

A deliberate unconstitutional manipulation!

Their highest profile slogan bears witness to the fact that casino promoters will stop at nothing to have their way.

The fact of the matter is that the Kentucky Constitution does not allow for a citizen referendum. It is not in the Constitution!

What is in the Constitution is a clearly outlined procedure for the Constitution itself to be amended. Yes, that process includes a ratification or rejection by the people, but that's an entirely different legal mechanism. In Kentucky's Constitution the people have the final word, but legislators are the ones who vote and make the change to the Constitution — the people simply agree (ratify) or disagree (reject) with what the legislators do. This gives the people the final word after the legislature has proposed, debated and voted up or down on the amendment.

The reason for this strategic deception is obvious when the history of the slogan, "Let the people decide" is examined. KEEF, the Kentucky Equine Education Project, launched its push for casinos in September 2004 in anticipation of the passage of a constitutional amendment in January.

In September, they were marketing the slogan "Horses work for Kentucky," hoping that the focus of Kentuckians would be on helping their noble equine neighbors — these magnificent horses who work for Kentucky. The calculated sleight of hand was designed to have people move down this thought progression: "Horses work for Kentucky," to "Horses work for casinos," to "Casinos work for Kentucky."

The first phrase is true. The second phrase, to be true, must be changed to "Horse owners are using horses to work for casinos." And the last phrase is, and always will be, patently false. Casinos do not work for Kentucky! They work only for the casino owners.

The reason why the slogan "Let the people decide" replaced "Horses work for Kentucky" becomes apparent when one considers the legislators' attitudes when they convened in January of 2005. Advocates both for and against casinos knew that there were too many legislators in conservative rural districts who knew that their constituents did not want casinos. "Working horses" or not, those legislators would be voted out of office if they opened the door to the planning and nurturing of casinos in the Commonwealth.

It was then that the current slogan was born! Casino strategists rationalized, "Let's get the legislators off the hook by telling them, and everyone else, that the General Assembly should 'Let the people decide.'"

Legislators, wanting to avoid the disapproval of anyone (or any voters), quickly grabbed the concept and began "letting them decide" (very nobly) empower the people by "letting them decide."

Casino pushers smiled because they knew they had the money to manipulate the masses through advertising once the Constitutional amendment had been passed by the legislators.

Unfortunately, the Constitution requires legislators to agree to an amendment... and that agreement must be by a three-fifths majority in each Chamber. Then, and only then, do the people get involved (by ratifying or rejecting). It does not say "Legislators can let the people decide."

Why this is so important is made clear when one considers the fact that the framers of the Constitution deliberately chose not to establish a citizen referendum mechanism. They did not want rumors, or advertisers or powerful financial forces to mislead the people and stir up a social or economic misadventure. Framers, instead, wanted daily-elected lawmakers who knew the details of such plans or visions to make the decision after careful study and deliberation.

To say it another way, in order for legislators to "let the people decide," today, another amendment would first have to be passed, one that creates a citizen referendum procedure. Then and only then could a casino amendment legitimately allow the people to decide.

But the most important lesson to be learned about this brilliant but sinister disregard of the Constitution is this: The casino gambling industry will stop at nothing to get its way.

If this is how they fight to get into a state, imagine how they get their way once they're here.

Counting the Cost for Kentucky

One critical aspect that those pushing casinos in Kentucky do not discuss is the MAGNITUDE of the change being proposed.

PERSPECTIVE: To secure the promise of \$500 million to the state each year (which is 35% of the losses of gamblers), gambling experts and professors of economics conclude that \$14.3 billion will have to be gambled each year at the casinos — Red bar.

2007 General Fund — \$8.7 billion

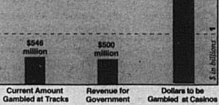
Compare \$14.3 billion to the amount of revenue the state would actually receive (\$500 million) — Blue bar below. Over 28 times the amount!

Also, compare that \$14.3 billion to the amount currently gambled at Kentucky's eight race tracks (\$546 million) — Black bar below. That's over 26 times their current amount — 26 times of new gambling for Kentucky.

Finally, the \$14.3 billion is more than 1/6 times the money that the General Assembly oversees in its 2007 state budget — broken line above.

Handling this new and HUGE amount of money explains why casino advocates WANT their legislation passed — at all costs!

"This is the 'handle' — the total amount wagered."



For more . . .

- To receive more information, to volunteer, to contribute, visit:
 - www.saynotocasinos.org Web site of the Say No To Casinos campaign
 - www.kybaptist.org/publicaffairs Web site of the Kentucky Baptist Convention
 - www.kycage.org Web site of the Coalition Against Gambling Expansion
 - www.tffky.org Web site of The Family Foundation
- or call 859-255-2000

OPINION (A LOOK FROM 1999): They've taken the easy way, deciding, "If you can't beat 'em, join 'em."

Horsemen used to work against casinos

Editor's Note: For years the horse racing industry in Kentucky fought against the expansion of gambling and, in particular, bringing casinos into our state. The Family Foundation worked side-by-side with them. This alliance was broken when the horse industry radically changed its position on one of its own casinos. Blatantly, their earlier views is an opinion piece that former Gov. Brereton Jones and current Chairman of KEEF's board write for the Lexington Herald-Leader that was printed on June 8, 1999. The point is that the horse industry leaders once ardently opposed casinos — legally and ethically. The Family Foundation agrees with Gov. Jones 1999 piece. We do not recognize circumstances that would change the veracity of his arguments.

