

GAMBLING IN TEXAS

WHEREAS Government-sponsored gambling has had a devastating impact on Americans and many Texas families; and

WHEREAS the gambling industry and professional sports teams will continue their efforts to expand gambling in Texas by introducing casino style gambling and sports betting under the guise of economic development; and

WHEREAS these efforts to expand casino style gambling take the form of land-based casinos, riverboat casinos, sports betting, daily fantasy sports, instant racing, electronic versions of raffles, bingo, lottery scratch tickets, and Keno; phone and computer based wagering, and other games of chance; and

WHEREAS efforts by gambling interests to lobby the legislature for a constitutional amendment on the ballot for voters to approve legalized, state-sanctioned gambling in Texas is due to the fact that it is not a normal business, and gambling interests know they can outspend their opponents by tens of millions of dollars as they already have in other states; and

WHEREAS the predatory gambling business model does not create any new product, rather it is dependent on indebted and addicted citizens, leaving all taxpayers paying for the already proven consequences and societal costs of addiction, suicides, indebtedness, budget deficits, crime, and broken families; and

WHEREAS the freedom to gamble already exists in the form of office pools for a favorite sports team, casual wagers or poker games, however, government-sponsored predatory gambling on state lotteries, regional casinos, sports teams or any other form of gambling is different and violates the rights and freedoms of those who do not play yet are forced to pay for the lower standard of living and budget deficits that state-sanctioned gambling leaves behind; and

WHEREAS while saving leads to wealth creation, 50% of the U.S. has zero or negative net wealth and more than 60% of citizens do not have enough savings to cover a \$1000 emergency expense, asset-building is the direct opposite of commercialized gambling; and

WHEREAS Americans have been losing over \$100 billion of their personal wealth on an annual basis for many years and it has been projected from 2018 – 2026 that Americans will lose more than \$1 trillion of their personal wealth to all forms of government-sanctioned gambling; and

WHEREAS the argument to legalize sports gambling in order for it to end the untaxed, unregulated black market and be moved to the revenue-generating legal market has been proven to not work, nor end the black market gambling industry; and

WHEREAS eight-liners are illegally operated in the State of Texas under the ambiguous “fuzzy animal” exemption; and

WHEREAS commercially operated poker houses are illegally operated in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS dependence on lottery revenue failed to deliver on promises of paying for public education and exploits the weaknesses of Texas' own citizens, collecting a disproportionate amount of revenue from those least able to pay forcing all Texans to pay increased taxes and fees for services; and

WHEREAS professional sports teams are attempting to lead and ultimately participate in the expansion of gambling sending the wrong message to the youth of Texas. Several states that have legalized sports betting soon after had to offer anti-gambling curricula for its' public schools, and in the UK where sports betting has been legal for decades, there has been devastating impacts on children aged 11 to 16, some even younger, by the high frequency of marketing normalizing gambling for kids and leading them to believe it was central to playing and watching sports; and

WHEREAS our government, communities, businesses, and citizens face legitimate risks posed by Class III Indian Gaming in the State of Texas if casino style gambling or legalized sports betting is introduced; and

WHEREAS once Texas allows Class III gambling and the gambling industry to legally operate in the state, this not only opens the door for all forms of gambling but the lobbying power and influence will increase over elected officials at all levels; now therefore

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that we oppose any further legalization, government facilitation, or expansion of any type of gambling including land-based casinos, riverboat casinos, sports betting, daily fantasy sports, instant racing, electronic versions of raffles, bingo, lottery scratch tickets, and Keno; phone and computer based wagering and other games of chance, and oppose government-sponsored gambling as a means of financing state government and urge the Texas Legislature to enact legislation that assists in the vigorous enforcement of existing laws and regulations related to gambling and investigation of attempts to circumvent existing laws, including the repeal of the ambiguous "fuzzy animal" exemption currently found in the penal code.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the _____ County/Senate District # _____ Convention Resolutions Committee from Precinct # _____ with the recommendation that it be passed and sent to the State Convention Platform Committee of the Republican Party of Texas.