REGULATION OF TOBACCO SALES
COMMUNITY INPUT REPORT
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Overview

Soliciting public input was a major component of the Golden Valley City Council’s consideration of whether and how to regulate the sale of tobacco products in Golden Valley.

Staff solicited impact from the community through an online survey, social media, and an interactive public forum regarding the following four policy areas:

- prohibiting the sale of tobacco to people under age 21
- restricting the density of tobacco retailers
- enacting minimum price or pack size requirements for certain tobacco products
- restricting the sale of flavored tobacco, including menthol

To promote the survey and open house, the City published two online news stories and sent out press releases with information about the regulations being considered by the City Council. News reports were published in the SunPost (both print and online) and broadcast on CCX Media. All information included links to the online survey.

The City further promoted the survey and open house through social media posts on Facebook and Twitter.

Online Survey

The survey asked for public input on each of the four policy areas under consideration. It also asked two demographic questions, one regarding whether respondents lived or worked in Golden Valley, and the other to establish the age range or respondents. See Appendix A for detailed survey responses.

The survey was active from July 17-Aug 6, was limited to one response per IP address, and had 727 responses.
Public Forum
The City hosted an interactive public forum Aug 5, 6–8 pm, at Brookview, where community members could learn more about the issue and offer input. Representatives from the City, the Hennepin County Department of Health, the Association for Nonsmokers-Minnesota (ANSR), and local tobacco retailers were on hand to provide information and answer questions.

The online survey was open during the public forum, with real-time results showing on a display screen. Printed versions of the survey and comment cards were also available.

Social Media Outreach
The City posted information and reminders about the public forum and the survey six times on Facebook and five times on Twitter between July 12 and Aug 5. See Appendix B for reach and engagement details for each post.

The public forum was live-streamed and archived on Facebook for later viewing. To date, it has had 483 views.

Additional Information
In addition to the online and social media responses, staff received a wide variety of other submissions from members of the public, advocacy groups, and other governmental organizations. These materials are included in Appendix C and are organized into the following categories:

- Vaping and E-Cigarettes
- Tobacco 21
- Location of Tobacco Retailers
- Minimum Price
- Flavored Tobacco

See Appendix C for details.
Demographics

Live or work in Golden Valley?

Of the 772 respondents, 613 (86 percent) live in Golden Valley, 52 (7 percent) work in Golden Valley, 45 (6 percent) responded “Other,” and 21 chose not to answer the question.

Age range?

Approximately two-thirds of respondents were between the ages of 31 and 65, with 257 (36 percent) age 31-45 and 235 (33 percent) age 46-65. One hundred ten respondents were age 66+ (16 percent), 85 (12 percent) were age 22-30, 15 were age 18-21 (2 percent), and four were under age 17. Twenty respondents chose not to answer the question.
Vaping And E-Cigarettes

Should the City of Golden Valley regulate the sale of electronic cigarettes and vapes?

Of the 711 respondents who answered this question, 436 (61 percent) are in favor of regulating electronic cigarettes and vapes in Golden Valley, 245 (34 percent) are not, and 30 (4 percent) don’t care.

Survey Comments

There needs to be much tighter regulation on e-cigs and vapes. As the tobacco industry has lost users through regulation, taxes, and education, they have fought back to gain new users through e-cigs and vapes. Millennials and Gen-Z do not associate the same caution and stigma to vapes as they do to cigarettes, in fact some see it as a status symbol. Nicotine should be a highly controlled substance. I started smoking when I was 15 years old and it took me 38 years to finally quit and I still struggle with it from time to time. When I started there were virtually no barriers: unenforced age restrictions, open availability at cigarette machines, very low prices, almost no restriction as to where one could smoke, role models everywhere, advertising in every media, no warnings on packaging, and active marketing to youth.

Thank you. With kids in the school system they talk about how prevalent vaping is in the bathrooms at AHS.

Let us also think about e-cigarettes. Thank you.

Ban sale of tobacco and vaping products to people under age of 19 years. This reduces impact on high school age students. No need to make people wait until they are 21 years old. Poorly worded survey -regulate means what? Can adults have menthol or fruit tobacco? What is science here. The goal is stopping kids access to tobacco and vaping until they are out of high school.

Regulate sales by not selling to those under 19 years old. This keeps vaping and tobacco out of high schools.

As a parent of young children, I see vaping and flavored products, electronic cigarettes as a potential temptation and would like to see the city get ahead.

Regulate away, increase the price of all tobacco products (and tax them heavily).

Very concerned about data on youth smoking and vaping. Once they’re hooked, the tobacco industry usually has them for life. Glad to see other cities moving in the direction of more regulation.
Rather than regulate the sale of vape and menthol, please intact a law that outlaws The possession of said items to those under 18. That is the only way to stop youth.

I am especially against restrictions on the sale of vaping products other than to prohibit the sale of them to minors. As an adult and former cigarette smoker, vaping has allowed me to cut down on my nicotine usage, stop smoking cigarettes, and save money. I am healthier and breathe more easily. I do not want to pay more or have to jump through hoops to buy vaping products. Also, I think adults should be able to make decisions about their bodies and therefore should be allowed to smoke cigarettes and use tobacco products even if it causes them to become ill. Let people buy cigs if they want them.

