

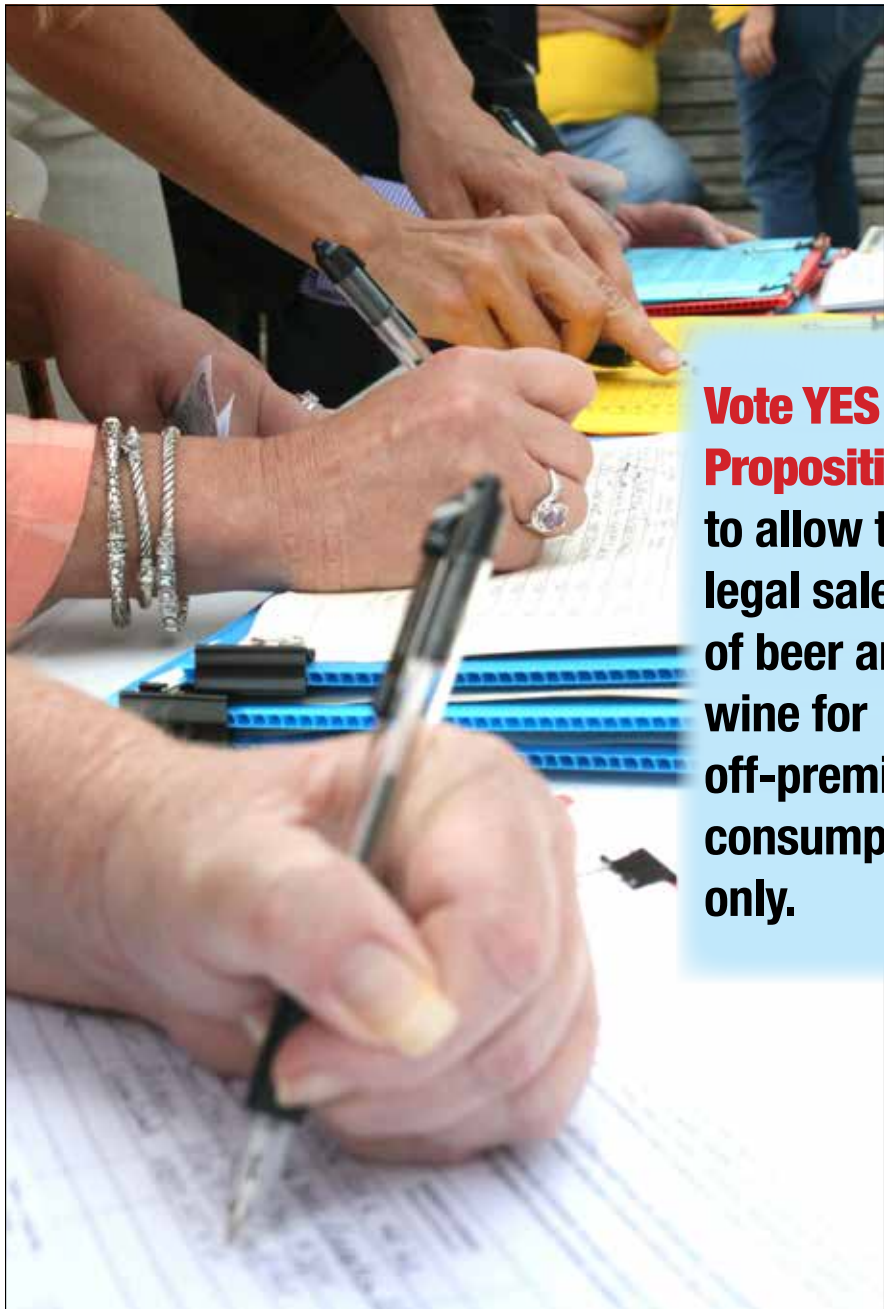


Bowie County Voter News

What you need to know before you vote

**VOTE
NOV. 3**

Group Seeks Support 'For' Local Businesses



Vote YES on Proposition 1 to allow the legal sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption only.

