



Local Option Election

Frequently Asked Questions

In December 2023, the City of Belton received a valid petition from registered voters for a local option election. The election will be held on May 4, 2024, at which time citizens may vote for or against the legal sale of all alcoholic beverages, including mixed beverages.

What is a local option election?

Individual cities, entire counties, or single justice of the peace (judicial) precincts in Texas have local control over what types of alcoholic beverages can be legally sold in their communities.

Citizens in a community can hold a local option election and decide to legalize or prohibit the sale of different types of alcoholic beverages (malt beverages, ale/wine or distilled spirits) for on- or off-premise consumption.

What types of alcohol sales are currently allowed in Belton?

Two types of alcohol sales are currently allowed in Belton:

1. The sale of malt beverages and wine for off-premise consumption and;
2. The sale of mixed beverages in restaurants by food and beverage certificate holders only.

Does the City Council have any discretion in whether or not to call the election?

No, the local option election process is prescribed by the Texas Election Code.

When a valid petition is filed within the time allotted by State law, the City Council must call an election.

When will the election be held?

A valid petition with the required number of signatures from registered voters was submitted to the City of Belton in December 2023. The City Council is required by State law to hold an election on the next uniform election date, which is May 4, 2024.

What will be on the ballot?

The issue on the ballot on May 4, 2024, will be to vote for or against "The legal sale of all alcoholic beverages including mixed beverages."

If the proposition passes, will liquor stores be allowed in Belton?

Yes, if the proposition passes, the sale of all alcoholic beverages, including distilled spirits or liquor, will be legal in Belton. This legalization will take effect at the time the results of the election are officially canvassed.

If the election is successful, can the City regulate businesses that sell liquor?

Through zoning requirements and other considerations, the City Council has the ability to control the location of businesses whose alcohol sales are 50% or greater of their total sales.

The City is preparing for this issue and is considering zoning regulations to mitigate potential site-specific impacts should citizens vote to approve the ballot measure.

Where can I find voter information?

Election information is available on the City's website. Please visit

www.beltontexas.gov/elections