

# Gaming in Mississippi & The Impact of COVID-19

Mississippi is home to 29 commercial and tribal casinos that support jobs for more than 37,000 Mississippians and \$4.4 billion in economic impact annually. The \$976 million in annual local, state, and federal tax impact & tribal revenue share supported by gaming funds infrastructure, education, and local economic development projects.

## The Impact of COVID-19

The outbreak is deeply harming the U.S. gaming industry. Employees from every segment of the industry—from commercial and tribal casinos and sportsbooks to gaming equipment manufacturing to the small businesses that support us—have felt the repercussions of government-mandated property closures across the United States. In the last week alone:

- Essentially all (980 of 989) commercial and tribal casino properties in the U.S. have shuttered their doors.
- Americans intent to visit a casino dropped more than 20 points – from 49 percent in Sept. 2019 – to just 28 percent today.
- 66 million Americans say they are less likely than before the outbreak to spend money at a casino or casino resort over the next three months.

We support swift government action to protect the health and safety of American communities. Equally urgent action is needed to mitigate the dire impact these closures will have on hundreds of thousands of U.S. casino workers and the businesses that employ them.

In Mississippi, casino closures will reverberate across local communities:

29

Number of Casinos  
Closed in a State

37,277

Number of Jobs  
Impacted

\$262M

Two-Month Potential  
Wages At-Risk

\$736M

Two-Month Potential  
Economic Activity  
Loss

*As of March 25, 2020*

# Advocacy Efforts to Support the Gaming Industry

The American Gaming Association (AGA) is engaged with Congressional and administration leadership to shape stimulus and aid packages that will enable our members to support employees and their families during this crisis. To ensure our voice is heard, it is important to mobilize potential allies—governors, mayors, state and local chambers, gaming employees—about the important role gaming plays in communities across the country. It is critical that all stakeholders whose economic futures are closely tied to the vitality of the industry are activated as quickly as possible.

This document provides talking points and Congressional contacts for your state to support outreach. The first page can be shared directly with policymakers to inform them of the essential role of gaming and the devastating impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

**The AGA urges you and/or your property manager to reach out to your state's U.S. Senator and nearest Member of Congress to discuss the industry's unique challenges during this crisis.**

## Talking Points

- This unique challenge will require an unprecedented level of support from our government leaders. As Congress works with the administration on important legislative measures to protect workers and vulnerable populations, the gaming industry must be eligible to receive any desperately needed relief measures extended to businesses.
- Government action is essential to ensure our businesses weather the current storm and can remain a reliable economic driver, job creator, and community partner in cities and states across our nation.
- Our immediate priorities are focused government measures that can free up operating capital today, so our member companies can continue to support their workers and families through these difficult times.
- The U.S. gaming industry has been disproportionately affected by widespread, mandated closures of casino properties across the United States, and needs significant and swift federal government stimulus to help get the half a million gaming employees back to work.
  - The impact to gaming businesses goes beyond the casino floor – it creates deep uncertainty impacting nearly two million Americans whose jobs are supported by gaming and disproportionately affects the operations of the entire hospitality industry.
  - Drastic reductions in hotel stays, restaurant visits, conventions and meetings, and tourism all affect the entire gaming industry, from suppliers to operators.
  - Among the nearly two million Americans whose jobs are supported by gaming are more than 350,000 small business employees who supply and work with our industry.
- We are economic engines that insert billions of dollars in tax revenue and tribal revenue share into communities across 43 states.
- We will continue to serve these important roles throughout this public health crisis and in our communities' recovery in the weeks and months ahead.