Also regulate the number of vape/e-cig stores and/or “places” within the city.

Please begin to look at vapes. More of a concern than tobacco at this time. I think we are behind and the regulations should start shifting focus to vapes.

The only regulation that would be useful pertaining to ecigs and vapes would be a quality rating system and a requirement that all ingredients be listed on the label.

I am against over-regulation but concerned about flavored/e-cig products marketing towards children.

We don't want "our" kids to have easy access to vaping or flavored nicotine. Studies show how vaping can hinder brain development.

There should be a PSA for parents regarding teenage e-cig/vape use (e.g. Juul)

In the past few years youth vaping has become an epidemic. Youth are targeted by e-cig companies, and due to the high nicotine in these products are quickly addicted. I work for Hopkins Public Schools, which serves many Golden Valley families, and have seen the direct impact of the teen vaping epidemic. Many teens have 18 year olds buy them their vapes. By placing restrictions on tobacco products (including vapes) and flavored products, youth will restricted access. Research shows raising the purchase age to 21 will prevent youth from starting, and ultimately save lives.
**Age Of Tobacco Product Buyers**

**Should the City of Golden Valley prohibit the sale of tobacco to people under 21?**

Of the 727 respondents who answered this question, 431 (59 percent) are in prohibiting tobacco sales to people under age 21 in Golden Valley, 257 (35 percent) are not, and 39 (5 percent) don't care.

![Bar Chart]

**Survey Comments**

I feel if someone really wants it, they’re just going to go to the closest city that has it. That means golden valley business will lose out on income and the city loses out on sales tax. Personally, I don’t smoke and I don’t enjoy being around people that do, but those people are going to do it no matter what. Also, if a 19 has been able to buy tobacco legally for a year and is addicted, they now either have to illegally have someone buy it for them, or again, cause golden valley to lose out on their revenue. It seems silly to raise the age when developmentally 21 isn’t much different than 18.

18 is the defined date for being an adult. We need to let adults make their own decisions. If 18 year olds can not make these decisions for themselves, we should not be labeling them adults. I’d also urge you to look outside of the US at ages people are allowed to smoke and drink at. We are already one of the most strict nations.

I'm assuming 'legal' age is 18...to vote, live as an adult and to serve our country. If a person wants to smoke cigarettes, they will find away regardless of age. I think we need just one legal age. At 18 your considered and adult but not old enough to purchase alcohol (that happens @ 21). I think Minnesota needs to have just 1 legal age and then that person can purchase whatever and live as they please.

Legally an individual is an adult at 18. If they can die protecting your country and your rights.. they can make there own decisions. You can not tell and individual they are only a partial adult.

And yes I feel the same way about alcohol.

For adults over 21 options should be available.

I am all for tobacco limitations. However, I have a problem with conflicting messages on what constitutes an adult in our society. If we say 18 for voting and serving our country, then we need to be consistent.

Do whatever it takes to keep tobacco products out of the hands of people under age 21.
It’s time to protect our children from tobacco consume.

Tobacco is a known killer and one of the most difficult addictions to break -- worse than opioids or heroin. Regulating the sale of tobacco to young people is a responsible, important public response to this preventable health hazard at a time when addictions are easily acquired. Golden Valley should be in the forefront of tobacco use prevention, not dragged kicking and screaming into it.

Making it more difficult for under 21 makes sense to me. Until we are aware of the consequences of vaping long term, I would support a total ban. I do not see what banning menthol will do.

Increasing the age limit will not restrict access to tobacco. Increased enforcement, and substantial penalties to businesses caught selling to under 18 would have a greater impact.

Besides, if you are old enough to join the military and die for this country, you should be also allowed to buy tobacco.

Electronic cigarettes & vapes should be regulated exactly the same as tobacco products because they impact others besides the smoker. Penalties for stores that sell to under-age purchasers should be increased but if a person is considered an adult at age 18 they should be able to make their own decision about smoking.

I think if someone is old enough to enlist in the military, they are old enough to choose whether to purchase tobacco products.

While I agree that flavored tobacco is targeted to the younger crowd, it’s still a personal choice and government should not be regulating it. Assuming we are talking about those old enough to purchase.

Regulate meaning heavily tax it. Don’t get in the game of limiting it to a certain age (ie 21+). If they’re considered adults at 18, they should be able to make that choice.

I think that people are educated enough today to know the risks of using tobacco products. If we consider an 18 year old an adult, then they should be able to make their own decisions about what they put in their body. I’m fine with restricting where smoking can take place since second-hand smoke is a risk to those around the smoker, but otherwise it’s up to us to choose what we do as adults.

The government definitely shouldn’t have anything to do with setting prices or package sizes on any products, tobacco or otherwise. If you want to spend tax money on something related, then consider education to further awareness of the risks or maybe on some form of incentive to quit tobacco products.

I guess it really comes down to what age we define as an adult. I’d rather see that changed to 21 than these one off rules that effectively say, "you are now responsible as an adult and you can do anything... except this and that.. Oh and this too." That being said, I don’t want to see the age of adulthood changed either.

I like the 21+ rule, however think GV should not regulate what type of products can be sold. Especially to those adults that are using those products to try and quit smoking.

