

Michigan Coalition to Raise the Beer Tax

We can create a healthier and safer Michigan by raising the beer tax. Research demonstrates that increasing the price of beer will reduce:

- substantial reductions in underage drinking¹
- reductions in the consumption levels of heavy drinkers²
- alcohol-impaired driving and alcohol-related traffic crashes and deaths
- a reduction in sexually transmitted infections³
- incidents of violent crime, including homicide, assault, robbery, and rape
- mortality from liver cirrhosis.⁴

Since 1966, Michigan has imposed a tax of \$6.30 per 31-gallon barrel. This equates to about 1.9 cents per 12-ounce can or 20 cents per gallon. As of 2014, there were 27 states with a beer tax higher than Michigan.⁵

Raise the excise tax on beer from \$6.30 to \$21.70 a barrel. This will increase the tax on a 12 oz. beer by a nickel to 7 cents. There will be seven states in the U.S. with a higher tax than Michigan.⁶

Index the tax to inflation. The Michigan beer excise tax lost 86% of its value since 1966. If the tax had kept pace with inflation, instead of 0.20 per gallon, it would be \$1.42 per gallon. A can of beer would cost about eleven cents more.

In 2014, the tax on beer in Michigan generated about \$39 million dollars. Under this proposal, the beer tax and sales tax would generate approximately \$96,510,000.⁷

Michigan citizens support raising the tax on beer. EPIC-MRA conducted a 2016 statewide poll asking Michigan voters if they would support or oppose legislation to increase the tax on beer?

- Sixty-three percent of the respondents strongly or somewhat supported legislation to increase the tax on beer if the extra revenue raised went to the general fund. Seventy-five percent supported it if the money was designated for substance abuse prevention and treatment programs.
- Every category of respondent [gender, political party (including tea party), region of the state, and age] favored an increase.

References

¹Xuan Z, Nelson TF, Heeren T, et al. Tax Policy, Adult Binge Drinking, and Youth Alcohol Consumption in the United States. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res.* 2013 Oct;37(10):1713-9.

²Ibid 1.

³Staras S, Livingston M, Wagenaar A. Maryland Alcohol Sales Tax and Sexually Transmitted Infections A Natural Experiment. *Am J Prev Med.* 2015;

⁴Elder RW, Lawrence B, Ferguson A, Naimi TS, Brewer RD, Chattopadhyay SK, Toomey T, Fielding J, the CDC Task Force on Community Preventive Services. *The Effectiveness of Tax Policy Interventions for Reducing Excessive Alcohol Consumption and Related Harms.* *Am J Prev Med* 2010;38(2):217-229.

⁵Tax foundation (2014), taxfoundation.org.

⁶Alcohol Justice-The Industry Watchdog, Tax/Fee Revenue Calculator. http://alcoholjustice.org/tax_calculator.html.

⁷Ibid 6.

Michigan Coalition to Raise the Beer Tax
(Individual Commitment to Support)

I join with others who care about health and safety to call for Michigan's excise tax on beer to be increased to \$21.70 a barrel, raising the tax on a 12 oz. beer by a nickel to 7 cents.

Name of Individual _____

Address _____

(Street)

(City)

(Zip Code)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Which of the following might you be willing to do to help with this initiative?

- Have my name listed as a supporter.
- Educate others about this initiative by distributing written materials, making presentations to local groups (church/temple/mosque, service organizations, schools, athletic organizations, businesses, etc).
- Solicit support from others for this change: individuals. organizations.
- Contact my State Representative and/or State Senator.
- Contact the governor.
- Write a letter or op-ed to submit to my local paper.
- Donate money to help fund a repeat of the public survey and kick-off conference.

Other _____

Complete and return to: Michigan Coalition to Raise the Beer Tax c/o Michigan Alcohol Policy Promoting Health & Safety, P.O. Box 232, Perry, MI 48872, E-mail: michiganalcoholpolicy@gmail.com.

Michigan Coalition to Raise the Beer Tax

(Organizational Commitment to Support)

We would like to join with others who care about health and safety to call for Michigan's excise tax on beer to be increased to \$21.70 a barrel, raising the tax on a 12 oz. beer by a nickel to 7 cents.

Name of Organization _____

Address _____

(Street) (City) (Zip Code)
Phone: _____ Web Address _____

Description of Organization:

Authorizing Representative for Organization:

Name _____ Title _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Which of the following might you be willing to do to help with this initiative?

- List our name as a supporter.
- Educate others about this initiative by distributing written materials, making presentations to local groups (church/temple/mosque, service organizations, schools, athletic organizations, businesses, etc.).
- Solicit support from others for this change: individuals. organizations.
- Meet with the State Representative and/or State Senator in our District.
- Write a letter or op-ed to submit to our local paper.
- Attend a media event in Lansing and/or plan a local media event
- Donate money to help fund a repeat of the public survey and kick-off conference.

Other _____

Complete and return to: Michigan Coalition to Raise the Beer Tax c/o Michigan Alcohol Policy Promoting Health & Safety, P.O. Box 232, Perry, MI 48872, E-mail: Michiganalcoholpolicy@gmail.com