



# **iGaming Community Meetings**

## **FINDINGS**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 254 individuals signed-in for 8 iGaming Community Meetings
- 155 public comments were made
- 68% of public comments were in support of iGaming
- 22% of public comments were opposed to iGaming
- 10% of public comments maintained a neutral position towards iGaming

- Dominant trends in favor of iGaming:**

Revenue should go to social programs and not the general fund. (21% of public comments)

Players want a safe regulated place to play in D.C. (20% of public comments)

- Dominant trend opposed to iGaming:**

Repeal the law due to legislative process. (17% of public comments)

# BACKGROUND

- **April 13, 2011**, US Congress completed its mandatory Congressional review and the Lottery Modernization Act of 2010 (which was a part of the Fiscal Year 2011 Supplemental Budget Support Act of 2010) became effective. This authorized the D.C. Lottery to implement both games of skill and games of chance operated by and for the benefit of the District of Columbia by the District of Columbia Lottery. Under this Act D.C. residents, visitors, and tourists may become the first in the nation to have an opportunity to participate in Internet Gaming or iGaming on a site regulated by a jurisdiction within the U.S.
- **June 29, 2011**, A Finance and Revenue Committee Roundtable, chaired by Councilmember Jack Evans, was held to gain further public comment. To address the concerns raised, Councilmember Evans requested the D.C. Lottery to host a series of public meetings in order to garner community input about the proposed iGaming program.
- **October 13 – November 21, 2011**, Community meetings were originally scheduled for the months of August and September but were rescheduled for the fall to provide a greater opportunity for community input. The community meetings were publicized on the D.C. Lottery's website, D.C. Lottery's Twitter and Facebook accounts, the District Government's Citywide Calendar and were also advertised weekly in *The Washington Post*. Additionally, the D.C. Lottery issued a press release on August 11, 2011 announcing the community meeting schedule which was distributed to local, regional and national outlets.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

In order to gain the greatest amount of community input, meetings were held in all Wards of the District. These forums provided opportunities for residents, community associations and Advisory Neighborhood Commissions/Chairs to give public comment concerning a proposed iGaming program for the District of Columbia. The meetings were a part of a larger commitment to give the public a platform to voice their concerns and opinions about an iGaming program. A meeting for ANC Chairs was also held as part of community outreach. All District Council Members were notified of the meeting dates.

# GOAL

The D.C. Lottery's ultimate goal in hosting the community meetings was to obtain comments from District residents about iGaming, while simultaneously educating the public on the proposed iGaming plan for the District. The D.C. Lottery made the public aware that all comments would be forwarded to District Council and Mayor Gray so that the District's elected leaders could provide the D.C. Lottery with further guidance on the iGaming proposal.

