



To: Mayor and Council

Agenda Item #: V. B.

From: Jordan Gilgenbach, Communications Coordinator

Action

Date: Feb. 17, 2015

Discussion

Subject: "Speak Up, Edina" Report

Information

Action Requested:

Receive report on January 2015 "Speak Up, Edina" discussion about liquor laws.

Information / Background:

Since June 2012, the City of Edina has used the online engagement website, www.SpeakUpEdina.org, to collect ideas and opinions from residents. One of the City Council's six strategic priorities for 2014-2015 is Communication and Engagement: "To clearly understand community needs, expectations and opinions, the City will consistently seek the input of a broad range of stakeholders in meaningful and interactive communication." A goal of that is to host a monthly discussion on www.SpeakUpEdina.org.

In January 2015, the discussion topic centered on Edina's liquor laws. In early 2014, the City also held a similar discussion asking residents' opinions about adjusting the existing ratio. In this year's online discussion, the City posed the following questions:

- Should Edina's liquor licensing standards be changed to eliminate the connection between food sales and alcohol sales? Why or why not?
- Would you welcome bars or taprooms in Edina? Why or why not?
- What sort of concerns do you have if the City's food-to-liquor sales ratio was to be eliminated?

The discussion was open for comments between Dec. 31, 2014 and Feb. 2, 2015. During that time, 102 comments were made. Additionally, 1,692 users visited the site 2,164 times, garnering 6,913 page views. Note, during this same period, a discussion on the Redevelopment of the Former Public Works Site was also active. All but one commenters in this discussion were from Edina.

Attached are the comments for both discussions.

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Discussion: Edina Liquor Laws

In November, Minneapolis residents voted to repeal a local ordinance that required restaurants outside of downtown Minneapolis and major commercial areas to adhere to a 70-30 food-to-liquor sales ratio, which affected about 70 neighborhood restaurants. Other restaurants in the City were limited to a 60-40 ratio which was also repealed. Edina requires a food-to-liquor sales ratio of 60-40 percent.

3 Topics 102 Answers Closed 2015-02-02

[View Discussion](#)

Topic: [Food-to-Liquor](#)

Should Edina's liquor licensing standards be changed to eliminate the connection between food sales and alcohol sales? Why or why not?

56 Responses

56 Responses



[Dennis Fernkes](#) about 1 month ago

Yes, eliminate the requirement. Residents are doing a good job of balancing this on their own.

14 Supports

comment...

Reply to Dennis Fernkes



[Elizabeth x](#) about 1 month ago

Yes, eliminate the requirement. The city has no business regulating private businesses.

11 Supports

Reply to Elizabeth x



[Shea Huston](#) about 1 month ago

Keep the government out of our hair! We can figure out where we want to dine just as well as business owners can figure out how they want to run their business. The last thing we need is more government intrusion. When was the last time we solved a problem by REMOVING laws?

3 Supports

Reply to Shea Huston



[Marlys Grantwit](#) about 1 month ago

I believe that 60-40 is adequate and should not be changed....

0 Supports



[Lee Heckenlaible](#) about 1 month ago

Care to elaborate?

0 Supports

Reply to Lee Heckenlaible

Reply to Marlys Grantwit



[Jim Stromberg](#) about 1 month ago

With communities around us eliminating the food/drink ratios, I believe we put our business friends at a disadvantage if we continue our regulation. Repeal it, and put us on equal terms with our neighbors. Maybe also ask our business owners what they think...

9 Supports

Reply to Jim Stromberg



[Lonni Skrentner](#) about 1 month ago

Our restaurants need to compete. If Mpls has changed their laws, we need to do the same!

4 Supports

Reply to Lonni Skrentner



[Anonymous Resident](#) about 1 month ago

Edina could issue a limited amount of Liquor Only / Tap Room licenses . Could construct an ordinance : each Liquor Only license must be used >1 mile radius from any other tap room license.

1 Support



[Matt Tourangeau](#) 15 days ago

We're talking about small establishments, and there should not be a limit on distance as we're already going to have limited areas that they can be. A mile limitation would create a monopoly for the existing establishments as Edina is roughly a 5 by 5 mile town.

0 Supports

Reply to Matt Tourangeau

Reply to Anonymous Resident



[Katie Nelson](#) about 1 month ago

Yes! Eliminate the requirement - it is so antiquated and could potentially steer restaurants away from trying to set up shop in Edina

8 Supports

Reply to Katie Nelson



[Anonymous Resident](#) about 1 month ago

50/50 sounds simpler and easier to enforce. Notwithstanding, it is not an exact parity as one meal and one drink are not priced at the same ratio across bar/restaurants . Ie the same customer behavior at two different restaurants would not result in the same calculation toward the ratio.

0 Supports



[Cindy Stanton](#) about 1 month ago

Why do we want to hinder businesses from doing business? If the brew houses, restaurants, retail shoppes want to pay the rent to be in our area, why not let them. We all benefit. It's not like we are asking a brothel or bath house to set up shop on 50th & France.

