
TFOCC NEWS

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Doyle Signs Statewide Smoking Ban

Governor Jim Doyle signed a smoking ban on Monday, May 18, 2009 making bars, restaurants, and other workplaces smoke-free starting next summer.

“Today is a day that we can all take a deep breath and enjoy the accomplishment that will occur here today,” Doyle said just before signing the bill in the Capitol.

The Legislature passed a compromise on May 13, 2009 that bans smoking in virtually all workplaces but delays the start date until July 5, 2010 – later than Doyle and other supporters wanted. The ban passed the Senate 25-8 and the Assembly 61-38

Tribal casinos are exempt from the ban because lawmakers do not have the power to fully regulate them under federal law. Also exempt are existing cigar bars and specialty tobacco shops.

The local bans will remain in effect until the state ban begins. Local governments will not be able to ban businesses from having outdoor smoking areas, but they could make other areas smoke-free that are not covered by the state ban, such as parks.

Rep. John Richards said the local bans helped push the legislation through despite past opposition from legislative leaders from both parties.

“There were so many communities that went smoke-free – 37 communities. That really changed the landscape,” he said.

The bill includes forfeitures of \$100 to \$250 for violations. Business owners will get a warning the first time, but smokers could be fined for the first offense.

Senate President Fred Risser said he was elated to get the bill passed after fighting tobacco for more than 50 years in office. Risser said he had a bill around 1962 to make it illegal for those under 16 to smoke, but the measure was defeated 4-1 in committee.

“There’s been almost 100% reversal in society’s view of smoking,” he said.



The Tobacco-Free Oneida County Coalition presented Pine Isle Sports Bar & Grill a certificate of recognition for going smoke-free. Pine Isle Sports Bar & Grill re-opened as a smoke-free establishment on May 1st. Owner Greg Elisha said “The transition has been unbelievable! Our customers are very happy with our decision to go smoke-free. With the passing of the smoking ban that will be implemented in July 2010, Pine Isle will be one step ahead. Pictured in back from left to right are Owner Dave Jackson, Owner Greg Elisha, Oneida County Tobacco Coordinator Niki Kostrova, and Tobacco-Free Oneida County Chair Bill Vancos. In front are Luke Elisha and Luke Mulligan.

JFC Passes Cigarette Tax Increase

On May 28, 2009, the Joint Finance Committee passed a 75 cent cigarette tax increase and increase on other tobacco products. This increase will prevent kids from starting a deadly addiction and help current tobacco users quit.

Research shows raising the price of cigarettes increases the rate at which smokers try to quit, and history repeated itself in Wisconsin after the federal tobacco tax increased 62 cents on April 1.

In the month of April, 66% of callers to the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line said the increase in the cost of tobacco products influenced their motivation to call.

Total calls to the Wisconsin Tobacco Quit Line were up 65% the week the federal tax increase went into effect (March 30-April 5).

The budget will now move to the Assembly, followed by the Senate, followed by the Conference Committee (if necessary), ending with the Governor.

JWMS FACT Bring Message to Underclassmen

James William Middle School FACT (Fighting Against Corporate Tobacco) Members led peer to peer educational sessions for almost 300 elementary aged students on Wednesday, May 27th and Thursday, May 28th. Students shared 45 minute presentations on: Ways to Say No to Smoking, A Demonstration with Healthy and Unhealthy Pig Lungs, Information about Spit Tobacco, and Exposure of Tobacco Companies Tricks. The sessions took place with Pelican, Crescent, and Nativity of Our Lord 1st through 3rd grade students.

Amber Toboyak, an eighth grade FACT member said, "It is important to educate the youth on the dangers of smoking and the effects of secondhand smoke. I think the kids really learn something from our presentation and hopefully it will prevent many of them from ever starting to use tobacco."

FACT developed out of a statewide concern about teen tobacco use and has educated thousands of youth over the last eight years. For more information, visit www.fightwithfact.com



Amber Toboyak, an 8th grade FACT (Fighting Against Corporate Tobacco) member gives a demonstration with unhealthy pig lungs to 1st and 2nd graders at Nativity of Our Lord Elementary School on Wednesday May 27th as part of their presentation on the dangers and effects of smoking and secondhand smoke. From left to right are FACT members Angela Towne, Elizabeth Rogers, Derek Thorn, Amber Toboyak, Rainne Britton, and Mark Schmidt.



The Oneida County Health Department is preparing to conduct WI Wins checks again this summer, beginning in June. WI Wins is an intervention program designed to reduce the rate of illegal tobacco sales to minors at retail outlets.

In 2008 198 checks were completed and 184 businesses did the right thing by asking for identification. In 2001 the illegal sale rate of tobacco products to minors was over 38%. In 2008 that percentage dropped to 7%

There's Help To Quit Smoking

If you smoke and want to quit, or know someone who does, visit the Wisconsin Quit Line at <http://www.WiQuitLine.org> or call 1-800-QUIT-NOW. You'll talk to a friendly quit coach who will send you a free two-week supply of quit-tobacco medications, plus help you develop strategies on how to quit that are just right for you. The Quit Line has already helped more than 123,500 callers just like you



Wisconsin's 2009-2010 Tobacco Control Funding

On May 28th, the members of the Joint Finance Committee voted 12-4 to pass the omnibus budgetary Motion 700. In addition to restoring the \$1.8 million cut from the base level of tobacco control funding originally proposed in Doyle's Feb. budget (\$30.5 million), the JFC cut tobacco control funding by an additional \$10 million (a cut of \$5 million per fiscal year). Funding levels as passed by the JFC amount to \$9.35 million in tobacco control funding per fiscal year, for a total of \$18.7 million over the biennium—this funding level is a reduction of \$5.9 million per fiscal year (\$11.8 million over the biennium) as compared with Doyle's base funding level—a cut of almost 40%. The funding level passed by the JFC would represent the lowest funding level ever for the Tobacco Use Control Grants. On May 29th, the members of the JFC voted 12-4 to pass the budget as a whole, with tobacco control funding at the levels set by Motion 700.

The budget now moves to the Assembly, followed by the Senate, followed by Conference Committee (if necessary), ending with the Governor. This proposed Tobacco Use Control Grants funding level (\$18.7 million over the biennium) has been passed by JFC but *is not yet a law*: the Assembly, Senate, or Governor have the power to alter this amount.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

Tobacco-Free Oneida County Coalition Meeting

will be held on

Monday

June 15, 2009

5:30 – 6:30 PM

at the

**Riverside Clinic – Ministry
Health Care**

1020 Kabel Avenue

Rhineland

Conference Room 1 (Fish Bowl)

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