

## **Poll shows Kansans Love Clean Indoor Air Act**

*Group celebrates third anniversary with launch event in Wichita;  
KAFP Executive Director to Attend*

### **By Kansas Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition**

KAFP Executive Director, Carolyn Gaughan will join an enthusiastic group at Wichita's Town & Country restaurant to celebrate three years of reduced health risks from secondhand smoke from Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act and the law's popularity among Kansans today. The smoke-free policy went into effect three years ago this month.

As part of the anniversary events, the Sunflower Foundation highlighted a recent statewide public opinion poll that 78 percent of voters – or about three out of four Kansans – favor the law which prohibits smoking in most public places, including workplaces, public buildings, offices, restaurant and bars.

"Kansans simply believe this is good public policy, and they overwhelmingly favor this law," said Linda DeCoursey, Executive Director, Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition.

Natasha Baker, daughter of Town & Country Restaurant owner, said the law has actually helped business at the restaurant.

"We believe that the law generated a lot more business for us because we got so many returning customers and new ones, including a lot of families with children, who told us they hadn't been coming in because of the smoke," she said. "We still hear every day from someone how much they appreciate it, and that they believe it's just healthier for everyone, including our employees."

Released earlier this year, the public opinion poll also showed that nearly 9 out of 10 Kansas voters believe the law protects customers and employees at restaurants and bars from the dangers of secondhand smoke, and that more than 8 out of 10 voters say they enjoy going to restaurants and bars "without smelling like cigarette smoke" when they get home.

In January, the Kansas Health Institute released a separate analysis that showed over the past three years smoke-free laws were not associated with decreased overall sales at Kansas restaurants and bars. The independent analysis also showed that the laws were not associated with a reduction in the number of Kansas establishments serving liquor.

As part of the statewide celebration, coalitions and organizations are holding events in cities throughout the summer, including. More will be scheduled as local volunteers finalize plans.

In addition, Kansans can post a story, comment and photographs about how much they like the law at a new website dedicated to sharing the stories celebrating clean indoor air in public places at [www.ThanksKansas.com](http://www.ThanksKansas.com).

"Those of us involved from several years ago know how difficult this was at the time so it's really gratifying to see that it's such a widely popular policy now especially across so many different groups of Kansans," said Charlie Claycomb, past chairman of Tobacco Free Wichita. "People understand that it protects the health of Kansans, and mostly it seems that they appreciate a smoke-free environment in public places."

The poll was conducted by Public Opinion Strategies, a national survey firm, and commissioned by the Topeka-based Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansans. Through oversampling of Republican voters, it showed that more than 80 percent of Republican primary voters support the law.

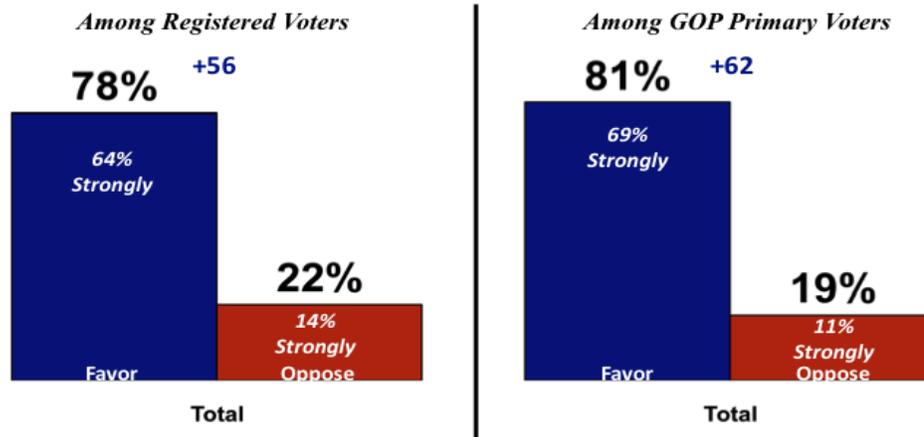
The survey sampled 500 Kansas voters and over-sampled 400 Republican primary voters, as they represent the majority of voters in Kansas. The margin of error for Kansas voters was +/- 4.4 percent, and among Republican voters was +/- 4.9 percent.

"For the health of Kansans, we were thrilled to see support for the law is so strong and that it cuts across party, demographic and regional lines throughout the state," said Billie Hall, President and CEO of the Sunflower Foundation. The foundation has a mandate to support activities to reduce tobacco use in the state, and this is the third poll on the Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act the Foundation has conducted in the past three years.

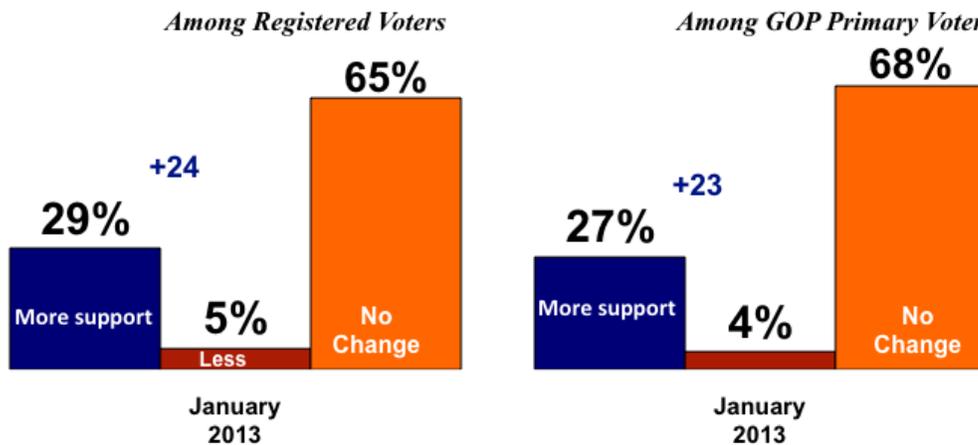
Tobacco use is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States and Kansas, according to health experts.

#### **Poll Results Attached**

Voters across all political parties support the law, especially among Republican primary voters



By a 6:1 margin, voters say their support is stronger today than before the law went into effect



When asked to agree or disagree with the statement: It has been really nice to go out and enjoy restaurants and bars without smelling like cigarette smoke when you get home:

- 84 percent of registered voters agreed
- 88 percent of GOP primary voters agreed