3 Supports

Reply to Cindy Stanton

Reply to Anonymous Resident



[Melvin Ogurak](#) about 1 month ago

Government, I believe has more important matters to deal with than to determine the ratio of food to liquor a person should be allowed to purchase in a restaurant. That determination should be left up to the individual. What purpose does the ratio serve, except to add more burdens to business owners. We have liquor laws regarding driving and they do not have to be reinforced by Edina laws.

Please spend time on more crucial issues than a ratio of food to liquor law. By the way, how does Edina implement such a ridiculous law? By weight? By cost?

5 Supports



[Hein de Hoog](#) about 1 month ago

Thank you. Eloquently said. I get so irritated with the ridiculousness of what I believe to be stupid intervention by government that I can't state my position kindly. Government needs to go do the work of the people and quit frittering their time away on petty antiquated laws like this.

2 Supports



[Joan I David](#) about 1 month ago

The 60-40 ratio applies to the annual gross receipts of the establishment, not to the customer. You can go into an Edina establishment right now and order nothing but intoxicating beverages (unless the establishment's own policy prevents it).

0 Supports



[Tim Hutchens](#) 29 days ago

While this is true and Joan is correct, try to run a decent wine or beverage program while maintaining these averages it can't be done there are no food sold locally that could keep ratios with a decent beverage program as food here does not have a Louis the XIII, Grand Cru Champagne, or First Growth Bordeaux equivalent.

0 Supports

Reply to Hein de Hoog

Reply to Melvin Ogurak



[Joel Stegner](#), Community volunteer about 1 month ago

I think that brew houses have a place in Edina, but that there should be an expectation that they sell food to go with the alcohol, or they simply become another form of a bar. When a brew pub proposes to come into the community, to get a license, perhaps all they should be expected to do is 1) have a reasonable food menu and 2) report their level of alcohol sales. The city has other issues to address with this new retail concept. Their market is heavily geared toward the under age 35 group, which means that there might be an issue with college aged students under the age 21 in mixed groups being served. Brew pubs are also interested in the "take out" business - would that be allowed? Would brew pubs be allowed or encouraged to sell their product through Edina municipally owned liquor stores? Please go beyond changing the number or lifting the limits to think of this issue more broadly, so additional regulation is required down the road.

2 Supports

comment...

Reply to Joel Stegner



[Michael G](#) about 1 month ago

The 60-40 ratio is hurting the types of restraints/bars that the younger professional Edina residents are looking for. There are many times when my wife and I meet downtown for a quick drink and snack before a movie and my ratio turns out to be more like 20-80 (food-to-liquor) How can you expect the restaurant to manage this when the customer is driving the ratio.

5 Supports



[joan I david](#) about 1 month ago

They are managing it now. New restaurants are opening. Except for taprooms, which many people seem to want, and which would require ordinance changes unrelated to the 60-40 ratio, things seem to be working now.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to joan I. david

comment...

Reply to Michael G



[Lisa Nelson](#) about 1 month ago

I support repeal, but I do think we have to keep an eye out to prevent any area of the city becoming an Edina version of the Warehouse district.

1 Support



[Lee Heckenlaible](#) about 1 month ago

Zoning laws and the individual approval of businesses takes care of that

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Lee Heckenlaible

comment...

Reply to Lisa Nelson



[Sarah Wuest](#) about 1 month ago

Eliminate the requirement. Edina businesses are losing out to nearby communities. We already saw that by the laws regarding happy hour. Lets focus on being competitive with the surrounding communities and bring in business. This would bring in both customers and new restaurants where they can generate more profit.

2 Supports

comment...

Reply to Sarah Wuest



[Lee Heckenlaible](#) about 1 month ago

City of Edina has consistently stated that it needs to attract millennials. Speaking as a millennial who bought a house here 10 years ago, the liquor/food ratio is something that desperately needs to go. There are virtually no neighborhood restaurants because smaller establishments depend heavily on liquor sales (see SW Mpls, i.e. Tilia). Brew Pubs are a booming part of the Twin Cities economy and are providing tens of millions of dollars to their respective communities. There are over 30 that have popped up in recent years, all with tremendous success. Surly is a prime example. LTD in Hopkins, Excelsior brewing in Excelsior, Lucid in Mtna, Lift Bridge in Stillwater, Fulton in Mpls...the list goes on. All have provided a tremendous amount of jobs (30-200) and are by NO means troublesome. Brew pubs are the opposite, they typically attract tourists and visitors from all over the cities and beyond. Currently, Edina is viewed as a community that says "no" to most change purely for the sake of saying no and not offering any legitimate reason for doing so. Currently the most popular "bar" for Edina is, ironically, Bunny's, in SLP. Approval for individual bars/restaurants is done on an individual basis which ensures that bars won't be popping up on every corner. In order to expand an aging tax base, the food/drink ratio needs to be abolished and brew pubs need to be approved.

