



Association for Nonsmokers - Minnesota

OCTOBER 2015 Vol 31 Number 4

Ramsey County prohibits e-cigarettes in public spaces

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners continued its strong leadership regarding the health and safety of its residents when it voted 6-1 on Sept. 22, to include electronic cigarettes in its clean indoor air policy and prohibit use of e-cigarettes and cigarettes within 25 feet of building entrances.

By including e-cigarettes in the clean indoor air policy, county leaders have established use of e-cigarettes will not be allowed anywhere conventional cigarettes are not allowed, such as work places, bars and restaurants.

In 2005, Ramsey County showed leadership in passing one of the state's first smoking bans for bars and restaurants. Two years later, the Minnesota legislature enacted the statewide Freedom to Breathe law, protecting all Minnesotans from the harms of secondhand smoke.

"Ramsey County has taken a stand to ensure our residents, workers and visitors aren't needlessly exposed to tobacco and e-cigarette use when they are in indoor public spaces, or simply entering and leaving buildings," said Jim McDonough, Chair of the Ramsey County Board of



ANSR staff photo

Ramsey County Commissioners celebrate with advocates after voting to prohibit use of electronic cigarettes inside public buildings and work places and to prohibit use of e-cigarettes or smoking within 25 feet of all public entrances.

Commissioners. "Hopefully, the state will follow suit and recognize the need to protect all Minnesotans from the harms of secondhand smoke and e-cigarette emissions."

In addition to McDonough, Commissioner Blake Huffman, Commissioner Mary Jo McGuire and Commissioner Rafael Ortega spoke up in support of the ordinance. Commissioner Huffman lauded the "wonderfully diverse"

community advocates who spoke at the public hearing on Sept. 8, while Commissioner McGuire concurred. Commissioner Ortega addressed the adverse health impact of electronic cigarettes, which emit an aerosol laced with nicotine, harmful chemicals and metal particles.

"The bottom line is if there is

Annual meeting coming up

The annual ANSR meeting will be soon. Here are the details:

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015
5:30 p.m.
2395 University Ave., West
Ste. 310
Saint Paul, MN 55114

TO THE MAX
give DAY
NOV 12, 2015

Give to the Max Day coming up in November

Give to the Max Day 2015 is just around the corner. The Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota works hard to protect Minnesotans from the harms of tobacco.

To help ANSR with this endeavor, make plans to donate on Nov. 12, 2015. Anyone interested can mail a check to ANSR or go online at www.GiveMN.org or at www.ansrmn.org/donate.

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ANSR staff photo

Ramsey County Commissioners were complimentary of the diverse group of advocates who spoke during the public hearing on the ordinance. The group included students, a doctor, advocates and parents.

any uncertainty about the impact it has on health, we're doing the right thing," Ortega said. "It's better to move in the direction we're moving. We need to keep enhancing the health of our community."

Ramsey County joins nine other counties and 20 cities in Minnesota that have also prohibited the use of electronic cigarettes wherever conventional smoking is not allowed, according to Katie Engman, program director for Ramsey Tobacco Coalition. State law prohibits the use of e-cigarettes in places such as schools,

