

Iowa Referendum Votes

2021

Two Iowa counties without gaming facilities held referendum votes on Nov. 2, 2021.

They passed. The results are listed below. Contact the respective County Auditors for an official abstract.

Linn County

Approved Yes: 24,169 = 55% No: 20,036 = 45%

Greene County

Approved Yes: 2,054 = 88.76% No: 260 = 11.24%

2013

Three Iowa counties without gaming facilities held referendum votes in 2013.

Two passed, and one was defeated. The results are listed below. Contact the respective County Auditors for an official abstract.

Linn County—March 5, 2013

Approved Yes: 37,034 = 61.23% No: 23,445 = 38.77%

Warren County—May 7, 2013

Defeated Yes: 4,321 = 40% No: 6,545 = 60%

Greene County—August 6, 2013

Approved Yes: 2,905 = 75% No: 964 = 25%

2012

On November 2, 2010, by referendum, voters in 14 counties overwhelmingly approved the continued operation of casinos in their communities.

Each county passed by a percentage equal, if not better, than the previous referendum vote in 2002. The average approval was 74% in 2002 compared to 78.8% in 2010.

Citizens in counties with gaming facilities must vote every eight years to continue operations. The increased approval for gaming venues begets legislators to re-look at the mandated vote requirement.

The unofficial county-by-county results are as follows:

Blackhawk

Approved Yes: 10,676 = 74% No: 554 = 14%

Clayton

Approved Yes: 5,583 = 82% No: 1,200 = 18%

Clarke

Approved Yes: 2,951 = 81% No: 694 = 19%

Clinton

Approved Yes: 12,456 = 77% No: 3,793 = 23%

Des Moines

Approved Yes: 10,676 = 74% No: 3,790 = 26%

Dubuque Mystique

Approved Yes: 26,449 = 82% No: 5,710 = 18%

Diamond Jo

Approved Yes: 26,118 = 81% No: 5,972 = 19%

Lyon

Approved Yes: 3,390 = 67% No: 1,645 = 32%

Palo Alto

Approved Yes: 3,286 = 86% No: 554 = 14%

Polk

Approved Yes: 110,650 = 74% No: 38,384 = 26%

Pottawattamie Ameristar/Harrahs

Approved Yes: 20,548 = 80% No: 5,026 = 20%

Horseshoe

Approved Yes: 20,476 = 80% No: 5,090 = 20%

Scott

Approved Yes: 39,783 = 74% No: 13,801 = 26%

Four counties without gaming facilities also held a referendum vote to remain eligible for consideration in the future for a casino license. Only one vote was defeated:

Jackson

Approved Yes: 4,528 = 67% No: 2,145 = 32%

Lee

Approved Yes: 8,118 = 72% No: 3,117 = 28%

Wapello

Failed Yes: 5,158 = 48% No: 5,496 = 52%

Webster

Approved Yes: 6,841 = 56% No: 5,383 = 44%

2008

Two Iowa counties without gaming facilities held referendum votes on September 23, 2008. One county passed, and one was defeated. The results from the County Auditors' offices are listed below:

Lyon County

Approved Yes: 3,706 = 62% No: 2,255 = 38%
April 8, 2008

Jasper County

Defeated Yes: 2,614 = 38% No: 4,252 = 62%

2007

Cherokee County held a referendum vote on December 4, 2007, for citizens to decide if they wanted a casino. It failed. The results from the County Auditors' offices are listed below.

