



Proposition #125: Allow grocery and convenience stores to sell wine

Student Voter Information Guide

Should the State of Colorado allow the sale of wine on all the current malt beverage liquor licenses currently issued by the State?

Currently only liquor stores in the State of Colorado are allowed to sell wine to the general public. In 2016, the State legislation passed Senate Bill 16-197, which allowed beer to be sold in grocery stores. After this bill was signed into law by former Governor John Hickenlooper beer sales fell 30% at liquor stores across the state. Many in the liquor industry expect wine sales to decrease if Proposition 125 is passed just like beer sales fell in 2016.

A yes vote would mean that current grocery and convenience stores with regular liquor licenses to sell beer will be able to start selling wine as well. This would allow better access and options for consumers. This would also allow not having to go to a liquor store to get wine and making a whole different trip. An argument for this proposition is it is more efficient to buy alcohol in grocery stores while also shopping for groceries. Since you can't buy wine in the store you would have to stop at a liquor store to purchase your wine. Also with this proposition in place you are able to order wine to your house via instacart and other delivery services provided by grocery stores and have it delivered to your house.

A no vote would mean that the current liquor law which only allows liquor stores to sell wine to the general public to remain in effect. A no vote would allow liquor stores to keep their exclusive right in the state to be the only type of establishment to sell wine to the general public. An argument against this proposition would be that it would drive down local small business owners' wine sales. This could hurt business owners of small local liquor stores as there are no safety nets built into the proposition. It could potentially run them out of business and let bigger companies make a profit off of selling wine in their stores. Liquor store owners have already had a hard time staying in business after Colorado allowed beer to be sold in grocery stores and many small local liquor stores may not be able to stay in business if wine sales fall.

In conclusion we found many supporting arguments against the ballot and many supporting the ballot. Both of these arguments can be very considerable and have very good reasons. A No vote would keep Colorado local businesses afloat. Local businesses including liquor stores are in part what makes Colorado Unique. A Yes vote would make Colorado seem more of a corporate state, which in return would mean cheaper wine, more variety, and more options on where to buy wine. Colorado is home to some of the largest liquor stores in the country and a broad implication of passing this proposition would be driving locals out of business just so consumers can have easier access and semi-lower prices.

Sources

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