



VOTERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY EXPRESS STRONG SUPPORT FOR SMOKEFREE LAWS

The results of numerous ballot initiatives, as well as polls conducted in states and communities throughout the country, show broad voter support for smoke-free laws – both before and after these laws go into effect.

Election Results

In the November 2006 election, voters in three states embraced strong smoke-free laws and soundly rejected proposals by the tobacco industry to pass laws that would continue to allow smoking in many public places and workplaces.

- **Arizona** voters approved Proposition 201 by a 54.4 to 45.6 percent margin. The law requires that all Arizona workplaces and public places be smoke-free, including restaurants and bars. At the same time, by 57.3 to 42.7 percent, voters rejected Proposition 206, the tobacco industry's alternate smoke-free initiative, which would have allowed smoking in bars and many restaurants and rolled back existing smoke-free laws.
- **Nevada** Question 5, approved 53.9 to 46.1 percent, requires that Nevada workplaces and public places be smoke-free, with the exception of casino gambling areas and bars that do not serve food. It also gives local governments the authority to pass tougher smoke-free laws. By 52 to 48 percent, voters rejected a much weaker initiative, Question 4.
- **Ohio** Issue 5, approved 58.3 to 41.7 percent, requires that all Ohio workplaces and public places be smoke-free, including restaurants and bars. By 64.3 to 35.7 percent, voters rejected Issue 4, the tobacco industry's fake smoke-free initiative.

Previous elections also demonstrate public support for smoke-free laws.

- In November 2005, **Washington** state voters overwhelmingly approved Initiative 901, which prohibited smoking in all workplaces, including restaurants and bars. The measure won with 63 percent of the vote, including majority support in every county across the state.
- In November 2002, **Florida** voters approved the statewide smoke-free law by a margin of 71 percent to 29 percent.

Post Implementation Surveys

- Voters of **Wisconsin** cities that implemented smoke-free policies in workplaces, including restaurants and bars, strongly support the new laws. In surveys conducted after the laws went into effect, support for the ordinances exceeds 70 percent in all of the communities surveyed: Marshfield (77 percent to 19 percent), Eau Claire (74 percent to 24 percent), and Appleton (75 percent to 22 percent). (Mellman Group survey of voters of Marshfield, Eau Claire, and Appleton cities in February and March 2009).
- In **New Mexico**, an overwhelming majority of voters support the state's smoke-free law that went into effect June 2007 and prohibits smoking in nearly all indoor public places including workplaces, bars, and restaurants. Eighty-five (85) percent express support for the law, whereas a mere 14 percent oppose it. (Research & Polling, Inc survey of 502 registered voters in New Mexico week of 1-5-09).

