
Daily Hampshire Gazette4 messages

Sam Ferland <sferland@gazettenet.com>
To: rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov

Mon, Dec 29, 2025 at 9:42 AM

Good morning Ryan,

I hope you are well. I wanted to reach out because I am writing a brief story about the Nicotine Free Generation policy. It would be a preliminary story to share that the city and BOH has started considering this, just to get the message out there.

I was wondering if you would want to comment on it at the moment? My main question that I need answered right now is how the idea came up for Easthampton, and why. I know multiple communities in the area are considering the same.

Feel free to call me at (413) 540-6898 or email me back a response. I am running on a deadline for this, so if you could respond by the end of the day that would be great.

Best
Sam

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Sam Ferland
Reporter
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Sam Ferland <sferland@gazettenet.com>
To: rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov

Mon, Dec 29, 2025 at 10:56 AM

Hi Ryan,

Another question that came up, if you know, is how many stores in Easthampton sell nicotine products?

Thanks
Sam
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Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>
To: Sam Ferland <sferland@gazettenet.com>

Tue, Dec 30, 2025 at 12:19 PM

Hey Sam,

Easthampton currently has 13 Tobacco Establishments.

Tobacco	
7-11	97 Union St.
Big E's	11 Union St
College Highway Variety	334 Main St
Cumberland Farms	231 Northampton St
Family Dollar	90 Union St
Ferry St. Package	64 Ferry St
Gerry's Variety	139 Pleasant St
Jim's Package Store	2 Adams Street
Nouria	124 Northampton St
Old Colony Package Sto	328-330 Main St.
Pride	60 Union St
Union Street Package	68 Union St
Union Mart	123 Cottage St

The Nicotine Free Generation (NFG) concept has been presented to the Board of Health, and it is up to the Board to determine how, or if it wishes to proceed. Our Chair was out during last month's meeting, so hopefully at our January meeting, I will have a better idea of their position. Should the Board decide to move forward, the process would include a public hearing to gather community input and facilitate discussion.

Tobacco use has long been a significant public health concern and a major priority of mine since I began working in Easthampton. Tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in Massachusetts and across the United States, accounting for more than 9,000 directly related deaths in MA annually and approximately 28% of all cancer-related deaths in the State. (Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, 2025).

While traditional cigarette use has been steadily declining, e-cigarettes are currently the most commonly used tobacco product among youth, with approximately 18% of Massachusetts high school students reporting e-cigarette use. Nicotine pouches have also continued to increase in popularity. I have been following the Nicotine Free Generation approach since Brookline received approval from the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in March 2024, and have observed a growing number of municipalities across the state considering or implementing similar regulations. At present, approximately 19 Massachusetts municipalities have adopted NFG policies. In addition to guidance and support from the Massachusetts Health Officers Association, we have also received encouragement from the Pioneer Valley Tobacco Coalition, with nearby communities such as Amherst and Belchertown moving forward with NFG initiatives.

Currently, the discussion in Easthampton is exploratory, aimed at understanding the potential public health benefits and hearing from the community before any decisions are made. **The intent of the Nicotine Free Generation concept is not to restrict individuals who already legally use tobacco products, but rather to prevent youth from starting** by limiting them from purchasing tobacco products and reducing the normalization of tobacco and nicotine use. Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids. (2025, November 25). *The toll of tobacco in Massachusetts*. Tobacco Free Kids. <https://www.tobaccofreekids.org/problem/toll-us/massachusetts>

Ryan Griffin

Director of Public Health, Easthampton

☎ 413-529-1400 x 122

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Sam Ferland <sferland@gazettenet.com>
To: Ryan Griffin <rgriffin@easthamptonma.gov>

Tue, Dec 30, 2025 at 1:34 PM

Ryan,

Thank you for this very helpful information. I appreciate you taking the time to get this together.

All the best
Sam

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