

**TAB 25**

**FINALIZED MASHPEE WAMPANOAG  
CASINO REFERENDUM LANGUAGE**

# TAUNTON DAILY GAZETTE

## Language finalized in Mashpee Wampanoag casino referendum, will be presented to Taunton City Council Tuesday

By **Gerry Tuoti**

**Gazette Staff Reports**

Posted Apr 30, 2012 @ 05:30 PM

### Related Stories

[Tribe and city officials reveal Taunton casino details](#)

[Tribe and city officials reveal Taunton casino details](#)

[Taunton School Committee to be on hand at casino forum May 5](#)

[Tribe to reveal more details on Taunton casino proposal](#)

Taunton — The wording of the June 9 citywide ballot question on the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe's casino proposal has been finalized and is expected to be presented to the City Council Tuesday night.

"Right now it's just another step in the process," Mayor Thomas Hoye Jr. said. "We're looking forward to getting more information."

The council, in a March 13 meeting, set June 9 as the day of the casino referendum and authorized City Solicitor Jason Buffington to craft the exact language that will appear on the ballot. Buffington wrote in an April 26 letter to the council that he formulated the wording and forwarded it to the City Clerk's office so the ballots can be ordered.

The ballot question will read as follows: "Shall the City of Taunton, pursuant to Section 91 of Chapter 194 of the Acts of 2011, approve the operation of a tribal gaming establishment proposed by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to be located east of Route 24 in the immediate vicinity of the intersection of Route 24 and Route 140?"

The language references the legislation that authorizes casino gambling in Massachusetts.

The referendum is technically nonbinding, but Hoye has said he would lobby against the casino if the city were to vote against it. He has so far supported the tribe's proposal.

The tribe has acquired an option to purchase 146 acres of land in Liberty and Union Industrial Park in East Taunton and is proposing to build a tribal gambling complex featuring a casino, three hotels, a water park, shops and restaurants.

Next week's City Council meeting, which is scheduled to begin at 6 p.m. at Taunton High School, will feature a presentation by the Mashpee Wampanoag tribe, Council President Ryan Colton said.

"We're going to have it at Taunton High School because they have the facility to handle more people," Colton said.

Hoye, who has been leading the city's negotiations with the tribe, said next week's meeting will give city councilors and members of the public a chance to directly ask questions.

"What I expect to happen is a formal presentation by the tribe to the City Council," the mayor said. "It is not a hearing. It will be another presentation, just an opportunity for the City Council to ask questions in a formal setting. It's going to essentially be an open exchange. People will be able to sign in and ask questions."

Additionally, there will be an informational forum from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 5, at Taunton High School. That event will include consultants and representatives from both the city and Mashpee Wampanoag tribe. Members of the School Committee will also be on hand to specifically listen to school-related concerns parents have about the casino proposal.

Contact Gerry Tuoti at [gtuoti@tauntongazette.com](mailto:gtuoti@tauntongazette.com).

Copyright 2012 The Taunton Daily Gazette. Some rights reserved

Report Abuse



# City of Taunton

## LAW DEPARTMENT

141 Oak Street  
Taunton, Massachusetts 02780  
Phone (508) 821-1036 Facsimile (508) 821-1064



Thomas C. Hoye, Jr.  
MAYOR

Jason D. Buffington  
CITY SOLICITOR

Daniel F. de Abreu  
ASST. CITY SOLICITOR

April 26, 2012

The Honorable Mayor Thomas C. Hoye, Jr.  
Members of the Taunton Municipal Council  
141 Oak Street  
Taunton MA 02780

**RE: Proposed Destination Resort Casino**

---

Dear Mayor Hoye and Members of the Municipal Council:

At the March 13, 2012 meeting of the Municipal Council, you called for an election on June 9, 2012 and you authorized and directed this office to formulate the exact language to appear on the ballot. Please be advised that I have this day completed this task and have provided the final ballot language to the City Clerk so that she can order the ballots. I expect that the ballot will appear substantially as follows:

**BALLOT QUESTION**

Shall the City of Taunton, pursuant to Section 91 of Chapter 194 of the Acts of 2011, approve the operation of a tribal gaming establishment proposed by the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe to be located east of Route 24 in the immediate vicinity of the intersection of Route 24 and Route 140?

YES

NO

If you should have any questions, please contact me. Thank you, as always, for allowing me to be of service to you and the people of Taunton.

Very truly yours,

Jason D. Buffington, Esq.  
City Solicitor