

MONARCH CASINO & RESORT INC  
Form DEF 14A  
April 10, 2014  
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UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549

**SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION**

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of  
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No. )

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to §240.14a-12

Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc.  
(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
  - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
  - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
  - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
  - (5) Total fee paid:
- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
  - (1) Amount Previously Paid:
  - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
  - (3) Filing Party:
  - (4) Date Filed:



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**FORWARD LOOKING STATEMENTS**

This proxy statement contains statements that do not relate to historical or current facts, but are forward looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. These statements relate to analyses and other information based on forecasts of future results and estimates of amounts not yet determinable. These statements may also relate to future events or trends, our future prospects, and proposed new services, developments, or business strategies, among other things. These statements can generally (although not always) be identified by their use of terms and phrases such as anticipate, appear, believe, could, would, estimate, expect, indicate, intend, may, plan, predict, project, pursue, will, continue, and other similar terms and phrases, as well as the use of the future tense.

Actual results could differ materially from those expressed or implied in our forward looking statements. Our future financial condition and results of operations, as well as any forward looking statements, are subject to change and to inherent known and unknown risks and uncertainties. See Item 1A, Risk Factors, in our most recently filed Form 10-K Annual Report for a discussion of these and other risks and uncertainties. You should not assume at any point in the future that the forward looking statements in this report are still valid. We do not intend, and undertake no obligation, to update our forward looking statements to reflect future events or circumstances.

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MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC.

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**NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS**

**May 21, 2014**

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To the Stockholders of Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc.:

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc. (the Company, we, our or Monarch) will be held at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa ( Atlantis ), 3800 South Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada 89502, on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. local time, for the following purposes:

1. To elect John Farahi, Craig F. Sullivan and Paul Andrews as directors of the Company, each to serve until the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until his successor is elected and qualified, or until such director's earlier death, resignation or removal;
2. To approve the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan;
3. To approve, on an advisory basis, executive compensation;
4. To consider and transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on March 24, 2014 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the annual meeting. The stock transfer books will not be closed. On or about April 10, 2014, we will mail to our stockholders either a printed copy of our proxy statement and our annual report on Form 10-K or a notice containing instructions on how to access our proxy statement and annual report and how to vote online. The notice also contains instructions on how you can receive a paper copy of our annual meeting materials, including the notice of annual meeting, proxy statement and proxy card, should you wish.

Stockholders are cordially invited to attend the annual meeting in person. STOCKHOLDERS DESIRING TO VOTE IN PERSON MUST REGISTER AT THE ANNUAL MEETING WITH THE INSPECTORS OF ELECTION PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING. IF YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE ANNUAL MEETING IN PERSON, YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT AND THEN CAST YOUR VOTE AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE NOTICE WE WILL MAIL TO CERTAIN STOCKHOLDERS ON OR ABOUT APRIL 10, 2014 OR, IF YOU RECEIVED A PRINTED COPY OF THE PROXY MATERIALS, ON THE ENCLOSED PROXY CARD.

By order of the Board of Directors,

JOHN FARAHI  
SECRETARY

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MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC.

**PROXY STATEMENT**

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MONARCH CASINO & RESORT, INC.

**3800 South Virginia Street**

**Reno, Nevada 89502**

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**PROXY STATEMENT**

This Proxy Statement is prepared for the stockholders of Monarch Casino & Resort, Inc. (the Company, we, our or Monarch) in connection with the annual meeting of stockholders of the Company to be held at the Atlantis Casino Resort Spa, 3800 South Virginia Street, Reno, Nevada 89502, on Wednesday, May 21, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. local time, and any adjournment thereof, for the purposes indicated in the Notice of Annual Meeting of Stockholders and more fully outlined herein.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE MEETING**

**Question: What is the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy materials that I received in the mail instead of a full set of proxy materials?**

**Answer:** Under rules adopted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, we are furnishing proxy materials to certain of our stockholders via the internet, instead of mailing printed copies of those materials to each stockholder. On or about April 10, 2014 we will mail to our stockholders either a printed copy of our proxy materials, including our proxy statement and our annual report on Form 10-K, or a Notice of Internet Availability containing instructions on how to access our proxy materials. This electronic access process is designed to expedite stockholders' receipt of proxy materials, lower the costs of our annual meeting and help to conserve natural resources. However, if stockholders prefer to receive a printed copy of our proxy materials and a paper proxy card, they may do so by following the instructions included in the Notice of Internet Availability.