A group of Bowie County area citizens are asking voters to support limited alcohol sales in the cities of DeKalb, Redwater and New Boston. The group gathered signatures in each community to call the November 3rd election.

Citizens in each community can now vote on Proposition 1 which will allow the legal sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption only. This will only allow beer and wine sales in grocery and convenience stores and by Texas law, will not allow package liquor sales.

"After we finally exposed the Arkansas Liquor Stores were spending hundreds of thousands of dollars – much of it given to local ministers – to tell Texans to vote 'no'. Once they realized who was really behind it, the voters of Nash and Texarkana overwhelmingly said "YES". Now Texarkana's sales tax is up more than \$360,000 and Nash was up more than \$230,000 – a 57% increase," noted Derrick McGary, former Texarkana City Councilman and group member. "And crime hasn't gone up either."

"I have customers coming here all the time asking why

KEEP YOUR TAX DOLLARS, pg. 2

What the people are saying

Unhappy Customers

"I have customers coming here all the time asking why they can't buy beer or wine. I have to explain the law doesn't allow us to sell here. So they leave our store and go somewhere else – many times to a competitor in another city. Changing the law will give our customers more choices and keep their retail spending here."

–Alice Hurd, Asst. General Manager, Walmart Supercenter in New Boston.



Fix our own Potholes

"Redwater isn't dry. People drink alcohol in their homes every day – they drink it here, they just didn't buy it here and we lose. Everyone complains about the roads around here – well, maybe we should quit paying for everyone else's roads and spend the money here and fix our own potholes."

–Chuck Bradford, Redwater City Councilman



Here they go again

"So the opponents held a rally and brought in a preacher from Mississippi. He claimed going wet will ruin our towns. Funny, but to get to New Boston, he must have driven through Nash and Texarkana. Guess no one told him that Texarkana's sales tax is up almost \$400,000 and Nash lowered their property taxes because of the additional revenue – and crime hasn't gone up in either community. We didn't listen to Arkansas Liquor Stores telling us how to vote – nor do we need Mississippi preachers, either."

–Frances Marian, Bowie County Citizen



Good for New Boston & Bowie County

New Boston residents are purchasing wine and beer – just not in New Boston. Right now they are allowing other towns to profit from tax dollars (both sales and property taxes) that should be used for OUR community and schools. Vote yes for the Beer-Wine Proposition and keep our tax dollars in our community.

–Paula Williams, New Boston Resident



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Texas Law Enforcement: Crime, litter didn't increase after alcohol sales

What do 96 out of 100 of the safest cities in Texas have in common? They all allow beer and wine sales in their grocery and convenience stores. That's right, according to a recent study of Texas crime rates, only four of the 100 safest cities in Texas are dry and only one made it into the top 10. New Boston, Redwater and Dekalb – none made the list. This is in direct contrast to the claims often made by alcohol opponents that alcohol sales

make communities less safe. But what does Texas law enforcement say?

Law enforcement officials from across Texas have started to weigh in on the effect of these alcohol elections. From Dallas to Lubbock to East Texas, sheriffs, police chiefs and former prosecutors have gone on the record stating the alcohol election had little or no effect and some communities have reported crime has decreased.

Now retired, but the

Sheriff of 36 years for Smith County, J.B. Smith contacted 28 Texas cities who had voted wet in the last 10 years. "I contacted 28 communities and 25 responded," noted Sheriff Smith, "and asked each one the same question, "Did you have an increase in crime or litter in relation to the sale of alcohol?" Every jurisdiction that responded said "No." Some even reported crime went down.

NO CRIME INCREASE, pg. 2



**Former Sheriff
J.B. Smith**



Boyd Richie

Should New Boston, DeKalb and Redwater Vote Wet?

**Text
Yes or No
to 67076**

Why Voting 'FOR' Beer-Wine will be good for New Boston, Redwater and DeKalb

BY CHUCK BRADFORD, PAULA WILLIAMS AND MIKE FARRIS

First we want to thank the more than 800 citizens who signed the petitions giving all of our communities the chance to vote on this issue. On November 3rd, you can vote to allow limited alcohol sales within the City limits of DeKalb, New Boston and Redwater and support our local retail grocery and convenience stores.

