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**Title: High-stakes casino vote finally here**Article Date: 17/02/2004, Source: *Wisconsin State Journal***Article Text:**

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After six weeks of hearing the pros and cons of a casino in Madison, Dane County voters will decide today if they want DeJope Bingo Hall to become a casino.

With a Democratic primary on the same ballot, along with two suburban school referendums and several primaries, Dane County Clerk Joe Parisi predicts a 40 percent turnout of eligible voters in the county.

That would be about 133,000 voters - high for a spring election, Parisi said.

"There's a unique set of circumstances," Parisi said.

Gov. Jim Doyle has said he'll abide by the results of the casino referendum. Doyle has the authority to allow the Ho-Chunk Nation to turn DeJope into a casino, offering gambling such as blackjack, poker, craps and slot machines.

The battle for votes in the casino referendum is the most expensive local campaign ever in Dane County, with the Ho-Chunk having spent almost \$1 million as of Feb. 2 and planning to spend at least \$1.3 million.

Anti-casino group No Dane Casino, meanwhile, had raised \$45,000 as of Feb. 2.

On Monday, both sides of the casino debate made last-minute pitches.

Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz was in Monona, where he joined former Mayor Paul Soglin, several suburban leaders and the Hmong Political Council to urge a "no" vote.

Later that night, the Ho-Chunk Nation hosted a rally at the Sheraton Hotel with tribal members, union leaders and human services advocates, who support a "yes" vote in today's referendum.

Also in today's election, residents in six Dane County Board districts will vote in primaries because there were more than two candidates running for the seat.

The top two vote-getters in each district will compete in the April 6 general election.

Districts with primaries include the near East Side District 2, the Dudgeon-Monroe area District 10, the East Side District 16, the Mount Horeb/Black Earth District 30, the Oregon District 31 and the Stoughton/Edgerton/Oregon District 35.

In Sun Prairie, residents will vote in a District 4 City Council primary and Verona residents will vote in a City Council District 1 primary.

For the fourth time, voters in the Waunakee School District will be asked to deal with crowding at the high school. The district is proposing a \$23

million expansion project, asking for \$1.4 million to buy land for the expansion and for authority to exceed the state-imposed revenue cap by \$600,000 a year.

In the Sun Prairie School District, voters will decide if the district can spend \$22.2

million to build a sixth elementary school and expand the district's two middle schools. Voters will also be asked to allow the district to exceed its state-imposed revenue cap by \$579,000 a year to pay for the costs of running the new school and additions and by \$230,425 a year for technology improvements.

There is one low-stakes Madison School Board primary. Melania Alvarez, Johnny Winston Jr. and Gregg Mulry are on the ballot for Seat 4, but Mulry is no longer seeking the position. He dropped out too late to get his name off the ballot.

Parisi reminds Dane County voters to bring non-perishable goods to the polling places today for the annual election day food drive.

Outside Dane County, voters in at least four south-central Wisconsin school districts are being asked to approve spending more for operating budgets and building improvements.

Janesville officials are asking for nearly \$17 million to improve or expand Harrison, Jackson, Jefferson, Roosevelt and Van Buren elementary schools.

Pardeeville voters will be asked if the district can borrow up to \$3.2 million to expand the junior and high school building and remodel other buildings.

River Valley School District in Spring Green hopes to exceed its revenue limit by \$500,000 next year and \$1 million the following year.

And Rio would like to exceed its revenue limit for three years by \$375,000 and borrow \$1 million to pay for maintaining and improving school district buildings.

Primary elections also will be held in Portage, Shullsburg, Mauston, Jefferson, Beaver Dam and Baraboo.

And voters will elect county board members in District 6 and 25 in Grant County, District 26 in Green County, District 3 in Jefferson County, District 8 in Lafayette County, District 14 in Rock County, District 16 in Sauk County and District 21 in Vernon County.

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Courtesy of [www.casinoman.net](http://www.casinoman.net)

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