Just as with alcohol, if this age restriction helps in the effort to limit access to tobacco products for younger people, I am for it.

I have COPD. My partner has lung cancer and COPD. We were both smokers for more than 30 years. Cigarettes were inexpensive and easy to get even before we were 18. Need I say more?

Tobacco companies are brilliant marketing a destructive, environmentally harmful product that is devastatingly expensive to individuals and communities. Regulation is a critical public health priority.

As long as it is restricted from people under 21 years of age, the person should be allowed to purchase whichever type of tobacco and flavoring they want. They are considered as actual adults at age 21 should be free to make their decisions. Government should not be involved in personal choices.
There is sufficient legislation currently and it seems Golden Valley is just copying other cities they've seen do this. To my knowledge underage smoking in Golden Valley hasn't been a problem. People's rights need to be protected and in this case, choice of whether to consume tobacco or not. You can send 18-20 year olds to war but they can't buy cigarettes?

If the age requirement changes from 18 to 21, people who aren't 21 before the effective date should be grandfathered in.

18 year-olds are adults. Let adults make the choice to smoke or vape. Less government oversight, please.

Tobacco is legal to 18 and above in the US. Why does Golden Valley believe it has the right to violate federal law? Also, does this mean people under 21 are no longer adults and should be treated as such (in all aspects)?

I support regulations that make it more difficult for teens to gain access to tobacco products.

My age is none of your business

While I support efforts to reduce the ability of children and teens accessing tobacco products, I also don't believe in limiting freedoms for adults. I would support exploring a 19 age limit, as it would provide a buffer between high school aged teens and access to products.

Protecting children is an admirable idea, but 21? Those people have been adults for 3 years. You can join the Army at 17, get married, vote, and buy a house at 18. I don't think the decision to buy tobacco is a more monumental decision than any of these and we allow the individual to make those choices. You can't legislate good choices, all you do is make criminals of people who don't agree with your assessment and add a layer of expensive enforcement to shopkeepers and the police. I'd prefer you to raise taxes on the products and use the money for education.

Flavored tobacco shouldn't be an option for anyone. If by law you are grown up enough to make legal decisions, vote and go into the service (where you may be killed) then you should be able to buy tobacco.

Stop trying to save people from themselves. If they are old enough to vote and are considered an adult in the City of GV, etc at 18 then treat them like one.

I would STRONGLY prefer you not make it an option for my young daughter to purchase cigarettes of any kind under the age of 21. Let's show some integrity here and send the right message to young people. This is not rocket science.

Anyone who can vote and join the military should be able to buy tobacco.

21 and up. No regulation needed.

If you are 18 you are an adult. Let adults make decisions for themselves. Just enforce the age with stings to make sure retailers are checking IDs.

We need to make it as difficult as possible for young people to start this horrible habit.

I'm a former smoker who started at 12 yrs. It was easy to get cigarettes and I luckily quit at 27.

An age restriction would help curb teen smoking which is when most people start. All for it.

I have 3 kids - 21 yrs 18 yrs & 15 - None of them smoke - but I still think if you can fight & die for your country, you should be able to smoke. Legal adult age is 18 - federal law has not changed it. If my kids wanted to smoke they would travel a few more miles to buy cigarettes where the age is still 18. Vaping has not been proven bad for you, and only has nicotine in it - which is a harmless - only addictive. Not any different the wearing a patch or chewing the gum. Either way kids are going to find a way to do either option. Drinking age is 21 - but they seem to find a way to drink when they want.

Minnesota is already enough of a nanny state. It is a legal product for adults over the age of 18.
The city should be responsible to our youth even if National or State pressure develops for liberalization. Know what we do not know. Use research-based policy making approach on these crucial decisions. Smoking, vaping, or other such behaviors need to be kept as far away from our youth as possible. The behaviors should be marginalized and made rare. Everything we know of social network effects point to the power of mimicry. The research is also becoming clear - cannabis and derivatives are extremely dangerous for early adolescent brain development. https://www.sfgate.com/news/article/In-first-states-to-legalize-pot-teen-use-14001768.php https://www.jneurosci.org/content/39/10/1817 https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6433615/

Root cause - the impulse - stress or fear - can be overwhelmed with joy and contentment! Celebrate GV in deep and powerful ways - not multiple shallow, easy-to-forget events. Help residents connect with the marginalized. Not easy without the bold action of Leaders.

You can give the kid a gun and have him kill political enemies, he should be able to make decisions on smoking, and buying a beer. Get out of our lives.

I want us to keep young people from starting to smoke or vape.

If the city chooses to regulate the sale of tobacco to restrict people under the age of 21 from purchasing tobacco I think the city should consider changing the age at which people can vote to 21. If those under 21 are not capable of deciding whether or not to smoke, should they really be deciding who should represent them as elected officials? If this isn't the issue and we are just trying to ban the sale of cigarettes then the Council should just outright ban the sale of all tobacco and e cigs.

If young adults have the right to vote and serve their country, they should have the choice to buy tobacco products. More education is key.

I have lived in Golden Valley for 3 years now. Definitely am for raising the minimum age to 21.

1. The city should not regulate it. Minimum purchasing age should be 18. Other than that, the city should not get involved with the topic.
2. Regulating that will hurt some small businesses that make some of their profit from those sales, restricting certain sales can damage the businesses and limit taxes that the city is collecting.

