

2025 Kentucky General Assembly

ENACT STATEWIDE AND REGIONAL SMOKE-FREE ORDINANCE

Protect the Health of Current and Future Workforce

OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE THE BUSINESS CLIMATE

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Kentucky has the second-highest rate of adult smokers in the United States (19.6% of Kentucky adults smoke compared to 12.5% nationally). Smoking-attributable health expenditures are estimated at more than \$2.41 billion annually in Kentucky. This includes nearly \$634 million in Medicaid, while smoke-attributable economic productivity loss is estimated at more than \$6.3 billion annually. Several cities in Northern Kentucky (NKY) and our Commonwealth have already enacted such measures, but much work needs to be done.

APPROACH TO TACKLE THE ISSUE

The NKY Chamber supports enacting a comprehensive statewide law or local ordinance prohibiting the use of tobacco and vape devices in indoor workplaces and public places, including restaurants, bars, and hotels.

WHY DOES IT MATTER TO MY BUSINESS

REDUCE COSTS AND PRODUCTIVITY LOSS

- According to a 2014 National Institute of Health report, it costs employers approximately \$7,000 more a year to employ a smoker versus a non-smoker.
- According to Tobacco Free Kids, smoking-attributable economic productivity loss is estimated at a cost of more than \$6.3 billion each year in Kentucky.

BUILDS A HEALTHIER FUTURE WORKFORCE

- Children living in communities with smoke-free policies are 15% less likely to smoke.
- According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, among youth, vaping has been shown to increase the likelihood of initiating traditional tobacco products and other illicit substances.

CREATES HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES

- According to the CDC, communities that have enacted smoke-free policies have seen a substantial reduction in smoking.

WHAT WE ARE ASKING AN ELECTED OFFICIAL TO DO

The NKY Chamber continues to encourage the Commonwealth and local governments to adopt their own smoking and vaping policies.