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PLOTS & PLOYS

What's Brewing in the Real-Estate Market

For and Against

Americans would rather have a nuclear-power plant in their town than a casino or a landfill, according to a new survey of attitudes on local development projects.

That is among the findings in an August telephone survey by the Center for Economic and Civic Opinion at the University of Massachusetts.

The study was commissioned by the Saint Consulting Group, a Hingham, Mass., firm that advises developers on garnering community support for projects. The firm also helps developers scuttle competitors' projects by assisting community-opposition groups, according to Patrick Fox, Saint's president.

Of 1,000 respondents randomly selected from around the U.S., three-quarters said they would oppose a hypothetical casino coming to their town. Opposition to a nuclear-power plant stood at 65%. A wind farm clocks in at 20% opposed.

This is the third year the survey was conducted. The biggest changes in attitude are for power plants. Nearly 40% supported power plants in general, up from 23% in 2006.

Mr. Fox attributes the jump to concerns about rising energy prices. Also noted: Nearly one in four respondents actively opposed a development project in their town, up from one in five a year ago.