If we raise the minimum age I don’t think we should limit the flavors. If we don’t raise the age, then we should limit the flavors.

If you’re old enough to vote and be in the military you’re old enough to legally buy tobacco of any kind.

The societal costs of tobacco use are incredibly high. Tobacco companies prey on teens, minorities, and the poor. As a teacher, I am aware of 6th and 7th graders vaping in the bathroom, and kids are getting this from older teen siblings. I support regulation and price increases.

Really,
Your asking for no sales under 21
Is that because those under 21 can’t make sound choices ? I’m not clear on the why of this topic..
It’s getting to be a bit much..

CHILDREN SHOULD NOT BE EXPOSED TO TOBACCO ADDICTION IN OUR COMMUNITY. WE NEED TO PROMOTE THE NATIONAL TREND OF LESS SMOKING IN OUR POPULATION.

I don’t use tobacco. I have small children and don’t want them to purchase tobacco when they turn 18. I purchased a pack of flavored Camels shortly after I turned 18 myself. However I am opposed to these regulations because I don’t want excessive government restriction of individual choices.
This fight is against Big Tobacco and its targeting of young people.

Adults should be able to make informed decisions about the substances they ingest, government should have no say as long as the substance doesn't make you a risk to people around you.

As a close to 30 something, I personally feel that the tobacco age should be higher, between 22 and 25. This would allow young adults to fully form opinions and become educated on tobacco before being scooped up by enticing advertisements, cheap prices or quick “feel good” activities while in college. I’m not sure what the current age restriction is on who can sell tobacco but I feel that one should be unable to sell tobacco unless they are 28 or older. Tobacco should not be able to be smoked around businesses that sell it. It’s been nearly impossible to go into gas stations and grocery stores without being exposed to someone smoking right outside the door. I urge you to push the limit to smoking near an entrance or sidewalk to 50 or 100 feet distance from public areas and crack down on smoking near restaurants, places of businesses and parks. Tobacco sales should, in my opinion, be restricted on the weekends and tobacco should not be able to be sold after 9 pm.

If people are old enough to vote at age 18, they should be able to make their own decision on tobacco products. Too much government involvement!

I am a non-smoker. I am a little torn on this. I hate seeing teens have access to tobacco products and I hate being around anyone that is smoking. But . . . if an 18 year old can enlist in the armed services and protect our country, I think that pretty much makes that person an adult. Shouldn't he/she then be allowed to buy tobacco products?

This is a solution looking for a problem and infringes on the rights of adults 18 to 20. Also not worth enforcing.

If at age 18 you are considered a legal adult then you should have the right to make your own bad decisions.

Whatever can be done to stop young people from starting to smoke, should be done. Lives can be saved and so many health problems can be avoided. We all end up paying the huge medical costs associated with smoking. So many health issues and death could be avoided by not smoking. It is the most stupid and unnecessary habit. Government has the right to regulate smoking, because even the chemicals left behind on someone's clothing, if they smoke outside, can impact a child's health.

Changing the age to 21 to buy tobacco is a great idea. I remember when I was in high school and adult teens buying tobacco for the younger kids. This is at the heart of the addiction cycle. Now with e-cigs becoming an epidemic it is vitally important to reduce the availability of these products. The flavored tobacco products should only be allowed to be sold in adult tobacco stores as this is another key way the youth get hooked on tobacco. Any store owner selling to underage kids should be severely fined. Also please consider doing something about the target marketing tobacco products to the youth as this should be banned. I am happy to see that you are getting on top of this big problem. I have two kids 8 and 11 and warn them about the dangers of the set tobacco products. Having Golden Valley step up and say we are going to protect our kids means the world to me and other families I know.

Regulation necessary to protect our youth.

I think raising the legal age to buy tobacco/vaping products to 21 is enough regulation for now.

18 is the age still they can be drafted? Then 18 I think. Remember some buy tobacco for ceremony.

we are allowed to drive cars, buy guns,

The tobacco industry is targeting the youth in our community to take the place of those dying from tobacco related diseases. We must protect our youth - smoking cigarettes and e-cigarettes is deadly, and we do not want to take a vote that essentially says we are okay with killing our youth!

Regulating tobacco is regulating how legal adults spend their time and relieve stress or enjoy themselves. This isn't the government's place. If 18 year olds can serve in the military, they should be allowed to smoke.
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Minimum Price

Should the City of Golden Valley require a minimum price for tobacco products sold in packages of three or less?

Tobacco products sold in packages of three or fewer are known as “loosies.” Of the 708 respondents who answered this question, 292 (41 percent) are in favor of requiring a minimum price for loosies in Golden Valley, 299 (42 percent) are not, and 117 (16 percent) don’t care.

Regulation options include broadening the definition of a loosie, raising the price of loosies, or both.
**Flavored And Menthol Tobacco**

**Should the City of Golden Valley regulate the sale of flavored tobacco?**

Of the 725 respondents who answered this question, 395 (54 percent) are in favor of requiring a minimum price for loosies in Golden Valley, 288 (39 percent) are not, and 42 (5 percent) don’t care.

