

**Focus Group Responses**  
**April 30, 2008**  
**~15 participants**

**1.) What do you think about the implementation of a smoke-free ordinance in Jessamine County? What about in Nicholasville?**

- I would be for one ó I never did realize it until Lexington went smoke-free and now I see the benefits, you notice that there is a difference; food tastes better and your clothes don't smell.
- You certainly recognize the difference when you leave a smoking restaurant versus a non-smoking restaurant.
- I think it is a wonderful thing!
- It is trampling on people's rights.
- People have a right to smoke and not to smoke, so if you have an opportunity to leave then leave, but if you have to be there, like a government building, then it should be smoke-free.
- I am resistant to any type of government intrusion ó seat belt laws, helmet laws and so on.
- The experience in Lexington is very pleasant and seems to be very favorable.
- Restaurants with separate rooms for smoking and no-smoking doesn't make a difference, you are still exposed.
- For 23 years my mother was exposed to secondhand smoke and developed heart disease, her doctor said due to exposure, b/c she is not a smoker and has never lived with smokers but was around everyday for 23 years at her work.
- Now we are responsible for paying the bills for smokers illnesses and medical bills! there needs to be incentive for people to take better care of themselves.
- The schools have had problems with smoking for years! at first we had the barrel people who stood around smoking near the barrel. Then we removed the barrel and tried to make schools smoke-free, now we have a problem in the restrooms where the smoke goes through the vents throughout the building.
- I don't understand why people fight taxes for the cigarettes! we have to take care of them in the long run.
- To be a progressive city, we need to stay on the cusp with the cities who have enacted ordinances.
- I have done work at a cancer hospital and I have seen kids with cancer due to secondhand smoke exposure.
- It is tough to think about laws when people are ornery.

**2.) What do you think would be the effects of a smoke-free ordinance?**

- Change is always resistant.

for it, but I think people will learn to accept it.

- 3.) How do you think the community would respond to such an ordinance?
  - They would respond the same way ó the community will always be resistant to change.
- 4.) What obstacles would one face when trying to pass a smoke-free ordinance?
  - Less resistance if you would allow certain exemptions or smoking zones.
  - I think you should let owners decideí the economics will drive their response.
  - Applebees sure is successful
- 5.) What perceptions do you think people in the community have about smoke-free policies?
  - While it may be healthy, it is still an intrusion by government ó and even though I am not a smoker, the next thing government will intrude on may affect me and I will have lost ground.
  - Next it will be a ban or tax on hamburgers and red meat.
  - New York is already headed that way, they have to list the calories on the menus.
- 6.) What do you believe about the issues of secondhand smoke?
  - What are the issues?
  - Do I believe it affects othersí sure!
- 7.) Where do you think the greatest support is for a second-hand smoke ordinance?
  - Hospitals
  - Health care professionals
  - I will accept it when it becomes a food safety issue.
  - Restaurants are fine to ban, but bars, bowling alleys, bingo halls, any recreational facility ó you don't have to be there, so you can leave.
- 8.) Who do you believe is the least likely to support such an ordinance?
  - Smokers
  - Restaruant owners
  - Night Moves ó the downtown bar
- 9.) Where do you get your information on smoke-free issues?
  - Nancy or the Jess. County Health Department
  - The bias media ó newspaper
- 10.) If there was current information available on smoke-free ordinances, where would you most likely see/hear it?
  - TV
  - Locally, the Jessamine Journal

le will check with qualified sources like the health  
s will not.

- 11.) What else would you like to say about smoke-free issues?
- It hurts my heart when children are exposed to secondhand smoke, but in the long run, the more we support clean indoor air, then the culture will change and children will be less exposed.
  - Knowledge is power.
  - I would support a ban b/c it is the next step in supporting clean indoor air.
  - What percent of medical illness is related to smoking? My doctor once told me that every patient he had in the hospital was a smoker.
  - Like most things, this is what we are excited about at the time.
  - This is a propaganda campaign.
  - We have seen the tobacco industry under attack for year. I am in the insurance business and it is a proven fact that tobacco users will pay higher premiums and will die sooner. But, as a business owner, you should have a choiceí don't tell me what to do! Government should not infringe upon property owners rights.
  - There is a higher mortality rate with alcohol use, but the legislators are mostly drunks so they won't go after alcohol. What is next red meat???
  - Over time we will erode legal substances; but that is the government's job, to protect us from ourselves.