**Question: Why am I being provided with access to or receiving these proxy materials?**

**Answer:** You are being provided with access to or are receiving these proxy materials because you owned shares of Monarch common stock as of the close of business on March 24, 2014, our record date. This proxy statement describes in detail issues on which we would like you, our stockholder, to vote. It also gives you information on these issues so that you can make an informed decision. If you will not be able to attend the annual meeting and vote in person, you are encouraged to read this Proxy Statement and then cast your vote as promptly as possible in accordance with the instructions either in the Notice of Internet Availability or, if you received a printed copy of the proxy materials, on the enclosed proxy card. The shares represented by the proxy will be voted if the proxy is properly executed and received by the Company prior to the commencement of the annual meeting, or any adjournment thereof.

**Question: On what questions am I being asked to vote?**

**Answer:**

1. To elect John Farahi, Craig F. Sullivan and Paul Andrews as directors of the Company, each to serve until the 2016 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until his or her successor is elected and qualified, or until such director's earlier death, resignation or removal;
2. To approve the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan;
3. To approve, on an advisory basis, executive compensation;
4. To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.



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**Question: How does the board of directors recommend I vote on these proposals?**

**Answer:** Our board of directors ( Board of Directors or Board ) recommends that you vote your shares FOR each of the nominees for director named in this proxy statement, FOR approval of the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan, FOR, on an advisory basis, executive compensation and FOR transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

**Question: Why are we recommending that stockholders approve the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan?**

**Answer:** We believe an effective and competitive employee incentive program is imperative for the success of our business. The Company's 1993 Directors' Stock Option Plan expired June 13, 2013 and the 1993 Employee Stock Option Plan and 1993 Executive Long-Term Incentive Plan terminate on the date of our 2014 annual meeting of stockholders. Our Compensation Committee and Board of Directors believe the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan will, among other things, continue to align the interests of our directors, officers and employees with those of our stockholders and will continue to help us hire, motivate and properly incentivize our management team and employees.

**Question: Why are the stockholders voting on executive compensation?**

**Answer:** The Securities and Exchange Commission ( SEC ) adopted rules to implement the provisions of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (the Dodd-Frank Act ) relating to stockholder votes on executive compensation ( say-on-pay ) and stockholder votes on the frequency ( say-on-frequency ) of conducting say-on-pay votes. At our 2011 annual meeting of stockholders held on May 6, 2011, our stockholders voted, on an advisory basis, in favor of a three-year cycle for advisory voting related to the frequency of the say-on-pay advisory vote. Subsequently, our Board of Directors adopted the three-year cycle. By voting, on an advisory basis, FOR the approval of executive compensation, stockholders are voting to approve the compensation of our named executive officers as described in the Compensation Disclosure and Analysis, the compensation tables and other narrative compensation disclosures described in the Executive Compensation section of this Proxy Statement. The say-on-pay vote is advisory only and as such, is non-binding on the Company and our Board of Directors.

**Question: Do any of the proposals to be voted on create a statutory right of dissent under Nevada law?**

**Answer:** None of the proposals to be voted on at the annual meeting creates a statutory right of dissent under Nevada law. A vote FOR or AGAINST any of the proposals set forth herein will only affect the outcome of the proposal.

**Question: Who is entitled to vote?**

**Answer:** The record date for the annual meeting is March 24, 2014. Stockholders of record as of the close of business on that date are entitled to vote at the annual meeting. Both stockholders of record and street name holders are entitled to vote or direct the voting of their Monarch

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common stock. You are a stockholder of record if you hold Monarch common stock that is registered in your name at our transfer agent, American Stock Transfer & Trust Company, LLC. You are a street name holder if you hold Monarch common stock indirectly through a nominee, such as a broker, bank or similar organization.

**Question: If I am a stockholder of record, how do I vote?**

**Answer:** *You may vote via the Internet.* You can vote by proxy over the Internet by following the instructions provided in the Notice or on the separate proxy card if you have received a printed set of the proxy materials.

