



Georgia Baptist

Resolution on Rejecting All Gambling Expansion in Georgia

*Submitted by Chris Alexander, Messenger from Chestnut Grove Baptist Church,
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WHEREAS, the Georgia Baptist Convention since 1963 has voiced its opposition at least 22 times to the gambling industry, and the devastating effects of gambling upon the moral and economic life of our state and nation; and

WHEREAS, we are living in a day when societal acceptance of gambling is beyond anything we would have thought possible in our times; and

WHEREAS, statistics reveal there are as many as 48 states in the U.S. that have some form of legalized gambling and of those states, 39 have some form of legal sports betting; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that nearly 9 in 10 Americans have gambled at some point in their lifetime, and that more than 6 in 10 have gambled in the last year, which could amount to 102 million people; and

WHEREAS, we must acknowledge the fact that gambling is out of character with Biblical morality and therefore, gambling is immoral and contrary to establish Biblical moral principles; and

WHEREAS, there are many Scriptures, including the Ten Commandments that talk about the supremacy of worshiping God (Ex. 20:3; Deut. 18:9-12; Matt. 6:33). Because gambling is basically more about “luck” and not skill, it encourages people to put their trust in “chance” and “superstition”; and

WHEREAS, the Bible also teaches that man is to work creatively and use his possessions for the good of others (Eph. 4:28); gambling fosters a something-for-nothing attitude. The Bible calls for careful stewardship, gambling calls for reckless abandon. The Bible condemns covetousness and materialism (Matt. 6:24-34); gambling has both at its heart. The Christian work ethic is damaged by gambling; and

WHEREAS, popular gambling of our day could be more accurately characterized as “predatory gambling”, which occurs when corporate gambling interests’ partner with the government to manipulate and exploit its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Scripture says in Galatians 5:17, “*For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.*” Gambling, however, encourages a compulsion to a behavior that once a person is “hooked”, it becomes uncontrollable. Anywhere predatory gambling is expanded; addiction exponentially skyrockets; and



WHEREAS, when more gambling is legalized, it also violates the principle of governmental ministry (Romans 13:4) by permitting laws that encourage its citizens to participate in the deviant gambling industry; and

WHEREAS, we must understand that government-sanctioned gambling encourages that which is evil and perverts the purpose for which God intended government; and

WHEREAS, state-sponsored gambling is based on the pretext that they are allowing and encouraging something evil, but it is being “sanctified” and “regulated” because it is supposedly being done for good (For example: raising tax revenue to help the children). This is not justification; and

WHEREAS, we have already seen repeatedly, when it comes to legalizing social moral vices, that the theoretical benefits – economic and otherwise -- do not match the devastating negative impact that further availability of these kinds of things produces in our culture; and

WHEREAS, there is no amount of taxation, regulation and economic gain that would justify the harm that more legalized gambling would have on government, businesses, individuals, marriages, families, and children; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the messengers of the Georgia Baptist Convention meeting at First Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, November 10-11, 2025, urge all the members of the Georgia Legislature to stop all efforts to expand state-sponsored predatory gambling in the State of Georgia; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that legislature understands that we live in a representative republic where the people have given them the responsibility to allow issues to be voted on only if the lawmakers believe it is in the best interest of the people they represent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that our legislators do not fail in fulfilling their responsibility of making laws by saying, “We’ll just let the people decide.” Legislators should not abdicate their duty to determine if something is or is not good for the people of our state; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the legislature needs to evaluate the benefits, and the detriments, of increasing state-sponsored predatory gambling and prove that it is not in the best interests of our citizens to put it on the ballot and allow the citizens to be misled about its benefits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we pray for and lend our aid and support to our Public Affairs Ministry as we confront this menacing issue at the Capitol and that our churches and pastors educate and speak out against this evil industry in our communities; and



BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to Georgia's Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Speaker of the House and the sitting state senators and representatives who represent the people of Georgia.