

Democrat Joe Heflin Accepts Last-Minute Contributions from Gambling Interests

PLAINVIEW, TEXAS (November 4, 2006) – Telegram Reports made public yesterday with the Texas Ethics Commission show that Democrat Joe Heflin accepted a last minute contribution of \$2500 from gambling interests working to push for the legalization of Video Lottery Terminals in Texas.

Landtroop said, “This last-minute gambling contribution raises the question: Why did Joe Heflin wait until the last hours of the campaign to accept this gambling money? Mr. Heflin should immediately explain why the gambling industry has taken such a late interest in funding his campaign, and what they stand to gain from his potential election.”

“My position is clear and unequivocal: I believe, as do the people of West Texas, that there are better ways to promote economic development than building casinos and expanding gambling in our communities,” said Landtroop.

Documentation from Texas Ethics Commission, Friday, Nov. 3 Report:

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<http://txprod.ethics.state.tx.us/public/323410noadd.pdp>

TEXANS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (TED) HITS THE GROUND RUNNING

The group to be known as Texans for Economic Development (TED), the industry’s latest entity formed to push for the legalization of Video Lottery Terminals at licensed Texas racetracks, met in Austin on Thursday and formed several committees to work on a variety of issues.

Participants in TED to date are Lone Star Park at Grand Prairie, Retama Park, Sam Houston Race Park/Valley Race Park, Gulf Greyhound Park, Corpus Christi Greyhound Park, Texas Thoroughbred Association, Texas Horsemen’s Partnership and Texas Greyhound Association. The LaMantia Family, with track license applications pending in Hidalgo and Webb Counties, and Billy Bob Barnett, whose purchase of a majority interest in Austin Jockey Club is awaiting Texas Racing Commission approval, are also fully paid members. Conspicuous by their absence from the TED coalition at this time are Texas Quarter Horse Association, Manor Downs and Saddlebrook Park.

<http://www.texasthoroughbred.com/TTA/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=309>