## Mississippi Congressional Delegation

Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS)	Senator Cindy Hyde Smith (R-MS)
<p><b>Relevance:</b> Chairman of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee</p> <p><b>Casinos in State:</b> 29 total</p> <p><b>Office Contacts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Michelle Barlow, Chief of Staff, <a href="mailto:Michelle.barlow@wicker.senate.gov">Michelle.barlow@wicker.senate.gov</a>; (202) 224-6253</li> <li>Robert Murray, Legislative Director, <a href="mailto:Robert.murray@wicker.senate.gov">Robert.murray@wicker.senate.gov</a>; (202) 224-6253</li> <li>Tara McGee, Tax Legislative Assistant, <a href="mailto:Tara.mcgee@wicker.senate.gov">Tara.mcgee@wicker.senate.gov</a>; (202) 224-6253</li> <li>Ryan Annison, State Director, <a href="mailto:Ryan.annison@wicker.senate.gov">Ryan.annison@wicker.senate.gov</a>; (601) 965-4644</li> </ul>	<p><b>Relevance:</b> Appropriations</p> <p><b>Casinos in State:</b> 29 total</p> <p><b>Office Contacts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Doug Davis, Chief of Staff, <a href="mailto:Doug.davis@hydesmith.senate.gov">Doug.davis@hydesmith.senate.gov</a>; (202) 224-5054</li> <li>Tim Wolverton, Legislative Director, <a href="mailto:Tim.wolverton@hydesmith.senate.gov">Tim.wolverton@hydesmith.senate.gov</a>; (202) 224-5054</li> <li>Umesh Sanjanwala, State Director, <a href="mailto:Umesh.sanjanwala@hydesmith.senate.gov">Umesh.sanjanwala@hydesmith.senate.gov</a>; (601) 965-4459</li> </ul>
Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS-2)	Representative Michael Guest (R-MS-03)
<p>Relevant Committees/Caucuses to AGA: Congressional Gaming Caucus</p> <p><b>Casinos in District:</b> 13 total</p> <p><b>Office Contacts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrea Lee, Chief of Staff, <a href="mailto:Andrea.lee@mail.house.gov">Andrea.lee@mail.house.gov</a>; (202) 226-2616</li> <li>Claytrice Henderson, Legislative Director, <a href="mailto:Claytrice.henderson@mail.house.gov">Claytrice.henderson@mail.house.gov</a>; (202) 226-2616</li> <li>Meco Shoulders, Tax Legislative Assistant, <a href="mailto:Meco.shoulders@mail.house.gov">Meco.shoulders@mail.house.gov</a>; (202) 226-2616</li> <li>Timla Washington, Community Development Coordinator (District Staff), <a href="mailto:twashington@mail.house.gov">twashington@mail.house.gov</a>; (662) 335-9003</li> </ul>	<p><b>Casinos in District:</b> 3</p> <p><b>Office Contacts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jordan Downs, Chief of Staff, <a href="mailto:Jordan.downs@mail.house.gov">Jordan.downs@mail.house.gov</a>; (202) 225-5031</li> <li>Elizabeth Joseph, Policy Director (Tax Staffer), <a href="mailto:Elizabeth.joseph@mail.house.gov">Elizabeth.joseph@mail.house.gov</a>; (202) 225-5031</li> <li>Brady Stewart, District Director, <a href="mailto:Brady.stewart@mail.house.gov">Brady.stewart@mail.house.gov</a>; (769) 241-6120</li> </ul>
Representative Steven Palazzo (R-MS-4)	
<p><b>Relevance:</b> Appropriations and Congressional Gaming Caucus</p> <p><b>Casinos in District:</b> 13 total</p> <p><b>Office Contacts:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hunter Lipscomb, Chief of Staff, <a href="mailto:Hunter.lipscomb@mail.house.gov">Hunter.lipscomb@mail.house.gov</a>; (202) 225-5772</li> <li>Patrick Large, Deputy Chief of Staff (Tax Staffer), <a href="mailto:Patrick.large@mail.house.gov">Patrick.large@mail.house.gov</a>; (202) 225-5772</li> <li>Courtney Stevens, Legislative Director, <a href="mailto:Courtney.stevens@mail.house.gov">Courtney.stevens@mail.house.gov</a>; (202) 225-5772</li> <li>Michele Gargiulo, District Director, <a href="mailto:Michele.gargiulo@mail.house.gov">Michele.gargiulo@mail.house.gov</a>; (228) 864-7670</li> </ul>	