

From: [JAMES G MCMANUS](#)
To: [Vic DiGravio](#); [Maryanne Frangules](#); [John McGahan](#); [Charlie Stefanini](#); [Katie Fryman](#)
Subject: Letter to Editor in Plymouth newspaper
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<http://www.wickedlocal.com/plymouth/news/opinions/letters/x2125237118/LETTER-Vote-no-on-Question-1>

LETTER: Vote no on Question 1

GateHouse News Service

Posted Sep 15, 2010 @ 06:00 AM

To the editor:

On Nov. 2, Massachusetts voters will be asked to repeal the sales tax on alcohol. As the coordinator of Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol-CMCA Plymouth, a program of High Point Treatment Center Inc., I would like to share a few reasons that make this tax worth keeping.

1. Increasing the cost of alcohol helps prevent underage drinking. As beer prices go up, young people's decisions to drink go down. For college students and young adults, higher beer prices are associated with a reduction in alcohol consumption, fewer acts of violence, lower rates of sexually transmitted diseases and higher graduation rates. (Data provided by MA DPH, BSAS)
2. In 2007, the Health and Risk Behaviors Massachusetts Youth Report found that 73 percent of high school students had consumed alcohol, 46 percent were currently drinking, 28 percent engaged in high risk binge drinking and 20 percent reported drinking before age 13. The results of the Communities That Care Survey administered in the Plymouth Schools to students in grades 7-12 reflect similar behaviors. In 2008, 47 percent of seniors reported binge drinking in the last 30 days. Keeping the tax will reduce these numbers and prevent the consequences of underage drinking.
3. Funds from the alcohol tax are dedicated to prevention and treatment programs. In times of uncertainty, economic downturns and lost jobs, many people start to abuse alcohol. Now is not the time to take money away from services or to make alcohol more accessible.
4. Finally, alcohol is not a necessity and does not warrant a special tax exemption.

When it comes time to vote Nov. 2, 2010, I encourage all citizens to Vote No on Question 1. By keeping the tax on alcohol, you will help reduce access to alcohol by youth, which in turn reduces the consequences of underage drinking. Your no vote will also support the public health and safety of Massachusetts' citizens. What an impact one vote can have!

To find out more about CMCA Plymouth and what you can do to reduce access to alcohol by youth, please contact me at linda.cmca@hptc.org. For more information on Vote No on Question 1, go to www.noon1ma.com.

With concern for our youth and all families struggling with alcohol issues,

Linda S. Rudnick

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