12 Supports



[Lian Hortensius](#) 15 days ago

I agree, I am also a millennial and when I go out I frequently spend as much on drinks as on food. Not because I am drinking a lot, but because I drink fancy, expensive beer. I imagine it's good for business if they can sell expensive beer to me!

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Lian Hortensius

comment...

Reply to Lee Heckenlaible



[Ruth Johnston](#) about 1 month ago

As a restaurant owner at 50th and France for the last 14 years my partner Jayne Reid-Walen and I believe that the 60-40 ration is difficult at best. The cost of Beer and Wine have grown significantly over the years. Our customers desire a variety of wines and beers and we are unable to deliver this to them due to the restrictions. The law is antiquated and needs to be removed. We have yet to hear any sound reasoning for the law as it pertains to current life style and the hospitality industry. We agree with the City of Minneapolis whom overwhelmingly voted to change the cities rules and regulations regarding the sale of liquor at restaurants. We now find that our competitors across the street are at a distinct advantage and this will have a negative affect on our business. We urge the city council to adopt this change and to do it quickly.

10 Supports



[Jordan Gilgenbach](#) admin about 1 month ago

Thanks for your feedback, Ruth! I'm happy to get the opinions of a 50th & France restaurateur! It's a good point that 50th & France is unique in that a highly successful commercial area straddles the border of two cities, with different laws.

0 Supports



[Hein de Hoog](#) about 1 month ago

We are a mobile society so 50th and France with different laws across the street isn't unique at all. What is unique is Edina's antiquated laws. Look, I don't even drink but as a tax payer I want drinkers to subsidize my community. Now all the revenue is going to all the communities that border Edina. Bring the money home!

1 Support

Reply to Jordan Gilgenbach

Reply to Ruth Johnston



[Mark Daum](#) about 1 month ago

I agree the ratio needs to be eliminated. Not only is it an antiquated law, it denies business growth in Edina. Why would anyone choose to operate or patronize a restaurant in our city versus St Louis Park or Minneapolis? I've lived here my entire life, and have spend thousands of dollars on food and drink at places just outside our city due to the provincial laws regarding liquor sales. Why not encourage us to spend it here in Edina?

2 Supports

comment . . .

Reply to Mark Daum



[matt anderson](#) about 1 month ago

I support a repeal of this rule. If an establishment only serves alcohol I guess I don't have a problem with that. I don't think that Edina would have the types of challenges as a bar in Dinkytown does. The demographics of Edina just don't support underage college students trying to sneak in. I think government should focus on infrastructure so we can get to our stores and restaurants without severely damaging our vehicles. I worry about being pulled over at night driving home from work because I'm swerving to avoid potholes.

2 Supports

comment . . .

Reply to matt anderson



[Dan Atkins](#) about 1 month ago

Repeal. Not to be competitive but because you respect us.

Also repeal the law stating that no more than 15% of seating can be stools. How insane is that?

It only underscores the finite control somebody (that thinks they are either smarter than me, or more moral than me) wants to exert in the name of their intellectual/moral arrogance. Sorry, but we are all smart enough and good enough to figure this out on our own. Respect that.

Respect the intelligence and moral fiber of your citizens.

5 Supports

comment . . .

Reply to Dan Atkins



[Francie Matson](#) about 1 month ago

Wow. folks want their drinks in especially the 50th & France area. Interesting that restaurants are really anxious to move in to Edina despite the current restrictions...wonder why? Could it be that we don't need to change anything after all. I am for letting Minneapolis and Hopkins handle the bars and let Edina stay a great destination with great Restaurants. I like that our destinations are family friendly and we don't have to have our kids and grand kids viewing rowdy behavior.

0 Supports



[Dennis Fernkes](#) about 1 month ago

I find misbehaving children more of an annoyance than adults enjoying a drink and a meal.

3 Supports

Reply to Dennis Fernkes



[Lee Heckenlaible](#) about 1 month ago

If Edina had the ability to make something good, better, would you support it? All other surrounding cities are evolving and doing so accordance with the requests of the (respected) citizens. Unfortunately, Edina will not continue to be a great destination with great restaurants. For proof, look at Linden Hills, Hopkins, and South Minneapolis just east of France. That's where all the new restaurants/Brew Pubs/etc are going...NOT Edina.

2 Supports



[Dennis Fernkes](#) about 1 month ago

I find misbehaving children more of an annoyance than adults enjoying a drink and a meal.

0 Supports

Reply to Lee Heckenlaible

Reply to Francy Matson



[Jason Kalenborn](#) about 1 month ago

Yes, we are all adults and government gets the benefits of the taxes they bring in.

