



Public Opinion Research Survey: March 2007

Survey of Calabasas Voters

About the Secondhand Smoke Control Ordinance and Smokefree Multi-Unit Housing Laws

Background

Drifting secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing from neighboring units, balconies and outdoor areas is a health hazard for many tenants. The increasing awareness of the dangers of secondhand smoke and the acceptability of smokefree environments are encouraging tenants to seek out smokefree units and property owners to declare their buildings smokefree. In addition, several cities and counties have passed ordinances restricting smoking in multi-unit housing. Since 2003, the Center for Tobacco Policy & Organizing has commissioned a series of scientific public opinion research surveys to assess attitudes among tenants, voters, and apartment owners and managers about secondhand smoke exposure and what to do about it. The surveys were conducted by Goodwin Simon Victoria Research.

In March 2007, 300 Calabasas voters were surveyed to assess public reaction to the Comprehensive Secondhand Smoke Control Ordinance passed a year earlier. The ordinance declares secondhand smoke a public nuisance and prohibits smoking in all outdoor public places where people can be exposed to secondhand smoke, such as outdoor businesses, hotels, parks, apartment common areas, restaurants and bars. The survey also measured support for expanding protections against secondhand smoke exposure to include smokefree multi-unit housing.

Summary of Key Findings

Calabasas Secondhand Smoke Control Ordinance One Year Later

Voters surveyed support the secondhand smoke control law:

- 80% approve of the law: only 17% disapprove of the law
- 74% agree that the law is an appropriate way to protect people from secondhand smoke
- Looking at specific provisions of the law:
 - 79% approve of banning smoking in outdoor common areas in apartments
 - 79% approve of declaring secondhand smoke a public nuisance
 - 75% approve of banning smoking outdoors in the city (except on private property)
 - 74% approve of banning smoking in outdoor areas of restaurants and bars
 - 73% approve of banning smoking on sidewalks
 - 61% approve of banning smoking in parking lots
- 72% do not feel the law will discourage people from coming to Calabasas to shop or for entertainment

Respondents expressed some concern about whether the ordinance is being enforced:

- 47% report having seen people smoking in a public place since the law went into effect
- 46% approve of the job the City is doing in enforcing the law (42% are not sure)

Expanding Smokefree Apartment Laws in Calabasas

The March 2006 ordinance does not protect tenants in apartment units from secondhand smoke. When asked about smoking in apartments, respondents supported increasing protection for residents:

- 67% of voters surveyed support a law to require apartment buildings to offer non-smoking sections of units
- 68% of residents surveyed favor a law that would require apartment complexes in Calabasas to designate some buildings as entirely smokefree
- 38% of respondents feel smokers living in buildings that would be smokefree under a new law should be allowed to continue smoking in their apartments as long as they desire; another 38% feel smokers should be able to smoke until their apartment lease expires
- 76% of voters surveyed want strong enforcement against people who move into a non-smoking apartment and violate the law by smoking inside (42% support evicting the violator; 34% support issuing a fine to the violator)
- 53% of respondents currently or formerly living in an apartment in Calabasas have had secondhand smoke drift into their apartment from another apartment or from outside

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This material was made possible by funds received from the California Department of Health Services, under contract # 04-35335.