

Referendum in Tuchoměřice: FAQ

On Friday Sept 15 Tuchoměřice will be making a decision about their future

What decision is being made in this referendum?

The town hall are planning a construction of two casinos (one within the premises of POP Outlet, one as an independent building next to Seat). In both cases the plan is to build casinos of impressive size. In addition to live game the plan is to include more than 600 slot machines. The referendum will decide whether the town hall should allow, or forbid the investor to operate gambling activities and open these casinos.

How many people must vote for the referendum to be valid?

According to Act 169/2008 Coll. a minimum of 35% of the electorate is needed for a referendum to be valid. Decisions made in a referendum is binding if it was made by a majority of those who voted and at least 25% of all the electorate. That means that if 35% of the electorate vote, the referendum is binding if a decision is made by 71.43% of those who voted.

In Tuchoměřice the electorate (the number of all eligible to vote) is ca. 1,100 people. **For the referendum to be valid, it is necessary that at least 385 people vote, and the decision will be binding if voted for by 275 voters.** These are minimal numbers provided the number of all eligible voters is the same as during the elections in 2022.

What if fewer people come to the referendum?

If less than 35% of the electorate vote in the referendum, the referendum is not valid. **The decision will then be made solely by the town hall representatives.**

Why are the questions in the referendum so convoluted?

The questions were prepared by the leaders of the town hall in collaboration with lawyers. The questions respond to two specific demands made by the investors (one casino in POP Outlet, one casino to be newly built). The question is not formulated as a general question whether to allow or forbid gambling in Tuchoměřice, because if the outcome were a general permission of gambling in the town, it would be difficult to regulate gambling later with decrees.

Why is one of the questions about the establishment of municipal police?

This is not entirely clear. Previous town hall representatives made the decision that the benefits of municipal police are not worth the costs. There is a clear connection between gambling and criminal activities, but how could municipal police solve these with their limited authority? What municipal police could deal with is the traffic issues in Tuchoměřice, which, given the plan is to build parking with 500 spaces, will be definitely impacted and noticeable.

What if I want to vote for one of the questions only?

This is possible. A vote is valid even if only one question is answered.

When and where does the referendum take place?

The referendum takes place at the town hall in Tuchoměřice [Obecní úřad] on **Friday September 15th, 7am - 10pm (7:00 - 22:00)**.

Who can vote?

Anyone who is eligible to vote in municipal elections has the right to vote in the referendum.

Foreigners can vote if...

- ... you are an EU citizen
- ... you are 18 by or on 15 September 2023
- ... you hold a permanent or temporary residence (“trvalý pobyt” or “registrovaný pobyt”) in Tuchoměřice
- ... you have **requested to be included in the addendum to the regular electoral register by 4pm (16:00) on Wednesday 13 September 2023.**

If you meet all of the criteria above, make sure to register at the Tuchoměřice town hall in order to be able to vote in the referendum.

To register, go to Mrs. Masopustová at the town hall (Obecní úřad, V Kněžívce 212) during the town hall opening hours:

Monday 8:00 - 12:00 and 13:00 - 17:00

Wednesday 8:00 - 12:00 and 13:00 – 16:00

Will the construction of the casino have an impact on the zoning plan?

The zoning plan of Tuchoměřice is currently in the process of being approved and the construction of the casino on what is currently a field will not impact it. What will definitely be impacted though is the capacity of the water treatment plant, which, if the casino is built and connected to it, would not be able to serve any new residential houses in Tuchoměřice.

Source: Tuchoměřice proti hazardu, newsletter distributed between Sept 4-8 (in section “Who can vote” details have been added based on latest information), www.nehazardu.cz

Translation: Beata Rodlingova, 8 September 2023