



Local Voter Approval of Casino Bet Limits and Games in Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek

Placed on the ballot by citizen initiative • Passes with a majority vote

Amendment 77 proposes amending the Colorado Constitution and the Colorado statutes to:

- allow voters in the three gaming cities — Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek — to increase or remove current bet limits and approve any new casino games in each city; and
- expand the current use of casino tax revenue for community colleges to include student retention and completion programs.

What Your Vote Means

YES A “yes” vote on Amendment 77 means that the voters of Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek will be allowed to increase or remove casino bet limits and approve new casino games to help fund community colleges.

NO A “no” vote on Amendment 77 means that current casino bet limits and games will remain in the constitution, and a statewide vote will continue to be required to make any changes to these restrictions.

Summary and Analysis for Amendment 77

What happens if Amendment 77 passes?

- Casino bet limits and restrictions on the types of casino games in each gaming city will be removed from the constitution.
- Voters in Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek may approve new casino bet limits and add new casino games in their respective cities. Current games and bet limits of \$100 will remain until the voters of each city authorize different bet amounts and/or games.
- If local voters in the three gaming cities approve new casino games and bet limits:
 - the Colorado Gaming Commission will establish rules for the new games;
 - casinos may offer new casino games and any new bet limits starting May 1, 2021; and
 - community colleges may use any additional casino tax revenue to fund student retention and completion programs, in addition to uses already allowed under current law, which include student financial aid, classroom instruction, and workforce development programs.

What types of gambling are currently allowed in Colorado?

In 1990, Colorado voters passed a constitutional amendment allowing bets of up to \$5 on slot machines, blackjack, and poker only in Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek. The limits on casino gambling were expanded in 2008, allowing the games of roulette and craps, bets of up to \$100, and extended casino hours of operation. Sports betting was legalized both online and at casinos in 2019.

Outside of Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek, Colorado also permits gambling on horse racing, simulcast horse and dog races, the state lottery, and bingos and raffles sponsored by nonprofit organizations. These types of gambling will not be impacted by this measure.

Gambling is also legal at the Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribal casinos, which will not be impacted by this measure.

If new casino bet limits and games are approved, how would additional state tax revenue be spent?

Under current law, casinos pay taxes on all bets made minus all payouts to players. Conditional upon voter approval, Amendment 77 will likely generate additional casino tax revenue, depending on the bet limits and games that are approved.

After casino regulation expenses are paid, any additional tax revenue will be distributed, along with existing tax revenue, in the manner required under current law:

- 78 percent will go to community colleges;

- 12 percent will go to Gilpin and Teller Counties; and
- 10 percent will go to the cities of Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek.

How does Amendment 77 change the way community colleges spend gaming tax revenue?

This measure expands the way community college funding from gaming can be spent to include programs and services that promote student retention and degree completion programs. Currently, community colleges are allowed to spend gaming tax revenue on financial aid, classroom instruction, and workforce development programs.