

FAQs on Virginia Casinos

For citizens:

Q: When will citizens in eligible host cities be able to participate in a referendum on whether casino gaming will be allowed in that city?

A: With the exception of Richmond, upon successful preliminary review and court ordered referendum, the question of casino gaming within the city will be on the ballot for voters in an eligible host city during the November 3, 2020 General Election.

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

A: Each eligible host city and casino operator will have different time and construction schedules. It is not anticipated that any casino will be open in 2020.

Q: How old must I be to enter a casino? To play casino games?

A: There is no age limit to enter a casino. However, no person shall wager on or conduct any wagering on the outcome of a casino game unless such person is 21 years of age or older.

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 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.

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 premise of the establishment.

Q: Will there be tools available to assist problem and compulsive gamblers?

A: Yes. 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).

Q: What types of games will the casinos 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: Under the current legislation, only the localities identified therein will be authorized to conduct casino gaming (Richmond, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Danville, and Bristol).

For localities:

Q: What sort of assistance can the Lottery provide to an eligible host city before it submits a preferred casino gaming operator for preliminary review?

A: The law states that, upon request of any eligible host city, the Lottery shall provide a list of resources that may be of assistance in evaluating the technical merits of any proposal submitted, provided that selection of the preferred casino gaming operator shall be at the city's sole discretion.

Q: Our local governing board has selected their preferred casino gaming operator. When can they submit paperwork for preliminary review by the Lottery?

A: The Lottery will begin accepting documentation associated with the preliminary review on June 1, 2020.

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

A: Localities will be required to submit documentation on paper with an accompanying copy on USB flash drive.

Q: How long will the Lottery evaluate the preliminary review documentation before making a decision?

A: The Department shall conduct the preliminary review within 45 days of receipt of the completed submission by the eligible host city.

Q: What happens after the Lottery makes a decision on preliminary review for a locality's preferred casino gaming operator?

A: Upon successful preliminary review, the locality shall petition the court, by resolution, asking that a referendum be held on the question of whether casino gaming shall be permitted within the city. Per § 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 August 14, 2020.

Q: What happens after the referendum is approved?

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 eligible host city shall certify its preferred casino gaming operator and submit such certification to the Lottery

After such certification is filed by the locality with the Lottery, a preferred casino gaming operator desiring to operate a casino gaming establishment shall file with the Lottery an application for an operator's license.

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?

A: The eligible host city's submission must include a completed Casino Business Entity Disclosure form and a signed Joint Acknowledgement form completed by the potential gaming 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 operator to the Lottery.

Q: How long will the Lottery have to review and make a determination on operator licensure?

A: The Lottery Board shall 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: At a future TBD date.

Q: When will service/employee permit forms be made available?

A: At a future TBD date.

Q: How can I follow the regulatory process for initial casino regulations?

A: Regulatory actions, included proposed changes to Virginia's regulations, meetings, and board minutes, can be followed with Virginia Regulatory Town Hall. 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.