

New Yorkers Oppose Governor Spitzer's Bottle Tax



Siena College Research Institute conducted an objective poll of 1,200 New Yorkers to understand opinions about the current bottle deposit law, the expanded bottle deposit law and a proposal to enhance curbside and community recycling programs. The poll was conducted on behalf of New Yorkers for Real Recycling Reform, a coalition of New York businesses, grocers and labor unions that strongly opposes Governor Spitzer's proposal to expand the bottle deposit tax.

Siena found:

- **EXPANDING THE BOTTLE DEPOSIT LAW DOES NOT HAVE A MANDATE.** When asked – on a first ballot – if they preferred expanding the bottle law, expanding curbside recycling or leaving the system as it is, two-thirds of all respondents preferred a policy other than bottle deposit expansion. After hearing arguments (both for and against bottle law expansion), 23% prefer expansion of the bottle law, 32% prefer expansion of curbside programs and 42% prefer the status quo.
- **NEW YORKERS OPPOSE BOTTLE LAW EXPANSION BECAUSE OF THE COST.** 66% say that the \$190 million cost of bottle deposit expansion and the fact that beverage prices will increase an average of \$.15 (70%) makes them less likely to support expansion. 69% said that the “hidden tax” made them less likely to support expansion.
- **NEW YORKERS BELIEVE THAT BOTTLE LAW EXPANSION WILL BE INCONVENIENT.** 52% oppose expansion (40% strongly oppose) of the deposit law because they will be forced to redeem additional beverage containers. 56% say that the “hassle” of expansion will make them less likely to support the plan.
- **NEW YORKERS SUPPORT EXPANDING CURBSIDE RECYCLING.** 63% support expanding curbside or community recycling and increasing the number of public recycling receptacles. 79% support the fact that the RCA would provide local communities with increased funding and 78% support hiring additional workers for litter clean-up.

*New Yorkers for Real Recycling Reform is a coalition of New York businesses, retailers and labor unions who believe that New York should look to comprehensive solutions — Real Recycling Reform — and not an outdated, ineffective and costly idea like bottle law expansion.
For more information, please call Michael Rosen or Jim Rogers of the Food Industry Alliance of New York State at 518-434-1900.*

New Yorkers for Real Recycling Reform
Clean and simple.