



Last year, Wisconsin passed a comprehensive statewide smoke-free law, eliminating indoor smoking in all workplaces including bars and restaurants.

The legislation passed with strong bipartisan support and was signed into law by Governor Jim Doyle on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The law takes effect July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

### **Highlights of the Statewide Smoke-Free Law**

- No smoking allowed in bars, restaurants, private clubs or other workplaces
- Smoking is permitted on outdoor patios, private residences, tobacco retailers, tobacco bars and certain residence rooms in assisted living facilities.
- Local authorities may further restrict outdoor smoking on public property like parks and fairgrounds, but may not further restrict smoking on bar and restaurant patios.
- Individuals violating the smoke-free law can be fined \$100-\$250. Businesses violating the smoke-free law will first be given a warning and subsequently be subject to a maximum daily fine of \$100 regardless of the number of violations.
- Twenty-seven states including Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan and Iowa have all passed statewide smoke-free laws as a matter of public health.

### **Why is protecting nonsmokers from secondhand smoke so important?**

Secondhand smoke is a serious health hazard proven to cause premature death and disease in nonsmoking adults including increased risk for lung cancer, heart disease and serious respiratory illness. Many Wisconsinites are already protected from secondhand smoke at work—but not all. On July 5th, 2010 that protection will extend to every worker in every workplace.

Bar and restaurant workers are among the most heavily exposed to secondhand smoke at work and food service workers have been proven to be at a significantly higher risk of dying from lung cancer than the general public, due in part to their continuous exposure to secondhand smoke.

### **Where has smoking been eliminated?**

Inside public workplaces. The law eliminates secondhand smoke from virtually all indoor workplaces in the state including bars and restaurants. The law recognizes everyone has the right to smoke-free air at work and no one should have to choose between their health and their paycheck.

### **Where can people still smoke?**

Outside. The statewide smoke-free law applies strictly to indoor workplaces. The new state law permits smoking outside on restaurant patios or on the sidewalk.

### **Who supports the statewide law?**

The vast majority of Wisconsinites. Over two-thirds of Wisconsin voters support the law making all workplaces, including bars and restaurants, smoke-free.

The American Cancer Society, American Lung Association, American Heart Association and other leading health groups in addition to the Wisconsin Restaurant Association support this law.

### **What should someone do if they see someone smoking where they shouldn't?**

Smoke-free laws are so popular they tend to enforce themselves. However, if you are aware of repeated offenses please visit [www.wibettersmokefree.org](http://www.wibettersmokefree.org) and fill out the online non-compliance form.