

Pictured here at the 2022 National Conference on Tobacco or Health: Shreveport, Louisiana, Councilwoman **LeVette Fuller** and ANRF's **Raegan A. Carter** were part of a panel discussion, "Louisiana Champions: Leveling the Playing Field Through Smokefree Policies."



## **SMOKEFREE POLICY CHAMPION CHECKLIST**

### **DECISION MAKERS**

Everyone deserves the right to breathe clean air, no matter where they work. Advocates across the country are working to make sure everyone can live, work, learn and play in a smokefree environment. The thousands of municipalities and 28 states plus DC, PR, and VI, that have implemented 100% smokefree ordinances for indoor workplaces, bar and restaurants have all relied upon the resilient efforts of advocates and decision makers.

As a decision maker, you have the power to make a lasting public health impact for your constituents. **The demand for smokefree workplaces has never been higher** – 87.4% of the U.S. adult population are nonsmokers. You will be designated as a Smokefree Policy Champion by agreeing to adhere to the following statements:

### **ADVOCATE**

1. Be a **strong** advocate for a **100% smokefree** workplace ordinance that includes ALL workplaces, including bars, restaurants, casinos and private clubs.
  - a. **Stay strong on model ordinance language** and do not accept compromises that leave some workers exposed to secondhand smoke for a political win.
  - b. Utilize provided materials and **talking points** to make the case for smokefree air.
  - c. Smokefree air means no smoking or vaping of **any** tobacco, cannabis, or other product. **Speaking up for the facts and dispelling misinformation** about secondhand smoke and aerosol from electronic cigarettes is an important role for policy champions.

## COMMUNICATE

2. Participate in open and regular communication with the coalition to ensure a timely response when needed.
3. **Identify co-champions** and supporters on the Board or Council.
  - a. Share information with the coalition to assist with solidifying support.
  - b. Share information with the coalition to nullify and address opposition talking points.
4. Assist with the legislative process including meeting with city staff, like the City Clerk or City Attorney, for the purposes of ordinance drafting, first reading, and final vote processes.
5. Recognize that the intent of a 100% smokefree workplace ordinance is to **protect public health** and it is the right and responsibility of local government to take action to protect the public.



**TIP:** Remember to check in with the coalition often to tally up vote counts. If you don't have the votes, the coalition needs to stop and regroup before moving forward.

## SUPPORT

Create a recognition message with quotes from elected officials all over the U.S. You can copy/paste this text to solicit support in writing from your fellow legislators:

***Thank you for agreeing to be a champion for smokefree air. You are in good company with elected officials across the country that are proud of this achievement!***

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email and phone: \_\_\_\_\_

## **QUOTES FROM CHAMPIONS**

### **LaToya Cantrell, City Councilor (currently Mayor), New Orleans, Louisiana**

"People don't come to New Orleans to smoke. They come here to partake in our culture, in our music, in our food, and it is time for us to be a progressive city. Everyone, all of our employees, they deserve a smoke-free environment. Secondhand smoke kills. We now have over 27 of our national conventioners saying, look we will not return to New Orleans if it is not a smoke free city, and so when you talk about revenues, we stand to lose millions."

### **Chip Johnson, Mayor, Hernando, Mississippi, and President, Mississippi Municipal League**

"I'm not telling people not to smoke. I know it's a personal choice. But it stops being personal when in Mississippi, 510 people died last year from causes related to secondhand smoke. Those were 510 innocent people killed by smokers. It is not a partisan issue, it's a public health issue."

### **Jim Rowland, Former Councilman, Kansas City, Missouri**

"You have to keep in mind that whole countries, states and large cities are smoke-free. Cities like Boston and New York have had zero economic impact, which is always the biggest argument from restaurants and bars. These are cities with thriving entertainment and restaurant industries. Last time I checked, New York is still standing. I think it's a bogus argument. The surgeon general came out with a report in 2006 that proved there is no safe level of secondhand smoke. There are thousands of workers in jeopardy by allowing smoking in restaurants and bars. It's a workplace safety issue."

### **Kelly Cassidy, Illinois State Representative**

"The reality is that a local government would allow smoking of cannabis in spaces where smoking tobacco is explicitly prohibited is frankly ludicrous. I can't imagine any city council member surviving that."

### **Richard Codey, Former Governor & State Senator, New Jersey**

"When I was governor, we passed smoke-free legislation that covered almost all of our state. Restaurants complained their businesses would suffer, but in fact, the opposite happened — customers loved the smoke-free environment. The same will happen with the casinos. It's past time that casino workers have the same protections as every other worker in New Jersey. We need to get this done."

### **Travis O'Neil, General Manager, Angel Of The Winds Casino Resort, Stillaguamish Tribe**

"We are pleased to announce, Angel Of The Winds Casino Resort has made the decision to re-open as a 100% smoke-free property. The decision to switch to a smoke-free establishment is one that's critical in a time where focus on community health and wellness is at its peak. Leadership of the Stillaguamish Tribe and Management at Angel Of The Winds Casino Resort are bringing this vision to life. This is a bold statement showing we hold the health of our guests, Team Members, and community in high regard"

For more information and resources, contact the ANR Foundation at [info@no-smoke.org](mailto:info@no-smoke.org) or visit [no-smoke.org](http://no-smoke.org)

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