

The battle over a 600-room resort and [casino](#) that the Tohono O'odham Nation wants to build near Glendale's sports and entertainment district has been bruising. After more than a year, both sides have racked up wins and losses in the ring.

GLENDALE	TOHONO O'ODHAM
<p>A Maricopa County Superior Court judge upholds Glendale's claim that a third of the tribe's land is within its city limits. The Tohono O'odham must build on unincorporated land. The tribe says it could build the resort/casino on remaining land and may appeal the ruling.</p>	<p>The Tohono O'odham Nation hires a lead architect, Hnedak Bobo Group, to design the resort/casino. HBG produced initial renderings for the project last year and will now work to finalize site plans.</p>
<p>Arizona members of Congress come out against the Tohono O'odham plan. Sen. Jon Kyl, Sen. John McCain and Rep. Trent Franks, all Republicans, agree the resort/casino would be detrimental to the community.</p>	<p>The tribe sues the U.S. Department of the Interior, claiming the department stopped processing the tribe's application to turn the site off 91st and Northern avenues into a reservation. The department declined to comment on the case.</p>
<p>Gov. Jan Brewer writes a letter to tribal Chairman Ned Norris Jr. saying the proposed casino disregards assurances to voters in Proposition 202 that gaming would not expand beyond existing reservations.</p>	<p>A poll suggests 68 percent of West Valley voters support the casino/resort. The same company, Phoenix-based Behavior Research Center Inc., found nearly three in four respondents supported the project last March.</p>
<p>Parents of students at Raymond S. Kellis High School worry the resort/casino would be too close to students. The school is less than a mile west of the site.</p>	<p>The Tolleson City Council unanimously passes a resolution in support of the tribal project, saying it would bring jobs to the West Valley. Peoria's mayor expresses similar support.</p>
<p>Five West Valley mayors — from Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Surprise and Youngtown — ask the federal government to reject the tribal plan. Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon sends his own letter of concern.</p>	<p>Grady Gammage Jr., an attorney representing the Tohono O'odham and a land-use expert, criticizes Glendale for opposing the project. He says the city's arguments mirror the "end of the world" rhetoric that surrounded the arrival of Indian gaming in Arizona in the 1990s.</p>
<p>The Glendale Chamber of Commerce opposes the resort/casino, but Peoria's business group takes a more positive view, reflecting the opposing opinions of the two cities' elected officials.</p>	<p>The Western Regional Office of the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs recommends the land be taken into trust as a reservation. No timeline exists for the final decision from BIA headquarters in Washington, D.C.</p>
<p>Glendale City Council votes 6-1 against the Indian reservation and casino plan, though the decision is not the city's to make. The city attorney sends a letter to Washington, D.C., outlining Glendale's concerns over the Tohono O'odham project.</p>	<p>Tucson locals who work with the Tohono O'odham Nation, which is close to that city, urge Glendale to support the tribe. A Pima County supervisor, Tucson Symphony Orchestra, Sundt Construction and close to 50 non-profits, businesses and politicians write letters of support.</p>
<p>The White Mountain Apache Tribe, Tonto Apache Tribe, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation, Yavapai-Apache Nation and Gila River Indian Community go public with opposition to the resort/casino. Gila River, which runs the closest casino that would compete with the Tohono O'odham's, becomes the most vocal tribe against the plan.</p>	<p>The tribe contends the resort/casino would create more than 6,000 construction jobs plus 3,000-plus permanent jobs. Local businesses that supply materials would benefit, and governments would bolster their tax bases, the tribe says. The economic impact could be as much as \$500 million, according to the tribe.</p>
ONGOING BATTLE	
<p>A bill that could derail the Tohono O'odham casino died and was resurrected recently at the state Legislature. House Bill 2297 would have allowed cities to annex property without the landowner's consent if the landowner had asked the federal government to designate the property as a reservation. Glendale, under the legislation, would be able to place the tribe's land within its borders and prevent a casino from being built. The National Congress of American Indians condemned state attempts to disrupt the federal reservation process after the bill was introduced. The bill passed the House but not the Senate because of lack of committee support. Lawmakers then attached the language to another bill, Senate Bill 1109, as an end-of-session amendment. The House approved the legislation last week and sent it to the Senate for final approval. An emergency clause that would have required the bill to take effect immediately was cut. The effective date would likely be in July or August, 90 days after the legislative session ends, if the bill was passed.</p>	