



Casino supporters voice comments at Glendale council meeting

Residents at this week's Glendale [City Council meeting](#) continued to show support for a proposed tribal casino near the city's sports and entertainment district.

Rosanne Langer, Glendale Elementary Education Association president, was the latest to pitch her pro-casino stance. Others at the meeting also spoke in favor of the project. "Teachers at Glendale Elementary are very concerned with the future of our students," said Langer, who has taught 18 years in Glendale.

Schools no longer can afford art supplies and physical-education equipment, she said. To make matters worse, she said, the city has cut library hours, recreation programs and now charges a fee for an after-school program.

She said the school district has financially struggled because of a 1,200 student drop in enrollment, which Langer attributed to [job losses](#). Schools are funded based on student head-count.

She urged the council to let the Tohono O'odham Nation build its [casino and resort](#) and bring in the estimated touted 6,000 construction jobs and more than 3,000 permanent jobs. Having a casino would mean extra revenue for community programs, she said.

Arizona's gaming compact requires tribes to share a portion of gaming revenue with the state for areas such as education.

Langer said the board of the Glendale Elementary [teachers](#) union informally voted to support the casino. The tribe wants to build its project at 95th and Northern avenues. The city is challenging the project in court.

Mayor Elaine Scruggs said she would like to see the tribe develop its 134 acres but not as a sovereign nation.

The tribe seeks to take the land into the reservation [system](#). Scruggs said that if the tribe would develop the land with commercial enterprise like any other private developer, it would mean more money to the city and schools in way of taxes.

"There would be more money coming to the city to do the things you say need to be done," she said.

Councilwoman Joyce Clark commended the project supporters for showing up week after week to share their position.

That said, the outspoken critic of the casino near her district said her constituents oppose the project for many reasons, including moral grounds and the creation of a sovereign nation on land surrounded by Glendale.

--Cecilia Chan

