

Kansas Smoke-free Law One Year Old

It's sweet success. Kansas will celebrate the one year anniversary of the statewide smoke-free law on July 1, 2011.

Some serious efforts to weaken and overturn the new law failed in this last legislative session.

The only change in the law was a small exemption for a charity cigar fundraiser in Wichita.



Parkville Expands Local Smoking Ordinance

Congrats to Parkville for following through on the intent of the 2009 smoking ordinance. It required the bar and restaurant exemption to expire April 2011.

Now there's smoke-free hospitality in Parkville, except for two private clubs, at least children are not allowed in the clubs.

Tobacco Free Missouri Holds First-Ever Lobby Day at Statehouse

The first-ever lobby day in Jefferson City this spring is evidence of the growing momentum in Missouri for statewide protections from second-hand smoke.

In the past tobacco control advocates in the state lacked a cohesive front. That's changing.

The newly energized Tobacco Free Missouri coalition is actively working to support local communities in their efforts to approve smoking ordinances. The goal is to reach the 50% tipping point, oftentimes the catalyst for the state to step in with statewide protections. Missouri is well on the way.



Johnson County Community College to go Tobacco-Free

Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, KS will be a tobacco-free campus on August first.

The JCCC Board of Trustees approved a policy change reducing the 14 currently designated tobacco use areas down to 2. Smoking will be permitted only in an individual's car in the parking lot and in the two smoking huts.

Trustees also approved a \$10 ticketed fine for individuals violating the policy after having receiving one warning citation. JCCC joins the Metropolitan Community College system in becoming a tobacco-free campus on August 1st.



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Grandview Considers Smoking Ordinance

It's been awhile, but the city of Grandview is now considering a public smoking ordinance. Grandview and Raytown are among the last communities in the metro without public smoking restrictions. But that it about to change.

The Grandview Board of Aldermen is expected to vote in June on providing protections from secondhand smoke in public places and workplaces. The question is whether the board will include bars in the public smoking ban.

Neighboring Lee's Summit approved a smoking ordinance with the help of the voters in 2006. At that time Grandview's Board of Aldermen considered but rejected any attempts to restrict smoking. Since then the scientific evidence linking secondhand smoke to serious illnesses and even death has been stacking up.

Next year Belton's ordinance will expand to include all bars, except those with ventilation systems. Unfortunately Belton hasn't read the industry research that shows ventilation removes the odor but not carcinogens. Plus ventilation is expensive and in the not too distant future the State of Missouri is likely to pass a statewide law. Ventilations seems like an expensive risk to take.

But most of all, everyone in Grandview, including waitresses and bartenders deserve the same kind of public health protections as the rest of the community.



The smoke
will wash out
of her clothes.

But what about
her lungs?