

## South Dakota is Smokefree

On November 2, voters in South Dakota overwhelmingly approved a measure to make the state smokefree with a final vote of 64 percent to 36 percent.

The state's smokefree air law has been a hot button issue for years, with advocates fighting tirelessly to make South Dakota smokefree. In 2002, a law was passed in South Dakota which included many indoor businesses, but bars, casinos, and restaurants were exempt. In 2009, South Dakota legislators passed a law to extend the smokefree air law to include bars, restaurants, and casinos. Before the law went into effect on July 1, 2009, opponents filed a petition with thousands of signatures to keep the law from taking effect until the public could vote on it. That vote happened on November 2, when voters overwhelmingly passed the measure 64 percent to 36 percent. At 12:01 a.m. on November 10, all bars, video lottery establishments, restaurants, and casinos went smokefree in South Dakota.



South Dakota is the latest state to pass comprehensive smokefree legislation.

While it took several years, South Dakota finally put their citizens first and passed a smokefree air law. The public support was in place and legislators finally agreed to listen to the public. Indiana legislators are tasked with the same challenge this year. With 66 percent of Hoosiers polled supporting a smokefree air law, it's time that they listen and pass a smokefree air law.

With every year that is wasted by not enacting a law, far too many Hoosiers are getting sick from exposure to secondhand smoke and it's costing Indiana hundreds of millions of valuable taxpayer dollars. It's time for Indiana legislators to follow South Dakota's lead and pass a statewide comprehensive smokefree air law.