1 Support

Reply to Jason Kalenborn



[Diane Lacy](#) about 1 month ago

For too many years the City of Edina practiced archaic liquor laws, then finally Happy Hour came to be. Yippee! Now there is talk about bringing more competition, more revenue for owners, more tax income for Edina based on changing food/liquor ratio in general. We love the idea of doing all three, but so far the majority of changes have taken place on the east side of the city. The Southdale- France Ave corridor and general area for traffic needs to be taken into consideration. While new housing continues to saturate that general area and around Centennial Lakes, so too will there be more restaurants/drinking establishment be added and that's not a bad thing. For the moment though, lets proceed with a little caution and limit the number of licenses for future taprooms with limited food menu. Bars only do not seem like a good fit for Edina.-- Diane and Jack Lacy

0 Supports

Reply to Diane Lacy



[Robert Have](#) about 1 month ago

I support the proposed change of the law in Edina. We have wonderful restaurants doing business in Edina and we should do whatever we can to allow the business owners to be successful in our city. Their success results in employment opportunities, taxes to support our city, and entertainment for our residents and visitors.

3 Supports

Reply to Robert Have



[Chris Fowler](#) about 1 month ago

Yes, it's time to eliminate this. It is antiquated and unnecessary.

4 Supports

Reply to Chris Fowler



[Patrick Finley](#) about 1 month ago

cWe just approved a change in the ratio. Leave it at 60-40..Let's just leave it for a year or two until we get some experience and more data on the results of the new ratio.

0 Supports

Reply to Patrick Finley



[Scott Vogel](#) about 1 month ago

I'm definitely in favor of making a change to remove the tie between food and liquor sales. I don't have any concern whatsoever that Edina is going to turn into a rowdy bar scene. Uptown has that captive crowd. Going out for a glass of wine or a couple of beers with friends shouldn't be looked at negatively. Good restaurants, taprooms, and even the occasional sports bar all add to the great community that we have here in Edina.

1 Support

Reply to Scott Vogel



[David Krueger](#) 30 days ago

Please repeal this outdated ordinance. It would also be nice to allow people to have a drink on a sidewalk patio.

1 Support

Reply to David Krueger



[Tim Hutchens](#) 29 days ago

I was going to keep quiet but I didn't see anyone speaking from a restaurant point of view. This is a sad and depressing state of business (IN EDINA when it comes to restaurants), and why are there so few quality or independent restaurants here, mostly what Minneapolis considers fine dining restaurants and hotels for over twenty years (here Minneapolis, and on the west coast). While you are doing two things much as Minneapolis has done both for years and hindered business and restaurant development, as if we are still dragging a foot in prohibition. 1) As a city we are missing out on keeping people in their 20-80's in Edina who enjoy beer and wine getting together and socializing without traveling a great distance to find decent offerings; as it eliminates wine bars, tap rooms and brew pubs (which are driving growth and tax revenue in most major and second ring cities across the country), which always limits the neighbor feel and community that which is added by having interesting alternatives to chains. 2) Causing restaurants to have terrible wine and beer lists, as if I or a customer bought a decent bottle of wine \$100-500 (or in a celebration multiple bottles, Champagne, port, and so forth) in a good restaurant they would then need to sell multiple meals to make up for the wine sales (I am speaking as a previous sommelier and F and B Director here) your profits are made in wine sales, particularly as Minnesotans have a hard time paying very much for food.

Reading the comments above, I guess I have no idea where these "wonderful restaurants" are? the current norm in Edina is mostly chains with gmo food delivered in food trucks like Cisco and US FOODS, with little love or awareness of the local fresh ingredients available. This is not good nor what we should support, and our demand from our restaurants, it is almost unbelievable how far behind we are when it comes to a food scene, and this is just another element that is not helping. I can name well over 5 restaurants on France Ave that get food from the mentioned food semi-trucks (which came from a processing plant/warehouse not a farm) and also do not recycle, compost, or use sustainable practices. This would be boycotted in a real food (or one that cared about its food supply and health), but here it is the norm, sad.

3 Supports



[Dan Atkins](#) 28 days ago

Curious, how many, or what percentage, of the current Edina restaurants have the owner onsite? Does this correlate to a good experience?

0 Supports



[Tim Hutchens](#) 15 days ago

While "good experience" and a good restaurant are two different things, you might have a good experience at Chuck E Cheese but they are not serving food. From dining in most of them I would say 0% have on site owners, as I have only been back living here a year but grew up here generally I leave rather than dine here. Really a owner on-site doesn't make a difference, as they generally know little about food and or wine. A truly good restaurant will have a professionally trained chef on-site (CIA, ICC, training local schools are like puppy mills) watching every food element that comes through the door. Generally a good gm and or a sommelier oversees the beverage programs (locally both the training is lacking as owners don't understand food and hence hire kids to get the cheapest labor possible. To do what should be left to professionals, while ordering cheap GMO garbage.

Sorry it seems my above statements are not clear as typing in these boxes is slow and everything comes through. I am sorry I am not a writer or proof reader.