*You may vote by telephone.* You can submit your vote by proxy over the telephone by following the instructions provided on the separate proxy card if you received a printed set of the proxy materials.

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*You may vote by mail.* If you received a printed set of the proxy materials, you can submit your vote by completing and returning the separate proxy card in the prepaid and addressed envelope.

*You may vote in person at the meeting.* All stockholders of record may vote in person at the annual meeting. Written ballots will be passed out to anyone who wants to vote at the meeting.

**Question: If my shares are held by a broker, bank or other nominee, how do I vote?**

**Answer:** If your shares are held in street name by a broker, bank or other nominee, please refer to the instructions they provide regarding how to vote. In addition, if you are a street name holder and you wish to vote in person at the annual meeting, you must obtain a legal proxy from your broker, bank or other nominee in order to vote at the meeting.

**Question: Can I revoke my proxy later?**

**Answer:** Yes. You have the right to revoke your proxy at any time before the annual meeting. If you are a stockholder of record, you may do so by:

1. voting electronically via the Internet or by telephone on a subsequent date prior to 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time on the day before the annual meeting,
2. delivering a signed revocation or a subsequently dated, signed proxy card to the Secretary of Monarch before the annual meeting, or
3. attending the annual meeting and voting in person at the meeting (your mere presence at the annual meeting will not, by itself, revoke your proxy).

For shares you hold in street name, you may change your vote by submitting new voting instructions to your broker, bank or other nominee or, if you have obtained a legal proxy from your broker, bank or other nominee giving you the right to vote your shares at the annual meeting, by attending the meeting and voting in person.

**Question: How many shares can vote?**

**Answer:** As of the close of business on the record date of March 24, 2014; 16,669,170 shares of common stock were issued and outstanding. We have no other class of voting securities outstanding. Each share of common stock entitles its holder to one vote.

**Question: How is a quorum determined?**

**Answer:** Our Bylaws provide that the holders of fifty percent (50%) of the voting power of the stock issued and outstanding and entitled to vote at the meeting, represented in person or by proxy, constitute a quorum at a meeting of the stockholders. Abstentions and broker non-votes will be counted as present for quorum purposes.

**Question: What is required to approve each proposal once a quorum has been established?**

**Answer:**

*Election of Directors.* An affirmative vote of a majority of the votes present and entitled to vote at the meeting, either in person or by proxy, is required for the election of directors. A properly executed proxy marked **WITHHOLD AUTHORITY** with respect to the election of one or more directors will not be voted with respect to the director or directors indicated, although it will be counted for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum. Stockholders do not have the right to cumulate their votes for directors.

*Approval of the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan.* An affirmative vote of a majority of the votes present and entitled to vote at the meeting, either in person or by proxy, is required to extend the termination date of the Employee Plan.

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*Advisory Vote on Executive Compensation.* An affirmative vote of a majority of the votes present and entitled to vote at the meeting, either in person or by proxy, is required for approval of the advisory vote on executive compensation. Because your vote is advisory, it will not be binding on the Board of Directors or the Company. However, the Board of Directors will review the voting results and take them into consideration when making future decisions regarding executive compensation.

*Other Items.* For any other item which may properly come before the meeting, the affirmative vote of a majority of the votes present and entitled to vote at the meeting, either in person or by proxy, will be required for approval, unless otherwise required by law.

**Question: What happens if I abstain?**

**Answer:** Abstentions are treated as shares present or represented and voting, so abstaining has the same effect as a negative vote for each of the proposals. Abstentions are counted for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum.

**Question: How will my shares be voted if I do not give specific voting instructions?**

If you are a stockholder of record and you:

- Indicate when voting on the Internet or by telephone that you wish to vote as recommended by our Board of Directors; or
- Sign and send in your proxy card and do not indicate how you want to vote, then the proxyholders, John Farahi and Bob Farahi, will vote your shares in the manner recommended by our Board of Directors as follows: FOR each of the nominees for director named in this proxy statement, FOR approval of the 2014 Equity Incentive Plan, FOR, on an advisory basis, executive compensation and FOR transacting such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

All of the proposals contained in this proxy statement are considered non-discretionary items. If your shares are held by a broker on your behalf (that is, in street name), and you do not instruct the broker as to how to vote these shares on any of the proposals included in this proxy statement, the broker may not exercise discretion to vote for or against those proposals. This would be a broker non-vote and these shares will be counted for purposes of determining whether there is a quorum. Broker non-votes will be treated as though they are not entitled to vote and will not affect the outcome of proposals 1, 2 or 3. Please instruct your bank or broker so your vote can be counted.