**Should the City of Golden Valley regulate the sale of menthol flavored tobacco?**

Of the 717 respondents who answered this question, 371 (51 percent) are in favor of requiring a minimum price for loosies in Golden Valley, 295 (41 percent) are not, and 51 (7 percent) don’t care.
Regulation options include:
• completely banning the sale of all flavored tobacco
• completely banning the sale of flavored tobacco, excluding menthol
• allowing the sale of all flavored tobacco only at adult stores
• allow the sale of flavored tobacco only at adult stores, but allow the sale of menthol tobacco at all tobacco retailers
• allow the sale of flavored tobacco only at designated tobacco shops

Survey Comments

Golden Valley should do everything in its power to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco and all other measures to reduce the risk of youth addiction to tobacco.

Only real concern is regulating menthol tobacco for adults.... Nothing said here about what was involved in decision or purchase. I would be against regulating menthol for adults, and why just menthol????? I don’t consider it really a “flavor”. Some people seem to have concern for the younger generation due to the flavors, which I share. (Sorry if I’m repeating here, but I can’t see what I’ve written as the sidebar disappears.) Is regulation of any of it necessary? People make their own choices. Just because do gooders from one city think it’s a good idea to regulate, Golden Valley has to do it too?????

Regarding the regulation of flavored tobacco - I don’t think they should be regulated any differently than “regular” tobacco products.

Flavors don’t mean it attracts kids. Especially if it’s for 21 and over only. Kids are attracted to anything they aren’t supposed to have that’s nature but you can’t take away the freedom and right of everyone else because of the few bad apples. Vaping is safer then cigarettes and is a much safer alternative. People can drink all they want but can’t enjoy a tasty cloud of water vapor?

I am especially concerned about the use of menthol products and vaping among teens and young adults. As a former smoker, I understand the dangers of tobacco use and would like to see more regulation.

I feel like regulating menthol cigarettes is systematic racism at it’s finest, and MN and GV should be better than that and above such things. Also, old enough to go to war? Old enough to make decisions about smoking.

Flavored products are a worry of mine. If we have to make it taste good to pull in a younger clientele that creates a problem in my opinon.

If the city passes a flavor restriction, it should include menthol, and there should be no exception for adult-only tobacco stores. If the minimum sales age is raised to 21, the penalties should be on the retailers for violation, not on young people.

While the goal of your revised ordinance is to keep vape products out of the hands of minors, you are going a step too far when looking at a ban on menthol, mint and wintergreen products. I do hope you will consider the many small business owners who have supported this community and will suffer devastating losses due to the restrictive and ill planned ordinances

I think there should be more regulations on tobacco products in general, especially the flavored ones and vibrant packaging that attracts younger users. I think nationally more regulation needs to happen, but it is a good start with our city.
### General Survey Comments

I started smoking at 15 and know the struggle of resisting (at that age) and of stopping the bad habit later in life.

It's very important to have strict regulation in tobacco products. It impacts the health of us all, and also taxpayer money to treat the health and pollution issues created.

This is a public health issue and is long overdue.

I am extremely disappointed to see the new tobacco/e-cig shop in the Golden Valley mall where families and children hang out. It does not seem like a good fit and is not what I want my children exposed to when going to Dairy Queen or grabbing a quick dinner. I'm surprised that there is not better zoning to prevent it.

I like these proposals.

Thanks for tackling this issue.

We know the health risks associated with tobacco usage. It seems like a no brainer to restrict sales and similar ordinances have been successful in other cities.

I don't believe these types of regulations are effective at the city level. Also, if someone is old enough to join the military, they are old enough to make (legal) life choices and not have the city impose their ideas on them.

There are more important public safety issues already in Golden Valley. Such as the unsafe drivers every day on Olympia (speeding and not stopping for stop signs).

Would also appreciate no tobacco sales near schools. Maybe this is already a rule?

Please explain that these measures have been proven to reduce the number of young people who start smoking and save lives.

Prohibiting sales to minors is ok, but don't treat adults like they are children. It's insulting and paternalistic.

The city of Golden Valley should ban the sale of all tobacco related products in the whole city within the city limits.

Don't restrict the individual freedoms of people to use legal products.

This is a very important topic. As a parent, I worry about my kids having access to this stuff, so any extra regulation and restrictions that we can impose can help prevent them from getting addicted to cigarettes or ecigarettes.

Anything evidence based to reduce tobacco use is a great idea.

If you adopt these regulations, Golden Valley will join a growing list of communities in Minnesota (many of them adjacent to Golden Valley) who have adopted similar policies.

Increase taxes to pay for the public health implications of all of these products and support tobacco use cessation resources, please! Thank you for bringing up this very important subject!

if you can vote and join the military then the government has no place to someone what they can or can not buy

18-year-olds can vote and be drafted. They should be able to buy tobacco. I realize tobacco is a public health problem. So is alcohol. Where's the call to prohibit sales of fruity-flavored alcohol? So is food. Where's the call to limit fast food sales? Exactly. Leave it alone.

People have to be responsible for their own decisions. People can own homes, have kids and service our country at 18.

We need to be able to smoke inside!! Cigs inside or else.

There are bigger fish to fry than regulating legal purchases

Raise tax on it

Tobacco use should be highly discouraged everywhere. It pollutes the body and causes sickness.

State issue.

