

# Casino Bylaw

Overview of Process for Public Hearing and  
Public Engagement  
November 30, 2021

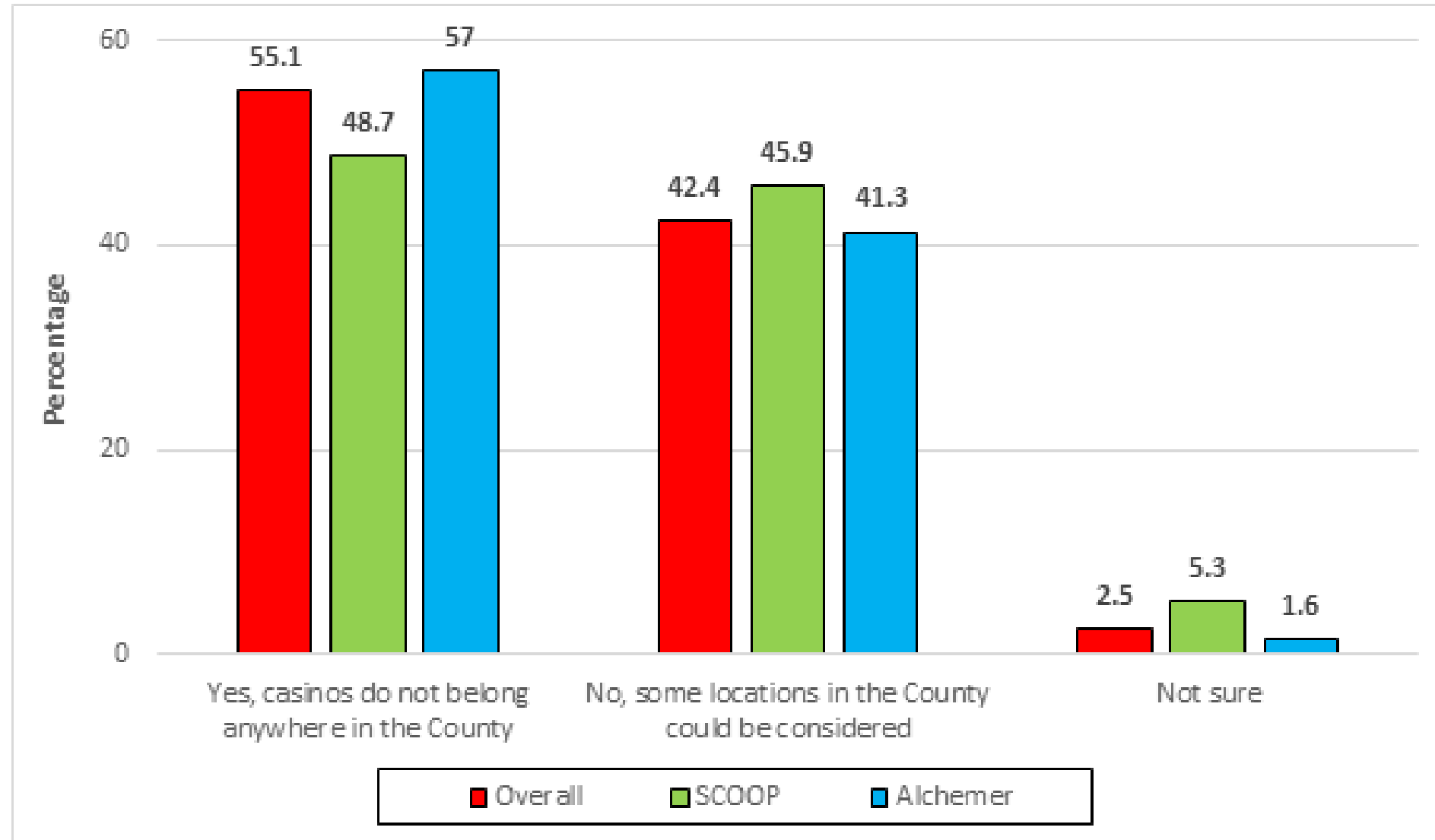
# Bylaw repeal process

- This evening, Council could choose to repeal Bylaw 100-2001 (the Casino Bylaw) by giving the repealing Bylaw 58-2021 three readings
- Repealing the Casino Bylaw does not automatically mean casinos are allowed in the County.
- If the bylaw is repealed, there are additional development requirements that would need to be met before a casino could be built in Strathcona County.
- Today's non-statutory public hearing is an opportunity for residents to speak to Council on whether to repeal the bylaw that prohibits casinos. Registered speakers will have five minutes to make a presentation. An overview of the procedures will be provided before the public hearing begins.

# Communications process

- On September 14, 2021, Council directed administration to use existing resources to conduct a SCOOP survey on whether residents would support repealing the casino bylaw as well as to hold a non-statutory public hearing on November 30.
- October 2021 - Communications determined they would also conduct an additional anonymous survey to allow for additional data and opportunities for public engagement. Survey questions created in consultation with internal stakeholders. Survey was open until November 17, 2021.
- October and November promotion for the surveys and public hearing was conducted:
  - News release, multiple social media posts, signage both digital and road signs (urban and rural, newspaper advertisements, posters, information provided to Council to share on their platforms (newsletters, emails, meetings) to help spread the word
  - Resulted in 4,795 responses to surveys (1,143 from SCOOP and 3,652 from the anonymous survey) as well as individuals registered for today's hearing
- Total costs on paid advertising and design – approximately \$4,000

# Should casinos be prohibited in Strathcona County?



Overall results (4,795 responses):

- 55.1% (2,640 responses) Casinos do not belong anywhere in the County.
- 42.4% (2,035 responses) Some locations in the County could be considered for casinos.
- 2.5% (120 responses) not sure.

# Comments Against Casinos

- The most common themes were:
  - Residents like living in a community with no casino
  - Already opportunities close by
  - Danger of increased illegal activities
  - Danger of addiction due to gambling opportunities
  - Other societal concerns- addiction, healthcare concerns, family and mental health issues, traffic, attracting “the wrong type of people” to a community
- Sample comment: “We need to keep this county as a family-oriented community. Casinos can lead to addictions such as gambling; perhaps loss of money and other situations which can cause instability within families. We should focus on healthy, family-oriented activities which will lead to cohesive and close family units.”

# Comments In Support of Casinos

- The most common themes were:
  - Ok if casino is in the right location- not near residential or rec facilities
  - Nice to have local entertainment options
  - Fundraising opportunities for non-profit/community/charity groups
  - Economic benefits
- Sample comment: “Allowing for a casino in the appropriate location will provide benefits for local non-profit organizations, as well as increased tourism and benefits to local businesses.”

# Neutral Comments

- Many of the respondents who chose "don't know" commented that they don't have enough information to provide an opinion.
- Many who supported the consideration of a casino also suggested a cost benefit analysis should be undertaken to make the decision.
- Sample comment: "What are the pros and cons based on expert opinions? Will it lead to increased addiction problems in the county? How much increased tax revenue?"