

Everyone has the right to breathe smoke free air.

The City of Columbia does not have real smoke free workplace laws. Working hard for your money can cost you your life. While there have been major gains in reducing secondhand smoke exposure in the general population, those in blue collar jobs in the service industry are often still exposed to secondhand smoke – which kills more than 53,000 nonsmokers each year.

Secondhand smoke is a health hazard.

- Secondhand smoke contains over 4,000 chemicals and at least 60 carcinogens.
- Secondhand smoke also causes emphysema, heart disease, lung disease, and cancer.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Environmental Protection Agency and other health groups all agree that secondhand smoke is dangerous and everyone should be protected from it in indoor workplaces and public places.

Smoke Free policies will protect our most vulnerable citizens.

- Smoke free policies enable children, the elderly, and people with certain health conditions to enjoy dining out and visiting public spaces without putting their health at risk.
- Smoke knows no bounds. Nonsmoking sections and ventilation systems cannot remove the 4000 toxic chemicals in tobacco smoke

No one should have to choose between a job and good health.

- Comprehensive smoke free workplace policies reduce tobacco-related illnesses and the costs of treating them.
- Smoke free policies reduce absenteeism even among non-smoking employees, reduce housekeeping and maintenance costs, lower insurance rates and result in fewer smoking-related fires.
- Food service workers have a 50% higher risk of lung cancer than the general population

Broad support exists for a Smoke Free Columbia.

- A broad-based, solid majority of voters across the political spectrum support smoke-free policies.

Here is what you can do to help create a Smoke Free Columbia.

1. Sign up the [endorsement form](#).
2. [Volunteer](#) for Smoke Free Columbia special events
3. Recruit your friends, family and organization members to get involved in the campaign.