
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 638 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY CRUZ AND YOUNGBLOOD, DECEMBER 16, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LIQUOR CONTROL, DECEMBER 16, 2019

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
18 respondents ranked election participation as a very important

1 determinant of good citizenship; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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