

Matrix of Local Ordinances Restricting the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products



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The tobacco industry has a long history of using flavored tobacco to target youth and communities of color. The majority of youth who start experimenting with tobacco begin with flavored tobacco.¹ These products come in a variety of candy-like flavors including bubble gum, grape, menthol and cotton candy and include e-cigarettes, hookah tobacco, cigars, smokeless tobacco, and even flavored accessories such as blunt wraps.

Since 2009, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has banned flavored cigarettes nationwide. However, this ban included an exemption for menthol flavored cigarettes and doesn't extend to non-cigarette tobacco products. There are currently no state laws in California restricting the sale of flavored tobacco products. It is up to local communities to take action to protect their youth from the lure of enticing flavored tobacco.

The first community to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco in California was Santa Clara County in 2010. Since then, fourteen communities have passed similar policies.

What products may be included?

- 1. E-Cigarettes** – Restricts the sale of flavored electronic cigarettes.
- 2. Menthol** – Restricts the sale of tobacco products labelled as menthol, including cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, little cigars, etc.
- 3. Little Cigars** – Restricts the sale of flavored little cigars, which are small, usually filtered cigars wrapped in brown paper containing tobacco leaf. Little cigars became a popular alternative following the FDA's ban on flavored cigarettes.
- 4. Smokeless Tobacco** – Restricts the sale of flavored smokeless tobacco such as chewing tobacco, dip, snus and snuff.

5. Components & Accessories – Restricts the sale of flavored accessory products such as blunt wraps and e-juice additives. These products cannot be smoked alone and serve as a delivery system for smoked products.

6. Products Marketed as Flavored – Tobacco companies sometimes try to circumvent flavor restrictions by marketing products as flavored without directly labelling them as such. This policy option allows communities to broaden the definition of flavored tobacco to include these products.

What exemptions are allowed?

- 1. Adult-Only Stores Exempted** – Adult-only retailers are limited to customers who are 21 and over. This limits sales of flavored tobacco to stores that youth do not have access to.
- 2. Grandfathered Retailers Exempted** – Allows retailers that were in operation prior to a specified date to continue selling flavored tobacco products.
- 3. Limited to Youth-Populated Areas** – Retailers are required to be a certain distance away from schools, parks, or other youth-oriented locations. Since many flavored tobacco products target youth, including buffer zones is a way to limit their access to flavored products.

Resources

The Center has additional resources on tobacco retailer licensing ordinances, plug-in policies, and ordinances restricting menthol tobacco available at: <http://center4tobaccopolicy.org/tobacco-policy/tobacco-retail-environment/> . ChangeLab Solutions has model ordinance language available for ordinances restricting flavored tobacco at: <http://changelabsolutions.org>.

City/County Date Passed	Products Included						Exemptions		
	E-Cigs	Menthol	Little Cigars	Smokeless	Components & Accessories	Products marketed as flavored	Adult-Only Stores Exempted	Grandfathered Retailers Exempted?	Limited to Youth-Populated Areas?
Cloverdale Jan 2018	X		X	X		X			
San Leandro Oct 2017	X		X	X	X	X			
Palo Alto Oct 2017	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Oakland Sep 2017	X	X			X	X	X		
Contra Costa County July 2017	X	X	X	X	X	X			X 1000 ft
San Francisco ** June 2017	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Los Gatos May 2017	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Novato Jan 2017	X		X	X	X	X			
Santa Clara County Oct 2016	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Yolo County Oct 2016	X	X	X	X	X				
Manhattan Beach Dec 2015	X		X	X	X		X		X 500 ft
El Cerrito Oct 2015	X	X*	X	X	X	X			X 500 ft
Berkeley Sept 2015	X	X	X	X	X	X			X 600 ft
Sonoma June 2015	X		X	X***	X				
Hayward July 2014	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X 500 ft

* Does not include menthol cigarettes

** Policy is suspended pending June 2018 referendum vote brought about by opposition

*** Doesn't apply to pipe tobacco

¹ Ambrose, B.K., et al., Flavored Tobacco Product Use Among US Youth Aged 12-17 Years, 2013-2014. JAMA, 2015; p.1-3.