



To: CML Executive Board
From: Heather Stauffer, Legislative & Policy Advocate
Date: September 11, 2020
Subject: Recommendation to support Amendment 77, Local Voter Approval of Gaming Limits in Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek

Summary

In 2008 Colorado voters approved Amendment 50, an amendment to the Colorado Constitution that allowed voter-approved revisions to the limited gaming framework. Amendment 50 set the maximum single bet limit to \$100 for any game, extended the hours for limited gaming operation, and established the types of games allowed at casinos. Amendment 50, which was supported by CML, also set up the current framework for limited gaming fund distributions which includes 78% to the state's public community colleges to supplement existing state funding for student financial aid programs and classroom instruction programs; 10% to the governing bodies of Central City, Black Hawk, and Cripple Creek to address local gaming impacts; and 12% to the governing bodies of Gilpin and Teller Counties to address local gaming impacts.

Amendment 77 would amend the Colorado Constitution and state statute to allow voters in Central City, Black Hawk, and Cripple Creek to vote to increase bet amounts beyond the current \$100 maximum and expand the types of games allowed at casinos in the three cities beginning in May 2021. Additionally, the measure would allow gaming revenue distributed to the state's public community colleges to be spent on programs that improve student retention and increase completion of credentialed programs. Because it amends the Colorado Constitution, Amendment 77 will need 55% approval to pass. If it passes and local communities vote to increase bet limits, local government revenue may increase if gaming tax revenue goes up.

Staff Recommended Motion

Staff recommends the Board adopt the following:

Because Amendment 77 enhances local control for aspects of gaming in the cities of Black Hawk, Central City, and Cripple Creek, may increase revenue to community colleges in several Colorado municipalities, and may increase municipal revenue received through limited gaming fund distributions, the Colorado Municipal League does now support Amendment 77. The League is authorized to make cash and other contributions from private source revenues to an appropriate issue committee provided such contributions are expended from the special fund maintained by the League for such purposes. Such contributions shall not exceed private source revenues available to the League. The League is also authorized to make expenditures of staff time and other resources in the regular course and scope of the League's work informing its membership and others."