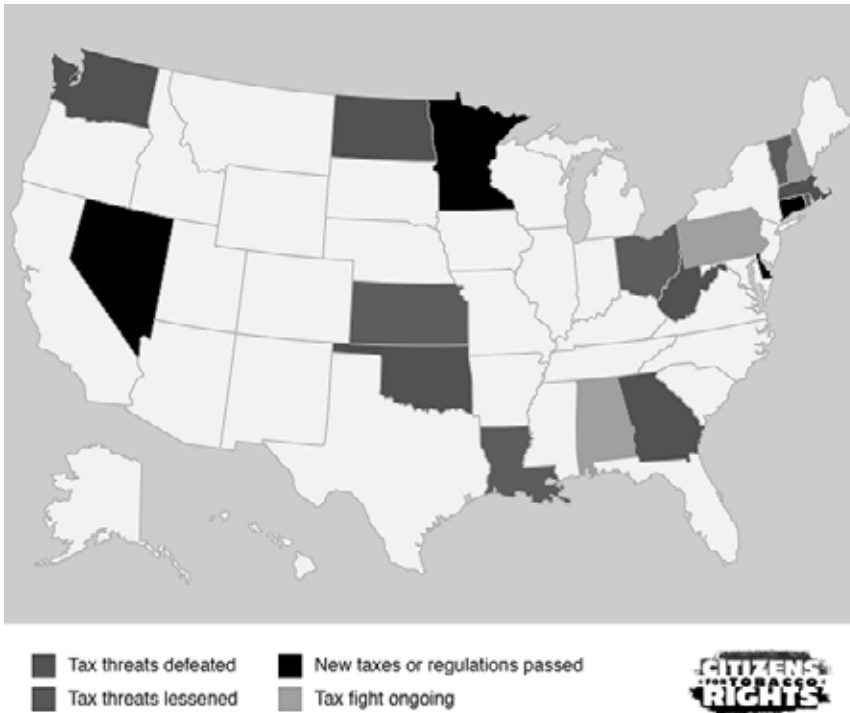
state colleges and universities, government buildings, hospitals and clinics, but state legislators stopped short of enacting a comprehensive usage ban.

"Kudos to Ramsey County leaders for protecting clean indoor air for all residents and visitors," Engman said. "They've also gone one step further in protecting public health by not allowing conventional cigarettes or e-cigarettes within 25 feet of all building entrances. These actions show true public health leadership that should be commended."



The ANSR Bulletin is published quarterly. For more information, contact ANSR at: 2395 University Ave. West, Ste. 310, St. Paul, MN 55114 or at (651) 646-3005.

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Excerpted from Citizens for Tobacco Rights email: STATE TAX FIGHTS LOST

Unfortunately, there were also a number of states where, despite our best efforts, lawmakers still passed unfair tobacco taxes and regulations.

- **Minneapolis, Minnesota** – The Minneapolis City Council passed a ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products, with the exception of winter-green, mint, and menthol.
- **Delaware** – Legislators in Dover added e-vapor products to the state’s Clean Indoor Air Act, outlawing the use of e-cigarettes in the same places that smoking is currently prohibited.
- **Nevada** – The Nevada Legislature not only supported Governor Sandoval’s proposed cigarette tax increase, they actually raised it from his proposed \$.40/pack increase to \$1.00/pack tax.
- **Connecticut** – Lawmakers in Hartford passed a cigarette tax increase to help fill the state’s \$1.4 billion budget hole.
- **Minnesota** – We were unable to convince legislators to repeal the state’s automatic annual tobacco tax increase.

Minnesota and Minneapolis thorn in industry side

Citizens for Tobacco Rights, a tobacco industry backed group, credited two major losses to our efforts in Minnesota.

In a recent email, the group claimed to have prevented or reduced 11 tobacco tax increases nationally. Among the losses were a new ordinance in Minneapolis and a failed effort to repeal a state tobacco tax increase tied to the inflation rate.

Altria (formerly Phillip Morris)

strongly opposed both policies through intense lobbying at the legislature and in Minneapolis.

To our knowledge, members of Citizens for Tobacco Rights do not participate in local or state efforts, and its sole function is to act as a front group for the largest tobacco company in the world.

The Minneapolis ordinance restricts the sale of non-menthol flavored tobacco products, which are primarily cheap, little cigars,

to adult-only tobacco stores. At the state level, tying the yearly tax increase to the inflation rate was part of the successful push in 2013 to increase the tax by \$1.60.

The 7-cent increase in January, the first of these automatic increases, is the third-largest tobacco price increase in the history of the state. The 2013 tax increase was a significant factor associated with the single largest drop in adult and youth smoking rates in Minnesota.

FDA pulls tobacco products over implied health claims

More than six years after gaining the ability to regulate tobacco, the Food and Drug Administration has increased attention on particularly hazardous and irresponsibly marketed tobacco products. In late August, it issued letters to companies marketing “additive-free” or “natural” tobacco products. ITG Brands, Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company, and Sherman’s marketed products making a

“modified risk” claim. Under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, modified risk products must “benefit the health of the population as a whole.” The industry uses such terms to imply natural, additive-free, or organic tobacco is safer than conventional tobacco.

