

For Immediate Release
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Prosper Group wants to recruit Fine-Wine Package Store and Pass Uniform Rules for Restaurants

Petitions are being circulated in Prosper calling for two elections this November. The group needs approximately 3,500 petition signatures of Prosper voters to support balancing the restaurant alcohol sales rules for all of Prosper and to attract a fine-wine package store like Specs or Total Wine.

If enough signatures are confirmed by the Town Secretary, the Council will be required to order an election this November 2020.

The group supports making one set of rules to regulate alcohol sales in the Prosper Town Limits in order to simplify regulations, increase economic growth and jobs and keep local revenue from going to surrounding communities.

In 2006, Prosper voters approved alcohol sales in restaurants. But the Town has grown dramatically since then and those areas in the city limits today, but were not in the city boundaries in 2006, are still dry. One petition calls for an election to allow restaurant sales throughout the Town, so there is one set of rules for all.

Owner of Brown and Griffin Real Estate, Teague Griffin, shared, ***“We voted in 2006 to allow alcohol sales in restaurants. But State law says only the boundaries of the town as it existed in 2006 are affected. Prosper has grown and we are losing so many new restaurants who will not build in a ‘dry’ area. Changing this law will give us one set of rules for all restaurants and it will still not allow stand-alone bars or nightclubs.”***

Currently beer and wine sales are legal in grocery and convenience stores. But city leaders agree that residents of Prosper shop outside the city limits to purchase fine wine and spirits. That is why the second petition calls for an election to legalize alcohol sales in fine wine package stores like Specs or Total Wine.

Shawn Clayton, owner of Superscapes Landscaping and Irrigation services stated, ***“Based on our population, studies show we could be gaining more than \$ 9 million dollars a year in additional sales, nearly 100 new jobs and generate nearly \$200,000 in local sales tax revenue. With so many communities seeing a decrease in their sales tax due to the COVID virus, this would allow us to keep those tax dollars and jobs in Prosper.”***

In 2008, Texas economist Ray Perryman issued a report documenting the impact elections to legalize alcohol sales have on a community. The report released findings on the impact of Texas communities based on population. It is estimated there are nearly 40,000 people who live in Prosper and the surrounding areas that shop in the Town of Prosper.

The current law that allows beer and wine sales in grocery and convenience stores generates nearly \$500,000 a year on local sales tax. But the town's dry status for spirits (package liquor sales), the Town could realize as much as an additional \$ 9.3 million in annual spending, 88 more jobs and nearly \$200,000 in local sales tax revenues.

Prosper (40,000 RMA)	Future Law Impact
Annual Spending	\$ 9,318,400
Jobs	88
Local Sales Tax	\$ 196,800

Local realtor and Co-Chair of the group, Terri McCutcheon stated why Prosper is ideal for this effort stating, ***“Citizens comment to me all the time how they are frustrated in having to travel to other towns to purchase liquor. Driving farther, and not being able to shop locally is a big concern.”***

David Blom, also a Co-Chair of the group, and a member of the Prosper Developer's Council stated, ***“Prosper is only 27 square miles of territory. Studies of other metroplex communities show that based on our population and limited site availability, Prosper could only sustain 2, maybe 3 package liquor stores.”***

State law requires the group to gather approximately 3,500 signatures of Prosper voters in 60 days. However, the group has to collect the signatures by July 10 so the issues can be placed on the November 2020 ballot. Only those who live in the Town Limits of Prosper were eligible to sign the petition.

The group hired Texas Petition Strategies of Austin to conduct the petition drive and election campaign. TPS has conducted more than 400 local option ballot propositions in more than 250 Texas communities. The Economic Growth Committee is a state recognized special purpose political action committee. Group members are:

Terri McCutcheon, Co-Chair
David Blom, Co-Chair
Rocky Hussman,
Shawn Clayton
Teague Griffin
Kerry Harrington
Joe Hickman
Matt Moore

Tod Weber
Missy Weber
Christy Williamson
Michelle Meeks
Karan Hussman
Rex Glendenning
Eric Berlin

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