

AUSTIN
BREATHES



Add E-Cigarettes to SIPPO

Austin should update the existing Smoking in Public Places Ordinance (SIPPO) to include new smoking technologies, specifically electronic cigarettes and electronic tobacco products.

Existing Smoking in Public Places Ordinance (SIPPO)

Ordinance No. 050305-05 relates to smoking in public places and the current prohibition against smoking in public places, including workplaces, all bars, restaurants, bowling alleys and billiard parlors. It was a ballot initiative approved by Austin voters on May 7, 2005.

In the ordinance, the definition of SMOKING means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted cigar, cigarette, pipe, weed, plant, or other combustible substance in any manner or in any form.

Proposed Changes to SIPPO

Include the use of an **electronic smoking device** in the definition of "Smoking." Further define "**electronic smoking device**" to mean any product containing or delivering nicotine or any other substance intended for human consumption that can be used by a person to simulate smoking through inhalation of vapor or aerosol from the product. The term includes any such device, whether manufactured, distributed, marketed, or sold as an e-cigarette, e-pipe, e-hookah, or vape pen, or under any other product name or descriptor.

Why Is Adding E-Cigarettes to SIPPO Is So Critical?

- An electronic cigarette turns nicotine, which is highly addictive, and other chemicals into vapor that is inhaled.
- One in four U.S. middle and high school students say they've been exposed to secondhand aerosol from e-cigarettes
- Nicotine addiction is so powerful that every day about 1,000 teens become daily smokers.
- E-cigarette use among high school students increased nine-fold in the past three years.
- The E-cigarette industry targets youth through flavors such as gummy bear, cotton candy, and fruit punch
- The FDA is concerned that e-cigarettes can increase nicotine addiction among young people and may lead kids to try other tobacco products, including conventional cigarettes.
- As new smoking technologies evolve, SIPPO should be updated to include these new technologies and clarify any confusion to the public.

Key Stakeholders in this Initiative

- Central Health Equity Policy Council
- American Cancer Society Action Network
- American Heart Association