



Liquor License Lottery History

Of the 21 series of liquor licenses available in Arizona, only three are issued in limited quantities by county; the bar license (series 6), the beer and wine bar license (series 7), and the liquor store license (series 9). These three licenses are called "quota" or "lottery" licenses.

When our state's population boomed in the 90s, the Arizona's liquor industry proposed legislation that would increase the number of bar, beer and wine bar, and liquor store licenses (the three most sought-after liquor licenses in Arizona). In 2005 Arizona held the first liquor license lottery. 2023 marks the state's seventeenth.

Quota licenses are issued by county when the population increases by 10,000 since 2010. In 2024, of the 15 Arizona counties, Maricopa experienced population growth of more than 10,000 (since 2010). The number of lottery licenses offered is determined by the population increase since 2010 minus the number of quota licenses issued in that county since 2010. Lastly, in 2018, legislation changed to allow the Director to issue replacement licenses for any previously revoked or reverted licenses. With this change in legislation, the Director has decided to make available in the lottery certain series licenses in Maricopa, Pima, and Pinal Counties.

Before each lottery is conducted, two independent appraisers determine the [Fair Market Value](#) of each license. Fair market values have ranged from a low of \$5,233 for a beer and wine bar license in Gila County to a high of \$930,600 for a liquor store license in Maricopa County.

When the number of entrants exceeds the number of quota licenses offered, a Random Selection Drawing is held to determine the entrants who will continue with the application process. If entrants selected in the random selection drawing elect not to continue with the application process, the opportunity to apply will be offered to the "alternate" identified in the drawing.

There is \$250 entry fee to submit an Entry Form for the lottery. When an entrant is selected to apply for a license, state costs include the application fee, FMV, fingerprint fees, and issuance fees. The local government in the city or town where the business will operate also has applications and fees required to be completed before the license is issued. Non-payment of state fees by due dates result in automatic disqualification. When an entrant is disqualified, an alternate entrant, if any, is notified.

When a Liquor lottery entrant is selected to apply for a liquor license, they must meet state liquor licensing requirements, and the requirements established by the city, town or county where they will conduct business.

A history of lottery results can be reviewed in the Department of Liquor [Annual Report](#).

Liquor License Lottery Statute and Rule: [A.R.S. §4-206.01](#) and [A.A.C. R19-1-204](#)