Proposition 1 would allow the "legal sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption only." This will allow only beer and wine sales in retailers like our grocery and convenience stores. By Texas law this will not allow package liquor sales.

For us this is an economic issue. Our towns are not 'dry'. Our residents drink alcohol in their homes every day - we consume it here - we just didn't buy it here. Every day, our residents are paying to fix potholes in Texarkana and property tax decreases in Nash, because we know people who drive to other communities to buy beer and wine and when they do, they buy other items and groceries, too - and our communities lose.

Grocery stores report for every \$1 dollar lost in beer/wine sales, they lose an additional \$3 in general sales. This can be as much as \$25,000 to \$150,000 per week in lost sales depending



on size and store location. We think our citizens should have the choice to shop at home, helping generate the tax revenues to pay for our roads, police, fire and EMS and parks.

During the Texarkana and Nash elections, opponents made claims about the negative effect of allowing beer and wine sales in stores and restaurants. Now, both communities have voted to go 'wet' and none report any problems - but they all report an increase in tax

revenue. Nash is up more than \$231,000 or more than 57% and Texarkana will increase sales tax almost \$450,000 this year - exactly what proponents said they would.

Opposition has already started claiming there will be an increase in alcohol related deaths - but they provide no proof. Why? Because 479 Texas communities have now allowed alcohol sales since 2003 and we know the answer. Driving shorter distances - letting people shop closer to home - decreases accidents. The information has been reported several times and is confirmed by information from the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration.

The opposition ran a newspaper ad opposing underage drinking and selling to minors. We agree. But why oppose legal aged adults from being able to purchase beer and wine in their local stores? If you don't want it, don't buy it - but don't infringe on other people's right to do so.

The choice is simple. Vote "FOR" a level playing field in Bowie County and allowing people to shop at home by voting "FOR" the Beer-Wine Propositions on your local ballot on November 3rd.

Chuck Bradford is a city councilman in Redwater, Mike Farris is a city councilman in DeKalb and Paula Williams is a member of the New Boston ISD board of directors.



Pol. Ad paid for by the Economic Growth Committee. Not printed or paid at City Expense.

What happened in other cities

Over 479 communities in Texas have voted to allow alcohol sales. What happened with tax revenue? Crime or litter?

Lowering Property Taxes

"We had an election last November in Nash. Our sales tax is up 66% - almost \$200,000 so far this year. We have had no increase in crime or litter and we just lowered property taxes for our citizens, thanks to the increase in revenue from beer and wine sales."

-Doug Bowers, Nash City Manager (former Texas Police Chief), Oct. 2014

"What the numbers tell us is that a lot of Tyler money was going to support the outlying areas, as people drove out of the county to get beer and wine. Now all that tax money can be used here, for the services our community needs."

-former Tyler Mayor Barbara Bass, Tyler Morning Telegraph June 13, 2015

No Increase in Crime, Part I

Duncanville, DeSoto & Lewisville going 'wet' ... "All report no increase in crime."

-Dallas Morning News (2010)

No Increase in Crime, Part II

"Our crime rate dealing with alcohol-related offenses has either stayed static or gone down slightly. All of our other crime rates that deal with family violence have stayed static or gone down slightly. Talking to police chiefs over the years who have gone through this before, this is a normal course of events. It doesn't create the big increase in crime that people think it will."

-Reece McDaniel, Jacksonville Police Chief, Feb. 2012

No Increase in Crime, Part III

"So far, we have not had the major problems that they were projecting for us. We have not really felt an impact from a crime point ... everything has remained basically stable."

-William Mull, Plainview Police Chief, Lubbock Avalanche Journal, April 26, 2009

No Increase in Crime, Part IV

Chief Joe Evans said the availability of beer and wine has helped cut down on the number of alcohol-related incidents.

"I think part of it is the fact that they don't have to drive to get their alcohol. Instead of driving 20, 30, 40 miles to get alcohol, it's convenient because they stop by their local store and do their drinking in the house."

