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June 11, 2012

California Voters Say Help Deficit by Passing Poker-Only, California-Only Gaming Legislation

*Survey Released Ahead of Online Gaming Senate G.O. Hearing Shows Clear Voter Preferences:
Limit Gaming to Poker Only, Require Licensees to be California-based.*

Sacramento, CA – The day before a pivotal hearing on SB 1463 (Wright), a new survey from Tulchin Research shows Californians strongly prefer the California Online Poker Association’s (COPA’s) approach to regulating and taxing online poker to generate revenues to help offset the state’s \$15 billion budget deficit.

“The California Online Poker Association has been leading the call for responsible legislation to help ease California’s budget deficit and to create revenues and jobs for California,” Robert Martin, member of the California Online Poker Association (COPA) Board of Managers and Chairman of the Morongo Band of Mission Indians stated. “This new survey shows California voters are squarely behind the approach we share with SEIU, VICA, PORAC and others for poker-only legislation that puts California first.”

Key findings of the survey:

- Over three-quarters of the California electorate (76 percent) support the regulating and taxing of online poker, including 58 percent in strong support.
- The overwhelming support for online poker bridges the party divide, with 87 percent of Democrats, 83 percent of Independents, and 56 percent of Republicans in support, is consistent across all regions of the state, and across all ethnic groups.
- ***Voters do not simply want to allow any and all kinds of online gaming. In fact, they prefer a limited and California-based approach:***
 - Voters show a strong preference to have only California-based gaming operators running online poker websites. By a three-to-one margin (64 percent to 22 percent) voters prefer to only permit California-based gaming operators that

- qualify for a gaming license under existing law, rather than allowing any untested company willing to submit a bid and pay an upfront fee.
- Even further, voters would prefer (57%) legislation that only allows federally recognized California tribes and licensed card rooms that have proven experience running gaming operations effectively to run online poker websites.

 - A strong majority of voters (56%) want to restrict online gaming to poker only while just a third of voters would want to allow gambling on other card or social games such as Farmville and Angry Birds.

The survey of likely voters shows strong, decisive margins that should demonstrate to lead legislators how an overwhelming majority of California voters prefer a clear approach to the state regulating and taxing online poker by only letting California-based gaming operators run poker websites and limiting gaming to poker only.

About COPA:

The California Online Poker Association is California's first coalition of gaming tribes and card rooms, working together to protect California consumers, and to keep much-needed revenues and jobs in California. As California's trusted and regulated gaming operators, COPA partners include 29 of California Indian Tribes, both gaming and non-gaming, as well as 31 card rooms that represent over 70% of the state's poker tables.

Tulchin Research Methodology:

From May 29 – June 3, 2012, Tulchin Research conducted a telephone survey among 800 Likely November 2012 voters in California using live, professional interviewers calling both landlines and cell phones. The margin of error for this survey is +/- 3.46 percentage points.

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