (3) Pflugerville is "open for business."
- Survey #25: Increased traffic. Increase taxes—Selma shows. Increase in non-desirable businesses (e.g., pawn shops, liquor stores, porn).
- Survey #26: More traffic.
- Survey #27: None.

7. Are you a male or female [not all responded]? 20 - Male 6 - Female

8. How old are you? [not all responded]

- 17 or younger
- 18-29
- 14 - > 30-49
- 9 - > 50-64
- 65 or over

9. Are you [not all responded]:

- African-American
- Asian American
- 3 - >Hispanic
- Native American
- 19 - > White
- 2 - > Other (specify) American, mixed_____

[Those filling out survey had option to give name, E-mail, subdivision, address, and phone #s.]

Those submitting survey included some from: Arbor Creek – 1; Bohls Place – 1; Club at Wellspoint – 1; Creekside – 2; Gatlinburg – 1; Katymead – 2; Meadow Park South – 1; Old Town – 1; Ridge at Steeds Crossing – 1; Settlers Meadow – 1; and, Wellspoint – 1. Those at meeting included some from: Arbor Creek – 3; Bohls Place – 5; Cambridge Estates – 2; Club at Wellspoint – 1; Creekside – 3; Gatlinburg – 3; Heatherwilde – 1; Katymead – 4; Meadow Park South – 2; Mountain Creek – 1; Old Town – 2; Parkcrest – 2; Park Place – 1; Ridge at Steeds Crossing – 1; Saxony – 4; Settlers Meadow – 1; Springbrook Glen; Wellspoint – 1; Willow Creek - 1

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Additional Comments:

- Survey #1: Thanks for hosting.
- Survey #11: Everyone will agree or disagree depending on their own religious beliefs. Moral or immoral issues depend on everyone as individuals. So to look at gambling as a whole community should be left up to a public vote!! Thank you for holding this discussion group. We should have more of these and a better way to get the word out to citizens about when and where they are.

Please return this questionnaire to PfCONA Chair or mail to: Attn: PfCONA Chair, PO Box 679, Pflugerville, TX 78691