

Statewide Clean Indoor Air Activity

Momentum continues to grow in Missouri and Kansas for statewide smoking restrictions in public places and workplaces.

The smoke free restrictions approved by voters in St. Louis County means about half of the state's population is now included in some form of protection from second hand smoke. Some legislators say it's time to provide protections for all Missouri residents.

In Kansas, the latest organizations to join the Clean Air Kansas campaign for a smoke free state include the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, the Kansas Association of Health, Physical Education, Research, and Dance. A clean indoor air bill passed the Senate last year and action is expected in the House in 2010. Governor Mark Parkinson has said he would sign a smoke free law.

Raytown Still Smoking

"... Raytown shamefully becomes the largest area city whose elected leaders have refused to approve smoke-free legislation, mostly because of a few bar owners' objections. The Board of Aldermen should change that position." - Kansas City Star Editorial.

Liberty Votes Yes on Stronger Ordinance

Liberty residents, by overwhelming numbers, approved an improved and stronger smoke free ordinance November 3rd, 2009. Seventy percent of voters said they want to replace the city's existing ordinance with a stronger version that covers all indoor public places and workplaces including restaurants, bars, clubs and bowling alleys. The new ordinance takes effect November 23rd, 2009.

Residents who wanted a tougher smoke free ordinance collected signatures and petitioned the council to put a new and stricter ordinance on the ballot. The voter-approved ordi-

nance replaced one adopted by the city council in March 2009.

Under the new ordinance smoking would continue to be allowed on outdoor patios and designated areas in city parks.



Smoke Free Liberty volunteers gathered to watch the election results together on November 3rd, 2009.

St. Louis County Votes on Smoking Ordinance

St. Louis County Voters approved a smoking ordinance on their November 3rd ballot by a wide margin, approximately sixty-five percent.


This ordinance will not go into effect until January 2011, and allows for plenty of exemptions including bars with less than twenty-five percent of sales from food and any bar

smaller than 2,000 square feet have an extra five years to go smokefree.

The St. Louis County town of Kirkwood also passed a smoking ban that is more strict than the county measure. It provides exemptions for some bars, gambling floors and smoking lounges at Lambert Airport.

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Matters of the Heart

Editorial by Harold Phillips of Smoke Free Liberty

"... smoking bans save more than half a million lives each year in the U.S. alone. The savings, as measured in human lives, is undeniable."

With these words, the Institute of Medicine, released a report October 15 that found communities adopting ordinances for smoke-free workplaces and public places experienced significant declines in hospitalizations for heart attacks.

In just the previous month, two other studies concluded a 17% reduction in hospital admissions for heart attacks in the first year where community smokefree ordinances were in effect.

What does this mean for Liberty?

Liberty sees an average of 60 hospitalizations for heart attacks each year. According to the studies, we could conservatively see 10 fewer attacks if the city had an ordinance for smokefree public places and workplaces. This would also save the community more than \$150,000 in hospitalizations, of which more than half is borne by the taxpayers through Medicare and other government programs.

And this is just in the first year. The research indicates the benefits of declining rates of heart attacks increases over time with an average 36%

reduction after three years of a smokefree ordinance in effect.

Many people don't know they have heart disease until they experience the most common first symptom ... a heart attack. About half of first-time heart attacks are fatal.

A dollar amount on the value of a life should not be considered as a negotiable factor to be outweighed by a perceived (and unsubstantiated) potential loss of profit to a business owner.

With many metro communities already protecting their residents and workers...it's time for Liberty to join the trend... As shown by the Institute of Medicine, it truly is a matter of the heart.