0 Supports

[Reply to Dan Atkins](#)

[Reply to Tim Hutchens](#)



[Nate Wohl](#) 28 days ago

As displayed around the world, especially overseas & the pub scene in the UK, I think pubs or bars can be a strong benefit to communities when allowed to do so. Drinking takes place there, but their value is in the social forum it helps establish. I think these ratios of policing the alcohol to food sales reflect almost a prohibition-age mindset. It really is that simple. Pubs should be able to feel free serving any type of menu they wish to accommodate their patrons. I believe it should be diverse and not restricted to a ratio.

4 Supports

[Reply to Nate Wohl](#)



[Matt Tourangeau](#) 15 days ago

Not to be redundant but the law is archaic! With the new competition from Total Wine maybe Edina should close up their liquor stores and add off sale with the restaurants and Edina could tax those sales with absolutely NO overhead and profit. Now that the Sunday Liquor sales is going to get repealed this year it should be a no brainer. Take home a bottle of your favorite wine or growler or two from a local pub.

2 Supports

comment...

Reply to Matt Tourangeau



[Barbara La Vallée](#) 15 days ago

Yes

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Barbara La Vallée



[Barbara La Vallée](#) 15 days ago

Yes

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Barbara La Vallée



[Eric Anderson](#) 15 days ago

Eliminate the requirement. The city has no business regulating private businesses. Why reject further revenue

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Eric Anderson



[William David](#) 15 days ago

Edina's approach to liquor is antiquated, the 60/40 restriction no longer appropriate. It is not unusual for my wife and I to go out with friends, spend \$10-12 on food and order a fancy martini for \$12. It is not worth the bother to continue tweaking the ratio - 70/30, 60/40/, 50/50, etc. This restriction is no longer an appropriate way to measure or regulate thriving restaurant businesses that we enjoy visiting! It's time to dump the food/beverage ratio altogether!

1 Support

comment...

Reply to William David



[Paul Walthour](#) 15 days ago

This might have made sense many years ago but a beer is no longer fifty cents. In addition, what does enforcement of this law cost the city?

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Paul Walthour



[Chris Bremer](#) 15 days ago

I think it is time to eliminate this rule. Perhaps it served a purpose in the past, but now it is simply a hindrance to our restaurants.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Chris Bremer



[Barry Rosenthal](#) 15 days ago

Definitely remove the 60-40 requirement.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Barry Rosenthal



[Tim Hutchens](#) 15 days ago

It seems these posts are edited and do not all of my comments are posted, so I will no longer be commenting as if it is edited what is the point of a public forum? Edina as always is a boring, overly scrubbed contrived environment unaware of the world at large.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Tim Hutchens



[Mary Porter](#) at January 30, 2015 at 12:43pm CST

Please repeal the ordinance. Our restaurants can police themselves and they need to be competitive with surrounding restaurants.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Mary Porter



[Mary Wiley](#) at February 02, 2015 at 2:30pm CST

Repeal the requirement. And while we're at it, support your legislators who want to repeal the antiquated no Sunday liquor sales law.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Mary Wiley

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Discussion: Edina Liquor Laws

In November, Minneapolis residents voted to repeal a local ordinance that required restaurants outside of downtown Minneapolis and major commercial areas to adhere to a 70-30 food-to-liquor sales ratio, which affected about 70 neighborhood restaurants. Other restaurants in the City were limited to a 60-40 ratio which was also repealed. Edina requires a food-to-liquor sales ratio of 60-40 percent.

3 Topics 102 Answers Closed 2015-02-02

[View Discussion](#)

Topic: [Bars and Taprooms](#)

Would you welcome bars or taprooms in Edina? Why or why not?

25 Responses

25 Responses



[Dennis Fernkes](#) about 1 month ago

Yes, people are already going elsewhere and we are losing their business.

3 Supports

comment...

Reply to Dennis Fernkes



[Elizabeth x](#) about 1 month ago

Yes! People go to Bunny's and other nearby bars/taprooms and Edina is foolishly letting neighboring communities have the taxable income as well as encouraging people to leave the city. Silly Edina.

5 Supports

comment...

[Reply to Elizabeth x](#)



[David Frenkel](#) about 1 month ago

Bunny's has a legacy and a strong neighborhood following that you won't see in Edina. Keep in mind the churn in restaurants. If you want a stable retail area I would look for balance between restaurants and other retail. General Sports on 50th/France has outlived everything else in that area except Lunds and the post office.

1 Support

comment...

[Reply to David Frenkel](#)



[Lonni Skrentner](#) about 1 month ago

I agree with David above. We need a balance - but a couple of bars or taprooms or a microbrewery would be fine.

0 Supports

comment...

[Reply to Lonni Skrentner](#)



[Jim Stromberg](#) about 1 month ago

I have to admit to loving the 'mix' of restaurant and bar combination in the area of Edina that I live in, and doubt that I'd go to a tap-room in that area. But, I'm also guessing that there are other areas in our community that would welcome that addition to the neighborhood. If allowed, its success would have to stand on its own merits.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Jim Stromberg



Anonymous Resident about 1 month ago

Edina could issue a limited amount of Liquor Only / Tap Room licenses, like one per year up to a max of 3.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Anonymous Resident



Katie Nelson about 1 month ago

Yes - I would love bars/tap rooms in Edina!

