

2026-129
**A Resolution Approving a Policy Prohibiting
Smoking, Vaping and Tobacco Use**

The Board of Trustee of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, met in person in a Regular Meeting at 12:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 23rd, 2026, at 2193 Frank Road, Columbus, Ohio. The Trustee marked below made a motion for the adoption of the following resolution:

☐ **Trustee Fleshman**

☒ **Trustee Blevins**

☐ **Trustee Fuller**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio ("Board"), is committed to providing a safe, healthy, and professional environment for Township employees, elected officials, volunteers, contractors, visitors, and members of the public; and

WHEREAS the Board recognizes the health risks associated with smoking, tobacco use, and vaping, including exposure to secondhand smoke and aerosol emissions; and

WHEREAS the Board desires to establish uniform standards governing smoking, tobacco use, and vaping on Township-owned and leased property, in Township vehicles, and during Township operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board intends for this policy to comply with the Ohio Revised Code, including Ohio's Smoke-Free Workplace Act, and all applicable state and local public health regulations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Franklin Township, Franklin County, Ohio, as follows:

Section 1. Adoption of Policy

The Franklin Township No Smoking, Tobacco, and Vaping Policy attached hereto is hereby adopted as the official policy of Franklin Township and shall become effective immediately upon passage unless otherwise specified herein.

Section 2. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to promote a safe and healthy work environment, protect employees and the public from exposure to tobacco smoke and vapor emissions, maintain compliance with applicable law, and establish uniform standards regarding smoking, vaping, and tobacco use on Township property and during Township operations.

Section 3. Scope

This policy applies to all Township employees, elected officials, appointed officials, volunteers, contractors, vendors, visitors, and members of the public while on Township-owned or leased property, in Township vehicles or equipment, or while participating in Township business.

Section 4. Definitions

For purposes of this policy:

Smoking means inhaling, exhaling, burning, carrying, or possessing any lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, electronic smoking device, vape device, or similar product.

Tobacco Use includes the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco, snuff, nicotine products, electronic cigarettes, vape devices, and similar products containing tobacco or nicotine, except products approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for tobacco cessation.

Township Property includes all buildings, offices, stations, garages, maintenance facilities, parks, grounds, sidewalks adjacent to Township entrances, parking areas, vehicles, equipment, and any other property owned, leased, or controlled by Franklin Township.

Adopted on July 23, 2026

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Section 5. Prohibited Conduct

Smoking, vaping, and tobacco use are prohibited:

- Inside all Township buildings, offices, facilities, garages, maintenance areas, and enclosed workspaces;
- Within twenty-five (25) feet of any Township building entrance, exit, operable window, ventilation intake, or public access point;
- In all Township-owned or leased vehicles and equipment at all times;
- During Township meetings, training sessions, public events, and official Township functions;
- In any area where fuels, chemicals, explosives, flammable materials, or other safety-sensitive operations are present; and
- In any additional location designated by the Township Board of Trustees.

Employees shall not smoke, vape, or use tobacco products while interacting with the public during the performance of official duties except during approved breaks in designated areas, if such areas are established.

Section 6. Designated Tobacco Use Areas

The Township may, at its sole discretion, establish designated outdoor tobacco use areas consistent with applicable law.

Any designated area shall be clearly identified by signage or written departmental procedures.

Where designated areas have been established, smoking, vaping, or tobacco use is prohibited outside those designated locations.

Section 7. Employee Responsibilities

All employees shall:

Comply with this policy;
Properly dispose of tobacco-related waste in appropriate receptacles;
Conduct themselves professionally while on Township property and during work hours; and
Report repeated violations to a supervisor, department head, or the Board of Trustees.

Supervisors shall enforce this policy fairly, consistently, and uniformly.

Section 8. Compliance with Law

This policy is intended to comply with all applicable provisions of the Ohio Revised Code, including the Ohio Smoke-Free Workplace Act, and all applicable public health regulations.

If any provision of state or federal law imposes stricter requirements than this policy, the stricter requirement shall govern.

Section 9. Violations

Employees who violate this policy may be subject to corrective or disciplinary action in accordance with Township personnel policies, applicable collective bargaining agreements, and law.

Visitors, contractors, vendors, or members of the public who violate this policy may be instructed to cease the prohibited conduct or may be required to leave Township property.

Section 10. Non-Retaliation

No employee shall be subjected to retaliation for reporting violations of this policy or participating in an investigation regarding compliance.

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Section 11. Administration

The Board of Trustees shall have authority to administer, interpret, and enforce this policy and may delegate day-to-day administration to the Township department heads.