-Joe Evans, Rusk Police Chief, Tyler Morning Telegraph, 2012

Lubbock: Tax Revenue Up \$10 Million

"Our very conservative community weighed the issues, researched what had happened in other communities and overwhelmingly supported the effort. None of the 'gloom and doom' predictions by the Lubbock group opposing the vote came true. We've created over a thousand new jobs and our sales tax is up more than \$10 million dollars."

-Eddie McBride, President Lubbock Chamber of Commerce (The issue passed in 2009 with 64% voting "FOR")

No Crime Increase

Continued from pg. 1

Boyd Richie, former 90th Judicial District and Young County Prosecutor said, "I served for 17 years as County Prosecutor, and prosecuted many DWIs, DUIs, minors in possession, and know personally that many of the concerns of the opposition are just not accurate." He went on to add "the fact is crime does not go up after these elections, but I can tell you this, I've never prosecuted someone for a DWI for having a beer in their own living room."

CRIME GOING DOWN

Two years after Tyler voted to allow beer and wine sales in grocery stores, a local TV station, KLTN, reported "According to data from the Tyler Police Department, alcohol related crashes have gone down. In 2012, before the election, there were 141 crashes. In 2013, they dropped to 113. DUIs have also dropped. There were 369 in 2012, but in 2013 there were 247." Based on the data, Tyler's DUIs have dropped 33% while alcohol related crashes dropped 20%.

In 2010, the Dallas Morning News surveyed officials in Duncanville, DeSoto and Lewisville and all reported "no increase in crime." Kent Cagle, then City Manager of Duncanville stated when asked if voting wet had been a good thing for the city, "A good thing? No, I'd say it's been a very good thing." An editorial by the

"96 out of 100 of the safest cities in Texas allow beer and wine sales in their grocery stores. As does 9 of the Top 10."

-Data obtained from Niche Research 2015

Lubbock Avalanche Journal in 2010 stated, "Remember one year ago when a portion of the Lubbock community thought Lubbock would be in ruins if we went wet? One year later we're still standing. In fact, DWIs are actually down".

The size of the town doesn't seem to matter either. After Cisco's election in 2012, the police chief reported, "The number of DWIs in Cisco has dropped by 71% since our election in 2012. Clearly the claim that alcohol sales would increase accidents and DWI's did not come true." While the crime rate may not have changed in these communities, it did cause a rise and decrease in other categories, "We had an election last November in Nash. Our sales tax is up 66%-almost \$200,000 so far this year. We have had no increase in crime or litter and we just lowered property taxes for our citizens, thanks to

the increase in revenue from beer and wine sales," Doug Bowers, City Manager for the City of Nash.

Earlier this year, the Tyler newspaper interviewed the local police chief and reported, "Opponents of local beer and wine sales argued that alcohol-related crime could increase, due to the easy availability of beer and wine. But Tyler Police Chief Gary Swindle said the opposite has happened. "It has, in fact, decreased crime," he said. "People don't have to drive as far to get their alcohol - they're not running out to the county line in a hurry. So the roads are safer from intoxicated drivers."

Perhaps former Sheriff Smith summed it up best, "I don't care whether they (citizens) vote "For" or "Against" the propositions. But they don't need to be using crime or litter as a reason (to vote against) because it just doesn't show it."

THEY WENT WET AND...

City	Amount Increase	Percent Increase
Mt. Vernon	+\$97,612	Up 16.3%
Nash	+\$231,551	Up 57.1%
Sulphur Springs	+\$707,132	UP 15.8%
Tyler	+\$4,602,840	Up 13.0%
Texarkana	+\$365,513	Up 3.0%

Keep Your Tax Dollars

Continued from pg. 1

they can't buy beer or wine. I have to explain the law doesn't allow us to sell here. So they leave our store and go somewhere else - many times to a competitor in another city. Changing the law, will give our customers more choices and keep their retail spending here," noted Alice Hurd, Asst. General Manager at the Walmart Supercenter in New Boston.

The group asserts that each city is losing valuable tax revenues when people drive out of town to buy beer and wine. Grocery stores report for every \$1 dollar lost in beer/wine sales, they lose an additional \$3 in general sales. This can be as much as \$25,000 to \$150,000 per week in lost sales depending on size and store location.