3 Supports

comment...

Reply to Katie Nelson



Joel Stegner, Community volunteer about 1 month ago

I support tap rooms in Edina - but not bars - and only if they serve food. If alcohol is their only revenue stream, they have a built in financial incentive to push customers to buy more alcohol than they really want to drink - creating enforcement issues. Ordering something off the food menu also would discourage rapid consumption of alcohol, which causes higher spikes in blood alcohol levels.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Joel Stegner



Michael G about 1 month ago

Yes - I can see it now.. The Edina Tap Room, packed with professionals discussing their latest mergers and acquisitions while sipping local Edina brewed beers.. Just imagine A beer call "Every Day I Need Attention" is bottled and sold nationally.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Michael G



[Sarah Wuest](#) about 1 month ago

Taprooms draw in people of all ages which brings people into our community. I strongly support having taprooms in Edina as I believe it serves up the impression that Edina is forward thinking and offers something for everyone. Limiting the number is an option to ensure a balance of businesses in the city

2 Supports

comment...

Reply to Sarah Wuest



[Alan Solyntjes](#) about 1 month ago

I don't see a need for bars without food, but I favor letting the market determine the success. I also think tap rooms would be a great addition to Edina, attracting younger people to the area. And with all the new bike lanes and sidewalks, transportation will not be a concern!

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Alan Solyntjes



[Lee Heckenlaible](#) about 1 month ago

Top Rooms are one of the biggest boons to the Twin City's economy. Nearly every city has a Tap Room/Brew House that has attracted anywhere from 30-200+ jobs and brought millions to the respective city's economy. Examples include: Surly in N Mpls, Fulton in DT Mpls, Lift Bridge in Stillwater, Excelsior Brewing in Excelsior, Lynlake Brewing in Uptown, Harriet Brewing in Mpls by Lake Harriet, LTD Brewing in Hopkins, Lucid Brewing in Mtka and the list goes on. Taprooms bring tourists and visitors from all over the state and beyond while also catering to locals and giving back to local communities. As I stated in a previous post about food/liquor ratios; stagnation and reluctance to change will cause Edina to fall behind its neighboring cities and lose out on ever expanding tax bases.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Lee Heckenlaible



[matt anderson](#) about 1 month ago

Yes. I feel that establishments which are local and close discourage drunk driving, not enforcement of a food to liquor ratio. I personally would go out more to have fun and network if there were close, local places. I disagree that bars who don't serve food become problems. If I'm not interested in a product, I'm not going to buy it despite incentives and promotions. If I'm not interested in a venue, I'm not going to patronize it despite incentives and promotions. I think it would be great to have taprooms and/or bars in the area. It would provide a local alternative and hopefully cheaper experience to large taxi fares from other locations.

2 Supports

[Reply to matt anderson](#)



[Mark Daum](#) about 1 month ago

I agree tap rooms are becoming very popular and think they could be addressed the same as bars and restaurants. Simply require tap rooms to offer food. The few times I visited different tap rooms in Minneapolis, they have had a food truck outside the business... And they were doing great business! It confirms that many if not most people who visit tap rooms also want a bite to eat. The city could choose to allow growler sales, or offer to carry the beers in the Edina Liquor Stores.

1 Support

[Reply to Mark Daum](#)



[Jason Kalenborn](#) about 1 month ago

I would love tap rooms in Edina. It would be at least a once a week destination spot, especially at 50th and France. We should subsidize it even. Imagine the cash during the art fair. An easy 30 K to the coffers!

1 Support

[Reply to Jason Kalenborn](#)



[Diane Lacy](#) about 1 month ago

Limited licenses for taprooms located in various areas around Edina, not just on the East side of the city is a good idea. Should serve a small food menu. Bars only do not seem in keeping with the general environment in Edina. Diane and Jack Lacy

0 Supports

[Reply to Diane Lacy](#)



[Chris Fowler](#) about 1 month ago

While I worry about additional development of any kind in Edina without some sort of dedicated attention being paid to the city's traffic management plan, I would wholeheartedly support the introduction of a bar or two and definitely a taproom. There's a huge revenue opportunity here that should not be passed up.

0 Supports

comment...

[Reply to Chris Fowler](#)



[Joan I. David](#) about 1 month ago

A taproom requires an establishment that has a brewer's license. Which zoning districts in Edina permit breweries? City code currently prohibits any brewer from having a liquor license in the city.

0 Supports

comment...

[Reply to Joan I. David](#)



[Scott Vogel](#) about 1 month ago

Outside of a taproom, I don't believe there's even enough demand for a place in Edina that only serves alcohol and not food. I just don't see that being much of a problem. Places are going to draw an older or more professional crowd that are looking for establishments that offer both food and alcohol.

