

town board of the neighboring Town of Troy also passed a resolution opposing the proposal. Furthermore, the City of Hudson scheduled a referendum on the proposal for Dec. 3, 1992. The question put to referendum was:

Do you support the transfer of St. Croix Meadows to an Indian tribe and the conduct of casino gaming at St. Croix Meadows if the tribe is required to meet all financial commitments of Croixland to the City?

The resulting vote was 51.2 percent to 48.8 percent in favor of conducting casino gaming at the Hudson dog track. State officials, however, considered the Hudson referendum vote too close to consider it evidence of local support for a casino. At the time, both Gov. Tommy Thompson and the Chairman of the Wisconsin Gaming Commission,³¹ John Tries, expressed the view that the divided vote was not sufficient to gain their approval. The Town of Troy held its own referendum on Dec. 6, 1992, on the question, “Do you favor expansion of the present St. Croix Meadows Dog Track to Casino gambling?” The vote was 71 percent opposed. No other surrounding towns held referenda on the issue.³²

4. Minnesota Indian Gaming Association Opposition to the Initial Hudson Proposal

When the Minnesota tribes learned of the St. Croix’s interest in establishing a casino in Hudson, the issue was put on the agenda for the next MIGA meeting, scheduled for Sept. 1,

³¹The Gaming Commission has had several names. It is now known as the Division of Gaming in the Department of Administration.

³²However, Wisconsin held a statewide advisory referendum on gaming issues in April 1993. Voters at that time supported a constitutional amendment restricting gambling casinos in the state.