We encourage regulations that would inhibit the sales of tobacco products in pharmacies.
Tobacco and related products are contributing to a public health crisis which taxpayers all eventually underwrite with their hard earned dollars. It’s time to take action!

Instead of requiring a minimum price on the sales of cigarettes &/or e-cigarettes raise the overall price through a city tax and then use the tax money raised towards improving the City’s air quality, the health of the residents &/or more education on the effects smoking/vaping does to oneself & second hand smoke.

Another option to help limit sales of cigarettes &/or e-cigarettes require licenses to sell the products & if that is already in place set higher requirements to obtain/renew a tobacco/vape sales license.

Set higher penalties for underage smoking/vaping.

Set higher penalties for disposing of cigarette butts illegally a.ka. littering.

I don’t smoke tobacco but last time I checked it is a legal substance. Stop being a nanny and let people make their own choices. Also if you raise the age to 21 then that should also be the legal voting age. You can’t say your mature enough to vote at 18 but not mature enough to make decisions concerning tobacco product. Enough PC Big Brother!! GV resident since 1957.

People will just drive elsewhere. Just tax it and move on to the next real issue.

Having smoked for many years, I have been diagnosed with COPD and am on supplemental oxygen. No cigarette is safe in my opinion.

There needs to be some kind of restriction on the use of signs; a new tobacco shop just went up near the Cub off Hwy 55 - why do they need LARGE signs in front of the grocery where kids are in view to publicize?

Regulate smoking in public places!

Stop this!

Other communities have already put these types of restrictions in place. I would like our city to catch up.

You should have two types of licenses: tobacco products shop and over the counter tobacco retailer. Only tobacco products shops (at least 90% tobacco sales) should be able to sell flavored tobacco and vaping products. You should limit the number and location of tobacco shops in the city.

I think tobacco should not be sold at all. I am curious about how much it would cost to regulate all of these products? And how many smokers and business owners would really be affected?

Other nearby cities have increased regulation. Golden valley should too.

Increase the tax on tobacco and offset that with a reduction in property tax.

Focus on bigger issues.

Golden Valley should simply stick to the business of running the City.

This seems like an unenforceable measure in reality.

Golden Valley should follow what surrounding communities decide on this subject.

Smokers have been "regulated" enough. And as much as the majority may wish that the world would go smoke-free, there will always be people who smoke. Please stop this this endless persecution of smokers. Leave it alone, and hopefully the pendulum one day may start swinging the other way.

Let people make their own decisions. As long as it’s legal it shouldn’t be restricted. I personally do not use these products but it feels like it’s being used to shame the people that do.

Government has no business regulating sales of tobacco. I am not a smoker but this is government and nanny-state over reach. City government should not be worried about this. Worry about crime, policing the city, roads, traffic, and attracting more businesses into the city.

Why doesn’t the city worry about more important things?

I smoked for years and would have found a way to buy tobacco if it was restricted. Also all the talk of restricting tobacco but marijuana is going to be ok in a couple years does not make sense.

Work with other nearby cities to implement similar regulations to level the playing field for stores that sell tobacco products, i.e. so people don’t just go to crystal and Golden Valley business's suffer.

If you care about the health of your residents, you will regulate tobacco products. Thank you for making this a priority.
Education about the dangers of smoking has been very effective in decreasing smoking. Keep the education going, and any statute changes should be statewide.

Tobacco store should not have been allowed to open in the commons. Very poor choice.

I am not a user of any of these products, but I don’t see what difference it’ll make when those restricted can simply go to another community & spend their money there.

The city should focus on things that benefit all residents. I do not support making a choice separate from the state of Minnesota in regards to tobacco sales.

We should ban the sale to tobacco altogether. It has zero positive impact on society other than the collecting of tax revenue.

Golden Valley should not be involved in the regulation of tobacco. This is a state matter.

I’m a non smoker. It’s still a legal product. People should have the right to decide for themselves if/when they want to use tobacco. The city shouldn’t try to act as my mother!

Fix streets, move bikes and scooters that are blocking sidewalks, stop creating bike lanes that no one uses, and let people be use their own judgement on buying tobacco products... it’s not the city’s role to dictate to anyone over the state’s age of majority.

History: Prior to 1973, the drinking age was the age of legal adulthood (age of majority), which was 21 (Minnesota Statutes 1971, section 645.45). In 1973, the age of majority was lowered from 21 to 18.

They should close ALL smoke shops NOW

I don’t think this is a very important topic for the city to waste time and effort on.

Less regulation just abide by state laws

How much will this tobacco enforcement cost for the city?

Stay out of peoples business. You are too small to make a difference, I will drive to slp, new hope, mpls, Plymouth or crystal. They will get my money and I will still smoke in my yard in golden valley.

Why dont you stop picking on us

Don’t

Education pamphlets to be posted at sale locations.

The city should not enact any legislation or place any restrictions on tobacco sales that are already covered by state government.

There are already federal and state tobacco sale regulations. Stop the unnecessary intervention and expansion of government where it is not needed.

This is a public health issue and GV should be a leader in the prevention of addiction thru products like this.

This is a public health no-brainer

Don’t sell it

Cities should stay out of this business.