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- By more than a three-to-one margin (75 percent to 22 percent), voters in **Washington** favor the smoke-free law that went into effect in 2005. The law prohibits smoking inside all public places and workplaces in Washington State. (Myers Research and Strategic Services survey of 600 registered voters in Washington 11-17-08 to 11-20-08).
- An overwhelming majority of **Vermont** voters (81 percent) support the state law prohibiting smoking in all workplaces, with 66 percent expressing strong support. Only 18 percent oppose the smoke-free law. (Macro International, Inc survey of 400 Vermont voters conducted 10-9-08 to 10-12-08).
- Nearly six months after implementation of the statewide smoke-free workplace law in **Illinois**, a poll found that nearly three out of four (73 percent) voters support the smoke-free law, with 62 percent expressing strong support. Just 25 percent of voters oppose the law. The margin of support grew by 10 percentage points from a similar poll conducted a year ago. (Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research survey of 606 registered voters in Illinois conducted 5-28-08 to 6-1-08).
- A survey of **Tennessee** voters found strong support (74 percent) for the state's current smoke-free law. The poll also found that a 72 percent majority of voters favor a statewide law that would make all indoor public places smoke free by prohibiting smoking inside workplaces, offices, bars and restaurants. (Global Strategy Group survey of 511 likely general election Tennessee voters conducted 5-15-08 to 5-19-08).
- Support for **New York** State's smoke-free law continues to increase. The latest statewide survey of voters found that 86 percent supported the law prohibiting smoking in all workplaces, including restaurants and bars. A 69 percent majority of smokers also favor the law. (Global Strategy Group and Public Opinion Strategies survey of 804 likely New York voters conducted 2-17-08 to 2-21-08).
- Nearly four years after **Massachusetts** implemented a law prohibiting smoking workplaces, including restaurants and bars, a poll found that 83 percent of voters approve of the law, with nearly three out of four (74 percent) saying they *strongly* approve. (Kiley & Company poll of 501 Massachusetts voters conducted 1-24-08 to 1-27-08).
- In **Minnesota**, 76 percent of voters support the statewide smoke-free law. Support for the smoke-free law increased by 7 percentage points from a similar survey taken prior to the law's passage and implementation in 2007. (Decision Resources Ltd. survey of 800 voters conducted 1-10-08 to 1-21-08 for ClearWay Minnesotasm).
- A survey release one year after **Ohio** voters enacted a strong smoke-free initiative found that 79 percent of Ohio voters support the state's smoke-free law. (Midwest Communications and Media survey of 600 Ohio voters 11-3-07 to 11-5-07).
- In a survey conducted six months after **New Jersey's** smoke-free law went into effect, 73 percent of New Jersey residents indicated that they favored the new law. (Monmouth University Polling Institute survey of 800 randomly selected state residents ages 18 and older 10-16-06 to 10-19-06).
- By more than a two-to-one margin (65 percent to 32 percent), **Colorado** residents feel that the statewide smoke-free law should remain in place. A 56 percent majority of residents also noted that Colorado's law prohibiting smoking in public places made going out more enjoyable (26 percent said it made no difference while just 18 percent said the law made going out less enjoyable). (Survey USA survey of 500 randomly selected state residents ages 18 and older conducted for KUSA-TV Denver 10-06).

- In **California**, 90 percent of adult residents, including 75 percent of smokers, approve of the state's smoke-free workplace law. (Field Research Corporation survey of 1,701 California adults September 2004).
- A poll of **Maine** residents found strong public support for the state's smoke-free law. Nine months after the law went into effect, a survey found that 76 percent of Maine residents (including 54 percent of smokers) support the law making all bars, taverns, lounges, and pool halls smoke-free. (Critical Insights survey of 600 Maine residents 9-10-04 to 9-23-04).
- In **Connecticut**, 85 percent of voters support the new law prohibiting smoking inside all workplaces in the state, including offices, restaurants and bars. Just 14 percent oppose the law. (Global Strategy Group Survey of 400 voters in Connecticut 8-28-04 to 8-30-04). Although the survey questions were not identical (so the results cannot be compared directly), a poll conducted before the law was enacted found that 64% of Connecticut voters would support "a total ban on smoking in restaurants and bars." (Quinnipiac University survey of 1,239 Connecticut voters, 4-28-03 to 4-28-03, <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/x5859.xml>).
- Nearly a year after **Delaware** implemented a law prohibiting smoking in all workplaces, including restaurants, bars and casinos, a poll found that more than three out of four Delaware voters (77 percent) supported the smoke-free workplace law, with 62 percent expressing strong support. (Mason Dixon survey of 625 DE voters 10-24-03 to 10-27-03).
- A survey conducted in September of 2003 (more than one year after the law went into effect) found that 75% of **Florida** voters supported the law with just 25 percent opposing the law (Mason Dixon survey of 625 FL voters 9-25-03 to 9-27-03).
- By nearly a four-to-one margin (78 percent to 20 percent), **Philadelphia** voters support the law prohibiting smoking inside almost all workplaces, including offices, restaurants and most bars. The poll also found that the smoke-free law has reached a level of popularity at or near other Philadelphia favorites such as the Phillies and Eagles, Donovan McNabb, Rocky Balboa, cheese steaks and Tastykakes. (Global Strategy Group Survey of 501 voters in Philadelphia 4-26-07 to 4-29-07).
- Residents of **Minnesota** communities that implemented smoke-free policies in restaurants and bars in the spring of 2005 strongly support the new laws. In surveys conducted nearly one year after the laws went into effect, support for the ordinances exceeds 70 percent in all of the communities surveyed: Hennepin County (75 percent), Bloomington (73 percent), Golden Valley (81 percent), Minneapolis (76 percent) and Beltrami County (72 percent). (Mellman Group survey of residents of Beltrami and Hennepin counties and the cities of Minneapolis, Bloomington and Golden Valley March 2006).
- By more than a two-to-one margin (68 percent to 29 percent), **Madison, Wisconsin** voters favor the law prohibiting smoking in most public places, including restaurants and bars. (Mellman Group Survey of 400 Madison voters 8-20-05 to 8-23-05).
- A March 2004 poll of **New York City** voters found that three out of four voters supported the law. By a margin of 75 percent to 24 percent, New York City voters supported the City's smoke-free workplace law, a five-point increase in popularity since August 2003 (70 percent support, 27 percent oppose). The March 2004 survey came one year after the city passed their smoke-free law. (Global Strategy Group Survey of 500 voters in New York City 3-21-04 to 3-22-04).

