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When

Americans go to the polls on November 2, the Oregon population will be voting on whether to see the creation of a new casino in Portland. The plan, proposed under Measure 75, will be the state's first private casino and proponents claim that it will bring \$650 million into the local economy. In addition, \$150 million will be earmarked for local schools and governments, not to mention the thousands of jobs that will be created.

However, not everyone is looking at Measure 75 through rose tinted glasses, and analysts are pointing out that a privately owned casino comes with hidden costs to the state's economy.

In addition, it is believed that a new casino will directly impact the revenues enjoyed by the Oregon Lottery. Although nobody can predict just how hard it will be hit, one thing is sure – school funding and programs will be affected.

The sponsors of the measure, however, are adamant that the pros definitely outweigh the cons in this case and that it would be a shame if Oregon didn't go ahead with the building of the casino.

"There is no development like this," said one of the casino's chief sponsors, Matt Rossman. "This will bring unique and new entertainment venues that don't exist in Oregon."

Measure 75 calls for the developers to spend \$250 million creating the casino, but analysts estimate that nearly double that amount will be spent on the project. Jobs created by the casino will provide annual salaries of \$35,000 plus health benefits, on average.

"They are permanent jobs," said Burde Studer, another sponsor. "They will not migrate. These

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are not jobs that go there and then move overseas. They will be Oregon jobs.”

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