

Poll: Majority of Marylanders support slots

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More than half of Marylanders plan to vote in favor of the slots referendum this November, according to a recent survey.

The survey released by Rasmussen Reports found that 54 percent of Marylanders are in favor of slots, while 35 percent are against the bill.

The survey was conducted via telephone Sept. 20 by interviewing 500 Marylanders.

The margin of error on the survey was 4.5 percent.

The organization joins a growing number of groups endorsing slots in the state. Last week, the Greater Baltimore Committee threw its weight behind the referendum and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce and Maryland Association of Counties have done the same.

If approved, the slots plan would allow slots parlors at five locations: near Laurel Race Course in Anne Arundel County, in Baltimore City near Interstate 95 and Route 295, near Ocean Downs race course in Worcester County, near I-95 in Cecil County, and at Rocky Gap State Park in Allegany County.

Revenue would go largely to fund public education in the state. Five and a half percent would go to local governments, 7 percent to horse racing purses, 2.5 percent to racetrack renewal, and 1.5 percent to a \$20 million minority business investment fund.