

# Accelerating Gaming's Recovery

## AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION 2021 PRIORITIES



Our dynamic industry came to a standstill in March 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic indiscriminately hurt gaming businesses, employees, and communities. All 989 commercial and tribal gaming properties shut down and sportsbooks went dark, decimating demand for gaming suppliers' innovative products. For several months, these closures cut off a major economic driver in communities across 44 states, severely impacted one million American gaming and small business workers, and cost the economy an estimated \$105 billion in lost economic activity.

As we welcomed customers and employees back, the gaming industry led the way for responsible reopening by implementing strict safety protocols, adhering to evolving state and local health regulations, and investing millions of dollars in innovative solutions to promote health and safety. We serve as a key source of testing and contact tracing in many gaming communities, where we are helping to slow the spread of COVID-19, and are supporting vaccination efforts across the country.

America's economic recovery—and that of communities across the country—can be accelerated with a thriving gaming industry. **As the voice of the U.S. casino gaming industry, the AGA is singularly focused on one goal: accelerating gaming's recovery.** The following outlines the organization's 2021 priorities to ensure our return to a thriving, economic engine for communities across the country.

### 1. Secure Relief and Recovery for Gaming in COVID-19 Legislation

- Ensure gaming inclusion in federal COVID-19 economic relief legislation.
- Fight for tax deductions and credits to save gaming jobs, alleviate COVID-19 costs, and boost travel and tourism, especially business travel and meetings.
- Win liability protections for responsible operators to prevent further industry damage.
- Secure flexibility for tribal nations to spend CARES Act funds and increase reimbursement for unemployment benefits costs.

### 2. Develop New Champions to Promote Gaming's Recovery

- Cultivate new gaming champions by engaging every member of Congress from gaming states and all decision makers in the Biden administration.
- Grow the bipartisan Congressional Gaming Caucus.

### 3. Block Harmful Policies and Advance Specific Reforms to Enhance Industry Competitiveness

- Defeat federal attempts to enact new taxes, restrict resort fees, or promulgate new mandates.
- Adjust slot tax reporting and repeal federal excise tax to reflect today's realities.
- Stop state efforts to target gaming for new taxes as lawmakers look to fill pandemic-created budget gaps.
- Promote efforts to responsibly expand the legal sports betting market and protect sports betting against federal intervention and regulation.
- Advance payment choice through regulator engagement, sharing best practices, and ensuring fair treatment for gaming transactions through continued work with FinCEN and IRS.
- Educate law enforcement and state policymakers to curb the proliferation of illegal market machines.

### 4. Use Proprietary Research and Strategic Communication Efforts to Ensure the Gaming Industry is Heard

- Deliver original research products that provide unique insights into gaming industry impact.
- Showcase industry commitments to health and safety measures that are protecting communities, customers, and employees.
- Highlight the industry's commitment to responsible gaming.