

## **Relying on Gambling Losses is Bad for the Economy**

By Linda Hoffman

Where will the promised “millions” from table games come from? Obviously, from the pockets of our citizens! This is money that might otherwise be spent paying mortgages, buying new cars, saving for college or retirement.

An article entitled “Rats in a Cage” at [theburningplatform.com](http://theburningplatform.com) states: “Americans throw away close to \$100 billion per year gambling in casinos and playing lotteries. Illegal gambling accounts for billions more. This is the net amount spent. In reality, \$60 billion is spent on lottery tickets... Another \$100 billion is squandered in gambling casinos...”

Last year’s bank failures and collapse of the stock market taught us that we’re all impacted economically by others’ losses. Additionally, our community bears the social costs of gambling. It is well-documented that bankruptcy, divorce, suicide rates, domestic violence, and crime all increase with gambling expansion. ([www.casinowatch.org](http://www.casinowatch.org))

**Taylor Branch**, Pulitzer Prize-winning historian, is one of America’s most outspoken voices against gambling expansion. According to Branch, “State-sponsored predatory gambling is essentially a corruption of democracy because it violates the most basic premises that make democracy unique: that you can be self-governing, you can be honest and open about your disagreements as well as your agreements, and that you trust other people that you are in this together. That’s what a compact of citizens is. And the first-step away from it is to play each other for suckers. We’re going to trick them into thinking they are going to get rich but they are really going to be paying my taxes.” (“Predatory Gambling, Democracy and the American Dream” [www.stoppredatorygambling.com](http://www.stoppredatorygambling.com))

Is this really what our founding fathers had in mind as they strived to create “a more perfect union?” I think not. Vote No December 5! For more information visit [Votenotablegames.ORG](http://Votenotablegames.ORG).