

The south suburban casino race is down to a pair.

Nearly two years after applications were submitted to open a south suburban gambling temple, state regulators on Wednesday narrowed the field of four casino hopefuls down to two competing proposals: one at a site straddling the border of Homewood and East Hazel Crest, and another in Matteson.

The Illinois Gaming Board voted 4-0 to advance those bids and reject pitches from Calumet and Lynwood, with board chairman Charles Schmadeke saying during a virtual meeting that the culling was based on “the quality of the development presentation, and the support to and from the local community.”

The Gaming Board is expected to make a final selection for the long-coveted casino license by early 2022.

The Homewood-East Hazel Crest bid is led by Alabama-based Wind Creek Hospitality, part of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, which runs 10 gambling operations in Alabama, Florida, Nevada, Pennsylvania and the Caribbean island of Curacao. During a public presentation last week, project partners said they’d build a \$300 million, 64,000-square-foot casino [near 175th Street and Halsted Street off Interstate 80](#), along with a 21-story hotel and an entertainment center.

**South suburban casino race: Calumet City, Lynwood out; Matteson, Homewood/East Hazel Crest in**

Written by Administrator  
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[as the site of Lincoln Mall](#)



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