The Board reserves the right to amend, revise, or rescind this policy by subsequent resolution in accordance with applicable law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all formal actions of this Board concerning and relating to this Resolution were passed in an open meeting of the Board, and that all deliberations of the Board and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall be in full force and effective immediately upon its adoption.

The following trustee marked below seconded the motion:

☒ **Trustee Fleshman**

☐ **Trustee Blevins**

☐ **Trustee Fuller**

Roll was called for the adoption of the resolution, and the vote was as follows:

Fleshman: ☐ YES/ ☒ NO

Blevins: ☒ YES/ ☐ NO

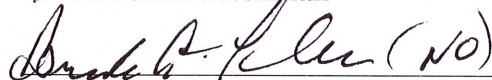
Fuller: ☐ YES/ ☒ NO



Trustee Mike Blevins



Trustee John Fleshman



Trustee Brenda Fuller

Adopted on July 23, 2026

FRANKLIN TOWNSHIP FRANKLIN COUNTY, OHIO

NO SMOKING/VAPING AND NO TOBACCO USE POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to promote a safe and healthy work environment for employees and the public, maintain compliance with applicable Ohio law, and establish uniform standards regarding smoking, vaping, and tobacco use on Township property and during Township operations.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all Township employees, elected officials, appointed officials, volunteers, contractors, vendors, visitors, and members of the public while on Township-owned or rented property, in Township vehicles, or participating in Township business.

3. Definitions

For purposes of this policy:

- “Smoking” means inhaling, exhaling, burning, carrying, or possessing any lighted cigarette, cigar, pipe, electronic smoking device, vape device, or similar product.
- “Tobacco use” includes the use of cigarettes, cigars, pipes, chewing tobacco, smokeless tobacco, snuff, nicotine products, electronic cigarettes, vape devices, and all similar products containing tobacco or nicotine, except products approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration for cessation purposes.
- “Township property” includes all buildings, offices, facilities, garages, maintenance areas, parks, sidewalks adjacent to entrances, vehicles, and grounds owned, leased, or controlled by Franklin Township.

4. Policy

In accordance with the Ohio Revised Code and applicable public health regulations, smoking and tobacco use are prohibited in all Township buildings, facilities, vehicles, and enclosed areas under Township control.

Smoking and tobacco use are also prohibited:

1. Within twenty-five (25) feet of any Township building entrance, exit, operable window, ventilation intake, or public access point;
2. In Township-owned or leased vehicles and equipment at all times;
3. During meetings, training sessions, public events, or official Township functions;
4. In any area where flammable materials, fuels, chemicals, or safety-sensitive operations are present; and
5. In any additional area designated by the Township Administrator or department head.

Employees shall not use tobacco products while interacting with the public in the performance of official duties unless specifically authorized during approved breaks in designated areas.

5. Designated Areas

The Township may establish designated outdoor tobacco use areas at its discretion. Any designated area must comply with Ohio law and shall be identified by signage or written departmental procedures.

No employee or visitor may smoke or use tobacco products outside a designated area where one has been established.

6. Employee Responsibilities

Employees are expected to:

- Comply with all provisions of this policy;
- Dispose of tobacco-related waste in appropriate receptacles;
- Conduct themselves professionally while on Township property and during work hours; and
- Report repeated violations to a supervisor or Board of Trustees.

Supervisors are responsible for enforcing this policy consistently and uniformly.

7. Compliance with Ohio Law

This policy is intended to comply with applicable provisions of the Ohio Revised Code, including Ohio's Smoke-Free Workplace Act, and all applicable state and local public health regulations.

Where state law imposes stricter requirements than this policy, the stricter requirement shall apply.

8. Violations and Discipline

Employees who violate this policy may be subject to corrective action, up to and including disciplinary action in accordance with Township personnel policies, collective bargaining agreements, and applicable law.

Visitors, contractors, vendors, or members of the public who violate this policy may be directed to cease the prohibited conduct or leave Township property.

9. Retaliation Prohibited

No employee shall be retaliated against for reporting violations of this policy or cooperating in an investigation regarding compliance.

10. Administration

The Board of Trustees is responsible for administering and interpreting this policy.

The Township Board of Trustees reserves the right to amend, revise, or rescind this policy at any time in accordance with applicable law.



Smoke Free Workplace Program

Ohio's Smoke Free Workplace Act was implemented in 2006 and requires places of employment and public places to be smoke free. The ban provides a statewide minimum standard of protection from the health hazards associated with exposure to secondhand smoke.

