

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging municipalities throughout this Commonwealth to enact
2 ordinances prohibiting the sale of alcohol on Election Day.

3 WHEREAS, Under existing State law, the sale of alcohol is
4 determined at the local level by municipalities; and

5 WHEREAS, A moderate amount of alcohol consumption may lead to
6 impaired cognitive function that can result in poor decision
7 making; and

8 WHEREAS, A small amount of alcohol consumption may lead to an
9 increase in alcohol-seeking behavior whereby an individual will
10 prioritize consuming greater amounts of alcohol; and

11 WHEREAS, Elections should function as a fundamental
12 contribution to democratic governance, reinforce the stability
13 and legitimacy of a political community and confirm the worth
14 and dignity of individual citizens; and

15 WHEREAS, The American people recognize the importance of
16 voting in our democracy; and

17 WHEREAS, In a 2018 Pew Research Center survey, 74% of

1 respondents ranked election participation as a very important
2 determinant of good citizenship; and

3 WHEREAS, Unnecessary barriers prevent would-be voters from
4 casting their ballots; and

5 WHEREAS, In the effort of increasing voter participation,
6 governments have a number of tools available, including closing
7 businesses that primarily serve alcohol so that employees and
8 patrons are free of obstacles to vote; and

9 WHEREAS, When individuals are able to exercise their power as
10 voters, they can elect Federal, State and local leaders who are
11 responsive to and reflective of the communities they serve; and

12 WHEREAS, Our elected bodies are more representative and our
13 laws are fairer when all eligible Americans are able to
14 participate in elections and have their voices heard; and

15 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth once had a tradition of closing
16 all bars on Election Day that lasted from 1875 until 1973 when
17 exemptions were granted to bars that made 30% or more of their
18 revenue from food and nonalcoholic beverages; and

19 WHEREAS, The policy of prohibiting the sale of alcohol on
20 Election Day was intended to prevent candidates from buying or
21 suppressing votes; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge
23 municipalities throughout this Commonwealth to enact ordinances
24 prohibiting the sale of alcohol on Election Day.

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

RESOLUTION

INTRODUCED _____, 20 _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

BY _____, District
NO. _____

See next page for additional co-sponsors.

Referred to Committee on	
Date _____	20 _____
Reported _____	20 _____
As Committed-Amended	
Recommendation	

By Hon. _____	