DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The District of Columbia reported total sports wagering revenue of $94.5 million in 2025, an increase of 75.9% percent on the previous year.



NUMBER OF COMMERCIAL CASINOS

0

CASINO FORMAT

N/A

NOTABLE FORMS OF GAMING

Sports Betting

REGULATORY AUTHORITY

D.C. Office of Lottery and Gaming

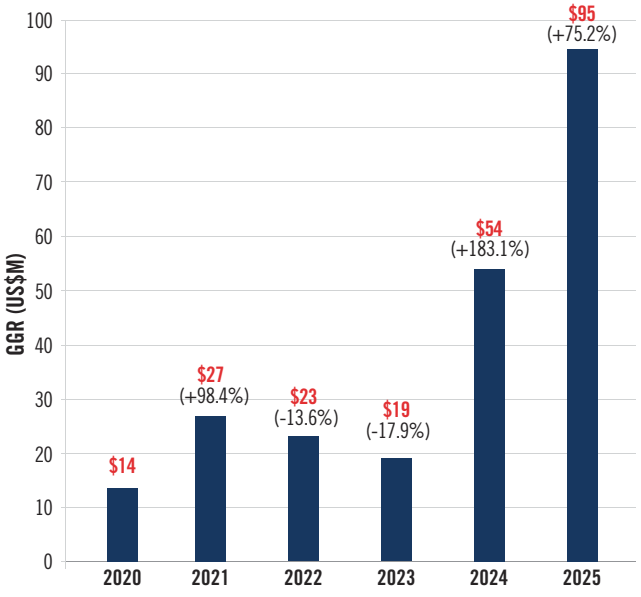
GROSS SPORTS BETTING REVENUE 2025

$94.5M

GAMING TAX REVENUE 2025

$22.1M

WASHINGTON DC: ANNUAL SPORTS BETTING GGR
2020 to 2025



Source: DC Lottery

Market Overview

The District of Columbia has no commercial casino venues but offers sports betting via two retail sportsbooks, six mobile platforms and a network of wagering kiosks installed at over 40 lottery retailer locations.

The city legalized sports betting in 2019 when the D.C. Council passed a law authorizing the D.C. Lottery to directly operate sports wagering via licensed retailers and through a mobile platform available in all parts of the city, with the exception of federal lands.

That law initially authorized Washington D.C.'s four major sports arenas to host a retail sportsbook operation and offer limited mobile wagering within a two-block radius of their facilities. Under legislation approved in 2024, commercial sportsbook operators partnered with either a professional sports team or facility are now able to obtain licenses to also offer mobile sports wagering on a districtwide basis.

In addition, bars and restaurants licensed to serve alcohol in the District of Columbia are eligible to apply for licenses to offer on-site sports betting strictly within their premises.

Sports wagering is regulated by Washington D.C.'s Office of Lottery and Gaming (OLG).

Market Performance

Reflecting the first full 12 months of a competitive market for mobile sports betting, 2025 sports betting revenue in the District of Columbia totaled $94.5 million, up 75.9 percent from 2024.

Reversing an outlier trend of previous years, mobile sports wagering accounted for approximately 92 percent of the overall revenue total. That compared to 86.8 percent in 2024 and around 39 percent in 2023 when citywide online sports betting was limited to a single platform managed directly by the D.C. Lottery.

Gaming Tax Distribution

Sports betting in the District of Columbia is taxed at varying rates depending on the type of license held by the operator.

So-called Category A licensees affiliated with major sports arenas are required to pay a 20 percent tax on revenue earned from retail sports betting offered at the arena or from mobile sports betting offered in other parts of the city.

Category B licensees offering retail sports betting in licensed bars are required to pay a 10 percent tax. Meanwhile, Category C licensees offering mobile sports betting in Washington D.C. in partnership with a local professional sports team are subject to a tax of 30 percent. All licensed sportsbook operations are further subject to a 0.25 percent federal excise tax applied to wagering handle.

In 2025, sports betting operations in the District of Columbia generated total tax revenue of approximately $22.06 million, up 37.4 percent compared to the previous year.

The primary beneficiary of tax revenue generated by sports betting, the District of Columbia Child Trust Fund, is used to provide income support for children in poorer communities within the city. The fund receives all remaining sports betting tax revenue after an initial $2.5 million is set aside for a local aid fund to support investments in affordable housing, infrastructure and economic development.

Competitive Landscape

Following the enactment of the 2024 city budget law, Washington D.C.'s mobile sports betting market now features competition among several of the country's most prominent sportsbook brands that are eligible to offer wagering to players located across the city, with the exception of certain federal lands and exclusivity zones around major sports arenas.

In contrast, competition in the city's retail sports betting market has diminished significantly since 2024. Retail sportsbooks at two of Washington D.C.'s major sports arenas—Nationals Park and Audi Field—both ceased operations in 2025. So too did a smaller, so-called Category B retail sports betting location. Those closures mean that the only retail sportsbooks still operational are the Caesars Sportsbook at Capital One Arena and a FanDuel-branded sportsbook co-located at a bar elsewhere in the city. The District of Columbia's remaining retail sportsbook locations also compete with those at Maryland's land-based casinos and other eligible venues.

In addition to sports betting, the District of Columbia offers traditional and online lottery games via the D.C. Lottery, charitable gaming, and electronic gaming devices that purport to be based on player skill that are permitted in bars and other licensed establishments.

Policy & Regulatory Review

EXPANSION

In May, Mayor Muriel Bowser (D) proposed a significant expansion of gaming within Washington D.C. as part of her proposed city budget law.

The mayor's proposal would have authorized licensed bars, restaurants and hotels to apply for licenses to operate card games, specifically blackjack and poker. Mayor Bowser said the proposal would have raised revenue for the district by retaining patrons who would otherwise play card games at casinos in neighbouring Maryland.

The measure was not included in the annual budget law that was approved by the D.C. Council in July. However, the budget law did include a separate provision to authorize commercial bingo operations within the city. Mayor Bowser also introduced the card games legislation as a standalone bill that was filed for consideration by the D.C. Council in October.

Although card games may be permissible, electronic gaming devices are prohibited within the District of Columbia under a 1962 federal law.