AS IT IS

Expansion of Gambling Wins Big on US Election Night

November 05, 2020

The American **gambling** industry won big on Election Day Tuesday. Three states voted to permit legal sports **betting** and three others either approved or expanded gambling in casinos. Casinos are businesses that have gambling and other forms of entertainment activities.

Maryland, South Dakota and Louisiana approved betting on sporting events. The ballot results mean that, by the end of 2021, at least 25 states and the District of Columbia could have legal sports betting in place.

The development comes less than three years after a U.S. Supreme Court ruling ended a federal ban on sports gambling in most states.

"It appears that Americans are becoming increasingly **comfortable** with legalized gambling," said David Schwartz. He is a gambling historian with the University of Nevada Las Vegas.

The state of Virginia approved casino gambling in four places. People in Nebraska voted to permit the addition of casino games at its horse racing **tracks**. And Colorado expanded the number and kind of casino games it can offer, along with removing some betting limits.

In South Dakota, the ballot measure permitted casinos in the town of Deadwood to add in-person sports betting. Deadwood has about 25 casinos. Sports betting will also become legal across much of Louisiana.

The American Gaming Association, the casino industry's main trade group, celebrated the expansion votes. Bill Miller, the organization's head, said that "as a result of the successful ballot measures" in six states, more Americans will have access to jobs, special tax **revenue** and safe entertainment choices where they live.

I'm Ashley Thompson.

The Associated Press reported this story. Ashley Thompson adapted it for VOA Learning English. Mario Ritter, Jr. was the editor.

_____

Words in This Story

gambling –*n.* a kind of game of chance in which players risk money in hopes of gaining more money

betting –*n.* the act of placing money at risk in a game of chance with the understanding that you lose it if you do not win or gain more money if you do

comfortable –*adj.* not causing pain, producing a good feeling

tracks –*n.* a circular path or road that is used for any form of racing

revenue –*n.* money that collected for the public by a government