

FAQs on Virginia Casinos

For citizens:

Q: When will Richmond residents vote on the question of whether casino gaming will be allowed in the City of Richmond?

A: The Richmond referendum will be held in the November 2, 2021 General Election.

Q: When will I be able to visit a casino?

A: The casino operators in each of the host cities (Bristol, Danville, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Richmond) have different time and construction schedules. It is not anticipated that any Virginia casino will be open in 2021.

Q: How old must I be to visit the gaming floor of a casino?

A: No person under the age of 21 will be permitted to be on the gaming floor or to participate in wagering on the outcome of a casino game.

Q: Will the public have an opportunity to comment on the casino gaming rules?

A: Yes, there will be a public comment period during the casino regulatory process. Anyone interested in participating in the regulatory process should go to <https://www.townhall.virginia.gov/> and follow the instructions to register as a Town Hall public user. Registered users will receive automatic notifications of all regulatory activity—including public comment periods.

Q: Is online casino gaming legal?

A: Once a licensed casino establishment is open to the public, patrons 21 years and older will be able to play casino games on a mobile device while on the premises of the establishment.

Q: What resources are available to assist problem and compulsive gamblers?

A: The law establishes provisions for self-exclusion programs and funding for the state's new Problem Gambling Treatment and Support Fund. If you need assistance with a gambling problem, please call the Virginia Problem Gambling Helpline, 888-532-3500 (toll free). If you would like to exclude yourself from legalized gambling in the Commonwealth, please visit <https://www.valottery.com/playingmatters/voluntaryexclusionprogram> for more information.

Q: What types of games are casinos in Virginia permitted to offer?

A: "Casino gaming" is defined as baccarat, blackjack, twenty-one, poker, craps, dice, slot machines, roulette wheels, Klondike tables, punchboards, faro layouts, numbers tickets, push cards, jar tickets, or pull tabs and any other activity that is authorized by the Board as a wagering game or device. "Casino gaming" includes on-premises mobile casino gaming.

Q: Will other cities in Virginia be able to host casino gaming operations in the future?

A: The legislation authorizes one casino in each of the following cities: Bristol, Danville, Norfolk, Portsmouth and Richmond. No other cities in Virginia may host a casino at this time.

For localities:

Q: Once the Richmond City Council has selected Richmond's preferred casino gaming operator, what happens next?

A: The City of Richmond may submit its complete certification package for preliminary review by the Lottery anytime on or after June 1, 2021.

Q: How does the locality submit preliminary review documents for their preferred casino gaming operator?

A: The city will be required to submit one paper copy of its documentation along with one copy on a USB flash drive, to Virginia Lottery, Attn: General Counsel, 600 E. Main St., Richmond VA 23219.

Q: How much time will the Lottery have to evaluate the preliminary review documentation and issue a letter certifying the city to proceed to referendum on November 2, 2021?

A: The Lottery must conduct the preliminary review of Richmond's documentation within 45 days of receipt of the completed submission.

Q: What happens after the Lottery issues the letter certifying the City of Richmond to proceed to referendum on the casino question?

A: Following receipt of the letter, the city must petition the court, by resolution, asking that a referendum be held on the question of whether casino gaming shall be permitted within the city. Pursuant to § 24.2-682 of the Code of Virginia, the deadline for the court to order such referendum is 81 days prior to the election. The court shall order the question no later than Friday, August 13, 2021.

Q: What happens if the Richmond referendum is successful?

A: If a majority of those voting in a referendum vote in the affirmative, and such outcome is certified by the State Board of Elections, the city must certify its preferred casino gaming operator in writing and submit its certification to the Lottery.

After such certification is received by the Lottery, the casino operator certified by the city may file its application for an operator's license pursuant to the instructions posted on <https://www.valottery.com/aboutus/casinosandsportsbetting/casinos>.

Q: Will eligible host cities receive any of the revenue from casino taxes?

A: Casino revenues will be taxed 6% on the first \$200 million of adjusted gross receipts; 7% on the adjusted gross receipts that exceed \$200 million but do not exceed \$400 million; and 8% on the adjusted gross receipts that exceed \$400 million.

Revenues from the tax shall be appropriated in the following way:

For any casino gaming establishment operated by a Virginia Indian tribe, an amount equal to a tax of 1% on the adjusted gross receipts of such establishment shall be deposited in the Virginia Indigenous People's Trust Fund.

.8% of the tax shall be appropriated to the Problem Gambling Treatment and Support Fund.

.2% of the tax shall be appropriated to the Family and Children's Trust Fund.

Any remaining revenues in the Fund shall be appropriated annually to fund public school construction, renovations, or upgrades.

For potential licensees:

Q: Does a potential casino gaming operator need to share documentation with the Lottery during the preliminary review process, in addition to the documentation submitted by the city?

A: The eligible host city's submission includes a completed Casino Business Entity Disclosure form and a signed Joint Acknowledgement form completed by the potential casino operator.

Q: When can a potential operator apply for a license?

A: A preferred casino gaming operator may apply for a license after the results of a successful referendum have been certified by the State Board of Elections and the eligible host city has certified and submitted the name of its preferred casino operator to the Lottery.

Q: How much time will the Lottery have to review and make a determination on a casino operator's licensure?

A: By statute, the Lottery Board must make a determination regarding whether to issue the operator's license within 12 months of the receipt of a completed application.

Q: When will supplier/vendor permit forms be made available?

A: Sample applications may be found at

<https://www.valottery.com/aboutus/casinosandsportsbetting/cas>

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Q: How can I remain informed of the regulatory process for the casino regulations?

A: Information about regulatory actions, included proposed changes to Virginia's regulations,

meetings, and board minutes, are available to the public on the Virginia Regulatory Town Hall website. Anyone interested in participating in the regulatory process should go to <https://www.townhall.virginia.gov/> and follow the instructions to register as a Town Hall public user.