**Question: How will voting on any other business be conducted?**

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**Answer:** Although we do not know of any business to be considered at the annual meeting other than the proposals described in this proxy statement, if any other business properly comes before the annual meeting, your proxy or voting instruction gives authority to the proxyholders, John Farahi and Bob Farahi, to vote on those matters in their discretion.

**Question: What if a quorum is not present at the meeting?**

**Answer:** If a quorum is not present at the scheduled time of the annual meeting, we may adjourn the meeting, either with or without the vote of the stockholders. If we propose to have the stockholders vote whether to adjourn the meeting, the proxyholders will vote all shares for which they have authority in favor of the adjournment. We may also adjourn the meeting if for any reason we believe that additional time should be allowed for the solicitation of proxies. An adjournment will have no effect on the business that may be conducted at the annual meeting.

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**Question: How much stock do Monarch's directors and executive officers own?**

**Answer:** As of March 24, 2014, our current directors and executive officers collectively beneficially owned 5,326,792 shares of our common stock, constituting approximately 30.9% of the outstanding shares. It is expected that these persons will vote the shares held by them for each of the director nominees named in this proxy statement and in accordance with the Board of Directors' recommendation on the other proposals contained in this proxy statement.

**Question: Who will bear the costs of this solicitation?**

**Answer:** Our Board of Directors is soliciting these proxies. We will pay the cost of this solicitation of proxies by mail. Our officers and regular employees may also solicit proxies in person or by telephone without additional compensation. We will make arrangements with brokerage houses, custodians, nominees and other fiduciaries to send proxy materials to their principals, and we will reimburse these persons for related postage and clerical expenses.

## VOTING SECURITIES

The close of business on March 24, 2014 has been fixed by the Board as the record date for determination of stockholders entitled to vote at the annual meeting. The securities entitled to vote at the annual meeting consist of shares of common stock, par value \$.01 ( Common Stock ), of the Company, with each share entitling its owner to one vote. Common Stock is the only outstanding class of voting securities authorized by the Company's Articles of Incorporation. The Company's Articles of Incorporation authorize the Company to issue 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$.01 ( Preferred Stock ). None of the Preferred Stock is issued or outstanding, and the Company has no present plans to issue shares of Preferred Stock.

The Board is empowered to issue one or more series of Preferred Stock with such rights, preferences, restrictions, and privileges as may be fixed by the Board, without further action by the Company's stockholders. The issuance of the Preferred Stock could adversely affect the rights, including voting rights, of the holders of the Common Stock and could impede an attempted takeover of the Company. In addition to none of the Preferred Stock being currently outstanding, the Preferred Stock does not presently possess general voting rights.

The number of outstanding shares of Common Stock at the close of business on March 24, 2014 was 16,669,170. The number of shares outstanding may change between such date and April 10, 2014 (the date on or about that we will mail to our stockholders either a printed copy of our proxy materials and our annual report on Form 10-K or a notice containing instructions on how to access our proxy statement and annual report and how to vote online) if any currently exercisable options to purchase Common Stock are exercised, if the Company elects to repurchase and cancel any shares in open market or privately negotiated transactions, or if the Company otherwise authorizes the issuance of any shares.





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**SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF MANAGEMENT  
AND CERTAIN OTHER BENEFICIAL OWNERS**

The following is a list of persons who beneficially owned more than 5% of the outstanding Common Stock and the ownership of all executive officers, directors, director nominees, and executive officers and directors as a group at the close of business on March 24, 2014, according to record ownership listings as of that date, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission Forms 3, 4 and 5 and Schedules 13D and 13G of which the Company has received copies, and according to verifications which the Company solicited and received from each executive officer and director:

Title of Class	Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership(1)(2)	Percent of Class
Common	John Farahi 3800 South Virginia Street Reno, NV 89502	3,231,894(3)(4)	19.14%
Common	Ronald M. Rowan	44,789	*
Common	Yvette E. Landau	24,400(8)	