



May 11, 2017

**Clackamas County Board of Commissioners  
Policy Position  
Youth Tobacco Prevention**

The Board of County Commissioners supports legislation preventing the sale and marketing of tobacco products to youth.

Tobacco use remains the most preventable cause of illness and death in America. Because of this, Clackamas County, in addition to many of our other public health partners, has made reducing the use of tobacco and other nicotine products a top priority, particularly among youth.

Data from the 2015 Oregon Healthy Teen Survey indicates that 28% of 11<sup>th</sup> graders in Clackamas County used some form of tobacco product within the last 30 days and that 35% said it would be “very easy” to get some tobacco if they wanted it. The recently released report of the state’s Tobacco Retail Inspection Program affirms that 25% of attempted tobacco purchases by minors in Clackamas County were successful.

Among the many efforts currently being considered, Clackamas County supports the following principles to address youth access to tobacco products:

- Raising the minimum age of legal access to tobacco and nicotine products to age 21 and penalizing sale of products to persons under age 21.
- Establishing tobacco retail licensing laws to measure the effectiveness of all tobacco and nicotine product-related prevention efforts
- Removing the preemption on local governments to establish taxes on tobacco products
- Funding for tobacco education and prevention programs.
- Closing the e-cigarette loophole.

Clackamas County looks forward to partnering with State and local agencies to improve and secure the health and wellbeing of young Oregonians.

Please contact Chris Lyons at [clyons@clackamas.us](mailto:clyons@clackamas.us) for more information.