

Clean Air Now!

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 8, 2002

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Kent County voter's survey shows strong support for clean indoor air regulation

Grand Rapids, MI (August 8, 2002) – Kent County voters have made it clear that they want to see county commissioners enact a health regulation providing smokefree environments.

A June telephone survey of registered voters in Kent County found that 81% believe a county regulation is needed to protect workers and children from exposure to secondhand smoke in worksites and public places.

91% of voters also recognize secondhand smoke is harmful to people, in the survey commissioned by Clean Air Now! The survey, conducted by Precision Research, and analyzed by Community Research Institute of Grand Valley State University polled over 400 Kent County voters on their attitudes and understanding about secondhand smoke and smoking in public places and worksites.

"Our community obviously knows the risks of secondhand smoke and wants action taken," said Krista Schaafsma, Clean Air Now! coalition chair. "No one should have to breath a carcinogen in order to bring home a paycheck."

In addition to a clear concern about secondhand smoke, over 89% of respondents agree indoor worksites should be smokefree.

For 80% of the voters, supporting a regulation that provided smokefree air would either improve or have no negative impact on a county commission candidate's chance for winning their election.

"This survey assures the County Board of Commissioners and county health officials that the public fully supports elected representatives who guarantee safe and

healthy environments in which to work and play," said Sarah Poole, American Heart Association's representative to the coalition.

Hundreds of cities and counties across the country have enacted regulations protecting the working public from secondhand smoke. In Michigan, the City of Marquette and Ingham County have passed 100% smokefree ordinances for worksites and public places. Other counties are exploring the benefits of a health regulation.

"Clean Air Now! and Kent County voters believe our County Commission has an opportunity and obligation to pass a health regulation providing smokefree air," said Schaafsma.

Clean Air Now! is a coalition committed to creating smokefree worksites and public places in Kent County.

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