
Fw: NO GENERATIONAL TOBACCO PROHIBITION

From Lewis, Barry <BLewis@yarmouth.ma.us>

Date Tue 1/6/2026 10:35 AM

To Niederberger, Riley <RNiederberger@yarmouth.ma.us>

For the NFG file
Barry

From: Stephen Helfer <shelfer@gmail.com>

Sent: Monday, January 5, 2026 5:26 PM

To: Lewis, Barry <BLewis@yarmouth.ma.us>; Selectboard <Selectboard@yarmouth.ma.us>; Whritenour, Robert <RWhritenour@yarmouth.ma.us>

Subject: NO GENERATIONAL TOBACCO PROHIBITION

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Board of Health, Administrator Whritenour, & Select Board;

Please do not impose a Generational Tobacco & Nicotine Ban. It is prohibition.by stealth.

1) Immigrants of color own most of the stores selling tobacco & nicotine products. This prohibition might not close their businesses, but it would hurt & devalue them. Brookline merchants Elias Audy & Fahad Iqbal saw overall sales declines after the town imposed this ban. The ability to earn a living and support a family is a public health concern.

2) If the tobacco industry is trying to attract youth, it is not succeeding. The CDC reports teenage smoking to be at a 25-year low and the FDA reports youth vaping at a 10-year low & their nicotine pouch use "low." A Generational Tobacco & Nicotine Ban does not affect youth.
It reduces the autonomy of future adults.

Adult smoking is at an 80-year low and, according to the CDC, two of every three adults who ever started smoking have quit. For most, it is not a lifelong habit.

3) Massachusetts residents 21 & over are regarded as competent to use

their judgment regarding the intoxicants alcohol and marijuana. Adults need not be prohibited to use their judgment when it comes to tobacco & nicotine--neither of which impairs judgment or compromises driving ability.

Stephen Helfer (617) 876-2457
Cambridge Citizens for Smokers' Rights
(We receive no funding from any source whatsoever)

Sources:

Elias Audy owns Village Mobil. He has seen a 5% to 8% reduction in sales of gas, cigarettes, and other store items & expects to see a continued reduction of sales. "Sunny" Iqbal owns a gas station & a convenience store. Since COVID he saw a 30% drop in overall store revenue and lost many customers born after 2000,
Brookline News, Oct. 26, 2023
<https://brookline.news/brooklines-tobacco-free-generation-law-facing-challenge-in-mas-highest-court/>

Cigarette smoking reached the lowest level ever recorded by the survey, with only 1.4% of students reporting current use in 2024.
CDC Newsroom, Oct. 17, 2024
<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2024/p1017-youth-tobacco-use.html>

Youth E-Cigarette Use Drops to Lowest Level in a Decade: Youth Use of Nicotine Pouches Remains Low
FDA News Release, Sept. 5, 2024
<https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/youth-e-cigarette-use-drops-lowest-level-decade>

Cigarette Smoking Rate in U.S. Ties 80-Year Low
Gallup, August 13, 2024
<https://news.gallup.com/poll/648521/cigarette-smoking-rate-ties-year-low.aspx>

Nicotine does not disturb consciousness, impair judgement or social behavior and, if anything, it enhances rather than impairs cognitive and psychomotor performance and the capacity to work.
Professor Michael Russell, British Journal of Addiction, 1991
<https://clivebates.com/the-genius-of-michael-russell-more-right-than-ever/>

Nearly 2 in 3 adults who have ever smoked cigarettes have quit.
CDC, Smoking Cessation: Fast Facts, Sept. 17, 2024
<https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/php/data-statistics/smoking-cessation/index.html>