

Measure U419

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please carefully read the following description of a ballot measure that was written by a disinterested expert. Feel free to take notes or outline passages as you read.

BALLOT MEASURE U419

BACKGROUND

Beer and carbonated soft drinks are sold to consumers in two different types of containers—those which can be refilled and those which cannot. Most beer and soft drinks sold in California today are packaged in "nonrefillable" glass bottles, cans or plastic bottles.

Currently about 60 percent of the aluminum cans used as beverage containers in California are being collected, crushed and reused in the production of aluminum products. About 40 percent of the glass bottles used to hold beer and soft drinks are of a "refillable" type, and usually are returned to the bottler for reuse. Most the remaining beverage containers are buried in landfills or discarded as litter.

Nine states have adopted laws which require empty beverage containers to be redeemable for cash. In states with deposit laws, the proportion of containers returned to be refilled or reused exceeds 90 percent.

PROPOSAL

This measure, the Beverage Container Reuse and Recycling Act, would require every empty beer and other malt beverage, mineral water, soda water, and similar carbonated soft drink container to be redeemable for cash, as a means of encouraging consumers to return empty cans and bottles rather than discard them as litter or municipal waste.

Specifically, this measure provides that:

1. Beginning March 1, 1984, every such beverage container sold or offered for sale in California shall have a refund value (when returned empty) of at least 5 cents. While the measure does not specifically so provide, consumers probably would be required to pay this amount as a deposit to the retailer when the consumers purchase the beverage.
2. A consumer who returns an empty container to a retailer that sells the same kind, size, and brand must be paid the refund. (Alternatively, consumers could return the beverage container to a redemption center, as authorized by the measure, and receive a refund.)
3. A retailer, or a redemption center as specified, that returns empty containers to a wholesaler or bottler of the same kind, size, and brand must be paid the refund, plus a handling fee equal to 20 percent of the refund.



STOP!

Please go to the online survey, enter the 4-character code for this ballot measure (printed at the top and bottom of this page) and answer the survey questions.