Other Surveys (Statewide)

- Sixty-six (66) percent of **Michigan** voters -- two-thirds of those polled -- favor smoke-free legislation that would prohibit smoking in most public places, including workplaces, offices, casinos, bars, and restaurants, including 52 percent who “strongly favor” it. (EPIC-MRA survey of 600 Michigan voters 3-19-09 to 3-22-09).
- **Kansas** voters overwhelmingly support a smoke-free state. More than two-thirds (71 percent) of Kansans support prohibiting smoking in all indoor work and public places, including restaurants and bars. (Wilson Research Strategies survey of 501 registered Kansas voters conducted 2-10-09 to 2-11-09 and released in February 2009 by the American Cancer Society).
- An overwhelming majority of **Virginia** voters (75 percent) support a statewide law to prohibit smoking inside workplaces, public buildings, offices, bars and restaurants. Only 22 percent oppose such legislation. (Global Strategy Group survey of 500 Virginia voters 1-27-09 to 1-29-09).
- By a strong majority (64 percent to 34 percent), **Indiana** voters support a law prohibiting smoking “in indoor public places, including workplaces, public buildings, offices, casinos, restaurants and bars.” (Public Opinion Strategies and Mellman Group survey of 500 Indiana voters 1-27-09 to 1-28-09).
- Support for a comprehensive statewide smoke-free law in **Oklahoma** is strong. Fifty-nine (59) percent of Oklahomans support eliminating smoking and smoking sections in all indoor workplaces and public facilities in contrast to the 37 percent who oppose it. (Wilson Research Strategies survey of 504 registered Oklahoma voters 1-25-09 to 1-26-09).
- In **Texas**, over two-thirds of voters (68 percent) favor a law that would prohibit smoking in all indoor workplaces and public facilities including public buildings, offices, restaurants, and bars. Just 28 percent oppose the law. (Baselice & Associates, Inc. survey of 601 registered Texas voters 1-18-09 to 1-19-09).
- In **South Carolina**, seven out of ten voters (70 percent) favor a law that would prohibit smoking in all indoor workplaces, including offices, restaurants and bars while 30 percent oppose a smoke-free law. (Public Opinion Strategies survey of 500 likely South Carolina voters 12-9-08 and 12-11-08).
- In a survey conducted prior to the extension of **Montana’s** smoke-free law to include bars and casinos, 79 percent of Montana voters said that they favored the law while just 20 percent opposed the law. The first phase of the law went into effect October 1, 2005. The state’s bars and casinos will become smoke-free on October 1, 2009. (Harstad Strategic Research, Inc survey of 503 registered Montana voters 9-16-08 to 9-21-08).
- A poll conducted in **South Dakota** found that by nearly a two-to-one margin (65 percent to 33 percent), South Dakota voters support making all indoor workplaces smoke free including inside all restaurants, bars, hotel rooms, casinos and video lottery locations. (Public Opinion Strategies survey of 500 registered South Dakota voters 8-25-08 to 8-26-09).
- In **Wisconsin**, 69 percent of voters support a statewide smoke-free law including bars and restaurants — an increase of five percentage points in just twelve months. (Mellman Group and Public Opinion Strategies survey of 500 Wisconsin voters conducted 3-12-08 to 3-16-08).
- Nearly eight out of ten **Alabama** voters (78 percent) favor a law that would make all of the state’s workplaces smoke-free. (Opinion Research Associates, Inc. survey of 503 voters statewide released January 2008).

