



Put down that drink!

Posted by **Matt Tully**

Here at The Star, the pre-Election Day news releases are arriving at a rapid pace. In the first two hours after lunch today I received news releases from Common Cause, the Indiana Senate Republican caucus, a pro-immigration group, a small-business group and an exit-polling firm. Not to mention candidates including Mike Sodrel, Julia Carson, Russell Brown, and Carl Brizzi.

But my favorite news release came from The Indiana Licensed Beverage Association. The group is tackling a very serious Election Day problem: Prohibition.

The group said it "would like to remind all Hoosiers that on Election Day Indiana alcohol retailers are not allowed to sell alcohol until the polls close at 6:00 pm."

"Both the Indiana Licensed Beverage Association and the Restaurant and Hospitality Association of Indiana," the release continued, "will be urging legislators to repeal this prohibition on Election Day alcohol sales."

The law apparently "dates to the days when bars and taverns were the common polling places in many communities." All these years later, the group said, business owners are losing money on Election Day, and the state is "losing a sizeable tax collection that could help balance tight budgets."

The group might have a very good point -- but perhaps for a different and very obvious reason. The reason? After all the negative advertising and political fights this campaign season, many people probably need a drink.