

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NEW POLL: Sports Betting is Big Political Winner in Kentucky**

*Voters back sports betting by wide 65%-26% margin, unchanged from 2020*

*Strong support extends across party lines and across GOP spectrum*

*48% of Kentuckians say they have bet on sports*

**LEXINGTON, Ky.** – Sports betting is a big political winner in Kentucky. Two-thirds of voters support allowing sports betting in the Commonwealth, according to a new survey from Republican pollster Robert Blizzard of Public Opinion Strategies.

**By a 65%-26% margin, voters support allowing sports betting at Kentucky horse race tracks and mobile betting through online apps.** This is virtually unchanged from 2020, the last time this issue was polled (66%-27%) by Blizzard.

“This poll confirms what we already know, that Kentuckians are ready to legalize sports betting,” said State Rep. Adam Koenig (R-Erlanger), who has introduced sports betting legislation in past sessions of the Kentucky General Assembly. “Surrounding states have already done so and we are losing millions because of it. We are practically landlocked as we lose revenue that could be paying off our \$27 billion pension debt and freeing up resources to educate our children, pave our roads, and meet our obligations.”

According to the poll, support for sports betting extends across party lines:

Republicans: 58% support, 34% oppose  
Independents: 81% support, 10% oppose  
Democrats: 69% support, 22% oppose

Support also extends across the Republican spectrum:

Strong Republicans: 57% support, 35% oppose  
Soft Republicans: 60% support, 33% oppose  
Conservative Voters: 56% support, 35% oppose  
Trump '20 Voters: 60% support, 30% oppose

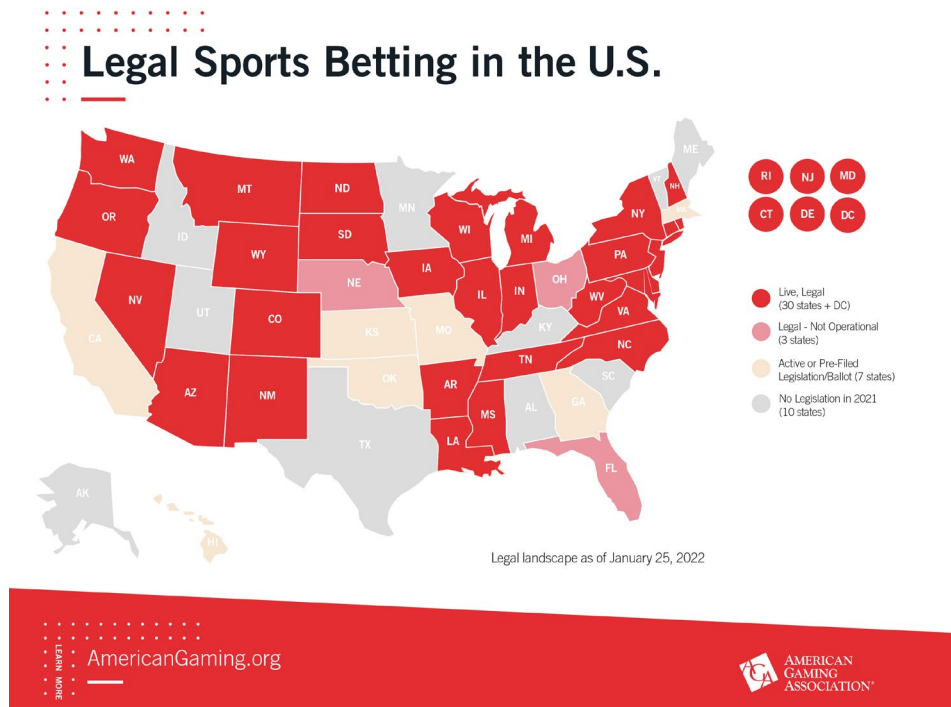
Support rises even higher when voters hear that the revenue will go to fund state pensions (74% support, 24% oppose).

**Nearly half of Kentuckians (48%) say that have bet on a sporting event in the past.** 36% say they have done so more than five times; 28% say they have done so more than 10 times. **The poll provides reasonable evidence that Kentuckians are already participating in sports wagering, with other states reaping the benefits.**

The statewide survey of 500 registered voters was conducted February 5-7, 2022 and has margin of error of 4.4%. Robert Blizzard and Public Opinion Strategies have a long track record of successful survey research in Kentucky and has worked for the Senate Republican Caucus Campaign Committee, the House Republican Caucus Campaign Committee, the Republican Party of Kentucky, and numerous GOP campaigns.

## **SURROUNDING STATES**

States immediately surrounding Kentucky, including Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee and West Virginia, have already acted on sports betting. In total, 33 states plus the District of Columbia have acted on sports betting.



## **SUPER BOWL 2022**

The American Gaming Association estimates that a record 31.5 million Americans plan to bet on the Super Bowl this year. The group forecasts that over \$7.6 billion will be wagered on the game.

## **LEGISLATIVE HISTORY IN KENTUCKY**

In past sessions of the Kentucky General Assembly, legislation has been introduced by Rep. Koenig that would allow sports betting in the Commonwealth.

A fiscal analysis of House Bill 137 during the 2020 General Assembly session estimated that the sports betting proposal would generate \$22.5 million in new revenue every year – without raising taxes on Kentucky families. The analysis was done by Commonwealth Economics. HB 137 and other past proposals have designated the vast majority of sports betting revenue for state pensions, providing a significant boost for teachers, first responders and other state and local government employees.

## **SUPPORT**

Numerous groups from across Kentucky's political spectrum have endorsed past sports betting proposals, including:

- Kentucky Education Association
- Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Louisville Inc.
- Commerce Lexington
- Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Kentucky Travel Industry Association
- VisitLEX
- meetNKY | Northern Kentucky Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Kentucky Retail Association
- Kentucky Coal Association
- Kentucky Association of Counties
- Kentucky County Judge/Executive Association
- Kentucky PVA Association
- Kentucky Sheriffs' Association
- Kentucky Professional Fire Fighters
- Kentucky Jailers' Association
- Kentucky Fraternal Order of Police
- Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police

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