- By nearly a three-to-one margin (72 percent to 25 percent), **Nebraskans** favor a statewide law that would prohibit smoking all workplaces, including offices, restaurants and bars. (Public Opinion Strategies survey of 500 Nebraskans 12-4-07 to 12-5-07).
- By a three-to-one margin (73 percent to 23 percent), **Pennsylvania** voters favor a statewide law that would prohibit smoking all workplaces, including restaurants and bars. (Susquehanna Polling & Research survey of 505 Pennsylvania voters 5-7-07 to 5-10-07).
- In **Maryland**, 7 out of 10 voters (72 percent) favor a law smoke-free law that would cover restaurants and bars. Just 23 percent oppose the law. (Gonzales Research & Marketing Strategies survey of 820 registered Maryland voters 3-19-07 to 3-22-07).
- An overwhelming majority of **Oregon** voters (72 percent) support a statewide law to “prohibit smoking in most indoor public places, including workplaces, bingo halls, bowling centers, bars and restaurants.” (Grove Insight survey of 500 registered Oregon voters 3-6-07 to 3-8-07).
- By a margin of more than four-to-one (79 percent to 18 percent), **New Hampshire** voters support a statewide law prohibiting smoking inside all workplaces, including restaurants and bars. (University of New Hampshire Survey Center survey of 402 registered NH voters 1-20-06 to 1-26-06).
- An overwhelming majority of **Hawaii** voters (85 percent) support a statewide law to prohibit smoking in all enclosed public places including workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurants and bars. (Ward Research, Inc. survey of 605 registered Hawaii voters 10-28-05 to 11-5-05).
- By nearly a three-to-one margin (71 percent to 25 percent), **Iowa** voters would favor a local ordinance in their community that would prohibit smoking in most indoor public places and workplaces, including restaurants and bars. More than half of voters (57 percent) strongly favor a local smoke-free ordinance. (QEV Analytics survey of 500 Iowa voters 1-21-05 to 1-23-05).
- A survey of **Rhode Island** voters found that 72 percent support a law prohibiting smoking inside all workplaces in the state, including offices, restaurants and bars. Just 25 percent would oppose such a law. The survey was conducted prior to the state’s enactment of a comprehensive smoke-free law. (Mellman Group Survey of 500 RI voters 1-15-04 to 1-18-04).
- A 2002 survey of **California** bar owners, managers, assistant managers and bartenders found overwhelming support for the state’s smoke-free bar law, with more than eight in ten bar managers and employees (83 percent) saying they think the smoke-free workplace law protects their health and the health of other bar employees, and 77 percent of bar managers and employees saying that complying with the law has been “very” or “fairly” easy. (Field Research Corporation, “Bar Establishment Survey,” conducted September – October 2002 for California Department of Health Services (CDHS).