# iGaming Community Meetings

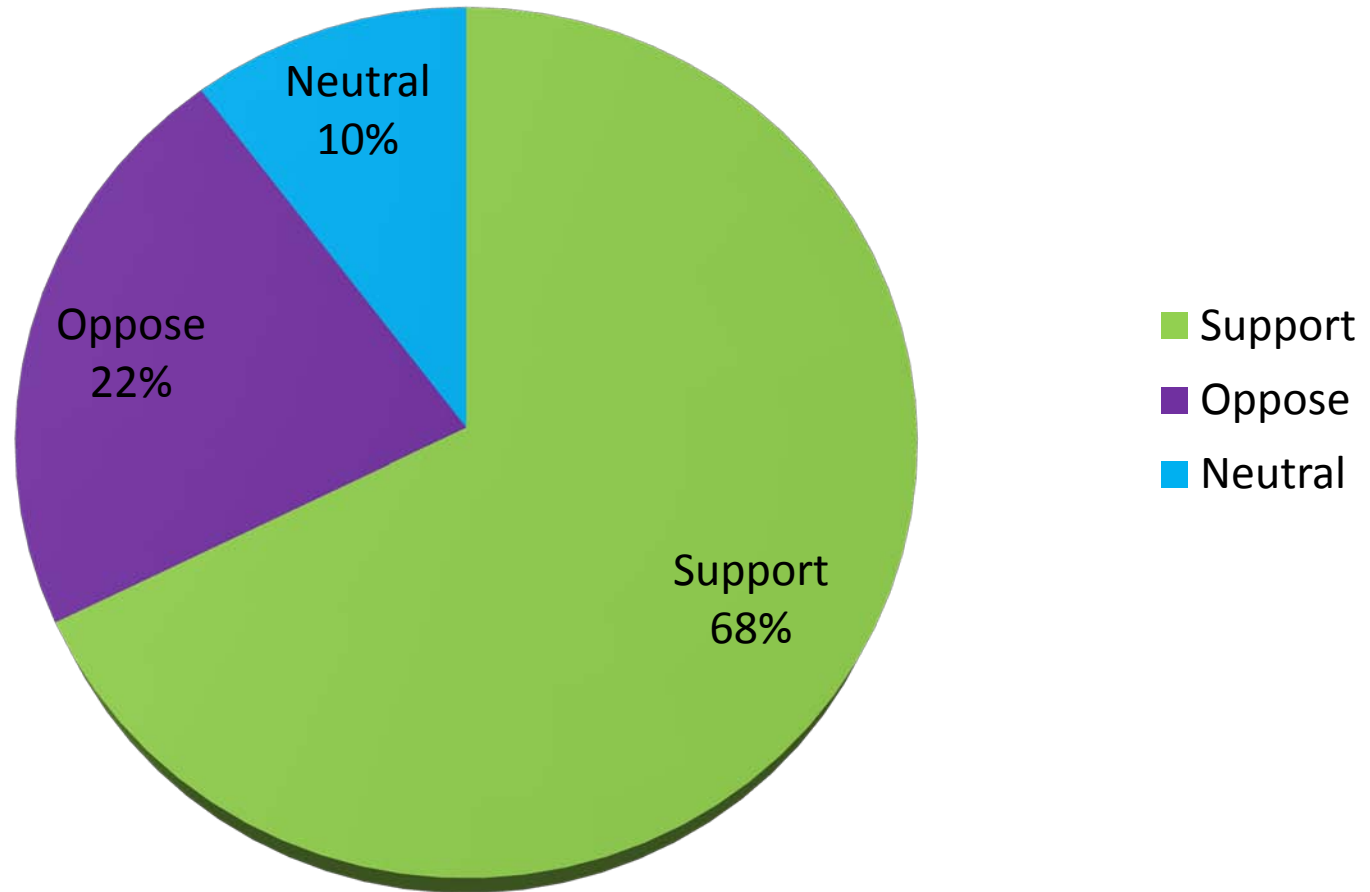
- **Ward 1**  
November 1 ,2011 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
Marie Reed Learning Center  
2200 Champlain Street, NW
- **Ward 2**  
November 15, 2011 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
Martin Luther King Library, 901 G Street, NW
- **Ward 3**  
November 10, 2011 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
Palisades Library, 4901 V Street, NW
- **Ward 4**  
October 17, 2011 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
Petworth Library  
4200 Kansas Avenue, NW
- **Ward 5**  
October 13, 2011 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
Lamond-Riggs Library  
5401 South Dakota Avenue, NE
- **Ward 6**  
November 21, 2011 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
Eastern Market North Hall  
225 7th Street, SE
- **Ward 7**  
October 18, 2011 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
IDEA Public Charter School, 1027 45th Street, NE
- **Ward 8**  
November 17 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
Anacostia Library, 1800 Good Hope Road, SE
- **ANC Chairs**  
October 24 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm  
D.C. Lottery, 2101 MLK, Jr. Avenue, SE

# iGaming Meeting Participation

In total, 254 District residents attended the community meetings and signed in. Others may have attended without signing in.

Public comments were received from 155 District residents. Of this, 105 comments were in support of iGaming. 34 commenters opposed iGaming.

