

# 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 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 nonsmoker.
- 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.