

## You Decide: Why Do We Take Risks?

*By Dr. Mike Walden:* In the aftermath of hurricane season, I've been thinking a lot about risk. Indeed, many people are. I have friends who are second-guessing their decisions to move to the coast after retiring. Others are questioning why development is allowed in storm-prone beaches and barrier islands.

To help to think about these questions, it's useful to step back and consider the concept of risk. Risk indicates an inability to perfectly predict the future, especially bad outcomes. For example, people who move to the North Carolina coast know hurricanes periodically happen. But they don't know exactly when, where and the storms' intensities. Risk doesn't just apply to dramatic weather events like hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes. We face a multitude of risks every day – in driving, crossing streets, being exposed to germs and many others.

One approach to risk is to avoid it. Yet for many risks, this isn't practical. Most of us use some form of transportation daily and are therefore exposed to the possibility of accidents. We also pass through public areas where many germs reside. Still, we can take common sense precautions for some of the risks we can't avoid. In driving – pay attention, don't text and watch other vehicles. For crossing streets – obey "don't walk" signs and make eye contact with drivers. And to minimize contact to germs, frequently wash your hands (my wife says to wash hands for as long as it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice).

For big risks – like living in a region where hurricanes could hit, or investing in the stock market – why do we expose ourselves to them at all? The answer is simple – there's a potential upside to taking the risk. Owning a beach home provides pleasure, fun and financial awards if storms don't strike. Likewise, money invested in the stock market usually beats all other investment earnings as long as the market doesn't crash.

So there's a tradeoff between risk and reward. To get a chance at a higher reward, like investment returns or ocean views, we often have to take more risk.

Each person doesn't evaluate the risk-reward tradeoff in the same way. Some people are "risk-averse" – meaning no matter the potential reward, they don't want to take the risk. My late mother was like this. Having grown up during the Great Depression of the 1930s, she was always fearful and suspicious of the stock market and never invested a penny in it. On the other side of the spectrum are "risk-taking" people who take a chance and expect to be rewarded. Although they don't always win, these folks are vital to our economy. They're often the inventors, innovators and creative people who push our economy to higher levels, even with many shortfalls along the way.

There are two common ways for people to manage risk. One is through diversification. This strategy – most often observed in investing – involves balancing risky assets with safe assets. The notion is that if the risky assets drop, gains in the safe assets will offset some – or maybe even all – of the losses. In investing, this means combining more risky stock and commodity investments with less risky bond and cash assets.

A second risk management technique is insurance. This strategy works best when many people face the same risk, but none know exactly who will be safe and who won't. In this situation, it makes sense for each person to contribute a relatively small amount of money into a common fund. The money in the common fund is then paid to whomever suffers from the risk.

Insurance is commonly used for protecting property – like structures and vehicles – and insurance will be widely used to help recover from hurricanes. But beware. The amount people pay into the common fund – called the premium – is based on the chance of the risky event occurring. When a risky event – such as a hurricane – does happen, those probabilities for the risky event are re-evaluated, and they are often increased. This process then results in higher insurance premiums.

Risk is part of life. Our lives would not be as interesting or full unless at least some people accepted taking risk. Each of us has to evaluate how much risk we're willing to take, and how to manage that risk. With hurricane season fresh in our minds, this may be the perfect time to think about these questions. You decide!

Walden is a William Neal Reynolds Distinguished Professor and Extension Economist in the Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics at North Carolina State University who teaches and writes on personal finance, economic outlook and public policy.



**My Daughter!**  
 I look at you and I do not see the passage of time. I see my little girl playing dress up, running through the yard, playing on a swing. I will try and respect the fact that you are older now and that the decisions you will make are your own, but you must understand that to me, you will always be my little girl. I may not be able to carry you in my arms anymore, but I will always carry you in my heart. ❤️

**Happy 18th Birthday Savannah Rose**

*I love you always, Mom*

## Wildlife Commission Requests Deer Hunter Help to Report Wildlife Observations

The N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission is seeking assistance from deer hunters to report wildlife observations from now through January 1. Hunter observation information helps Commission biologists track long-term wildlife population and distribution changes, as well as provides valuable data on fawn survival and buck-to-doe ratios. Additionally, observation information is useful in understanding the impact of disease outbreaks in wildlife populations, such as a hemorrhagic disease in deer.

Deer hunters who are still or stand hunting are asked to record an accurate count of game and furbearer species they observe on each hunt. For the first time this season, participants can now enter their observations online in the field from any smart phone or small-screen device by using the survey link: [ncwildlife.org/HunterObservation-Survey](http://ncwildlife.org/HunterObservation-Survey). As an alternative option, new participants can also request a paper survey form to be mailed to them.

