



Smoke-Free Los Altos



ATTENTION BUSINESS OWNER

At its March 13, 2018 meeting, Los Altos City Council will consider an ordinance to expand the City's current **smoking prohibitions to include all public places**, such as sidewalks, streets, outdoor dining areas, and places of employment, as well as common areas of multi-unit residences, including lobbies, play areas, and pools. Should City Council approve the ordinance, the law will take effect 31 days following adoption.

The ordinance will include **all types of smoking products**, including tobacco, e-cigarettes, vaporizers and marijuana. It also provides for non-smoking buffer zones that prohibit smoking within thirty feet (30') from any enclosed or unenclosed area where smoking is prohibited.

Businesses will be responsible for maintaining a smoke-free area in and around their business establishment for their employees and customers.

Should the ordinance be adopted, the City will partner with Breathe California to provide window decals, table top placards, and a secondhand smoke helpline to help educate the public and receive reports of violations.



For more information, visit losaltosca.gov/smokefree

SMOKE-FREE LOS ALTOS



Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the City Council considering a new smoking ordinance?

To promote and protect public health, safety, and general welfare, the City Council will consider a citywide smoking ordinance that prohibits smoking in all public places, including common areas of multi-unit housing, places of employment, in City facilities, and on City property. The ordinance is further intended to ensure a cleaner and more hygienic environment for the city, its residents and visitors, and its natural resources.

Where will smoking be prohibited?

- Enclosed areas
 - Places of employment
 - Public Places including city-owned structures and lots
 - Recreation Areas including sports facilities, community centers and library plazas
 - Common Areas
- Unenclosed areas
 - Public places, including public plazas
 - Within twenty feet (20') of a working road or building and construction crew
 - Recreation areas and surrounding parking areas, including open spaces, natural areas, community and neighborhood parks, sports fields and trails
 - Open spaces
 - Service areas
 - Dining areas
 - Common areas
 - Public events such as public markets, parades, festivals, art shows and concerts
 - Sidewalks and other pedestrian areas and public spaces in Downtown Los Altos accessible to the general public
- City-Owned Vehicles and Facilities
 - Enclosed facilities owned and controlled by the city, including jails
 - Any board, council, commission and agency of the city shall be subject to the provisions of the ordinance

Where will smoking be permitted?

- Private residential properties, except when used as a child care, health care, board care or foster care facility
- Inside a private automobile when not parked in a City parking structure or lot
- Designated smoking areas indicated by signs

When will the new smoking law take effect?

Should City Council approve this ordinance, the new smoking law will go into effect 31 days following adoption. City Council will consider the ordinance on March 13, 2018.

What does smoking include?

Smoking is defined as inhaling, exhaling, emitting, burning, possessing, holding, or carrying any lighted, heated, or ignited device intended for burning or vaporizing any tobacco product, marijuana, weed, plant, or other combustible substance. This includes but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, electronic smoking or “vaping” devices, and marijuana.

How will the smoking law be enforced?

The City will work with Breathe California of the Bay Area to provide a Secondhand Smoke Helpline, which will provide education to callers and receive complaints about violations. The City will use verbal warnings and public education as the primary means of enforcement. It is up to the members of the public to understand the law and to smoke away from public areas. Police officers and other enforcement officers have the authority to issue citations for violating the ordinance.

What will be the penalties for violating the law?

Each incident of smoking or use of tobacco products in violation of this chapter is an infraction subject to the following fines:

- up to one hundred dollars (\$100) for the first violation;
- up to two hundred dollars (\$200) for a second violation within one year;
- up to five hundred dollars (\$500) for a third violation within one year.

How can businesses maintain a smoke-free environment for their customers?

Businesses will be responsible for maintaining a smoke-free area in their business establishment for their employees and customers. It will be important to educate employees about smoke-free outdoor areas, so they can inform customers to comply with the law. Courtesy of Breathe California, window decals and table top placards will be available for business owners interested in posting their support for smoke-free areas. Should the ordinance be adopted, decals will be mailed to all businesses and table top placards will be sent to those with outdoor dining areas.

Who do I contact for more information, resources or detailed questions about the law?

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