0 Supports

comment...

[Reply to Scott Vogel](#)



[Nate Wohl](#) 28 days ago

As displayed around the world, especially overseas & the pub scene in the UK, I think pubs or bars can be a strong benefit to communities when allowed to do so. Drinking takes place there, but their value is in the social forum it helps establish. When done the right way (obviously not a rowdy college bar) I think it should be allowed. It could allow for owners of these establishments to rent out for hosting private social events as well.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Nate Wohl



[Eric Anderson](#) 15 days ago

Yes, stop making me take my business to Mpls

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Eric Anderson



[William David](#) 15 days ago

The food & beverage industry will always evolve. It's time to allow Tap Rooms, wineries and distilleries too that brew beverages on site for consumption and limited sales. They should be allowed in the zoning districts where commercial and industrial businesses prosper. I am not supportive of bars that sell drinks only and no food. While that was fun in my post-college years, I'd rather spend my time in a good restaurant with friends and family.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to William David



[Chris Bremer](#) 15 days ago

Tap rooms would be fine but they should serve food, too. And they should not displace the nice mix of businesses we have now, or add to existing parking problems. I would allow them in the more industrial areas.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Chris Bremer



[Karen E](#) 15 days ago

I support allowing microbreweries and taprooms in Edina. They will bring additional revenue into the city and demonstrate that Edina is a contemporary city; experience shows that they often build community with few problems. Yet, they should be zoned for areas with food establishments and/or permits for food trucks, much like in Northeast Mpls, so that patrons can consume food with their drink without the brewery/taproom having to enter the restaurant business.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Karen E.



[Mary Porter](#) at January 30, 2015 at 12:53pm CST

I think taprooms should be allowed as long as they serve some food and do not directly compete with the great restaurants we currently have on the eastern portions of the city. It could be helpful to set a limit to the number and locations - not close to schools, etc.

0 Supports

comment...

Reply to Mary Porter

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Discussion: [Edina Liquor Laws](#)

In November, Minneapolis residents voted to repeal a local ordinance that required restaurants outside of downtown Minneapolis and major commercial areas to adhere to a 70-30 food-to-liquor sales ratio, which affected about 70 neighborhood restaurants. Other restaurants in the City were limited to a 60-40 ratio which was also repealed. Edina requires a food-to-liquor sales ratio of 60-40 percent.

[3 Topics](#) [102 Answers](#) [Closed 2015-02-02](#)

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Topic: [Concerns](#)

What sort of concerns do you have if the City's food-to-liquor sales ratio was to be eliminated?

21 Responses

21 Responses



[Dennis Fernkes](#) about 1 month ago

I have no concerns. It is well known that Edina police are aggressive at policing and citing drivers who are under the influence.

3 Supports

[Reply to Dennis Fernkes](#)



[Elizabeth x](#) about 1 month ago

No concerns.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Elizabeth x



[David Frenkel](#) about 1 month ago

It has been suggested that Edina impose a restaurant liquor tax. Maybe lifting the food requirement would be the compromise for imposing a liquor tax

3 Supports

comment...

Reply to David Frenkel



[Jim Stromberg](#) about 1 month ago

I would be interested in the viewpoint of law enforcement on this whole issue. AND, on a related note, I'd be curious what Edina thinks of lifting the Sunday sales ban that's being discussed at the Legislature - does the City oppose or endorse this idea?

3 Supports

comment...

Reply to Jim Stromberg



[Joel Stegner](#), Community volunteer about 1 month ago

While I commend police for stopping and citing drivers who are under the influence, they do not have to the ability to stop drivers who drink too much at home or at a public establishment and turn the ignition key. As we open more places where liquor can be purchased in the city, the "prevention" issue becomes larger. When it comes to enforcing the liquor laws, this is a very significant city financial and staffing issue. For those of use who don't drink or ever have more than one, it seems like the costs of enforcement should be carried by those who sell and consume. That means licensing fees, taxes and fines for establishments that are most problematic. I would favor looking more carefully at the impact of alcohol on the quality of life in Edina. It recently was announced that Minnesota dropped in the state health ratings because of our state has more of a problem with binge drinking than most other states in the country, in commparison to other health indicators, where we tend to end up in the top 5. Does Edina have the same issue as the rest of the state? Maybe not, but I don't think we have the information that is needed to make that determination. Last night, the Edina Community Health Commission decided to make "binge drinking" its top focus area for 2015, so there is some sense that it is time for the City to look at alcohol use in Edina to determine how we are doing and what we might want to bo do differently. When we open new outlets for alcohol sales, it is the time to think very careful about the use and abuse of alcohol as to not create any new challenges. Last night, the Community Health Commission identified binge drinking as a priority focus for

2015. We lack local data at this point, but did this based on the study that suggested Minnesota was among the states with the highest level of binge drinking nationally - in contrast to most positive health indicators, where we are number 1 or in the top five. The vast majority of heavy drinkers actively deny they have a problem, when it is apparent to others that they do. Could a city like Edina be in denial regarding this issue among its residents?

