



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

September 20, 2012

Resolution 12-10

Proposed No. 12-10.1

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION calling on the Washington state
2 Legislature to restore local control of retail tobacco sales
3 and promotion.

4 WHEREAS, tobacco use is the most preventable cause of premature death,
5 disability and disease in the United States, and

6 WHEREAS, annually, an estimated four hundred forty-three thousand people
7 nationwide, seven thousand six hundred people in Washington state and one thousand
8 eight hundred people in King County die prematurely from smoking or exposure to
9 secondhand smoke, and

10 WHEREAS, Washington's Youth Access Law preempts local governments from
11 adopting or enforcing regulations related to retail tobacco sales and promotion, and

12 WHEREAS, local governments have the right and responsibility to adopt laws
13 that protect the health and safety of their citizens, and

14 WHEREAS, the needs of a specific community may be different from those of the
15 state as a whole. Local policymakers live in the communities in which they serve, so
16 they can be more responsive to public sentiment, and

17 WHEREAS, since implementation of the state's comprehensive Tobacco
18 Prevention and Control Program, youth cigarette smoking declined dramatically from

19 1999 to 2004. In recent years, reductions in smoking rates have stalled despite media
20 campaigns and price increases, and

21 WHEREAS, the Washington state Legislature eliminated all funding for the
22 state's comprehensive Tobacco Prevention and Control Program, effective July 2011. As
23 a result of this dramatic funding cut, the state no longer funds anti-tobacco media
24 campaigns or local tobacco prevention and cessation programs in schools or through local
25 governments and community organizations. The power to create tobacco prevention
26 policy at the local level has the potential to reduce the risk that smoking rates increase as
27 they have in other states after comprehensive programs disappear, and

28 WHEREAS, rates of youth smoking in Washington state are unacceptably high:
29 about thirteen percent of 10th graders smoke cigarettes and fifty children start smoking
30 every day, and

31 WHEREAS, tobacco companies spend an estimated \$122.5 million each year to
32 market products in Washington state and have recently introduced tobacco products that
33 appeal to children because of their fruit and candy flavoring and colorful packaging, and

34 WHEREAS, more than fifteen thousand King County middle and high school
35 students, including one in four 12th graders, used cigarettes or other tobacco products in
36 the past month, and

37 WHEREAS, the tobacco epidemic in Washington state has different
38 characteristics in different locations. A one-size-fits-all approach may not work in all
39 cases, so communities need the ability to adopt approaches that work for their
40 populations, and

41 WHEREAS, state laws that preempt local regulation of tobacco sales prevent
42 local governments from enacting local laws that are tailored to meet the needs of their
43 communities and have a devastating effect on tobacco control efforts and on the public
44 health of the state's residents and workers, and

45 WHEREAS, Congress has recognized the vital role that states and localities play
46 in restricting youth access to tobacco products, and in June 2009 enacted legislation
47 expressly permitting states and localities to regulate cigarette advertising and promotions,
48 and

49 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services made the
50 elimination of state laws that preempt stronger tobacco control laws a national goal in
51 Healthy People 2020, and

52 WHEREAS, national organizations, such as American Cancer Society, American
53 Heart Association, American Lung Association, American Public Health Association,
54 Americans for Non-Smoker's Rights, Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, Centers for
55 Disease Control and Prevention, National Association of County and City Health
56 Officials and National Association of Local Boards of Health, oppose state preemption of
57 local tobacco control laws;

58 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Health of King
59 County:

60 A. The Board of Health calls upon the Washington state Legislature to repeal
61 preemption in the state's youth access to tobacco law, chapter 70.155 RCW, and restore
62 the right of local governments to enact and enforce tobacco-related laws.

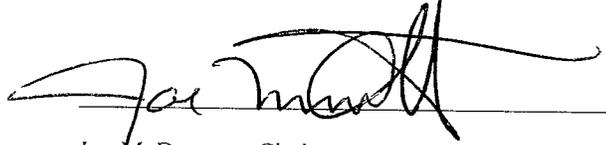
63 B. The Board of Health of King County strongly encourages other local boards of
64 health in Washington to adopt similar resolutions.

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Resolution 12-10 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 9/20/2012,
by the following vote:

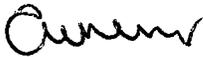
Yes: 12 - Ms. Cooke, Mr. Conlin, Ms. Patterson, Ms. Lambert, Mr.
Licata, Ms. Clark, Dr. Nicola, Dr. Danielson and Mr. McDermott
No: 0
Excused: 1 - Ms. Frisinger

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Joe McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None