In early September, the FDA also ordered R.J. Reynolds to cease selling Camel Crush Bold, Pall Mall Deep Set

Recessed Filter, Pall Mall Deep Set Recessed Filter Menthol and Vantage Tech 13 cigarettes. Under the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act of 2009, tobacco products marketed after Feb. 15, 2007 must be substantially equivalent to products already on the market in terms of public health impact and not raise different questions of public health when compared to them.

RTC blankets Twin Cities events during summertime



ANSR staff photos

Ramsey Tobacco Coalition staff educated festival goers about the harms of tobacco at the 2015 Twin Cities Pride in Minneapolis.

Every summer, the Ramsey Tobacco Coalition staff get out in the community to educate on the harms of tobacco. This summer was no different. Staff were at many places, including Tater Daze in Brooklyn Park, Twin Cities Pride, Juneteenth and the University of Minneapolis Open Streets in Minneapolis, and Rondo Days and Selby Avenue Jazz Fest in Saint Paul. Anyone stopping by the booths were encouraged to answer questions about tobacco to snag cool prizes, such as smart phone wallets, sunglasses, stress balls and pens and pencils.



Minneapolis residents helped send a thank you message to the Minneapolis City Council for protecting youth by removing flavored tobacco products from convenience stores and raising the price of cheap cigars.



LSF aids complex in going smoke-free

Live Smoke Free is proud to have been a part of assisting the LaBlanche Apartments in Saint Paul with the adoption of a smoke-free policy.

The complex has eight buildings with 270 units and is managed by Preferred Management Services.

Live Smoke Free heard from a resident who was uncomfortable with the harmful effects of secondhand smoke drifting into their unit and the hallway.

Live Smoke Free encouraged the property management to conduct a survey to get feedback from the residents about adopting a smoke-free policy. The survey helped management understand the smoking prevalence in the building and the number of residents supporting a smoke-free building. The survey involved the residents in the decision-making process.

Based on the survey, management decided to make



ANSR staff photo

The LaBlanche Apartments in Saint Paul, which consists of eight buildings and 270 units, will have a third building go smoke-free in October.

one of their buildings smoke-free, including a ban on e-cigarettes use, to get a feel on implementation and enforcement processes.

A few months after implementation of the smoke-free policy, the management saw a high demand for smoke-free buildings and decided to include two more buildings in their smoke-free building portfolio. Management is

considering making the remainder of the buildings smoke free.

The third building is scheduled to go smoke-free in October 2015. The process took almost a year to get the three buildings with 102 units smoke free and enable residents, guests and employees to have cleaner, safer and healthier buildings to live in.

ANSR Membership Form

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Anyone wishing to donate to ANSR or renew their membership online may do so at www.ansrmin.org/donate

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High school athletes increasingly using smokeless tobacco

As youth return to school and fall sports shift into high gear, parents might want to take a moment to warn youth about the dangers of any kind of tobacco use.

That's because high school athletes are increasingly using smokeless tobacco, commonly referred to as chew or dip, perhaps because they perceive it to have fewer negative effects.

More than 11 percent of high school athletes nationwide, and an alarming 17.4 of male high school athletes, reported using smokeless tobacco in 2013 according to a study released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

That is compared to 5.9 percent of high school non-athletes using smokeless tobacco.

The Minnesota Department of Health's 2014 Minnesota Youth



ANSR staff photo

Flavored tobacco, such as the above pictures, make it easier for youth to start using tobacco products by reducing the harshness of the tobacco flavor.

Tobacco Survey found that 6.2 percent of all high school students statewide use smokeless tobacco. Boys are seven times more likely than girls to use smokeless tobacco. In fact, 21.6 percent of Minnesota high school boys have tried smokeless tobacco, and 10.8 percent are current users.

Smokeless tobacco carries serious risks of its own, including esophageal, oral and pancreatic cancer, as well as gum disease and tooth loss. Smokeless tobacco also contains nicotine, which is highly addictive and has been shown to be harmful to adolescent brain development.