



Grand Prairie Election News

What you need to know before you vote

VOTE
MAY 4

Grand Prairie Group Completes Largest Alcohol Petition Drive to Support Local Businesses *Submits more than 9,000 signatures to call May Election*

A group of citizens turned in petitions with more than 9,000 signatures of Grand Prairie voters to support balancing the alcohol sales rules for all of Grand Prairie. In addition to supporting restaurants on the Tarrant County side of Grand Prairie, the group supports expansion of current sales to include fine wine and package stores.

The group consists of residents, business and community leaders. The group collected far more than the 8,400 signatures needed to call the election. State law required the City Council to order the May election. According to records filed with the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, this was the largest alcohol petition

drive in Texas in 2018. The petition will allow a vote for the legal sale of all alcoholic beverages including mixed beverages in the City of Grand Prairie. Grand Prairie is in four counties, with most residents living in Tarrant or Dallas County, but the City limits stretch into Ellis and Johnson County as well. The biggest

concern is that restaurants in the Tarrant County portion are still required to operate as a private club, which can be costly according to the Texas Restaurant Association. In 1985, voters in Dallas County Justice Precinct #6 approved mixed beverages sales in bars and restaurants. But voters on the Tarrant county side have never voted on the issue, thus restaurants like The Oasis at Joe Pool Lake, Chili's on Camp Wisdom, On the Border and Crazee Crab, are all required to be a private club to sell alcohol. Don Walker, owner of The Oasis Marina and Restaurant



Continued on Page 2

What the people are saying...

Treat All Businesses Fairly

"According to the Texas Restaurant Association, it can cost between \$3,000 to \$20,000 a year to be a private club. These bureaucratic and red tape fees don't create one new job or generate any tax revenue for the city. It just increases my cost of business that restaurants on the Dallas County side don't have to pay."

– Don Walker, Owner The Oasis at Joe Pool Lake



Support Restaurant & Retail

"Retail stores and restaurants produce a great deal of sales tax revenue for the city. Studies show that by changing the law we could increase local sales tax revenues nearly \$1.2 million a year, nearly \$53 million a year in new overall sales and create more than 500 jobs. Leveling the playing field just makes good sense and brings more business opportunity."

– Michelle Madden, President Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce



From Chili's to The Oasis at Joe Pool Lake

Why passage of Prop A in Grand Prairie means one set of rules for all

Almost every day, Don Walker has a customer question why he is required to



– Don Walker, Owner
The Oasis at Joe Pool Lake

join the restaurant's Private Club but isn't required to do so at the restaurants or bars in other parts of Grand Prairie. Walker

always wondered the same thing. But after a little digging, he found out that even though he's in the City limits of Grand Prairie, the rules for selling alcohol to his customers isn't the same for all businesses. "Ask any restaurant owner and they will tell you that making a living in the restaurant business is hard enough. Now add to the mix that your costs to conduct business are higher than even the restaurant across the county line and that makes it even worse," noted Pearson, "and that doesn't even

account for when the restaurant was literally under water last October." So Walker reached out to an old friend, Sissy Day of Arlington, for help. Sissy Day was a legend in the Metroplex for her work on local option alcohol efforts. For more than 20 years, she had helped hundreds of communities to legalize alcohol sales in their area. After talking to County Elections officials, staff at the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Day's research of historic alcohol elections

Continued on Page 2

Everyone should adhere to the same sets of rules

"I own a business that is not affected by the law, but I still don't want rules that treat some businesses differently. I support changing the law, so everyone abides by the same rules and regulations."

– Martin Caballero, Bon Air Service Company and Grand Prairie Resident



Leveling the Playing Field

"All we are asking for is a level playing field with all our competitors. Complying with private club rules is burdensome on the company and confusing to our customers. We appreciate those who signed the petition calling for this election, so voters can decide the issue on May 4th."

– Johnathan Harris, FOH Manager, Chili's Camp Wisdom



Why Voting “FOR” the Alcohol Proposition is Good for Grand Prairie

One of the most notable forms of local control is the legal sale of alcoholic beverages. Dating back to our 1890 Texas Constitution, the power to allow alcohol sales was vested with the citizens either by a vote in the county, a justice of the peace precinct, or municipal city limits. Over time, the state has authorized 10 different versions of alcohol sales determining what type of alcohol can be sold or by what type of establishment.

For Grand Prairie, it began with an election in 1985 when mixed beverage sales, or “liquor by the drink” was legalized in the Dallas County portion of Grand Prairie. In 2004, the voters throughout Grand Prairie approved beer and wine for both on and off-premise sales. So our retail grocery stores and convenience stores could sell beer and wine, as could bars or restaurants. But in order for the Tarrant County side restaurants or bars to be able to sell mixed drinks, they were still required to be a “private club”. Today Chili’s, Applebee’s, Craze Crab and The Oasis at Joe Pool Lake are the only restaurants still required to operate as a private club.