From the Lexington Herald-Leader Tuesday, June 8, 1999

Let's get straight to the point. Casino gambling in Kentucky is a bad idea. The very thought of our own government promoting the deception of slot machines and roulette wheels is a sad commentary.

These casino "games" are programmed so that the house cannot lose. Regardless of how much money you have, you are guaranteed to lose it all if you play long enough. This is absolute. We already have an abundance of gambling opportunities with the lottery, bingo and horse racing.

At least the horse business creates a signature industry that provides 80,000 jobs and produces a commodity that sells around the world for million of dollars. You can succeed at various levels in the industry with education and hard work.

If we find that casino gambling in adjoining states is destroying this industry, then we will need to make conscious decisions about how we can overcome this situation.

We have already begun to address this with the creation of the National Thoroughbred Racing Association. To react too hastily and create an overabundance of gambling could do major harm to this important segment of our economy.

If we legalize casinos, a few managers, lobbyists and politicians will make a lot of money, and tens of thousands of Kentuckians will lose a lot of money. We are told, however, that the state will make \$200 million to \$300 million and that this can be used to do wonderful things for all of us. You name it and the casino money will pay for it.

Does this sound familiar? I remember a candidate for governor who was proposing a state lottery. His ads said, "What do you want — higher taxes or a lottery?" Kentucky voted for the lottery. We also got the state's highest tax increase in our state's history.

We justifiably from our own person in our society who profits by deceiving others. We have an abundance of laws on the books to protect us from the deception of our fellow citizens.

How then, in the name of decency and common sense, can we justify proposing that our own government should enter into the business of promoting games of chance, where our own citizens have no chance for long-term success?

Gov. Paul Patton deserves a great deal of credit for the emphasis he has put on education, which is absolutely the real key to our future. Preparing our people for good jobs with good pay is a far more worthy goal for our state than to fund the creation of a bunch of casinos, with mostly dead-end jobs, whose intent it is to fleece the public on a daily basis.

We have a Cabinet for Economic Development in state government that is second to none in the United States. It is run by people with great ability, dedication and integrity.

With our educational, business, labor and political leaders working with these folks, we can help give them vision and create better jobs with much better pay than the casinos will ever provide, and we will all feel much better about our future.

Please call your legislators today and ask them to vote no on casino gambling. Tell them to dispose of this issue during the first half of the next session of the General Assembly so that they will be free to do the important business of the people before they adjourn.

They must not allow this issue to monopolize their time. We can do better.



Former Gov. Brereton Jones, current Board Chairman of KEEP

The gambling lobby's deceptive strategies

Though they have a number of tricks up their sleeves, three currently are being used in the Commonwealth.

There are numerous tricks that the gambling advocates don't want you to recognize when they are pushing their agenda. Three of them are clearly identified and should be exposed.

Play #1: "Let the people decide." First, gambling interests know that they ultimately will need a constitutional amendment to authorize the complete expansion of gambling. History is against them so they must change our guiding document. Therefore, they entice legislators by encouraging them to simply "put the issue on the ballot" and "let the people decide."

This sounds so "fair" and so "democratic," but the gambling lobbyists know that this approach works doubly in their favor. It allows the politicians to raise money for government without voting to raise taxes AND without having to take a stand for or against gambling expansion. It's attractive in Frankfort because it's the easy way out for legislators who just want to be re-elected and who feel that voting for a tax increase or going on record about gambling would hurt their chances.

But worse, it also gives politicians easy access to pro-casino money for their next reelection bid or for their party. This became painfully true in Kentucky when the gambling proponents dumped \$500,000 into one state senate election in 2006.

Savvy citizens can counter this move

effectively by letting their legislators know in a kind way that they will vote against any legislator who votes FOR expanded gambling or who votes TO OPEN THE DOOR to expanded gambling by voting to "put it on the ballot" or "let the people decide."

Second, watch for pledges of government support to select groups and programs. This tactic by lobbyists works on constitutional amendments as well as simple pieces of legislation. Here's how.

Gambling lobbyists secure support for their legislation by recruiting other groups and organizations with promises of funding via the proceeds generated by gambling. In essence, they "buy" support by promising "this million dollars for that group" and "that million dollars for this program."

For instance, how could you expect the powerful Kentucky Education Association (KEA) to be against expanded gambling if they are assured their teachers will receive "X million dollars" in teacher benefits from the proceeds? Technically this methodology

is legal, but in spirit it's more akin to bribery than it is to a sound policy debate process. (The main difference is that the money promised to create support is public money, not private.)

Unfortunately, this kind of approach works more often than not.

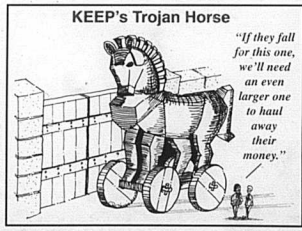
Play #2: "Recruit support with money" Second, watch for pledges of government support to select groups and programs. This tactic by lobbyists works on constitutional amendments as well as simple pieces of legislation. Here's how.

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"If they fall for this one, we'll need an even larger one to haul away their money."

themselves over time if it passes — billions!)

To put that in context, \$20 million is minuscule compared to their long-term return, but more than both gubernatorial campaigns spent combined in 2003.

Citizens should expect (and demand) from their legislators protection from that kind of big-money power, which ultimately has a sights set on acquiring the wealth of Kentucky citizens.