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Jan. 23, 2008

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## **Republican voters support smokefree air**

*New poll shows overwhelming support among GOP voters for smokefree legislation*

LANSING, Mich. – A new poll released today by the Campaign for Smokefree Air shows an overwhelming majority of Republican voters are supportive of legislation to make all worksites in Michigan smokefree.

Seventy-seven percent -- more than three-fourths of those interviewed -- favored smokefree workplace legislation, including 62 percent who “strongly favor” it. When asked specifically about legislation making bars and restaurants smokefree, two-thirds, or 67 percent, were in favor. Fifty-four percent said they would “strongly favor” the initiative.

Smokefree air also appears to have more support than other issues GOP voters were asked about during Associated Press exit polling on Jan. 15. When asked about abortion, the war in Iraq and tax cuts, no position had support from more than 60 percent of the voters.

“We’re hoping Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop takes this information to heart,” said Judy Stewart, spokesperson for CSA and government relations manager for the American Cancer Society.

“Republicans love smokefree air.”

The numbers from this latest poll are consistent with the poll CSA conducted three years ago of Republican and Democrat voters.

“Smokefree air is not a political issue – it’s an issue that would improve both the health and economy of our state and it’s one that a vast majority of Michigan residents want addressed,” Stewart said. “The state Senate needs to finally start listening to what the people want.”

The poll was conducted by Lansing-based EPIC/MRA from Jan. 9 to 12, and included more than 500 self-identified Republican voters. The margin of error is +/- 4.5 percent. According to EPIC/MRA, the frequencies of the two questions were consistent among media markets, education levels, age groups, gender, income and religious affiliation.

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House Bill 463 was approved by the state House in November 2007. It was referred to the Senate Government Operations and Regulatory Reform Committee, chaired by Bishop.

According to the American Lung Association's recent national report, *State of Tobacco Control 2007*, Michigan was one of eighteen states across the nation to receive a failing 'F' grade for a lack of adequate smokefree air laws, leaving millions of people subject to secondhand smoke. The report graded each state in the nation based on a point system created by the National Cancer Institute. The rating system assigned points to states with smokefree air laws for areas including workplaces, schools, restaurants, and public recreations centers.

#### **About CSA**

The Campaign for Smokefree Air is a grassroots coalition with nearly 250 members, including leadership from the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Lung Association of Michigan, Michigan Hospital Association, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan, Pfizer and Michigan State Medical Society, as well as other statewide groups that support making workplaces smokefree, including restaurants and bars. For more information about the Campaign for Smokefree Air, please visit [www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org](http://www.MakeMIAirSmokefree.org).

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