

Talking Points – Tribal Gaming Compact

- In 2005, the Spokane Tribes wanted the rights to open 24/7 casinos off tribal land and place thousands of slot machines across the state. In exchange for turning our state into Las Vegas, the Tribes offered the state revenue sharing.
- That was the choice: turn the state into Las Vegas in exchange for revenue sharing – or – limit the expansion of gaming and take revenue sharing off the table.
- Gov. Chris Gregoire, former Republican King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng, law enforcement and a bi-partisan coalition¹ of legislators did not believe revenue sharing was worth turning our state into Las Vegas, with a casino in every neighborhood and slot machines in every corner store.
- Former Republican King County Prosecutor Norm Maleng said: “The state cannot effectively regulate gambling and manage gambling policy when it has a vested economic interest in gambling expansion.” [*Seattle Times*, Nov. 22, 2005]
- When the expansion was rejected, the Spokane Tribe withdrew the offer to revenue-share.
- Republican Attorney General Rob McKenna said the negotiations were conducted “strictly in the framework of state and federal law and it produced a compact which was adopted strictly within the requirements of the framework of state and federal law. Period.” [*Seattle P-I*, July 25, 2008]
- The Tribes have every right to participate in the political process. It’s not right that Republican special interests are trying to bully them out of their constitutional rights.
- Contributions from the tribes to the Washington State Democrats could not be given to the governor’s campaign. Tribal contributions are “soft” money, which is unregulated by the state’s Public Disclosure Commission (PDC). It is illegal for candidates to accept soft money, so the Democratic Party segregates it from “hard” money. Candidates can only accept hard money, which is strictly regulated by the PDC.
- Gov. Gregoire and a bi-partisan coalition prevented what would have been the largest expansion of gambling in state history, so Republican Dino Rossi’s friends turned to Las Vegas gambling interests and raised \$1.6 million – money that’s now being used to attack and distort the governor’s record.

¹ Bob Oke (R-Port Orchard), Gigi Talcott (R-Tacoma), Joyce McDonald (R-Puyallup)