# Public Comment Results All Wards





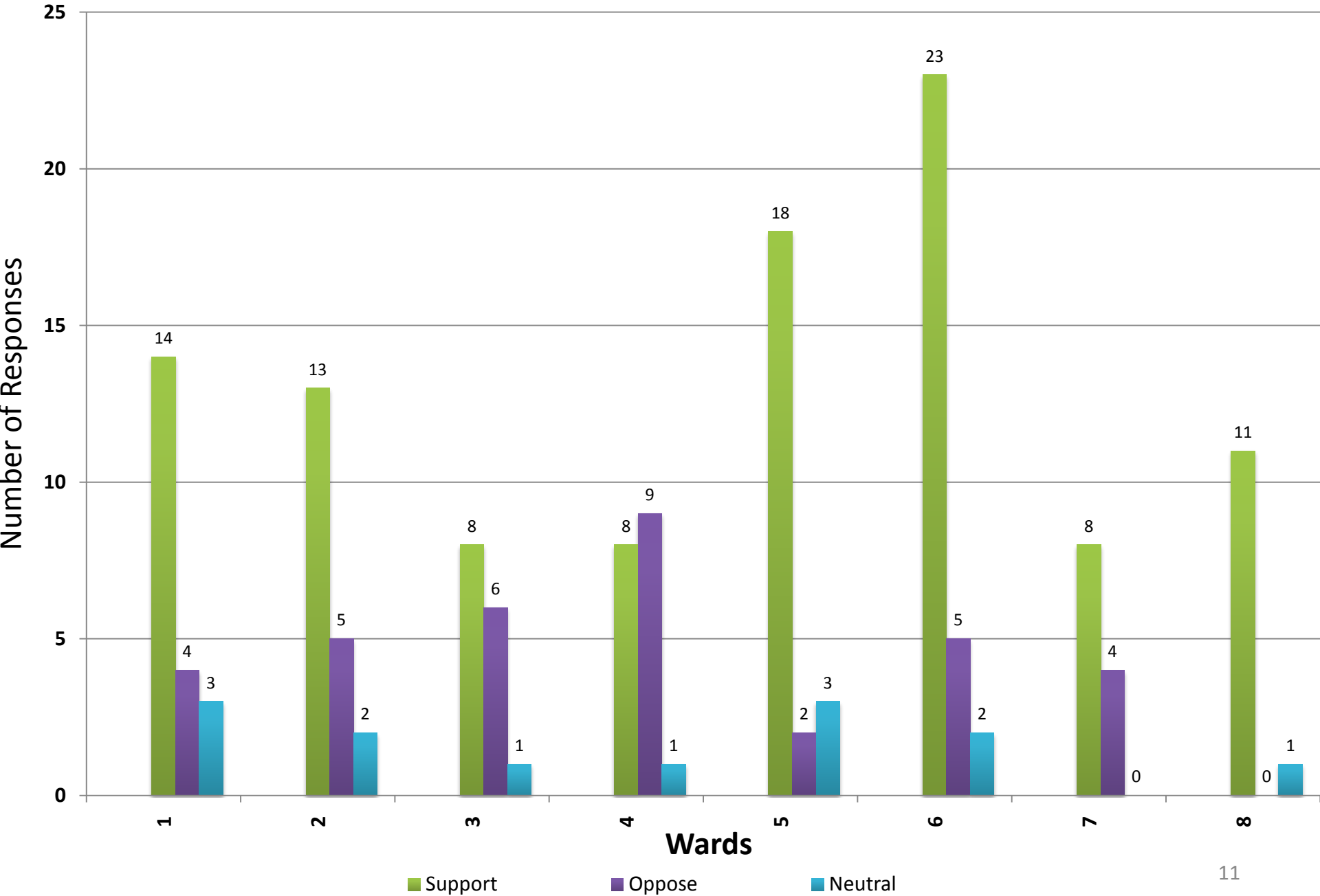
# Common Themes in Support of iGaming

- Revenue should be allocated for D.C. social programs – not the General Fund
- Provide a safe, regulated gaming environment for poker players
- Want iGaming in the District
- Attract a new demographic of lottery player with greater disposable income
- Want to be able to play from the comfort of home and not travel
- Limit of \$250 is a sufficient safeguard
- Limit of \$250 is too low
- Supports economic development for D.C.