I strongly detest smoking by anyone at any age. GV’s proposed attempt to restrict the sale of tobacco products will do the following:

1. Drive consumers under the age of 21 to purchase tobacco in neighboring communities.
2. Drive business away from GV retailers that sell tobacco products.
3. Fail to restrict use of tobacco by adults under the age of 21.
4. Shine a bright light on the classist, ageist and racist motives underlying this effort.

Also consider an extra tax on tobacco that could go to things like fixing our roads, etc...

I think the city should stop putting their hands on everything. We don’t need more city/govt control or regulations...we have enough!
I agree with all of the changes the council is considering and that makes me wonder why we, as a city, are licensing tobacco sales at all? Can the City afford to stop licensing tobacco sales for any more new locations, existing licensed outlets could remain?

It’s a state issue not a city issue

Anything to stop people taking it up or restarting would be helpful. Thank you.

I would also like to limit the number of smoke shops in the city as well

You’re on the right track.

I think the city should stay out of it

Other addictive products are regulated by law, enforcing higher age limits or Dr. prescription. I’m in favor of changes that being these substances into alignment with controls already enforced for other addictive products.

I have not smoked for 35 years but I don’t think it’s fair to regulate tobacco sales. It sounds like a left-wing idea

Allow grown adults to make their own decisions. No new laws that impede on one’s individual freedoms to consume products.

This seems like a waste of resources and would be a nuisance for local retailers.

I believe we are going too extreme with this possible regulation. People know the dangers of smoking; there are already age restrictions on cigarettes in place. I believe similar regulations should be in place for vaping products. But we need to stop policing behaviors with more regulations

I don’t even smoke. It’s frustrating to see you think you have the right to "regulate" people from engaging in legal activities. Leave people alone to live the life they choose. Is this not a free nation?

Thank you to Golden Valley for considering these life-saving ordinances.

Regulation has never worked. Any attempts at restriction simply create law breakers. Education is the only reasonable way to reduce use of dangerous chemicals, and even then people should be allowed to do dangerous things.

Tobacco is bad

Make it expensive and difficult to get so I don’t have to deal with smoke and butts.

I’d love to see as few locations selling tobacco products as possible and as many restrictions on accessibility as possible to limit product availability for new users. All in hope to see less people suffer and die each year from tobacco-related addiction and illnesses.

I am a retired nurse and watched the scare tactics about smoking in restaurants and other public places. The only outcomes were positive.

This should be done at a state level. As a small city with a limited retail base, we need to consider non-tobacco sales that would be lost by Golden Valley businesses to surrounding communities.

Remember Prohibition! Tobacco sales are not the problem. The problem is lack of morals and values.

I have no issue with the current tobacco laws and am strongly opposed to changing them.

Stop controlling things that have nothing to do with you

The government should not be regulating ANY businesses based on "moral standards".

Stay out of regulating legal businesses.

I feel there are more important issues that the council should be working on.

Although I am a non-smoker (and find the habit gross on many levels), if someone wants to waste their money, that's THEIR choice. As far as kids taking up the habit? Let’s put that responsibility on THEIR PARENTS - not elected officials. I oppose government regulating EVERYTHING.

Ban all sales of tobacco products and vaping products unless prescribed by a doctor.

Tobacco/nicotine is a health-care burden on our community and country. It should be expensive and regulated.
Do anything to STOP the sale of tobacco. It kills!

Price it high, and tax the crap out of it. Make it so unreasonably expensive that it’s not easily accessible or appealing, especially to younger people. The flavor issue is totally irrelevant; it’s lethal in every flavor.

Tobacco related illness only kills about 1/2 million Americans every day. Yes I understand freedom, but suicide is against the law for a reason and tobacco use is suicide in slow motion. Former 2 pack a day smoker.

Don’t you have anything more important to do like waste more money on bicycle lanes that no one uses. BTW, where are all those green bicycles?

It is not the government’s job to tell people how to live. Stay out of private business and personal choices.

Let people be free to make their own choices.

No vape stores near school buildings. Not sure if possible but saw one go up near Hopkins High School and don’t want that here.

Stay out of our lives with regard to vices. Mind the coffers. Plow the roads. Maintain the green spaces. Pay the police. (You do all those things. Just maintain your focus, please).

We regulate the availability and sale of alcohol. I believe we should do the same for tobacco-related products. Liquor store owners abide these regulations. So cam vendors who sell tobacco-related products.

I think there are better ways of addressing the issue of an unwanted tobacco/smoke shop in the area.

Limit the % of sales from that one lane of products to no more than 25% of the total business. Example would be a gas station or convenience store like Walgreens. When SLP didn’t want Pawn America, they limited their function through something creative like this.

While I voted no to this questionnaire, I would rather see the tobacco shop go. I think these kinds of businesses harm communities from the promotion of unhealthy products and lifestyle. We can do better and should demand better business for Golden Valley.

The city has no reason to be in the regulation of this. They have no ability to perform unbiased research and analysis. It is purely a feel good "look how much I care" grab. Both Federal and State entities are fully aware of to pro and con of these situations. Leave it alone.

Prohibition of undesirable products only drives illegal sales. Taxation, coupled with using that tax money for addiction treatment, is the only effective method to discourage use. If the city can’t implement that, then it should lobby the state, rather than trying to push tobacco sales to neighboring cities.

