



Kentucky can...

Expand local control to curb tobacco use among youth and improve health

The Kentucky General Assembly has made strides in recent years to curb tobacco use among youth by establishing a statewide tobacco-free school campus policy, increasing tobacco excise taxes, and setting the legal minimum age for purchasing tobacco products at 21.

Local governments are uniquely positioned to meet the needs of the people who live in their communities.

City and county governments see firsthand how effective tobacco control policy can improve health over time. They can respond more quickly to local needs, tailor ordinances to meet those needs, and develop effective enforcement measures. Yet, a current state law prohibits – or preempts – local jurisdictions from enacting stronger tobacco-control measures to reduce tobacco use.

Allowing local governments **the option** to quickly and effectively regulate the use, display, sale, and distribution of tobacco products ensures cities and counties can work to reduce health disparities in their community.

Examples of local control tools could include:



Set standards on tobacco retailer density in neighborhoods



Set buffer zones between tobacco retailers and schools or playgrounds



And other options communities choose



While youth cigarette smoking has declined, **e-cigarette usage among children and teens doubled** from 2016-2018



Every year, smoking directly causes **8,900 deaths** and leads to more than **\$1.9 billion** in health care costs



Youth who use e-cigarettes products are up to **7 times more likely to get COVID-19** than non-e-cigarette users



Children are **more likely to smoke** if they live or go to school in a neighborhood with **high tobacco retailer density**



Tobacco retailer density is higher in urban neighborhoods, neighborhoods with higher percentage of Black residents, and low-income neighborhoods – meaning that **kids who are low-income or Black are disproportionately at-risk of using tobacco**

Blueprint for Kentucky's Children Solution:

Allow city and county governments the option to regulate the use, display, sale, and distribution of tobacco products, including e-cigarettes.