



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 20, 2007

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Poll: Floridians concerned that teenagers will use the Internet to obtain alcohol products

Majority of voters say they oppose Internet and mail-order wine sales

TALLAHASSEE — In a poll of Florida voters released today by the Florida Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking, an overwhelming majority — 85 percent — said that teenagers are likely to use the Internet to have beer, wine and liquor mailed to them without having their identification checked. More than two-thirds of those sampled — 68 percent — said that they opposed allowing beer, wine or liquor to be sold directly to consumers over the Internet or through the mail.

When asked, “How likely are teenagers to use the Internet to have beer, wine and liquor mailed to them without having their identification checked?” 68 percent of respondents said they were very likely, and 17 percent said they were somewhat likely. Only 6 percent responded that it was not likely. Sixty-five percent said that the sale and shipment of beer, wine or liquor over the Internet or through the mail directly to consumers should not be allowed. Sampled on their general attitudes toward underage drinking in Florida, two-thirds — 66 percent — characterized underage drinking as a “major problem” in Florida.

“The message to our state lawmakers is clear — Floridians don’t want alcohol sold on the Internet and delivered to our homes. Teenagers will take advantage of it,” said John Fleming, a spokesman for the Florida Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking. “Underage drinking is a major concern for every community in Florida. We shouldn’t make it easier for teenagers to buy alcohol over the Internet, where they never have to face the seller or show an ID.”

When asked, 56 percent of respondents said they would be less likely to vote for a political leader who wants to “change state laws on the sale of alcohol by making it easier for out of state manufacturers to ship alcohol products directly to Florida residents who place orders over the Internet, by phone or by mail.”

The poll was conducted March 6 – 8, 2007 by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research of Washington, D.C. A total of 625 registered Florida voters were interviewed statewide by telephone. All indicated they voted regularly in state elections. The margin for error is plus or minus 4 percent.

— *The Florida Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking is made up of business leaders, law enforcement, clergy, educators and community groups dedicated to protecting state laws regulating the sale of beer, wine and liquor over the Internet, by phone or through the mail by unlicensed out-of-state companies.*