Further details on Ohio's smoking ban are available in [Chapter 3794 of the Ohio Revised Code](#) and [Chapter 3701-52 of the Ohio Administrative Code](#).

Enforcement of the ban by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) became effective May 3, 2007. Many of Ohio's local health departments are contracted to help provide enforcement of the law and rules and have been designated to enforce the smoking ban in certain areas of Ohio. The full list of Enforcement Designees in each County and City Health District can be found on the [ODH Smoke-Free Designee List](#).

A Report of Violation Prompts an Investigation

Violations of the Smoke Free Workplace Act are investigated and enforced by the Smoke-Free Workplace Program in the ODH Bureau of Regulatory Operations. A report of a smoking violation is necessary to prompt an investigation by ODH. If you witness a violation of the smoking ban, report the violation to the Ohio

Department of Health for investigation by calling 1-866-559-OHIO (1-866-559-6446), emailing NoSmoke@odh.ohio.gov, or [entering the complaint online](#). Additional information about filing a complaint is available on our [Filing a Complaint](#) page.

The law prohibits retaliation against anyone for reporting a violation, against businesses for enforcing the law, and against professionals for enforcing the law. A report of retaliation will also be followed up with an investigation. While anonymous complaints are permitted, it will be necessary to provide contact information when reporting retaliation so the report can be thoroughly investigated.

The smoke free workplace law does not prohibit smoking outdoors and does not specify a distance from an entrance or exit that smoking can occur. However, smokers must stand far enough away from the door of a building that smoke does not enter the building. If smoke is entering the building a report of violation can be made for infiltration. You may obtain more information by viewing the [Smoke Free Workplace FAQ](#).

The smoking law gives proprietors the right to declare a No Smoking area by posting a No Smoking sign in accordance with the law section [3794.06 of the Ohio Revised Code](#). The sign should define the No Smoking areas (e.g. within 25' of a door or window) and provide a phone number to report violations (not the state enforcement line). Detailed information for signage and sample signs are available for download on our [Smoke Free Workplace Signs](#) page.

While local municipalities and proprietors are permitted to enact laws that are more stringent than the Ohio Smoke Free Workplace Law, enforcement of these laws is not conducted under the state law. To obtain more information on municipalities and counties with smoke free local laws and ordinances, please view our [County and Local Municipalities Smoke Free](#) page.

Exemptions form the Smoke Free Workplace Act

The Smoke Free Workplace Act includes exemptions for a variety of locations that meet specific requirements. Exemptions may include retail tobacco stores, private residences, nursing home resident's individual rooms, hotel/motel rooms, and research laboratory areas utilized for smoking-based research. You can learn more about exemptions at the following:

[Exemptions from the Smoke Free Workplace Act](#)

[Retail Tobacco Store Exemptions](#)

Outdoor Patios

To be exempt from regulation, a covered outdoor patio must not have more than two walls and be at least 50% open. An uncovered outdoor patio may have walls on all four sides. The outdoor patio must allow thorough, unobstructed circulation of air to all areas of the patio, must be physically separated from an enclosed area(s) and smoke must not migrate into the No Smoking area(s) from the patio.

Section 3794.06 | Posting of signs; prohibition of ashtrays; responsibilities of proprietors.

Ohio Revised Code / Title 37 Health-Safety-Morals / Chapter 3794 Smoking Ban

Effective: December 7, 2006 **Latest Legislation:** Enacted by Initiative Petition - Issue 5

Posting of signs; prohibition of ashtrays; responsibilities of proprietors.

In addition to the prohibitions contained in section [3794.02](#) of this chapter, the proprietor of a public place or place of employment shall comply with the following requirements:

(A) "No Smoking" signs or the international "No Smoking" symbol (consisting of a pictorial representation of a burning cigarette enclosed in a red circle with a red bar across it) shall be conspicuously posted in every public place and place of employment where smoking is prohibited by this chapter, including at each entrance to the public place or place of employment. Signs shall be of sufficient size to be clearly legible to a person of normal vision throughout the areas they are intended to mark. All signs shall contain a telephone number for reporting violations.

(B) All ashtrays and other receptacles used for disposing of smoking materials shall be removed from any area where smoking is prohibited by this chapter.

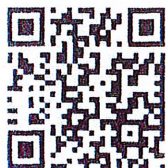
Available Versions of this Section

December 7, 2006 – Enacted by Initiative Petition - Issue 5

NO SMOKING NO VAPING



**To report violations call
1-866-559-OHIO (6446)
in accordance with Chapter 3794
of the Ohio Revised Code.**



**Department of
Health**

www.smokecomplaint.ohio.gov