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**LOCAL & STATE**

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Section

**C**

Monday, October 26, 2009

**Poll finds strong lead for casinos**

57% of registered voters say they'll support Issue 3

The Associated Press

COLUMBUS — Ohio voters continue to strongly support a proposal to put casinos in four cities less than two weeks before they head to the polls.

A poll commissioned by the state's eight biggest newspapers and released Sunday found that 57 percent of registered voters support Issue 3 on the Nov. 3 ballot.

Thirty-nine percent oppose the plan to put casinos in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati and Toledo, and 4 percent were undecided.

That compares to 59 percent in favor and 38 percent opposed a month ago.

The widespread support for the expansion of gambling reflected in the poll does not necessarily mean it will prove successful on Election Day.

Ohio voters have defeated gambling measures four times, beginning in 1990, and some have received strong support in pre-election polls only to be defeated.

The issue's success depends on voter turnout, said Eric Rademacher, co-director of the University of Cincinnati's Institute for Policy Research, which conducted the poll.

"Opponents will need to ramp up the opposition," Rademacher said. "There's going to need to be a higher profile advertising effort on the 'no' side."

Kelly Collins of Cleveland is supporting Issue 3 after opposing a similar proposal in the past. Collins knows too many people going outside Ohio to gamble in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Michigan.

"I'd rather those people spend their money in our state," said Collins, 27, an insurance company service representative.

James Stanaway of Springfield also supports casinos because of the additional tax revenue that will flow to the state.

"New jobs will be created, and these dollars will be spent in Ohio, and these new jobs will be paying Ohio income and sales tax," said Stanaway, 64, a retiree.

But Mike Harbison of Montgomery in suburban Cincinnati opposes the idea, saying he's worried about increases in crime and gambling addictions driven by the casinos. He's also suspicious of the role casino backers played in creating the proposed constitutional amendment.

**REASONS FOR, AGAINST CASINO PROPOSAL**

Some of the results of a poll released Sunday that found Ohio voters continue to support a Nov. 3 ballot proposal to put casinos in four cities:

- 57 percent support the proposal, 39 percent oppose it and 4 percent were undecided or didn't know.
- Among those who voted yes, 53 percent said the most important reason to support casinos was that Ohio needs the jobs; 30 percent said Ohio is losing too much gambling revenue to other states; 5 percent said casinos will attract new entertainment, restaurants and hotels; 3 percent said they want to be able to gamble in Ohio; 6 percent listed all of the above reasons; and 3 percent listed other reasons.
- Among those who voted no, 37 percent said the most important reason to oppose casinos was problems such as crime and gambling addiction; 27 percent said they're against gambling for moral or religious reasons; 23 percent didn't believe casinos would help Ohio's economy; 2 percent say churches and charities could lose money; 2 percent listed all of the above reasons; and 7 percent listed other reasons.

**HAVING A BALL**

Dontae Beckett of Elyria is picked up by fans in the Dawg Pound after scoring a touchdown during a halftime game between Elyria Youth Football teams Sunday at Cleveland Browns Stadium.

DAVID RICHARD / CHRONICLE

**Leaders focus on green business for coal region**

Dan Sewell  
The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Appalachian leaders are seeking ways to use alternative energy initiatives to spark the 13-state region's long-sluggish economy.

The annual Appalachian Regional Commission conference, held in Athens this week, will focus on giving the struggling area a big role in the push for more use of sources such as solar and wind, bringing so-called "green jobs" with it.

"The economy throughout the region is struggling," said Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland, a native of Appalachia. "There are huge opportunities available that can be of great benefit to the region."

Nearly 400 people representing a range of interests are expected to participate, including investors, community activists and industry experts, said commission spokesman Louis Segesvary.

James E. Rogers, chairman and CEO of Charlotte, N.C.-based Duke Energy Corp., is the conference's keynote speaker Tuesday morning at Ohio University.

Regional leaders see alternative energy as a potential major source for jobs and for helping residents and businesses save money on energy costs, Segesvary said. The alternative sources are also seen as helping preserve scenic beauty in the region.

The Obama administration has encouraged jobs-creating alternative energy initiatives. Strickland, working with state lawmakers, had signed a bill in 2008 that overhauled the electricity industry and included a requirement for Ohio to produce a certain amount of electricity using renewable energy.

**HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS****Trick or treat****THURSDAY**

- Elyria: 6 to 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY**

- Amherst: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Avon: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Avon Lake: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Elyria Township: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Grafton: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Kipton: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- LaGrange: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Lorain: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- New London: 4 to 5 p.m.
- North Ridgeville: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Oberlin: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Rochester: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Sheffield: 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Sheffield Lake: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Sheffield Township: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- South Amherst: 5 to 6:30 p.m.
- Vermilion: 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- Wakeman: 3 to 5 p.m.
- Wellington: 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- New London: 4 to 5 p.m.

**Parades, other celebrations**

- Vermilion American Legion's annual Halloween Parade: 6 p.m. Thursday. Lineup is at Vermilion High School. Prizes will be awarded for ugliest, prettiest,



funniest, storybook and most original costumes and candy, cider and doughnuts will be provided.

- Halloween Fair at the Lorain County Metro Parks' Carlisle Visitor Center: 5 to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Check out the haunted trail. There's fun for all and fright for the brave. Check out the haunted trail, spooky train, entertainment and tasty treats. Parking and admission are free, and there is a small fee for some activities and treats.
- Oberlin Halloween Carnival: 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday at Langston Middle School, 150 N. Pleasant St. The carnival features games and fun for all ages. Funds raised support Langston Middle School's eighth-grade class trip to Washington, D.C.

See HALLOWEEN, C2

**MORE ONLINE**

Send us your fall foliage photos to [ctphotos@chroniclet.com](mailto:ctphotos@chroniclet.com), and we'll add them to our Lorain County Fall Foliage 2009 map at [chroniclet.com](http://chroniclet.com). (And we'll print our favorites in the paper.)

**BEAR HUNTING ... SORT OF**

CHUCK HUMEL / CHRONICLE

Jeanne and Randy Esser of Carlisle Township participate in the Friends of Cascade Park's 27th annual Fall Color Walk on Sunday. "I wanted to see where the bears were kept," Jeanne said, referring to the black bears that years ago were kept in a cage at Cascade Park.

**Go Wild!**  
with the Fall  
**Family Read-Aloud!**

Lorain Public  
**Library!**  
System

[LorainPublicLibrary.org](http://LorainPublicLibrary.org)

Main Library	440-244-1192
Avon Branch	440-934-4743
Columbia Branch	440-236-8751
Domonkas Branch	440-949-7410
North Ridgeville Branch	440-327-8326
South Lorain Branch	440-277-5672

Read 8 hours as a family from October 1 through November 30 and receive a ticket to a "Wild Rumpus Party" featuring stories, games, and wild rumpus fun at your nearby Lorain Public Library System library. Also be entered in a drawing to win a four-pack of \$10 movie gift cards, a set of four "Max and the Wild Things" toys, and a hardback copy of the book *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak.

**Win a four-pack of \$10 movie gift cards!**

Sign-up for the Fall Family Read-Aloud at your nearby Lorain Public Library System library or Bookmobile.

Prizes for the Fall Family Read-Aloud are funded by  
The Foundation of the Lorain Public Library System, Inc.

Dazzle your mind!