Since 2014, more than 1,000 deer hunters across the state have volunteered in this annual survey. To view hunter observation survey summaries from previous years, visit the Commission's Deer Cooperator Program webpage at [ncwildlife.org](http://ncwildlife.org).

For more information on the deer hunter observation survey, contact Wildlife Surveys Biologist Ryan Myers by phone, 919-218-3376 or email [ryan.myers@ncwildlife.org](mailto:ryan.myers@ncwildlife.org).

## A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH

It should not be surprising to anyone that unsaved people would be in favor of the proposed alcohol referendum. In fact, any law making it easier to sin has always been welcomed by those who do not fear God, or truly know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

However, it is alarming to hear those who claim to be Christians side with the enemy. That is right; strong drink in the form of wine, beer or liquor has always been condemned by God. Anyone who is familiar with the Bible knows this truth and will stand when the opportunity arises. Any honest believer could not possibly run the cross references in God's word about drunkards or drunkenness, and pretend that God is not clear on the issue. The "Jesus served wine" would not ever allow scripture to be compared with scripture, and probably have trouble locating the miracle in the Bible. A simple study of all the sin, condemnation and woe that comes with serving alcohol is enough for anyone that truly loves Christ to cease from that foolish thinking.

For everyone else, I can assure you those in favor of this wickedness care only about their own interest and their own wallets. Do you really think the Anson County Economic Development Partnership cares about you or our community? Where do you suppose they will be when one of our loved ones are killed by a drunk driver, beaten by a drunken spouse, or at home without money because it was wasted on alcohol? What they do care about is getting your vote, then leaving you to deal with the problems.

I'm sure some people believe this bill will keep our money in our county and bring big businesses to our towns. The same rhetoric was used over 10 years ago to convince the people of Wingate, NC to vote "yes" on a similar referendum in order to have an ABC store. It passed in 2009. Take a drive through there sometime and see for yourself all it has brought to town. Instead of hotels, grand apartments and wonderful restaurants, it has produced more drunkards and immorality, more headaches for the police department, and more heartaches for families. The location of that store ought to reveal the care and concern they have is for no one but themselves. Search for yourself and read the statistics that reveal the true cost of bringing in alcohol.

We, as God's people, hope you know we truly care about you. Most importantly, Jesus Christ does too. He gave His life and died on the cross of Calvary so you could have eternal life. Everything else, including alcohol, will lead to death.

Please feel free to visit us at [oldpathspeachland.org](http://oldpathspeachland.org) or contact us at The Old Paths Bible Baptist Church, P.O. Box 415, Peachland, NC 28133. Our email is [oldpathspeachland@gmail.com](mailto:oldpathspeachland@gmail.com) and phone number is 704-219-4780.

Pastor Brian Gurley

Also, we would like to thank Rocky Carpenter and those at Harmony Community Church for their stand against this referendum.

### The Carolina Comeback

Democrats were in control of NC Government up to 2012 election:

#### Results of Democrat Control

- \$3 Billion budget shortfall
- \$2.7 Billion debt to US government
- Highest Corporate Tax Rate in SE
- Frozen Teacher Salaries
- Ranks to NC Highway Trust Fund
- NC ranked 45<sup>th</sup> to do business

### The Carolina Comeback

- GOP controls NC Senate and House
- 3<sup>rd</sup> GOP Governor in 100 years.
- Elected 2nd Lt. Governor since civil war
- NC Senate and House supermajorities
- Both US Senators are Republicans
- GOP has 10 of 13 US Congress delegation

### Carolina Comeback Results

- Largest tax cut in NC history
- Closed \$3 billion budget deficit
- Paid off \$2.7 billion debt to USA
- Created \$2 billion unemployment reserve
- Created \$2 billion "rainy day" reserve
- Lowest Corporate tax rate in SE
- Increased teacher average pay by 19%
- NC Ranked #1 in USA (Forbes)

### Let's keep North Carolina and USA moving forward:

#### US House of Representatives

To keep the US Congress in control of the GOP Agenda, vote for **Mark Harris**

#### NC Legislature

- Senate **Tom McInnis**
- House **Mark Brody**

#### NC Constitutional Amendments

**Vote YES on all NC Amendments**

#### NC Conservative Judges

- Supreme Court **Barbara Jackson**
- Appeals-1 **Andrew Heath**
- Appeals-2 **Jefferson Griffin**
- Appeals-3 **Chuck Kitchen**

#### Anson County Conservatives

- School Board **Gay Lookabill**
- Anson Board-2 **Gaye Harrington**
- Anson Board-4 **Todd Moore**

*Paid for by the Anson County Republican Party. Not authorized by any candidate or candidate committee.*

MOORE FOR ANSON COUNTY

TODD MOORE

COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 4

COMMITTED TO THE CITIZENS OF ANSON COUNTY

PEACHLAND • POLKTON • WHITE STORE