



### **About Smoke Free St. Charles County:**

*Smoke Free St. Charles County is a group of citizens and community leaders concerned about the health effects of secondhand smoke. We are working toward smoke-free air in all public places in St. Charles County including workplaces, bars, and casinos.*

### **Secondhand Smoke is Dangerous for Everyone**

Secondhand smoke is toxic. Containing over 7,000 substances, more than 69 are known or suspected to cause cancer.

Exposure to secondhand smoke is a health risk for everyone – it increases the risk of heart, lung and respiratory disease.

Exposure to secondhand smoke puts the most vulnerable at risk. For children, exposure can trigger asthma attacks, ear and respiratory infections and SIDS.

Unlike many other personal behaviors, smoking impacts more than the person making the choice. When people smoke in public places they affect the health of everyone around them.

### **Hospitality Employees Are at Greater Risk**

Service industry and gaming facility employees breathe more secondhand smoke while at work than any other type of employee. Employees should be protected from the dangers of secondhand smoke in bars and casinos, the same way they are in offices.

Everyone has the right to breathe smoke-free air at work. The public health measure ensures employees at bars, restaurants and casinos don't have to risk their health for a paycheck.

### **Ventilation Systems and Separate Sections Don't Solve the Problem**

The U.S. Surgeon General has concluded that separating smokers from nonsmokers, air cleaning technologies, and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate secondhand smoke exposure.

Conventional air cleaning systems can remove large particles, but not the smaller particles or gases found in secondhand smoke. The micro particles found in cigarette smoke are easily and deeply inhaled into the lungs and can lead to disease and death for the smoker and the bystander.

### **Smoke-Free Communities Are the New Normal**

The demand for smoke-free environments has never been higher.

There are currently 4,885 municipalities in the United States with laws that restrict where smoking is allowed. Including more than 800 smoke-free casinos and gambling venues in the U.S.

### **Smoke-Free Laws Are a Commonsense Solution**

The basis of the law is improving public health – plain and simple.

Smoke-free laws that are strong and fair place all workplaces including bars, restaurants and casinos on a level playing field. It's as simple as smokers stepping outside for the health of everyone.