3 Supports

[Reply to Joel Stegner](#)



[Michael G](#) about 1 month ago

No Concerns. The Edina City Administrators do a great job and adjustments can always be made in the future, if we start seeing a bad pattern appear.

0 Supports

[Reply to Michael G](#)



[Lisa Nelson](#) about 1 month ago

Don't want a warehouse district evolving in Edina.

0 Supports

[Reply to Lisa Nelson](#)



[Melvin Ogurak](#) about 1 month ago

None!

0 Supports

[Reply to Melvin Ogurak](#)



[Lee Heckenlaible](#) about 1 month ago

Zero Concerns. Well, maybe one; how long will it take to repeal the current ratio so that we don't fall behind our neighboring cities even further?

2 Supports

comment...

Reply to Lee Heckenlaible



[Dan Atkins](#) about 1 month ago

My concern is that if the City doesn't "get with it" we will be viewed as a Nanny City. Unable to decide for ourselves what is in our own best interest and we need others to make up arbitrary rules that attempt to control our behavior because we are not really adults.

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Dan Atkins



[Jason Kalenborn](#) about 1 month ago

No concerns. It would be awesome to remove these antiquated rules. Let's get rid of Sunday restrictions next!

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Jason Kalenborn



[Diane Lacy](#) about 1 month ago

Let's not tax those to death who choose to spend their money drinking and dining in Edina. Making some changes in the food/liquor ratio might help accomplish keeping these kinds of taxes lower. Sunday restrictions need to be eliminated too. -- Diane and Jack Lacy

1 Support

comment...

Reply to Diane Lacy



[Chris Fowler](#) about 1 month ago

My real concern is that we don't do it...

2 Supports

comment . . .

Reply to Chris Fowler



Patrick Finley about 1 month ago

My concern would be many more intoxicated drivers on our streets thereby endangering our citizens. We have many elderly out driving and they need responsible drivers around them. We have this walking/ bicycle agenda which puts many more residents on or near our streets. Let's keep the streets safe for them.

0 Supports

comment . . .

Reply to Patrick Finley



Andrew Brown 28 days ago

Have no concerns, the Genie is out of the bottle. Edina needs to request from its state legislators that we get the ability to tax all alcohol sales, bars, restaurants, hotels, liquor stores in order to offset some of the massive infrastructure & capital costs it is incurring. Local road construction, Braemar being remodeled, paying off the Public Works facility. My property taxes went up by 11% just this year before the school district bond referendum. City needs to diversify its revenue stream or there will be a lot of empty homes in Edina

0 Supports

comment . . .

Reply to Andrew Brown



Mark Daum 15 days ago

My only concern is Edina continues to lag behind our neighboring cities in our attitudes and laws regarding bars and restaurants. We have lost revenue and tax base for the past 50+ years due to our lack of acceptance of these establishments. One only has to remind themselves of the booming business St Louis Park has done on Excelsior Blvd over the years with Edina residents who had no alternative in our own community. As for the safety of elder drivers that Patrick referred to, I am less worried about a drunk driver on Vernon than I am an elderly driver in Jerry's parking lot.

0 Supports

comment . . .

Reply to Mark Daum



Eric Anderson 15 days ago

none

0 Supports

comment . . .

Reply to Eric Anderson



[William David](#) 15 days ago

No concerns about eliminating the food/beverage ratio. Bartenders & restaurateurs already take precautions to prevent over-serving customers. They bear a large burden already. It would be a nice touch for the restaurants to coordinate with taxi cabs for a guaranteed ride home to prevent drinking and driving. A coordinated program with posters on the doors and bathrooms would call attention to the program. In such a case, would also be helpful if the City or restaurants allowed cars to park overnight in parking lots without being ticketed or towed.

0 Supports

comment . . .

Reply to William David



[William David](#) 15 days ago

Is it possible for the Edina Theater to get a liquor license? Sometimes it would be nice to have a beer and watch a movie.

0 Supports

comment . . .

Reply to William David



[Chris Bremer](#) 15 days ago

We already have a lot of vehicular traffic in and around our residential areas, with more all the time due to the many apartment buildings and condos going up. It would be unfortunate if we added a lot more drivers, some of them a lot more drunk, to our already-crowded roads. Would it help if taprooms were situated on high-frequency bus routes? Or were limited in size? Even though I support loosening of restrictions, I think the unintended consequences of changing the rules should be fully considered.

0 Supports

comment . . .

Reply to Chris Bremer



[Mary Porter](#) at January 30, 2015 at 12:59pm CST

My only concern is police coverage near drinking establishments so they do catch people who should not drive. It appears that the police currently do a good job keeping our streets safe.

0 Supports

comment...

 Reply to Mary Porter

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