

Gambling: A Decline in Cultural Values

In the table games debate, are we asking the deeper questions? With gambling spreading like wildfire nationwide, what is this doing to the state of our culture? What are we teaching our young people about the value of hard work, perseverance and saving when we jump at the opportunity to accept gambling revenue to fund their education? And are we becoming so dependent on gambling dollars to meet our state and local budget needs that we are giving far too much influence and power to gambling operators?

In the midst of the great depression, President Roosevelt never suggested solving our nation's economic woes by legalizing gambling. Instead, he focused on the heart of America, the determination and courage of its people to overcome adversity, and he challenged the nation to rise above fear. During that era, Jefferson County citizens voted to approve funding to build Wright Denny Elementary School despite the hardships they were facing. Are we no longer willing to fund our children's educations without turning to gambling revenue gained by the losses of others?

We used to be a nation that valued hard work, saving, and sacrifice. Promoting gambling is the opposite of these principles. Please seriously consider the direction our culture is heading when you cast your vote on table games December 5.

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