



## New Yorkers Strongly Favor Making ‘Alcohol To-Go’ from Restaurants Permanent

*Calls mount for legislation to extend take out or delivery of alcoholic beverages from restaurants as session nears its end*

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**ALBANY, NY** — A recent survey conducted on behalf of the New York State Restaurant Association (NYSRA) found that **78%** of New Yorkers favor permanently allowing alcoholic beverages to be purchased with takeout or delivery orders from restaurants. Currently, an Executive Order allowing the sale of alcohol with takeout or delivery was extended until June 5. ‘Alcohol-to-go’ became a lifeline for the crippling restaurant industry during the pandemic with owners still trying to get back on their feet. The statewide poll of 700 respondents was conducted from May 14-May 20, 2021.

“Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, struggling restaurants were able to boost sales and keep doors open through the ability of selling alcoholic beverages with their orders. The same relief that was once needed at the height of the pandemic is still needed now. The restaurant industry needs stability now more than ever, and by making ‘alcohol-to-go’ permanent we can encourage a strong recovery. It’s popular with operators and customers alike. The numbers don’t lie,” **said Melissa Fleischut, President and CEO of the New York State Restaurant Association.**

Here are some key findings from the survey:

- The regional breakdown of those who support alcohol-to-go remains strong throughout the state.
  - In New York City, **81%** of respondents are in favor
  - On Long Island, **79%** of respondents are in favor
  - In Upstate New York, **72%** of respondents are in favor
  - In the New York City suburbs (Nassau, Rockland, Suffolk and Westchester Counties), **83%** of respondents are in favor
- Overall, **96%** of New Yorkers who have purchased alcohol-to-go with takeout or a food delivery say they are in strong support of the executive order becoming permanent. Of those respondents, they’ve ordered alcohol-to-go an average of nearly **13 times** in the last year, and **71%** have ordered an alcoholic beverage to go in the last month.
- New Yorkers also recognize the role restaurants play in communities — **91%** believe restaurants are an important part of our community’s character and local economy, and helping our restaurant industry should be a high priority for state leaders.

The New York State Restaurant Association has prioritized the interests of their members by working alongside Governor Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Heastie and the state Legislature during the pandemic to ensure financial relief and safety measures were readily available and restaurants could reopen as quickly as possible, all while balancing public health. New York State can deliver a pivotal constant lifeline to drive sales up by making alcohol with takeout and delivery permanent.



“Throughout the pandemic restaurants have adapted and adjusted to ever-changing regulations, and ‘alcohol-to-go’ was a successful measure to endure the hardships. While some restaurants have come out on the other side, all are still on the mend. Making this Executive Order a permanent law will further avoid abrupt closures and layoffs,” **added Fleischut.**

“The vast majority of New Yorkers agree that keeping alcohol-to-go is a no brainer. Everyone knows that restaurants have struggled during the pandemic, but most importantly we have stood up and helped our communities as essential businesses and workers. Now, as we work to bring back the business we lost, keeping alcohol-to-go makes sense — it allows our customers to enjoy the restaurant experience at home until they’re comfortable dining in, our workers benefit from the extra tip income, and restaurant owners need every available revenue source as they struggle to recover,” **said Scott Wexler, Executive Director of the Empire State Restaurant & Tavern Association.**

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