

Liberty to Vote on November 3rd

Liberty residents will vote November 3rd on a new smoke free ordinance.

Smoke Free Liberty was organized this year after the city council approved a smoking ordinance with numerous exemptions. The group successfully got a stronger ordinance on the November ballot.

Smoke Free Liberty has had an active grassroots presence in the community and organizer Harold Phillips is predicting a win for a smoke free Liberty.

St. Louis County to Vote on Smoking Ordinance

St. Louis county voters will go to the polls November 3rd, to decide the fate of proposed smoking restrictions. The proposed ordinance is weak because it would allow smoking in many bars plus parts of the airport.

The American Cancer Society is opposing the ordinance. The advocacy organization prefers to work on a future plan that provides greater protections from second hand smoke.

MO Supreme Court Refused to Hear KCMO Smoking Ordinance Appeal

The Missouri State Supreme Court decided to not hear the appeal of a lawsuit filed against the Kansas City, Mo. smoking ordinance.

The October 2009 decision left intact the previous ruling of the Missouri Court of Appeals that the ordinance is in accordance with state smoking regulations.

According to the *Missouri Lawyers Media* the ruling means bars are not immune from the local smoking ordinance.

Opponents of the Kansas City ordinance took the lawsuit to the state's Supreme Court based upon their belief that it violated State Stat-

ute. This belief was not upheld, as the case was never heard by the court and the Kansas City smoking ordinance will remain in effect.

This is not the first time the Kansas City smoking ordinance has been upheld in court.

The first challenge for the ordinance was regarding the legality of the Health Department issuing tickets to public establishments not in compliance. This previous case was dismissed by county prosecutors.

Merriam Urged to Go Smoke Free

With a population of just over 10,000 Merriam, KS in Johnson County still allows smokers to puff away in public places, in spite of the strong push within the Kansas City metropolitan area and Johnson County to go smoke free.


Sun Publications columnist Steve Rose, found out first hand when he dined in a Merriam restaurant and was asked if he

wanted a smoking or non smoking section.

"Secondhand smoke is deadly," said Rose. "What more is there to say? And the argument that smoking bans hurt business, has been proved to be untrue. The bars and restaurants in Johnson Co. and KCMO, are doing just fine." If the council can't act, then Rose suggested a public vote.

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Second Study Confirms Lower Heart Attack Rates

A new report in October from the Institute of Medicine shows that smoking ordinances help decrease the risk of cardiovascular problems and heart disease from secondhand smoke.

The report also showed evidence that secondhand smoke, or ETS can adversely affect one's chance of cardiovascular problems and heart disease.

Lynn Goldman chaired the committee that wrote the report. She says, "It's clear that smoking bans work. Bans reduce the risks of heart attacks in nonsmokers and smokers... It is clear that smoking bans have a positive health effect."

The committee reviewed published and unpublished studies, reports and data to assess the relationship between secondhand smoke and the risk of cardiovascular health problems.

The Institute of Medicine reports "**The studies calculated that reductions in the incidence of heart attacks range from 6 to 47 percent**" following smoking ordinance implementation.

The committee noted "The repeat finding of decreased heart attack rates overall after bans were implemented conclusively demonstrates the smoke-free policies help protect people from the cardiovascular effects

of secondhand smoke".

Further research is needed to assess the magnitude of the increased risk of heart problems from breathing secondhand smoke, though the committee stated that "studies consistently indicate that it increases the risks by 25 to 30 percent."

Earlier this fall a report from the University of Kansas School of Medicine showed a link between reduced heart attack rates and the implementation of smoke free ordinances nationally and internationally.