According to the Texas Restaurant Association, it can cost a business as much as \$20,000 per year to operate as a private club, and the business is subject to a great deal of burdensome paperwork and bookkeeping. These costs and expenses are not required of restaurants or bars on the other side of the County line in Dallas County—and that is wrong.

Changing this law by voting for the Grand Prairie

Alcohol Proposition on the May 4th ballot will create one set of rules for all our restaurants and bars.

But unbalanced laws are not the only issue we face. Studies show we are currently losing nearly \$53,000,000 a year in overall lost sales because we do not allow fine wine or package liquor stores. Voting for the proposition would allow us to recruit a top-level package store like Specs or Total Wine. This could generate as much as \$1.2 million a year in local sales tax revenues and create more than 500 new jobs.

Last year, a group of citizens embarked on a plan relating to alcohol sales and make it to where all businesses worked under the same rules and guidelines. With the help of a leading petition firm, business and community leaders gathered more than 9,000 signatures of Grand Prairie voters calling for an election to approve the same issue passed by voters in 1985 and allow package liquor sales, too.

That is the issue before voters this May 4th. By your vote in favor of the Grand Prairie alcohol proposition, we as a city will once again be under one set of rules for all businesses. Passage of Proposition will level the playing field so a restaurant on the Tarrant County side of Grand Prairie bears no additional costs to operate as the competitor on the Dallas County side.

That is why we recommend voting FOR Prop A in Grand Prairie.

Grand Prairie Group Completes Largest Alcohol Petition Drive to Support Local Businesses

Continued from Page 1



at Joe Pool Lake, shared, “According to the Texas Restaurant Association, it can cost between \$3,000 to \$20,000 a year to be a private club. These bureaucratic and red tape fees don’t create one new job or generate any tax revenue for the city. It just increases my cost of business that restaurants on the Dallas County side don’t have to pay.”

The petition also calls for an election to allow fine wine and spirit sales in package store like a Spec’s or Total Wine. Based on a 2008 study by Texas Economist Ray Perryman, Grand Prairie can see a significant increase in sales, jobs and local tax revenue.

Michelle Madden, President of the Grand Prairie Chamber stated, “Based on our population, studies show we could be gaining as much as \$52 million dollars a year in additional sales, more than 500 new jobs and generate nearly \$1.2 million in local sales tax revenue. Changing this law could be a great benefit to our community.”

Chili’s Manager Johnathan Harris said, “All we are asking for is a level playing field with all our competitors. Complying with private club rules is burdensome on the company and confusing to our customers. We appreciate those who signed the petition calling for this election, so voters can decide the issue on May 4th.”

The US Census Bureau places Grand Prairie’s population at 183,372. Based on the calculations of a 150,000-population city, the city currently receives as much as \$111 million in annual sales and over \$ 2.6 mm in local tax revenues because of being ‘partially wet’.

However, the City’s dry status for spirits (package liquor sales) and removing the private club rules for Tarrant County on-premise establishments, the City could realize as much as an additional \$52 million in annual spending, 538 more jobs and another \$ 1.2mm in local sales tax revenues.

Past Elections Creating “Wet” Status

1985	2004
Dallas Justice Precinct #6 (Dallas County Portion of Grand Prairie)	City of Grand Prairie
- Legal sale of on-premise mixed beverages	- Legal sale of beer and wine for on and off-premise sales

From Chili’s to Marina on Joe Pool Lake

Continued from Page 1

showed that Grand Prairie voters have approved a myriad of different levels of alcohol sales.

In 1985, Dallas County voters in Justice Precinct 6, which includes a portion of Grand Prairie approved the sale of mixed beverages—

commonly known back then as “liquor by the drink”. But that did not allow beer and wine sales in grocery or convenience stores. Then in 2004, City of Grand Prairie voters approved beer and wine sales throughout the City. Now grocery and convenience stores could sell beer and wine, as could bars and restaurants.

But still left out were the restaurants on the Tarrant County side. They still could not sell mixed drinks and were forced to be a private club in order to sell beer, wine and mixed drinks like Margaritas. Restaurants like The Oasis at Joe Pool Lake, Chili’s on Highway 360, Applebee’s, and Craze Crab.

“Large or small, by passing this Proposition Grand Prairie voters can help level the playing field for all businesses,” noted Michelle Madden, President of the Grand Prairie Chamber of Commerce. “This proposition would allow for all of Grand Prairie to come under the same rules we passed 34 years ago on the Dallas County side in 1985. It only makes sense and it’s only fair.”

One thought from Chad Oliver, Service Manager at Chili’s on Hwy 360, “Leveling the playing field with my competitors, that’s all a business owner can ask. The citizens of Grand Prairie have always supported my restaurant and I hope they will cast their votes on May 4th to create one set of rules for everyone.”



Want a yard sign? Text “Signs” to 474747
VOTE MAY 4 For more information, go to FinishTheBallot.com



CITY OF GRAND PRAIRIE ALCOHOL SALES IMPACT...

