

ORDINANCE NO. 2021-O-\_\_\_\_\_

BE IT ENACTED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF THE COUNTY OF POPE, STATE OF ARKANSAS; AN ORDINANCE TO BE ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE IN EITHER A GENERAL ELECTION OR SPECIAL ELECTION TO EITHER APPROVE OR DENY THE ELECTED OFFICIAL(S)' SUPPORT OF A CASINO APPLICANT APPLYING FOR A CASINO LICENSE WITHIN POPE COUNTY, ARKANSAS, BEFORE THE ELECTED OFFICIAL(S) PROVIDE ANY REQUIRED SUPPORT LETTER OR RESOLUTION FOR A CASINO APPLICANT."

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE QUORUM COURT OF POPE COUNTY, ARKANSAS:

**Article 1**

**SECTION 1. Short Title.** This ordinance shall be known as "Pope County Local Voting to Authorize the Required Support Documentation for Casino Applicant(s) from the Proper Elected Officials."

**SECTION 2. Definitions.** For the purposes of this Amendment, the terms below are defined as follows:

(a) "Casino" shall be defined as a facility where casino gaming is conducted as authorized by any Arkansas law or constitutional amendment.

(b) "Casino Applicant" is defined as any individual, corporation, partnership, association, trust, limited liability company or other entity applying for a license to operate a facility where casino gaming is conducted as authorized by Arkansas law or constitutional amendment.

(c) "Casino Gaming" is defined as dealing, operating, carrying on, conducting, maintaining, or exposing for play any game played with cards, dice, equipment, or any mechanical, electromechanical, or electronic device or machine for money, property, checks, credit, or any representative value. If and when not prohibited by federal law, casino gaming shall also be defined to include accepting wagers on sporting events.

(d) "County Judge" is defined as the individual who is duly elected or appointed to serve as the County Judge for Pope County, Arkansas.

(e) "Quorum Court" is defined as the body of duly elected justices of the peace who make up the Pope County, Arkansas Quorum Court.

**SECTION 3. Restriction on the County Judge until authorized by a Vote of the People.** The County Judge shall propose a resolution to the Quorum Court to refer to the voters in a local election, either a general election or a special election, the question as to the issuance of a Letter of Support for any Casino Applicant(s) before the County Judge issues any such Letter(s) of Support or substantially gives similar approval or support for any Casino Applicant(s) who are applying to the Arkansas Racing Commission, or other governing authority, for a license to conduct Casino Gaming at a casino to be located within Pope County, Arkansas. A majority of the registered voters of Pope County, Arkansas, voting in the election must approve and authorize the County Judge to issue any Letter(s) of Support for any Casino Applicant(s) before the County Judge issues any such Letter(s) of Support or substantially gives similar approval or support for any Casino Applicant(s).

**SECTION 4. Restriction on the Quorum Court until authorized by a Vote of the People.** The Quorum Court shall refer to the voters in a local election, either a general election or a special election, the question as to the issuance of any Resolution(s) of Support for any Casino Applicant(s) before the Quorum Court issues any such Resolution(s) of Support or substantially gives similar approval or support for any Casino Applicant(s) who are applying to the Arkansas Racing Commission, or other governing authority, for a license to conduct Casino Gaming at a casino to be located within Pope County, Arkansas. A majority of the registered voters of Pope County, Arkansas, voting in the election must approve and authorize the Quorum Court to issue any Resolution(s) of Support for any Casino Applicant(s) before the Quorum Court issues any such Resolution(s) of Support or substantially gives similar approval or support for any Casino Applicant(s).

**SECTION 5. Severability.** If any section of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision or application of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or applications, and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable.

**SECTION 6. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be effective upon thirty (30) calendar days after publication has appeared in accordance with Arkansas code 14-14-905(d) and 14-14-905(e), unless an emergency ordinance is enacted to meet a "public emergenc[y] affecting life, health, safety, or the property of people" as described by Arkansas code 14-14-908.

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**BEN D. CROSS, COUNTY JUDGE**

**DATE SIGNED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**PAM ENNIS, COUNTY CLERK**

**VOTES FOR:** \_\_\_ **VOTES AGAINST:** \_\_\_

**ABSTAIN:** \_\_\_ **PRESENT:** \_\_\_ **ABSENT:** \_\_\_

PAID FOR BY THE POPE COUNTY CLERK IN THE AMOUNT OF \$