Robert Lorange, Mayor of Redwater recently told KTAL Ch 6 TV, "\$300,000 for Redwater would be ... astronomical! It would put a police officer on the police

How Can Tax Revenue Be Used

- Repair & Build Roads
- Police, Fire, EMS
- Reduce Property Tax
- City Parks
- City Libraries

force, we could fix roads, I could expand city hall so we could have a bigger community center," Lorange said. Lorange based his information on a study by Texas Economist Ray Perryman who looked at the economic impact of these local option alcohol elections based on the community's size and area population.

"Those opposed to alcohol sales need to look at what has happened in other communities because now we know. Tax revenues go up and crime does not. By voting to allow beer and wine sales, we level the playing field in each

community and support our retailers," noted DeKalb city councilman Mike Farris.

"How's this for proof. During the Texarkana election, we predicted our tax revenues would increase \$455,000 if people in Texarkana, Texas could shop at home. Based on tax collections through October, Texarkana is on pace to have increased sales tax revenue more than \$438,000 - I'd say we were dead on target. Nash was up more than \$231,000 - a 57% increase," noted McGary.

"Giving people the choice of shopping at home - it's only fair," noted McGary.

The truth is in the numbers

Passage of prop may decrease accidents

Opponents say expanding alcohol sales increase accidents and highway fatalities. They claim having more access to alcohol will cause more people to drink. Proponents say alcohol is already available and driving shorter distances save lives. So who is right? What do the facts show? The overwhelming evidence in Texas shows that proponents just might be right.

A 2001 study released by the University of Syracuse showed 'dry' counties in Texas that voted 'wet' saw an average 8 percent decrease in highway fatalities. "Apparently, the effect on alcohol-related accidents of consumers driving shorter distances more than offsets the effect of any increase in consumption... (closer) access to beer and wine is estimated to reduce the expected number of annual accidents by a substantial and statistically significant eight percent decrease from the average (number of accidents) per year. This conclusion was based on a study of 65 Texas communities that changed their alcohol sales laws from 1976-1996.

But the *Lufkin Daily News* reached the same conclusion in a 2006 story based on their own research. "Over the past five years, Texas counties that are completely dry have had more than three times the number of alcohol-related traffic deaths



"An election has no effect on determining 'if' people consume alcohol in your town. In a few minutes, people can now quite easily travel from one place to another to purchase alcohol. You are already paying the social costs of alcohol consumption, the question is, are you going to vote to realize the economic gain as well?"

-Dr. Ray Perryman, Texas Economist, 2008

per capita than counties that are completely wet."

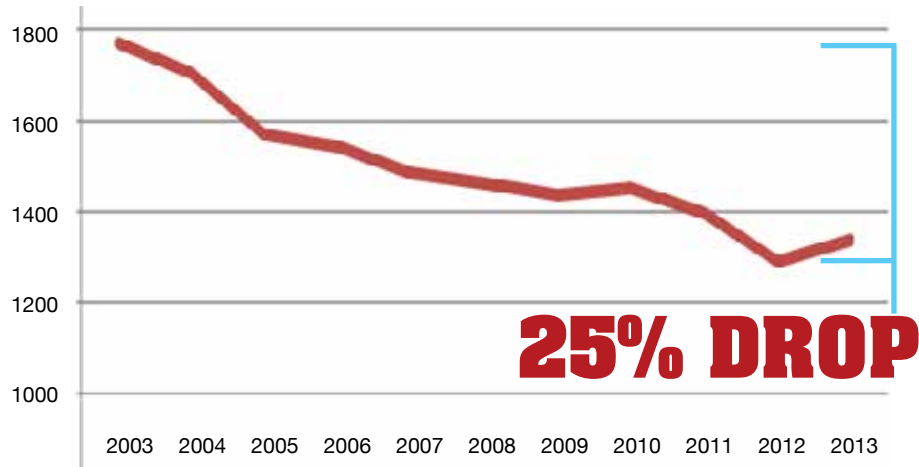
But perhaps the most telling statistics come from the national authority on alcohol and highway fatalities - the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration - an organization often quoted by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. In 2003, the year Texas enacted sweeping changes in the local option election laws, 1,771 people were killed in alcohol-related accidents on Texas highways.

