



## Center Community Organizing Update

### Using SB 332 for Smokefree Housing Ordinances

On January 1, 2012 Senate Bill 332 will go into effect, making it explicit that landlords have the right to make their rental properties smokefree. While SB 332 doesn't affect the ability of a city or county to pass a local smokefree housing ordinance, it provides an opportunity to educate the public about how the California Legislature took a step

forward by removing any perceived obstacles to property owners making their properties smokefree. He



re are three ways to use this law to build support for local smokefree housing ordinances, which provide protection for tenants from secondhand smoke exposure.

1. Write a letter to the editor to your local newspaper about this new law. This creates awareness among residents in your community and may help you find new advocates who want to participate in your smokefree housing policy efforts. You can use information from the [American Lung Association in California's statement](#) to help you draft a letter.
2. The tobacco control coalition could send a letter to local elected officials to inform them of this new law. This creates awareness and establishes your program and coalition as a resource on smokefree housing. You can even include a [copy of the law](#) and the [press release from Senator Alex Padilla's office](#). Also, make sure to include information for why it is important to go beyond voluntary policies. See the question about why local ordinances are needed in the [Becoming a Policy Wonk on Nonsmoking Housing Units](#)

Still have questions about SB 332?

Check out the Center's [new factsheet](#) on SB 332 for more specifics of the law.

### Using SB 332 for Voluntary Smokefree Housing Policies

With this new law in place, tenants and advocates have something very specific they can use to answer any concerns landlords may have about whether it is legal to restrict smoking in multi-unit housing. Here are three ways to use this law to encourage landlords and property managers to go smokefree.

1. Provide information about the new law to the apartment associations in your county so that they can distribute this information to their members. While they are likely already aware of the law, providing information to them can establish you as a resource and point of contact should any of their members decide to implement smokefree policies. You can even offer to write an article for their newsletter about SB 332.
2. Mention this new law every time you get calls from tenants suffering from drifting secondhand smoke. The average person may not be aware of this law and how to talk to their landlord about it. Letting tenants know that state law now spells out that it is legal to restrict smoking

- [Ordinances](#) document for more information.
3. Demonstrate that the state law does not solve the problem of drifting secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing. There are many tenants who have been unsuccessful in their efforts to get their landlord to restrict smoking on their property. This will still be the case after this new law goes into effect because the legal issue is not the only concern for landlords. After the law has been in effect for some time, find tenants who can provide a personal story about the limit of voluntary policies and this state law and why a local ordinance is still needed.

- in rental housing will empower tenants to talk to their landlords.
3. Combine this law with other support for smokefree housing. This new law settles the legal argument, but that is not the only reason that landlords hesitate to adopt smokefree policies. Many landlords think that a policy would cost them money by driving off their potential tenants and that their current tenants would not support a policy. Show them the [studies that demonstrate how much they can save](#) on clean up costs by prohibiting smoking in units. Present [statewide poll results](#) or local survey results that show renters are strongly in favor of smoking restrictions in multi-unit housing.

---

*The Center for Tobacco Policy & Organizing assists local Prop 99 funded projects throughout the state meet policy objectives using proven community organizing strategies, and serves as a statewide and local tobacco policy resource. The Center is a project of the American Lung Association in California and is funded by the California Tobacco Control Program.*

The Center for Tobacco Policy & Organizing ♦ American Lung Association in California  
1029 J Street, Suite 450 ♦ Sacramento, CA 95814 ♦ Phone (916) 554-5864 ♦ Fax (916) 442-8585  
[www.Center4TobaccoPolicy.org](http://www.Center4TobaccoPolicy.org)

---