

# The Lottery?

## Get A Real Education

As an individual who is concerned about the well being of the people of Oklahoma, it is important for you to hear the truth. There has been a tremendous amount of misinformation on the issue of legalized gambling.

For the last two decades, gambling proponents in Oklahoma have proclaimed the economic and educational benefits of pari-mutuel and casino gambling, and most recently, a state lottery.

According to *Word & Way*, however, it's estimated that "for every dollar the legalized gambling interests indicate is being contributed to taxes, it really costs the taxpayers at least three dollars -- and a more reasonable number is seven dollars."

States sell lotteries as a painless substitute for taxes and a way to raise money for education. But in 1996, an investigation by *Money* magazine revealed that lottery states collect more in taxes and spend less on schools than states without lotteries! Many big lotto states like Illinois, California and Florida have experienced serious education shortfalls after legalizing a state lottery.

The lottery also cannibalizes legitimate business. In California, one entire chain of grocery stores quit selling lottery tickets after discovering the stores were losing \$1 in food sales for every \$1 in lottery tickets sold (according to Alabama Family Alliance).

Lotteries victimize those families who can least afford it. A California study revealed that 40% of lottery players are unemployed. On the national average, lottery gamblers with household incomes under \$10,000 bet nearly three times as much as those with incomes over \$50,000. (from Ethics & Religious Liberties Commission)

Also, the lottery is just a sucker's bet. Your chance of winning is 1 in 54 million, or 1 in 85 million if you play the multi-state Powerball. (ERLC)

We in the S.A.N.E. organization have worked very hard to provide you with accurate information about the lottery and it's impact on our state. As you can see from the files listed on our website, we examine the lottery from both a biblical and a socio-economic perspective, we provide you with information on actions your church and community can take to battle this problem, we offer you informed opinions from some state and national leaders, and we provide you with a list of some internet resources to help you with any further research.

Please take these tools and use them to enlighten people within your sphere of influence about the dangers of legalized gambling in Oklahoma.

If you need any further assistance, or if you'd like to book a S.A.N.E. speaker for your church or civic club, contact us at:

(405) 681-1678 or [echaffin@swbell.net](mailto:echaffin@swbell.net)

Let's make a difference in our state and in our world!

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