

SUNDAY ALCOHOL SALES

Councilmember Dave Sevigny

Social Services & Public Safety Committee

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LEXINGTON



History

Blue Laws

- Came to America with the first colonists and restricted almost every activity on Sunday, the Sabbath. They outlawed everything from hunting on Sunday to selling any type of goods, to displays of affection.
- Some colonies prohibited dancing and even laughing too loud. They also made attending church mandatory.
- They are slowly disappearing.



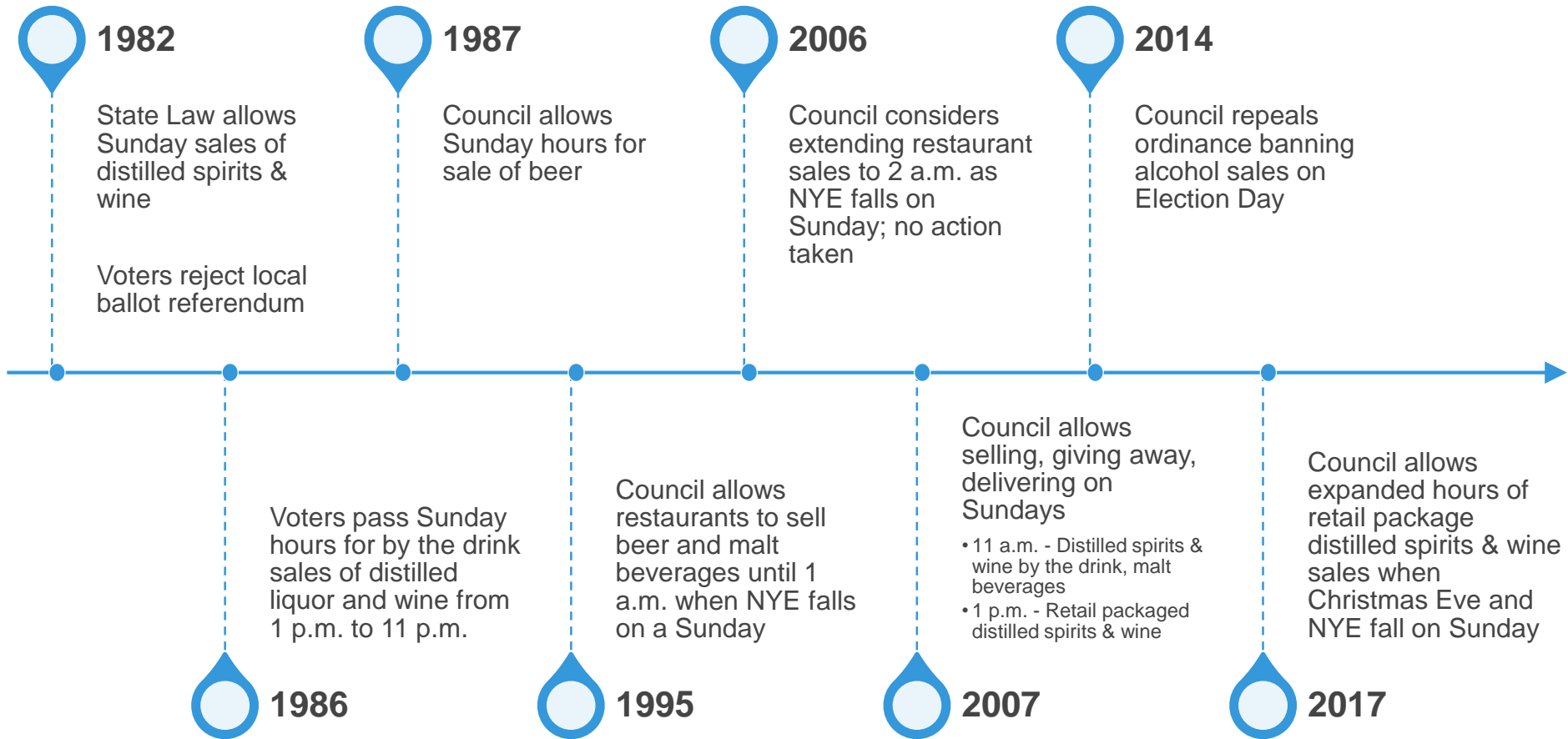
Kentucky Law

Can I sell alcoholic beverages on Sunday?

- Local governments have the authority to permit Sunday alcohol sales by ordinance.
- Sunday sales are permitted for those business types, and at the times, permitted by any local ordinance.
- KRS 244.290(4); KRS 244.480(4).



Timeline





The Issue for Lexington

Economic Development

- Lexington is an international tourist destination with a signature industry that includes Bourbon. Weekends are the biggest draw. Saturdays and Sundays are prime days for capturing tourist dollars.
 - *By increasing hours on Sundays, I could improve my top line by about half a million dollars a year – Restaurant owner*
 - *As the destination marketing organization for Lexington, VisitLEX supports changing local ordinances to make alcohol sales on Sunday consistent with the rest of the week. This small step will assist in the post-pandemic economic recovery of our industry and benefit our guests and locals alike. - VisitLEX*
 - *Sundays tend to be the busiest day of the week for restaurants serving breakfast and lunch. Guests, especially those from out of town, and often surprised that they can't order an alcoholic beverage before 11 a.m. - Kentucky Restaurant Association*



The Issue for Lexington

Fairness

- Workers and consumers should have same access to legal beverages each day of the week.
 - *After a long shift on Saturday night, we still look forward to some socializing with our friends before we head off to bed to work Sunday night while the rest of the city sleeps.*
 - *As a UK employee and on behalf of my other late-night employees, we miss Winchell's having early Sunday alcohol sales. It has always been a tradition to go there after a hard night's work and have breakfast with a drink of choice.*



A Solution for Lexington

Treat all days and hours the same

- Allow sales to start at 6:00 a.m. each day of the week.
 - The selling, giving away, or delivering of distilled spirits or wine by the drink; malt beverages; and retail package distilled spirits and wine shall not be permitted during the hours of 2:30 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. on any day from Monday through Sunday.
 - *Amend sections 3-21(a)(1), 3-21(b)(1), 3-21(c)(1)*
 - *Delete sections 3-21(a)(2) & (3), 3-21(b)(2) & (3), 3-21(c)(2) & (3)*

Questions?