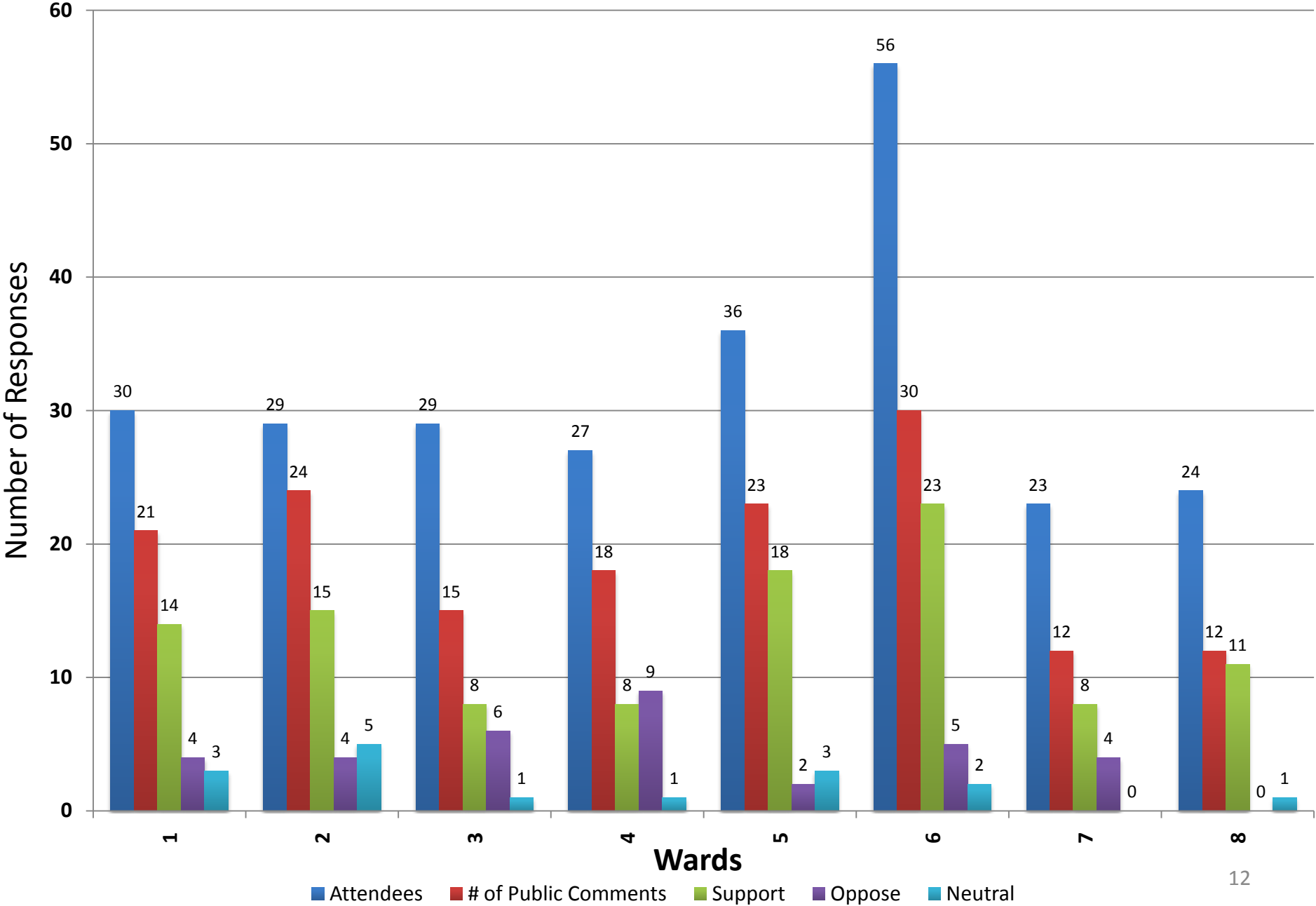
# Common Themes in Opposition to iGaming

- The District of Columbia should not be first in iGaming
- Repeal based on “flawed” legislative process
- Senior citizens at risk
- Gambling and government should not mix
- Disagree with 50% net profit split between D.C. Lottery and vendor
- Minimal job creation
- Minimal revenue for maximum risk

