

Frequently Asked Questions about Expanded Gambling

I don't gamble. Won't it keep my taxes lower if other people gamble and the state benefits?

The gambling interests falsely claim that millions of dollars in revenue for state and local government will come from casinos, but this money has to come from somewhere because casinos don't print their own currency. *Gambling costs citizens more than tax increases—even for those citizens who NEVER gamble.* Every compulsive gambler costs the economy between \$10,300 - \$22,000: revenue that will come from Kentucky families and businesses.

Multiple studies show that in the end, gambling actually costs the state three times more money than it generates. The money the casino lackeys are promising to give back to local and state governments in tax revenue will come out of the Kentucky economy: "...Money that they [citizens] would normally spend buying a refrigerator or a new car," according to Donald Trump. Casinos play a shell game with a community's money, dropping 2/3 of it in their own kitty, and luring elected officials to think that the money contributed to the state will be a painless way to raise revenues.

Considering the social costs of gambling, including increased crime, bankruptcies, increased public assistance rates, and increased prison populations, casinos are perhaps the most costly form of governmental revenue. Kentucky simply cannot afford these additional burdens, while casinos and their lackeys make off with hundreds of millions of dollars in profits pulled out of the pockets of Kentucky families...our neighbors.

The advertisements say that the current proposals will just keep the money that gamblers are spending out of state here in Kentucky. Isn't that a good thing?

The intent is to get us to vote for casinos to "recover the money going *over the river.*" There are several problems with this idea. First, casinos in Kentucky are unlikely to recover money spent on vacation trips to what are called "destination casinos" in Las Vegas or the Gulf Coast.

Second, casinos located in Kentucky would generally not be "destination" casinos, but what are called "frequency casinos". We would have twice as many people gambling, and the casino corporations would be raking in twice as much money, most of which will still be going out of state. At a recent House Work Group Hearing, the race tracks admitted that a) casinos might not be on race track grounds; and b) that they would need financial partners to build and operate casinos. This is an entirely new message from the race tracks, and suggests that they no casinos are far different enterprises than a race track, where they will need help.