



## Yes On 2

# Frequently Asked Questions

### **Q: Does the Bottle Bill really work?**

*A: The Bottle Bill is the most effective recycling tool we have. 80% of beverage containers covered by the Bottle Bill's 5-cent deposit are redeemed and recycled. Only 23% of non-deposit containers are recycled – the rest become litter or end up in landfills or incinerators.*

### **Q. What changes would be made by passing Question 2?**

*A. A Yes on Question 2 would add a deposit to water, sports drinks, tea, juices, and other on-the-go beverages that were not included in the original Bottle Bill because they didn't exist when the original law was passed. Question 2 would re-establish the Clean Environment Fund, earmarking unclaimed deposits to improve recycling, clean up parks, and fund other environmental projects.*

### **Q: Isn't curbside doing the job of recycling?**

*A: Curbside is another important tool in the effort to increase recycling. However, only 47.5% of towns actually have curbside. Curbside recycling and the Bottle Bill complement each other, with curbside capturing beverages consumed at home and the Bottle Bill aimed at on-the-go drinks. Even with the curbside collection we have today, only 23% of containers without a deposit are being recycled.*

### **Q: How does putting a deposit on a container save taxpayers money?**

*A: According to the Department of Environmental Protection, updating the Bottle Bill will save cities and towns up to \$7 million in litter collection, trash disposal, and storm drain cleaning costs. In fact, 209 cities and towns have passed resolutions in support of the updated Bottle Bill. Question 2 will help to clean up our parks, ball fields, and streets, currently cluttered with empty water and juice bottles not covered by the deposit system.*

### **Q: Why are the bottling companies against the updated Bottle Bill?**

*A: The bottlers have persistently lobbied and pushed to block the updated Bottle Bill from getting to a vote in the legislature because the bottlers pay 2¼-3¼¢ per bottle as a handling fee to the store or redemption center where the bottle is redeemed. This fee is entirely separate from a consumer's 5¢ deposit.*

### **Q: Will updating the Bottle Bill increase the cost of beverages and groceries?**

*A. No. This was an argument that the big beverage companies made in 1983 and prices stayed the same after the initial bottle bill was enacted. And when bottle bill updates were adopted in New York, Connecticut, and Maine, their prices were not affected, despite dire predictions by the Big Bottling companies. The Department of Environmental Protection released a study in 2011 that compared the cost of beverages in New England Bottle Bill states to those in states without a Bottle Bill. Beverage prices were the same **or higher** in non-Bottle Bill states.*

### **Q: How much will the deposit increase with inflation?**

*A. Just like everything else, prices will go up over the years. The nickel deposit has been the same amount since 1982; if it's going to continue to be a successful program it can't stay a nickel forever. Using the Department of Labor statistics on inflation, estimates predict that in the year **2050** the deposit could be 10 cents.*

### **Q: What happens to the nickels that aren't redeemed if question 2 passes?**

*A. Right now, abandoned nickels go to the General Fund. If Question 2 passes, the nickels will go directly into a dedicated fund called the Clean Environment Fund. This fund will help increase recycling and help clean up our parks and waterways.*