

June 28, 2024

NYS GAMING FACILITY LOCATION BOARD ISSUES UPDATED TIMELINE TO ENSURE ROBUST COMPETITION AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Applications due June 27, 2025; Community Advisory Committees must vote by September 30, 2025; Board selections by December 1, 2025; License fee(s) collected by December 31, 2025

The New York State Gaming Facility Location Board unanimously approved an updated timeline for the Request for Applications (RFA) for commercial casino licenses, commencing with a June 27, 2025 application deadline and concluding with Commission license determination by December 31, 2025, thus allowing for a robust and community-involved competition for up to three casino licenses.

“This timeline encompasses all legal requirements that potential bidders must meet before we may evaluate applications,” said Board Chair Vicki Been. “This roadmap also gives communities ample opportunity to have their voices heard, establishes a level playing field among multiple competitors, and affords serious applicants the opportunity to participate in a lucrative and transformational process.”

The Board approved amendments to the RFA’s schedule at [yesterday’s public meeting](#):

- Applications will be due June 27, 2025. Community Advisory Committees (CACs) will form immediately thereafter and commence their statutory work.
- CACs must vote on their respective project by September 30, 2025. Those Applicants approved by their CAC will then submit supplemental application material – including a proposed tax rate – to the Board for evaluation and consideration.
- The Board expects to make decisions by December 1, 2025, followed by Commission licensure by December 31, 2025. This ensures that New York State will collect the already-booked casino license fee(s) ahead of schedule.

In addition to CAC approval, all applicants must complete all entitlement processes (land-use/zoning, environmental, etc.) before being eligible for consideration by the Board. The City of New York has amended its zoning code to allow licensed commercial casino gambling as a permitted use by right. However, at least four publicly known potential applicants are not currently able to avail themselves of the zoning change due to specific requirements not covered by the amendment, including mapping changes, grading or revocable consent to construct over streets. The New York City Department of City Planning has advised the Board that the four impacted entities expect to emerge from the zoning (ULURP) process by the end of June 2025.

Additionally, all applicants must complete the [State Environmental Quality Review Act](#), or SEQR, process before submitting an application. SEQR process is lengthy, with the purpose to identify any potential adverse environmental effects of proposed actions, assesses their significance, and propose measures to eliminate or mitigate significant impacts. Applicants are expected to be substantially complete with the environmental reviews by the end of June 2025.

Significant components of a proposal will most likely change during the environmental and zoning approval processes. Requiring application submission after both processes are substantially complete ensures that the Board, CACs, and the public will be reviewing and considering accurate proposals.

To learn more about the casino siting process, visit nycasinos.ny.gov.