Cherokee County

Defeated Yes: 418 = 37% No: 719 = 63%

2006

Two Iowa counties without gaming facilities held referendum votes in November 2006. One county passed, and one was defeated. The results from the County Auditors' offices are listed below:

Buena Vista

Defeated Yes: 2,784 = 38.42% No: 4,462 = 61.58%

Tama County

Approved Yes: 3,510 = 55.37% No: 2,829 = 44.63

2004

In seven counties without gaming facilities, citizens sought approval for the possibility of a riverboat casino, which requires a referendum vote. The unofficial results are listed below:

Sac County – Jan. 6, 2004

Defeated Yes: 1,475 = 42% No: 2,007 = 58%

Franklin County – Jan. 29, 2004

Approved Yes: 1,586 = 53% No: 1,415 = 47%

Webster County – March 23, 2004

Approved Yes: 6,412 = 57.6% No: 4,724 = 42.4%

Washington County – Sept. 2, 2004

Approved Yes: 4,095 = 52% No: 3,743 = 48%

Dallas County – Nov. 2, 2004

Defeated Yes: 9,305 = 39% No: 14,856 = 61%

Madison County – Nov. 2, 2004

Defeated Yes: 3,161 = 43% No: 4,213 = 57%

Warren County – Nov. 2, 2004

Defeated Yes: 8,995 = 46% No: 10,708 = 54%

2003

In eight counties without gaming facilities, citizens sought approval for the possibility of a riverboat casino, which requires a referendum vote. The unofficial results are listed below:

Palo Alto County – June 17, 2003

Approved Yes: 2,466 = 71.1% No: 1,004 = 28.9%

Worth County – June 24, 2003

Approved Yes: 2,068 = 75% No: 687 = 25%

Dickinson County – July 8, 2003

Defeated Yes: 1,939 = 27.6% No: 5,092 = 72.4%

Cerro Gordo County – Sept. 16, 2003

Defeated Yes: 2,427 = 34.2% No: 4,667 = 65.8%

Black Hawk County – Nov. 7, 2003

Approved Yes: 21,759 = 66.3% No: 11,058 = 33.7%

Wapello County – Oct. 28, 2003

Approved Yes: 2,371 = 54% No: 2,054 = 46%

Linn County – Nov. 4, 2003

Defeated Yes: 27,331 = 47.2% No: 30,622 = 52.8%

Clay County – Dec. 16, 2003

Defeated Yes: 1,960 = 39% No: 3,049 = 61%

2002

On November 5, 2002, by referendum, voters in 11 counties indicated their strong reaffirmation and approval for the continued operation of casinos in their communities:

Clarke County Casino Yes: 2,892 = 80% No: 743 = 20%

Clayton County Casino Yes: 5,452 = 81% No: 1,253 = 19%

Clinton County Casino Yes: 10,545 = 71% No: 4,340 = 29%

Des Moines County Casino Yes: 9,224 = 63% No: 5,415 = 37%

Dubuque County Casino Yes: 23,312 = 79% No: 5,998 = 21%

<u>Dubuque County Track</u>	Yes: 23,952 = 80%	No: 5,998 = 20%
<u>Jackson County Casino</u>	Yes: 3,423 = 67%	No: 1,712 = 33%
<u>Lee County Casino</u>	Yes: 9,367 = 74%	No: 3,219 = 26%
<u>Polk County Casino</u>	Yes: 62,745 = 66%	No: 32,954 = 34%
<u>Pottawattamie County Casino</u>	Yes: 19,917 = 79%	No: 5,150 = 21%
<u>Pottawattamie County Track</u>	Yes: 19,979 = 79%	No: 5,162 = 21%
<u>Scott County Casino</u>	Yes: 33,325 = 70%	No: 13,949 = 30%
<u>Woodbury County Casino</u>	Yes: 19,818 = 75%	No: 6,556 = 25%

1997

A referendum vote was held for citizens in Clarke County to decide if they wanted a casino. It was approved. The results from the County Auditors' office are listed below:

Clarke County

Approved Yes: 2,534 = 66% No: 1,327 = 34%

1995

A referendum vote was held for citizens in Clarke County to decide if they wanted a casino. It was approved. The results from the County Auditors' office are listed below:

Clarke County

Approved Yes: 2,667 = 69% No: 1,194 = 31%

See more at the [Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission](#).