



## Idaho Legislation

This legislation would raise the legal sale age for tobacco products and electronic cigarettes in Idaho from 18 to 21 years of age. It would align tobacco product sales with the current law, penalties and retail exceptions for alcohol sales.

Raising the age in Idaho shows a commitment to removing the risk of addiction and illness caused by tobacco and e-cigarette products to Idaho's youth and residents, and would decrease the burden of tobacco-related illness and health care costs to the citizens of Idaho.

- The Institute of Medicine concluded that raising the tobacco sale age from 18 to 21 nationwide could save 249,000 people from dying premature deaths and 45,000 fewer lung cancer deaths.<sup>1</sup>
- 95 percent of current smokers report that they started using tobacco before 21.<sup>2</sup>
- Each year 700 Idaho youth become new regular daily smokers, and 1/3 will die prematurely due to this addiction.<sup>3</sup>
- Smoking-related health care costs directly caused by smoking cost Idaho \$508 million dollars a year, or \$640 per household.<sup>4</sup>

**Current Idaho Statute – Idaho Prevention of Minors' Access to Tobacco Act** ([Title 39, Chapter 57](#)) already addresses the following:

- Applies to tobacco and electronic cigarette (e-cigarette) products
- Defines what constitutes possession, distribution and use
- Outlines penalties for an individual's first and subsequent violations
- Outlines permitting of tobacco product retailers, and penalties for first and subsequent violations

**Tobacco 21 Legislation would amend the existing law to:**

- Change the legal age of tobacco possession from 18 to 21
- Change references from 'minor' to 'youth' or 'persons under the age of 21 years'
- Add in retail exception for those employees 18 to 20 years of age
- Add in retail clarification for employees under 18
- Add in retail signage update to include reference to e-cigarettes

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<sup>1</sup> "Public Health Implications of Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco Products." Institute of Medicine. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK310401/>

<sup>2</sup> Increasing the Minimum Legal Sale Age for Tobacco Products to 21." Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/assets/factsheets/0376.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> "The Toll on Tobacco in Idaho." Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/idaho>

<sup>4</sup> The Toll on Tobacco in Idaho." Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/idaho>



## **Tobacco 21 Idaho Key Messages**

### **Addiction & Health**

- Each year 700 Idaho youth become new regular daily smokers, of whom 1/3 will die prematurely due to this addiction.
- About 95 percent of adult smokers start before the age of 21.
- Cigarettes today are engineered to addict.
- Cigarettes are the only legal consumer product that, when used as intended, will kill half of all long-term users.
- If a person can make it to their 21st birthday without becoming addicted to tobacco, they are much more likely to live their entire lives tobacco-free.

### **Costs**

- In Idaho, healthcare costs caused by tobacco total \$508 million per year.
- Idaho's leaders have the opportunity in front of them to decrease the burden of tobacco-related illness and healthcare costs and improve the health of young Idahoans.
- Tobacco is the driving cause of preventable death and disease in Idaho, claiming 1,800 lives per year. Raising the tobacco sale age to 21 as part of a comprehensive tobacco control strategy has the potential to save lives and health care costs of Idahoans.

### **Societal impact**

- Tobacco is bad for military preparedness. The U.S. Military recognizes the negative impact tobacco has on troop readiness and soldiers' health and has actively taken steps to reduce tobacco use.
- The majority of Idahoans – over 60% – support raising the legal sale age for tobacco products, including e-cigarettes.

### **Generational**

- Idaho's teens and young adults are tired of being the targets of Big Tobacco. According to a March 2015 Institute of Medicine report, raising the national minimum legal sale age to 21 is predicted to reduce smoking prevalence by about 12 percent and smoking-related deaths by nearly 10 percent for future generations.
- About 30,000 Idaho kids under age 18 will die prematurely if we continue on our current course.
- Raising the age will help keep tobacco out of high schools, where younger teens can obtain tobacco products from 18-year-olds.

# RAISING THE TOBACCO SALE AGE

## Idaho Supported

Idaho has the opportunity to prevent premature deaths, lung cancer, and future healthcare costs by raising the tobacco sale age to 21. Idaho residents have spoken and shown support for passing this life-saving legislation.



### THE PROBLEM

1,800

adults die in Idaho each year from their own smoking<sup>1</sup>

\$508 M

spent annually on health care costs attributed to tobacco use in Idaho<sup>1</sup>

55.9%

of Idaho high school seniors have used e-cigarettes<sup>2</sup>

NEARLY 1 IN 3

Idaho high school students use tobacco regularly, mostly through e-cigarettes<sup>2</sup>

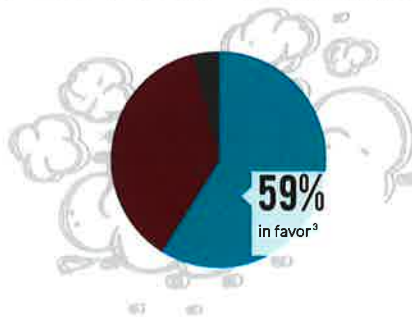
78%

of Idahoans are concerned about smoking and other tobacco use among young people in Idaho<sup>3</sup>

## IDAHOANS SUPPORT RAISING THE AGE

Opposed

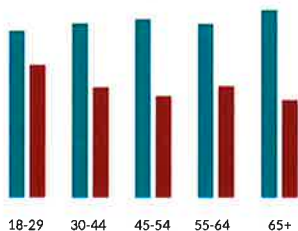
In Favor



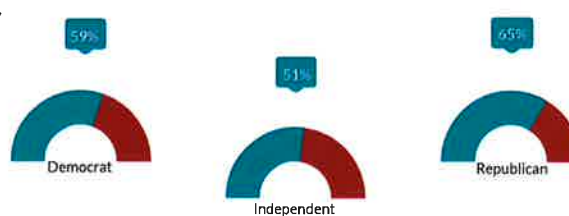
Across age and party demographics, the majority<sup>4</sup> of Idaho likely voters surveyed were in favor of raising the legal tobacco sale age to 21 in Idaho<sup>3</sup>

<sup>4</sup>500 likely voters surveyed

AGE



PARTY



### Top 4 Reasons

### Idahoans Support Raising the Age



18 is too young to make that decision, when their minds are still developing<sup>3</sup>



Tobacco is dangerous to health<sup>3</sup>



Deter and prevent youth from starting to smoke<sup>3</sup>



Minimize the use among teens and make it harder for them to get<sup>3</sup>

Sources

1. "The Toll of Tobacco in Idaho" (2017), Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. Retrieved from <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/press/2017/04/14/141414>

2. "Public Use of Tobacco in 2017 Community Assessment Executive Summary" (2017), United Way of Treasure Valley. Retrieved from <http://www.uwta.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/2017-Community-Assessment-Executive-Summary-06-17-2017.pdf>

3. Tobacco 21 (2016-2017), 2017-18 Strategy Group

