

Local Option Election

Frequently Asked Questions



In January 2019, the City of Cedar Hill received a valid petition from registered voters for a local option election. The election will be held on May 4, 2019, at which time citizens will vote for or against the legal sale of all alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption.

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 (beer, ale/wine or distilled spirits) for on- or off-premise consumption.

What types of alcohol sales are currently allowed in Cedar Hill?

Two types of alcohol sales are currently allowed in Cedar Hill:

- 1) The sale of beer and wine for off-premise consumption and;
- 2) The sale of all alcoholic beverages for on-premise consumption in a restaurant.

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 in January 2019. The city council is required by state law to hold an election on the next uniform election date, which is May 4, 2019.

What will be on the ballot?

The issue on the ballot on May 4, 2019 will be to vote for or against “the legal sale of all alcoholic beverages for off-premise consumption only”.

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

Yes, If the proposition passes, the sale of all alcoholic beverages, including distilled spirits or liquor, for off-premise consumption will be legal in Cedar Hill. This legalization will take effect at the time the results of the election are officially canvassed.

If the election is successful, could the City regulate businesses that would sell liquor for off-premise consumption?

The City has limited ability to regulate businesses that sell liquor for off premise-consumption through zoning requirements and considerations.

The city council has prepared for this issue and is considering regulations to mitigate potential site-specific negative impacts should citizens vote to approve the ballot measure.

Where can I find voter information?

For polling locations, early voting and election day information, and other election information, Dallas County residents can visit dallascountyvotes.org, and Ellis County residents can visit co.ellis.tx.us/elections.