

THE WEEKLY ENUMERATOR

SEPTEMBER 24, 2015

SCORECARD FOR LEGISLATION & POLICY

SURVEY QUESTION

Should Georgians support Representative Stephens on HB 677 and in his bid to allow casino gambling?

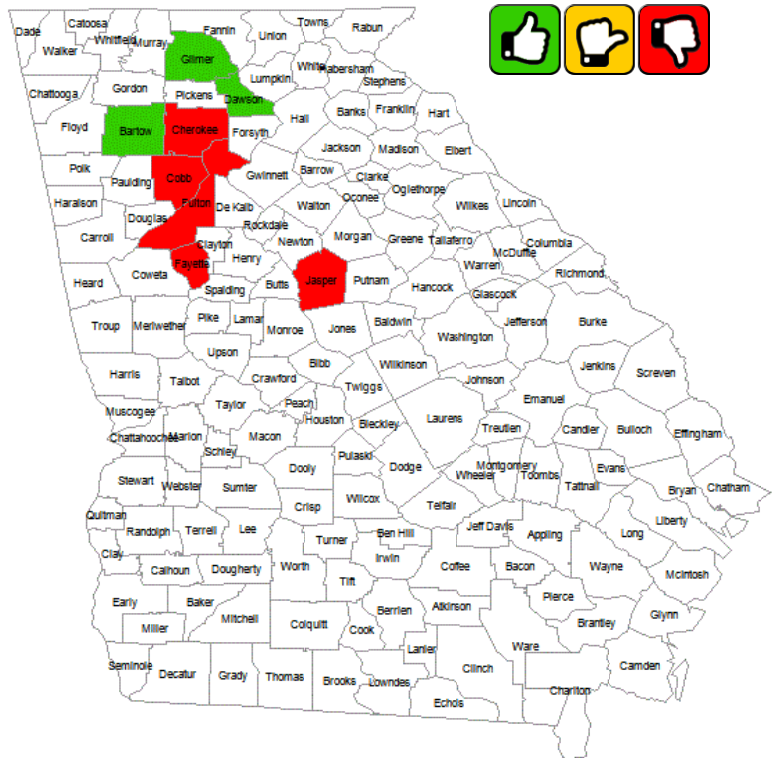
**4% of Georgia Counties Reported
39% Voted YES
0% Voted MAYBE
60% Voted NO**

Representative Ron Stephens (R-Savannah) is promoting HB 677 to allow casino gambling in Georgia. This would allow local referendums to be voted and approved by Georgia voters.

Representative Stephens chairs the Economic Development & Tourism Committee in the House.

He believes there are significant opportunities to grow jobs and revenues in Georgia if this amendment were to be approved. Georgia

Republicans voted to approve casino gambling in a non-binding resolution in 2012.



VOICES OF ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES



Rep. Ron Stephens, (R-GA) District 164 - "The tourism destination casino has been way over due to get tourists into Georgia and their dollars into Georgia to fund higher education and pre-K," Stephens told the AJC.

To prove themselves committed and capable of pulling off the kinds of resorts envisioned, casino developers would be required to invest \$1 billion in the Atlanta area casino and \$200 million for a license in other parts of the state.



Gov. Nathan Deal, (R-GA) - "Georgia Governor Nathan Deal has been vocal about his resistance to casino gambling , "I am opposed to casino gambling I think it does not offer benefits that outweigh the negatives," he told 11Alive News earlier this summer."

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VOICES FROM AROUND THE STATE

COMMENTS - YES VOTERS

- “We can take the revenue or watch it flow to other jurisdictions. No need, however, to offer any special treatment, such as incentives or tax abatement, because the gambling public is plenty incentive enough.”
- “People are going to leave the state to gamble anyway, so why not let Georgia capture the needed revenue.”
- “I could be good if they keep it as a local option with periodic renewals.”
- “JOBS! Tax Revenue!”



COMMENTS - NO VOTERS

- “Casinos bring crime, prostitution, addictive gambling, and a host of other social ills. At the same time they do not bring in the bundles of revenue for the state advocates promise. There are plenty of casinos within driving distance.”
- “No! Legalized gambling is the last resort of an incompetent government. Look at Atlantic City. Functionally it acts as a tax on the poor. And please don't say "it's for the children" by tying it to the HOPE scholarship. That won't fool anyone.
We can do better than this - there are a lot of good things happening economically in Georgia. There is no need to stoop to the level of desperate rust belt states.”
- “Gambling is an addiction, why feed it with our money. I would rather see money go to rehabilitate these people.”
- “Currently, everything seems to be decided by how much money will be made. This is erroneous thinking. Our nation was founded on certain values and we have strayed from those values. Money is a tool, not a thing to be worshipped. Our children completed college without the Hope scholarship. That method is called working, both at a job and at good grades, in order to earn scholarships. If the student has no "skin in the game" their education has no value or importance to them.”
- “Gambling is disastrous for families and thus our society. I spent my later teen years in Las Vegas. I saw it upfront and personal.”
- “This legislation is being pushed to "help save the HOPE scholarship program." Since HOPE became the college funding program rather than parents or private scholarships, the cost of college tuition has skyrocketed in Georgia. When the parents don't have to pay out of pocket they don't use the free market to force colleges to be competitive in their pricing. This is just another scheme to help the universities rake in more money using government revenues while encouraging parents to send their child to the higher ed of indoctrination into socialism.”



Resources regarding this bill at: <http://www.restoreandpreservetheconstitution.com/we-survey-sep-16-2015/>

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