



VOTERS ACROSS THE COUNTRY EXPRESS STRONG SUPPORT FOR SMOKE-FREE 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 2012 election, two-thirds of **North Dakota** voters (67 percent to 33 percent) voted to approve Measure 4, enacting a statewide law requiring all restaurants, bars and other workplaces to be smoke-free. The measure won majority support in every county in the state.
- In November 2010, **South Dakota** voters approved Referred Question 12 by a 64 to 36 percent margin. The overwhelming vote cleared the way to implement a law approved by the legislature and Governor in March 2009. The law makes almost all workplaces, including restaurants, bars and gaming facilities, smoke-free.

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. And in November 2002, **Florida** voters approved the statewide smoke-free law by a margin of 71 percent to 29 percent.

Post Implementation Surveys

- Six months after a comprehensive smoke-free law went into effect in **New Orleans, LA**, a poll found that more than three out of four voters (78 percent) supported the new law, which covered all workplaces, including bars and casinos. Just 20 percent of voters opposed the law. (Public Opinion Strategies survey of 500 voters in New Orleans conducted 10-5-15 to 10-8-15).
- Five years after its implementation in January of 2010, **North Carolina** voters strongly support the state's smoke-free law. Eighty-one percent (81%) of those surveyed favor the law that prohibits

smoking in restaurants and bars. (Elon Poll of 677 registered North Carolina voters 4-20-15 to 4-24-15).

- A poll conducted four years after **Wisconsin's** smoke-free law went into effect found 86 percent of voters support the law, up from 75 percent in 2011 and 69 percent in 2008 when the legislature was still debating the issue. (Public Opinion Strategies survey of 600 Wisconsin voters 6-16-14 to 6-18-14).
- Five years after implementation of the statewide smoke-free workplace law in **Illinois**, a poll found that more than three out of four (77 percent) voters support the smoke-free law, with 67 percent expressing strong support. Just 18 percent of voters oppose the law. (Fako & Associates survey of 601 registered voters in Illinois conducted 12-3-12 to 12-4-12).
- A poll conducted almost 9 years after **New York's** smoke-free law went into effect found that 83 percent of voters support the law, up from 70 percent in 2003 right after the law went into effect. (Global Strategy Group survey of 710 likely voters 2-22-12 to 2-26-12).
- Just over 6 years after its implementation, **Washington** voters support the state's smoke-free law by an overwhelming 84 percent over only 16 percent of likely voters who oppose it. (EMC Research survey of 500 Washington likely voters 12-12-11 to 12-18-11).
- Voters in **Iowa** strongly support the state's smoke-free law. A strong majority (79%) of voters say that the state's smoke-free Air Act has made Iowa "a better place to live." In addition, by a margin of 73% to 23%, Iowa voters reject the idea of repealing the law. (Selzer & Company survey of Iowa voters 2-7-11 to 2-9-11).
- Over three years after its implementation, **Minnesota** voters still overwhelmingly support the state's smoke-free law. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of voters support the Freedom to Breathe Act, which prohibits smoking in most public places, including workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurants, and bars, while only 20 percent of voters oppose this law. (Decision Resources, Ltd. survey of Minnesota voters 2-10-11 to 2-19-11).
- Voters in **Kansas** strongly support the state's smoke-free law. More than 3 out of 4 voters (77 percent) support the law prohibiting smoking in workplaces, including restaurants and bars. Just 21 percent of voters oppose the smoke-free law. (Public Opinion Strategies survey of Kansas voters 1-11-11 to 1-12-11).
- By more than a four-to-one margin (81 percent to 18 percent), **Nebraskans** favor their statewide law that prohibits smoking all workplaces, including offices, restaurants and bars. (Public Opinion Strategies survey of 500 Nebraska voters 12-14-10 to 12-16-10).
- Nearly three out of four **Ohio** adults (73 percent) approve of the statewide smoke-free law, compared to 19 percent who disapprove (8 percent do not have an opinion). (2009 Ohio Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System and Adult Tobacco Survey, Chronic Disease and Behavioral Epidemiology, Center for Public Health Statistics and Informatics, Ohio Department of Health, 2010).
- 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).
- 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).
- 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 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).
- 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).

- 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 (Statewide)

- By more than a 2-to-1 margin (69 percent to 30 percent), **Pennsylvania** voters support a law that would prohibit smoking in all workplaces, including bars and casinos. (Public Opinion Strategies survey of 600 likely voters in Pennsylvania conducted 9-9-17 to 9-12-17).
- By a strong majority (71 percent to 27 percent), **Kentucky** adults support a statewide law that would prohibit smoking in most public places, including workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurants, and bars. (Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, Kentucky Health Issues Poll of 1,692 Kentucky adults conducted 10-24-17 to 12-2-17 by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati).
- By a strong majority (70 percent to 27 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 1-21-12 to 1-23-12).
- Sixty-eight (68) percent of **Mississippi** voters are in favor of a law that would prohibit smoking in all indoor public places, including workplaces, public buildings, offices, casinos, restaurants, and bars including 58 percent who "strongly favor" such a law. (Public Opinion Strategies survey of 500 Mississippi voters 1-10-12 and 1-12-12).
- 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).
- 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 **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).
- 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).

Other Surveys (Local Communities)

- A survey of **Atlanta, Georgia** voters found broad support (76 percent) for a smoke-free law that would prohibit smoking inside most public places – including workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurants, bars and the Hartsfield-Jackson airport. (Lake Research Partners survey of 500 voters in Atlanta, GA 8-15-17 to 8-20-17).
- More than three in four **Jefferson County, Alabama** voters favor a law that would “prohibit smoking in indoor public places, including all workplaces, offices, restaurants and bars” (76% favor, 22% oppose). (Mellman Group survey of 600 voters in Jefferson County, AL 7-5-11 to 7-7-11).
- **St. Louis County, Missouri** voters support a law that would “prohibit smoking in most indoor public places, including all workplaces, offices, restaurants, bars and casinos.” More than 7 in 10 voters (76%) favor this law, while only a quarter (25%) oppose it. Moreover, most St. Louis County voters do not believe the current smoke-free law, which exempts some bars and casinos, goes far enough. When voters are informed about the current law and asked whether they would favor or oppose legislation that would extend the county’s smoke-free law to cover ALL indoor workplaces, including bars and casinos, 65% favors such a law, while only 33% opposes it. (Mellman Group survey of 400 voters in St. Louis County 6-23-11 to 6-26-11).
- Sixty-seven (67) percent of **Natrona County, Wyoming** voters favor a law that would “prohibit smoking in indoor public places, including restaurants, bars, and other indoor workplaces” (67% favor, 29% oppose). (Keating Research survey of 854 registered voters in Natrona County, WY 5-18-11 to 6-9-11).

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, October 2018