Other Surveys (Local Communities)

- **Bismarck, North Dakota** residents support a law that would prohibit smoking in all workplaces, truck stops, restaurants and bars. Seventy-two (72) percent of Bismarck residents said that would favor such a law with sixty-one percent saying they would strongly favor it. (Odney Research survey of 400 likely voters in Bismarck conducted 12-14-09 to 12-21-09).
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- **Wichita, Kansas** voters favor a statewide law that would prohibit smoking in all indoor workplaces and public facilities. Sixty-two (62) percent of Wichita voters say they would favor such a law with 50 percent saying they would strongly favor it. (Wilson Research Strategies survey of 400 Wichita voters conducted 3-4-09 to 3-5-09).

- A survey of **Atlanta, Georgia** voters found broad support for a smoke-free ordinance that would prohibit smoking inside all indoor public places, including workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurants and bars. Sixty-five (65) percent of voters favor a smoke-free ordinance whereas 32 percent oppose such a measure. (The Schapiro Group survey of 600 voters in Atlanta, Georgia 2-2-09 to 2-11-09).
- Over two thirds (69.5 percent) of **Marion County, Indiana** residents say they would support a law in Indianapolis prohibiting smoking in all workplaces including restaurants, bars, and bowling alleys. Slightly over one quarter (27.2 percent) said they would oppose such a law. (Survey Research Center survey of 606 Marion County residents 10-28-08 to 11-7-08).
- By a strong majority (65 percent to 33 percent), **Northern Kentucky** voters support a law prohibiting smoking “in most public places, including workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurants and bars.” Half of all voters in the region (50 percent) *strongly* favor such a law. The survey included voters from Boone, Campbell and Kenton counties. (Public Opinion Strategies survey of 750 registered voters in Northern Kentucky 6-3-08 to 6-5-08).
- A survey of **Dallas, Texas** voters found strong, citywide support for an extension of the city’s smoke-free ordinance to include all indoor workplaces. Voters support a local ordinance extending the smoke-free law to cover all indoor workplaces, including bars, by more than a 2-to-1 margin (67 percent favor to 29 percent oppose). (Allyn & Company survey of Dallas voters conducted 5-12-08 to 5-18-08).
- Nearly seven out of ten **Houston, Texas** residents (68 percent) favor expanding the city’s smoke-free ordinance to prohibit smoking in all workplaces, including offices, restaurants and bars. (Baselice & Associates survey of 502 Houston adults 8-10-06 to 8-13-06).
- More than three out of four **Mecklenburg County, North Carolina** voters (76 percent) support laws in their local community that would make offices, restaurants, bars and other workplaces smoke-free. (Clark & Chase Research survey of 500 Mecklenburg County NC voters July 2006).
- By more than a three-to-one margin (75 percent to 23 percent), **St. Cloud, Minnesota** voters support an ordinance prohibiting smoking in all workplaces. The survey also found strong support for a smoke-free workplace ordinance in the surrounding communities of Sauk Rapids (78 percent), Sartell (79 percent) and St. Joseph (74 percent). (Mellman Group survey of 800 voters in the St. Cloud region 6-06 to 7-06)
- By a margin of 70 percent to 25 percent, **Charleston, South Carolina** residents would support a city law prohibiting smoking inside all workplaces, including restaurants and bars. (University of South Carolina Institute for Public Service and Policy Research survey of 618 Charleston SC residents conducted 11-10-05 to 12-14-05).
- A large majority of **Chicago, Illinois** voters – 60 percent – favor a comprehensive smoke-free ordinance which includes restaurants and bars, compared to just 36 percent who oppose the proposal. (Fako & Associates survey of 601 registered Chicago voters 8-20-05 to 8-23-05).
- Nearly three out of four **Washington, DC** voters (74 percent) favor a law that would prohibit smoking in all indoor workplaces, including offices, restaurants, and bars. (Lake Snell Perry & Associates survey of 502 likely DC voters 12-15-04 to 12-21-04).