

Smokefree Idaho Frequently Asked Questions

What does the city ordinance actually do?

- It provides protection to workers not currently covered in Idaho law while also reinforcing the existing statewide law.

If people don't like working in a smoky environment why don't they just get another job?

- No one should have to choose between a good job and good health. Especially in this tough economy it's not always that simple.

Isn't this an issue of personal choice, both to smoke and to go to a bar that allows smoking?

- Everyone has the right to breathe clean air. One person's personal freedom to pollute does not trump that. Bar workers are 50% more likely to have lung disease than the average American.

Aren't we already doing enough?

- There is no safe level of exposure to secondhand smoke. As long as there are still public areas where smoking is allowed, there is more we can do to protect people.

What's next? The government protecting me from fatty foods?

- No, we are ONLY working to protect workers from external dangers to their health. We firmly believe in each individual's responsibility to make their own choices as long as those choices don't adversely affect others.

Shouldn't "filling the gaps" in the state law be done in the State Legislature?

- There is precedent nationwide that smokefree legislation starts at the municipal level. Government closest to the people serves the people best. And the community is demanding this—as seen through the overwhelming response from volunteers, petition signers and a poll.

Won't passing this ordinance have a negative economic impact on bars and small businesses?

- In a word—no. Other cities that have gone smokefree have found the move has either improved revenue and jobs, or has been business neutral.

I've heard of places that went smoke free and lost business. What do you have to say to that?

- While there may be anecdotal stories from individual bar owners, over 23 studies have shown there is no adverse impact to businesses.

How does tobacco really affect me or Idaho?

- The annual health care costs in Idaho directly caused by smoking are \$319 million. Tobacco use costs **every** taxpaying household in Idaho \$530 a year.

