



Fight the Attacks – Tribal Gaming

Attack: Gov. Gregoire is being attacked for stopping the largest expansion of gambling in state history.

Truth: Gov. Gregoire, Republican King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng and a bi-partisan coalition of legislators rejected the largest expansion of gambling in state history to protect our communities.

- Editorial boards have called these attacks “nonsense,” “politically seasonal,” “almost fact free” and an attempt to score “cheap campaign points.” The Walla Walla Union Bulletin, Seattle Times, Seattle P-I and the Tacoma News-Tribune have defended the governor’s actions. The Spokane Tribe said the ads were “misleading and racially charged.”
- Voters’ strong opposition to 2004’s I-892 (62% against) made it clear that Washingtonians did not want to expand gambling into their communities and corner stores.
- In 2005, the Spokane Tribe offered the state revenue sharing only in exchange for a massive expansion of gambling – exactly what the voters rejected the previous year. Following the lead of voters, Gov. Chris Gregoire and a bi-partisan coalition opposed revenue sharing to prevent this massive expansion of gambling.
- According to former Republican King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng, revenue sharing would have resulted in “more convenient gambling in every neighborhood” and “more slot machines in Washington than are currently in use in Las Vegas!” [Seattle Times, 11-22-05]
- Republican Attorney General Rob McKenna said the negotiations were done in full compliance with state and federal law

From the Seattle P-I, July 25, 2008: "It was a negotiation," McKenna said. "It was conducted strictly in the framework of state and federal law and it produced a compact which was adopted strictly within the requirements of the framework of state and federal law. Period. And if anyone ever questions the process I would be happy to tell them that, to the letter, we believe the law was scrupulously followed." [Seattle P-I, 7-25-08]