# SUPPORT VS. OPPOSITION OF IGAMING



# SUMMARY IGAMING COMMUNITY MEETING RESULTS



| Ward | Attendees | Comment | Support | Oppose | Neutral | Themes  |
|------|-----------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---|
| 1    | 30        | 21      | 14      | 4      | 3       | Pro - allocate revenue for social programs not general fund: 4<br>Pro - Gamer wants a safe regulated place to play in the District: 5<br>Pro - limit of \$250.00 is sufficient: 1<br>Pro - limit of \$250.00 is too low: 1<br>Pro - iGaming will generate revenue for the City : 3<br>Neutral - wants protections in the statue : 3<br>Against - wants repeal due to the legislative process: 4   |
| 2    | 29        | 24      | 15      | 4      | 5       | Pro - allocate revenue for social programs not general fund: 2<br>Pro - Gamer wants a safe regulated place to play in the District: 6<br>Pro - revenue for DC: 5<br>Pro - limit of \$250.00 is too low: 1<br>Pro - spur economic development: 1<br>Neutral: 5<br>Against - wants repeal due to the legislative process: 4   |
| 3    | 29        | 15      | 8       | 6      | 1       | Pro - allocate revenue for social programs not general fund: 2<br>Pro - Will generate revenue for the District: 4<br>Pro - Gamer wants a safe regulated place to play in DC: 2<br>Against - government and gambling don't mix: 1<br>Against - compliance, no lottery board: 3<br>Against - wants repeal due to the legislative process: 2<br>Against - revenue not sufficient for risk: 1   |
| 4    | 27        | 18      | 8       | 9      | 1       | Pro - allocate revenue for social programs not general fund: 5<br>Pro - Gamer wants a safe regulated place to play in the District: 1<br>Pro - limit of \$250.00 to low: 1<br>Pro - iGaming will generate revenue for the City : 1<br>Neutral - wants protections in the statue : 1<br>Against - wants repeal due to the legislative process: 7<br>Against - government and gambling should not mix : 1<br>Against - disagree with vendor iGaming contract split of 50/50 |

| Ward         | Attendees  | Comment    | Support    | Oppose    | Neutral   | Themes   |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| 5            | 36         | 23         | 18         | 2         | 3         | Pro - allocate revenue for social programs not the General Fund: 10<br>Pro - limit of \$250.00 to low: 1<br>Pro - iGaming will generate revenue for the City : 1<br>Pro - believes iGaming will create new player demographic with disposable income: 1<br>Against - wants repeal due to the legislative process: 2<br>Against - wants competitive bid process for iGaming vendor: 1<br>Against - believes seniors will lose money:1 |
| 6            | 56         | 30         | 23         | 5         | 2         | Pro - allocate revenue for social programs not general fund: 4<br>Pro - gamer wants a safe regulated place to play in the District: 10<br>Pro - limit of \$250.00 is sufficient: 0<br>Pro - limit of \$250.00 is too low: 0<br>Pro - iGaming will generate revenue for the City : 9<br>Neutral - wants protections in the statue : 2<br>Against - wants repeal due to the legislative process: 5                                     |
| 7            | 23         | 12         | 8          | 4         | 0         | Pro - allocate revenue for social programs not general fund: 4<br>Pro - Gamer wants a safe regulated place to play in the District: 3<br>Pro - iGaming will generate revenue for the City : 1<br>Against - wants repeal due to the legislative process: 3<br>Against - no jobs being created for DC residents, minimal revenue: 1  |
| 8            | 24         | 12         | 11         | 0         | 1         | Pro - allocate revenue for social programs not general fund: 2<br>Pro - Gamer wants a safe regulated place to play in the District: 5<br>Pro - limit of \$250.00 is sufficient: 0<br>Pro - limit of \$250.00 is too low: 0<br>Pro - iGaming will generate revenue for the City : 4<br>Neutral - wants protections in the statue : 1<br>Against - wants repeal due to the legislative process: 0                                      |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>254</b> | <b>155</b> | <b>105</b> | <b>34</b> | <b>16</b> |  |