In 2004, the first local option elections were held under the new law and today, over 479 communities - cities, counties and justice precincts

- have legalized some degree of alcohol sales. According to the US Census Bureau, Texas gained more than 4.5 million new residents. But rather than see highway fatalities increase, as opponents predicted, the number of alcohol related fatalities fell to 1,337 in 2013, the last year available. This represents a 25% decrease in fatalities.

The evidence seems clear, while 'wet' elections may not get the credit of causing the number of deaths to drop, the NHTSA's data certainly disproves the opposition's claim that legalizing alcohol propositions will increase fatalities.

ALCOHOL-RELATED TRAFFIC DEATHS FROM 2003 TO 2013



From 2003 to 2013, the number of communities that have passed local alcohol options has increased while alcohol-related deaths have decreased by 434. That's a 25% decrease in alcohol-related deaths. Source: Compiled from data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration <http://www.nrd.nhtsa.dot.gov/Pubs/811606.pdf>

Want a yard sign?
Text "Sign" to 67076

VOTE NOV. 3

For more information, go to

FinishTheBallot.com



WE SUPPORT BOWIE COUNTY (NEW BOSTON, REDWATER & DEKALB) LOCAL OPTION PROPOSITION 1

Why I'm in favor, because people who have bars in their homes, didn't show bars fords, and tried drink place, and probably here from Wal-mart, but refused to sign for these drinks.

Fredrick Murphy

Keep our money here! This is the only

Jeanne DeRaney!

*More tax money for Dekalb
Casey Tucker*

To keep my tax dollars in Dekalb!

SKIC INGLAN

more support for Dekalb

Arnon Luke

BOWIE CO.

YES!

New Boston • Redwater • DeKalb

*Time to progress as a city!!
Kayla Smith*

*People should have the choice!
Michelle*

*Let's keep our money here
Dorothy Pece*



*Keep our tax dollars at home
Binky*

I feel it will be better for Redwater to receive monies for the sale of beer and wine instead of Sixarkana.



WHAT YOUR VOTE MEANS FOR BOWIE COUNTY

WE WERE RIGHT - AND BOWIE COUNTY IS BETTER FOR IT

“How’s this for proof. During the Texarkana election, we predicted our tax revenues would increase \$455,000 if people in Texarkana, Texas could shop at home. Based on tax collections through October, Texarkana is on pace to have increased sales tax revenue more than \$438,000 – I’d say we were dead on target. Nash was up more than \$231,000 – a 57% increase.”

–Derrick McGary, former Texarkana City Councilman and Bowie County Group member



MAKE THE ROADS SAFER

“Opponents say if we vote ‘wet’ we will have more drunks on the road. But with 479 Texas communities voting to allow alcohol sales – guess what? – the number of alcohol fatalities has gone down, not up. Studies show that people driving shorter distances saves lives and now we have the results to prove it.”

–Chuck Bradford, Redwater City Councilman

NEW POLICE OFFICER - FIX ROADS

“\$300,000 (in new tax revenue) for Redwater would be... astronomical! It would put a police officer on the police force, we could fix roads, I could expand city hall so we could have a bigger community center.”

–Robert Lorance, Mayor of Redwater (KTAL interview 10-7-15)



KEEPING OUR SALES LOCAL - STOP GIVING IT AWAY

“DeKalb residents are just driving somewhere to purchase beer and wine – and when they do, we lose valuable tax revenue – more than \$150,000 per year. As a city councilman, I would like to see those dollars stay in DeKalb and be spent to help our community.”

–Mike Farris, DeKalb City Councilman

LET’S VOTE TO SUPPORT BOWIE COUNTY

Tax revenue from alcohol sales can be used for

- Repairing & Building Roads
- Police, Fire, EMS
- Reducing Property Tax
- City Parks
- City Libraries

THEY WENT WET AND...

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