\$52,757,347 in annual spending
538 more jobs for Grand Prairie
\$1,178,471 in local sales tax



ALCOHOL SALES
WOULD BE AWESOME!
Carnie Bell

I AM NOT
COMFORTABLE
WITH HAVING
ID TAKEN TO
CHECK
JOHN CURRI

It would improve
business and
welcome more
traffic into the
area

GM- Michelle Visser

We scan upsets
customers. They
don't want to
run their ID
through any program.
they get very upset
some leave
and give us
bad reviews
as if we are
doing something
wrong
- Jen Cox

I'm tired of
getting yelled at
for asking for an
ID. *Farrah Lewis*

I support
omitting we scan
because it's
always
an awkward
conversation!

We are "one"
community - business
for all. Laurie Crowley
Oak Bluff Estates



This is the best
thing for all of
Round Rock. *Steve Stapp*

Great News
Ben Jones

As a server I feel that we would appreciate the
it is an inconvenience to ease of no we scans
we scan. *Brandon*

It would
attract more
customers, and
be more convenient
to not have to
show our ID
every time.

- Sharon Brown

It has been a burden
to get asked for my ID
Every time even though
I come here often
Bruce Robin

It is very
time consuming
and customers get
upset. *FR*

IT IS AN
INVASION OF MY
PRIVACY TO
SCAN MY
IDEA. I
DISLIKE IT!
Charles Dunbar

Wow

GRAND PRAIRIE

YES!

Guests get angry!
Grand Prairie would be
more of a hot spot and
attract more businesses
- Anna Dixenson

As an employee
it is very time
consuming and
guests get very
upset to we scan
[Signature]

As a server, it
makes guests uncomfortable
for us to walk away with
their ID and scan it. It
is also very time consuming
that IDs can get left
behind. *Stacy Fox*

As a bartender, I
would be able to more
efficiently serve my
customers. It would
also be more
appealing for people to go out - *Julienne Morts*

I support this
proposition because we
need to provide a level
playing field for all
Round Rock businesses!
*Nichole Vance
Forest Creek*

I am voting for
this to provide
more options to the
citizens of Round Rock
- *Craig Morgan
Lake Forest*

I am voting to
GIVE RESTAURANTS MORE
OPTIONS.
- *Ryan Thacker
Hudson Glen*

I support this proposition
because the current law is
antiquated and arbitrary and
does not make sense for
today's Round Rock.
*M. Ke Doss
Behrens Ranch*

I would come to the
restaurant much more
if we didn't show ID
every time. *Postman*

Relieve the
awkward
conversation, unnecessary
confrontations, and ease
everyones general experience!

I'm
Tired of
giving up my
ID. *[Signature]*

As a Regular
of this establishment
it is highly annoying
to go through
this process! I would
come here more if I didn't have to give ID
to scan. *Christie Jacobs*

We are a community
of opportunity for all,
and this is the right
thing to do.
*Theresa Bone
Wood Glen*



What Your Vote Means for Grand Prairie



WHY I WILL VOTE FOR

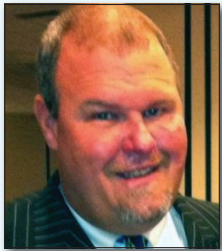
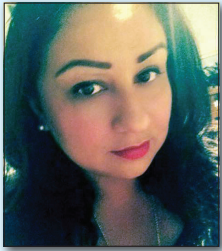
“I’ve lived in Grand Prairie for more than 15 years and I’ve seen how the area as grown. We are a great place to live, work and raise a family and passage of this Proposition will prove once again, we want equal competition for all.”

– Julie Huerta, Grand Prairie Resident

A VOTE “FOR” FINE WINE PACKAGE STORES

“We have several locations that would be great for a fine wine package store. Right now we are losing tax revenue and jobs to Arlington and other communities. I’ll be voting “FOR” the alcohol Proposition because it’s the right thing to do for Grand Prairie.”

– Sofia Marquez, Grand Prairie Resident



PROTECT MY PERSONAL INFORMATION

“Restaurants should have to check IDs to make sure that their patrons of age. But I am not comfortable with them keeping personal information only to verify that someone is a member of a private club. I’m voting for the proposition, so people’s private information remains private.”

– Barry Sanders, Grand Prairie Resident

DON’T LIKE HIGHER TAXES—VOTE “FOR” PROP A IN GRAND PRAIRIE

“People complain about higher taxes. That’s why I’ll be voting for the proposition because I want to keep our tax dollars in Grand Prairie paying to pave our streets and fill our potholes. I’m tired of seeing our money go to Cedar Hill or Arlington.”

– Andrew Nixon, Grand Prairie Resident



Early Voting April 22 – April 30
Election Day May 4

To Find your voting locations go to:

Dallas County Voters:
www.dallascountyvotes.org

Tarrant County Voters:
www.tarrantcounty.com/en/elections