



General Talking Points

(Words in italics are supplementary information)

- The Legislature should allow Texans to vote on a constitutional amendment that would allow Texans to play slot machines at existing licensed racetracks and on recognized Native American reservations.

According to a statewide survey, 82% of Texas voters want the opportunity to vote on this issue. Texans strongly want their Legislature to bring it to the ballot.

- Allowing slot machines at racetracks would bring world-class entertainment facilities, featuring live entertainment, restaurants, spas, hotels and conference spaces. Along with this would come tens of thousands of new, permanent jobs and a constant stream of new tourism dollars to the state.

Texans are already spending more than \$2.5 billion a year gambling in neighboring states. Bringing slot machines to Texas would create \$8.5 billion in economic impact and add to our state's revenue.

- Thirty-Eight other states offer various forms of gambling and opinion polls consistently show that Texans favor making slot machines available in Texas.

According to a statewide survey, 80% of Texas voters polled agree that with more than \$2.5 billion in gambling revenue a year leaving the state, and with the prospect of more than 70,000 new jobs being created, this proposition is the right step for Texas.

- Texans should be allowed to decide if they want to keep their entertainment dollars and those economic benefits here in Texas. Right now, billions of Texas dollars are funding schools and other amenities in states like Louisiana and Oklahoma.

In 2009, Texas lost more than \$2 billion in gaming revenue to Oklahoma and Louisiana alone. A whopping 43.6% of Louisiana's gaming revenue comes straight out of the pockets of Texans. Bring it to the ballot and let Texans have a voice in where their money goes.

- Voters in local option elections have already approved gambling at racetrack locations. License holders are subject to state oversight and thorough background checks. Allowing slot machines at these facilities would mean no expansion in the overall footprint of gambling in Texas.
- Economic analyses tell us we can bring in a significant amount of money for state and local coffers every year. By itself, it won't be enough to solve the

looming state budget problem, but it would help to offset some of the deepest cuts.

Without raising sales tax, gas tax or property taxes, the state will generate approximately \$1 billion in additional tax revenue each year. It will bring more than 70,000 new jobs and \$8.5 billion in total economic activity to Texas.

- The billions of dollars in economic impact and thousands of jobs created by bringing slots to Texas' tracks and Native American reservations will be felt across more than 40 sectors of our state's economy, not just at racetracks.

Based on economic research, for every dollar spent in an out-of-state casino, an additional 52 cents is spent in the local economy on tourism-related goods.

- Fifteen other states have already allowed slot machines at racetracks, with a number of others considering it.
- Tracks in our neighboring states use slot machines to supplement their purse sizes and are then able to offer better racing, luring away Texas' racing and agribusiness industries.

Veterinarians, feed stores, trailer and truck sales, large scale and "mom and pop" breeding operations, horse trainers, and tens of thousands of other Texans employed in the agriculture industry depend on the survival of this vital part of our economy.

- The non-racing Texas horse industry would benefit from this legislation through the Texas Performance Horse Development Fund. This revenue would provide larger prizes for shows, scholarships for youth organizations, and increased funding for horse recreational development.

Texas is a destination for national and world championship events and shows. The Texas Performance Horse Development Fund would allow us to ensure that we are doing everything possible to preserve our rich heritage of horsemanship.

- Revenue from slots machines at Texas racetracks will bolster purses and fund Texas-bred incentive programs, which will allow Texas horse breeding operations to be reinvigorated.

The additional revenue will bring back many breeding operations that have left the state for greener pastures in New Mexico, Oklahoma and Louisiana.