

HCC Recommendation

25-Apr-01

TOPIC: Helena Indoor Clean Air Ordinance

Recommendation # 1: The HCC members present, voting on their own behalf, with limited input from their District, do recommend to the Helena City Commission

a vote against the indoor clean air ordinance as currently written.

VOTE: ___14__ Proponents ___3__ Opponents ___0__ Abstain

Recommendation #2: The HCC would like to recommend that the City Commissioners put the Indoor Clean Air Ordinance on the ballot of the next general election.

VOTE: ___15__ Proponents ___2__ Opponents ___0__ Abstain

Recommendation #3: The HCC would like to recommend that the City Commissioners entertain the passing of an ordinance with exemptions such as was passed in Missoula and Great Falls.

VOTE: ___8__ Proponents ___7__ Opponents ___2__ Abstain

DISCUSSION:

There is a health issue involved and the ordinance is needed to protect workers and children from the affects of second-hand smoke.

We do not know what exemptions might be considered, therefore we don't feel comfortable making a recommendation on an ordinance with potential exclusions.

Sometimes the quality of the outdoor air in Helena is worse that what someone would experience walking into a bar with second hand smoke.

Most public places have already enacted some form of a non-smoking ordinance.

The next opportunity for putting something on the ballot is this fall when there will be a primary in September and a General election in November.

Last week we held three informational meetings on the Clean Air Ordinance and there was such a lack of participation that we have no idea how the average person in Helena feels about a smoking ordinance.

Because of the lack of interest in the informational meetings, it seems imperative that we have a referendum on the issue to understand the public's attitude.

