

## **Gov. Deval Patrick says he would vote against casino in his town**

Gov. Patrick Visits Zanetti School, Praises MCAS Results

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick visits the Alfred G. Zanetti Montessori School in Springfield, 9.27.13.

*(Don Treeger/The Republican)*

**State House News Service** By **State House News Service**

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Pressed by a radio show caller from Palmer, where voters last week **rejected a proposed Mohegan Sun casino**, Gov. **Deval Patrick** said Thursday that he would vote against a casino if one were proposed in Richmond, the western Massachusetts town where he owns a home.

Saying he could not speak for his neighbors, Patrick told Mike from Palmer, "I would vote against it personally" and went on to emphasize that the casino law he signed in 2011 allows "up to" three casinos and a slot parlor.

Like Speaker Robert DeLeo of Winthrop, an expanded gambling supporter who watched as East Boston voters last week rejected a Suffolk Downs casino proposal, Patrick said the casino law was deliberately crafted to ensure that local voters are able to dictate whether their community will host a casino.

"That's exactly the kind of thing that the bill was meant to provide for," Patrick said during an "Ask the Governor" segment on WGBH.

The governor said he did not think the state would end up with three commercial casinos, two tribal casinos and a slot parlor, and said he was okay with phasing in casinos. "It doesn't all have to be done right away," he said, adding that the Mass. Gaming Commission is handling all gaming regulation.