Tobacco is a “luxury” item and should be heavily taxed to allow the community to:
1. Clean up after users
2. Effectively pay for health impact
3. Cover the cost of anti-tobacco educational campaigns.

While teen use is at alarming levels, focusing on city regulation is misplaced. These are legal products. The city has no business trying to further regulate this area. Access to these products is in easy in walking or biking distance outside of city limits.

GV is starting to become "Big Brother". Stick to your city charter and not get into people’s personal choices. Cigarettes are legal, right? Don’t like small businesses? Who’s going to pay for highway construction? (smokers tax on cigs is huge) Who are you trying to please/placate by doing this? Don’t like children smoking but it’s really the parents who should be monitoring/teaching their kids - not the city. What’s next - prohibition?

I think that the regulation of tobacco sales in Golden Valley is very important to help protect the health of our young citizens. It is a responsible action for supporting good public health in Golden Valley.

Free will is excellent. Placing appropriate guardrails around deadly activity is excellent. Let’s create policy that does both.

sometimes government regulation isn't necessary. But, tobacco sales is a public health issue and therefore should be regulated
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why? I am not interested in smoking or vaping myself. But why spend the time and energy on this?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The health risks that are associated with tobacco use are so well known, but people, especially young people, are still being lured into trying it. Some people say that it is their &quot;right&quot; to use tobacco and it is a question of &quot;free will&quot;. I see the addiction to tobacco as the opposite of &quot;free will&quot;. You give up your &quot;free will&quot; to an addictive substance. Anything that the city can do to stop people from becoming addicted would be great and maybe save someone's life.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Golden Valley should match the state regulations</td>
</tr>
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<td>I think there should be citywide PSAs on the ingredients of e-cigarettes, including their long-term effects and levels of toxicity. I also think that shops that advertise that they sell nicotine products should not be allowed to do business within a two mile radius of any elementary, middle or high schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Now that Minneapolis has/is changing its Tobacco ordinance we need to as well. Otherwise we'll have people driving here from nearby MPLS to acquire these products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>There are way bigger issues than wasting time with this.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literally saves lives if enacted</td>
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<td>I am not a smoker, nor a tobacco user of any kind.</td>
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<tr>
<td>There is no need to restrict tobacco sales any further than the already enacted and enforced state regulations on cigarettes, chewing tobacco, and vape/electronic cigarettes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Given the number of deaths that tobacco industry is responsible for, these products should be restricted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would have to take my business to a neighboring city. I also feel that I should be the one to decide what I smoke and it should not be determined by anyone else, especially the government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>These are critical to providing a safe environment for our youth and savings on future health costs. Many other cities in Mn have already moved ahead on these measures. G. V. should not be left behind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stop meddling with free market capitalism.</td>
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<td>The FDA ALREADY HAS RETAIL REGULATIONS IN PLACE.</td>
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<td>mostly questions around enforcement (and potential for bias)</td>
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<td>This is nanny state ridiculousness. City government has no business regulating tobacco sales. Responsibilities of city government: fix the roads, build roads, reduce crime, fund the police and fire department, get the scooters out in the spring not when summer is half over, plow the roads, provide clean water, to name a few. Get out of legislating behavior and get back to the business of running the city. Honestly.</td>
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<td>I agree that this should not be city government's responsibility, but so many things are now because of gridlock at the state legislature and in DC. Legislators wait for cities to do their work for them because they don't want to take any responsibility and then jump on the bandwagon at the end. That said, I would rather address this one state-wide so as not to disadvantage Golden Valley businesses and because the impact of one small city on health won't be measurable. The whole problem would shrink if federal subsidies for tobacco growers were eliminated.</td>
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<td>Why does Golden Valley want to violate federal law?</td>
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<td>Think you should tax the heck out of it</td>
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**Facebook/Email Comments**

| Cindy Schiebe | One correlation I need someone to tell me more detail on, is how does serving in the military at 18 relate to the health affects and healthcare costs associated with. People need to think of this as a spectrum. If you shift the legal age it could move the age of first use up, which could reduce the length of time someone uses and has health issues. If we can get people to not start using tobacco by 18, then they probably won’t use. |
| Rob Brandt | This is nanny state ridiculousness. City government has no business regulating tobacco sales. Responsibilities of city government: fix the roads, build roads, reduce crime, fund the police and fire department, get the scooters out in the spring not when summer is half over, plow the roads, provide clean water, to name a few. Get out of legislating behavior and get back to the business of running the city. Honestly. |
| Cathy Howard Waldhauser | I agree that this should not be city government's responsibility, but so many things are now because of gridlock at the state legislature and in DC. Legislators wait for cities to do their work for them because they don't want to take any responsibility and then jump on the bandwagon at the end. That said, I would rather address this one state-wide so as not to disadvantage Golden Valley businesses and because the impact of one small city on health won’t be measurable. The whole problem would shrink if federal subsidies for tobacco growers were eliminated. |
| Amber Smith | (response to above) I agree, yet respectfully disagree. Policies, particularly health behavior, starts at the local level. It's been discussed at the state level because so many cities have passed these changes to protect our youth and community's health. |
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Staff Notes From Public Forum

Association For Nonsmokers-Minnesota (ANSR) Table

- Juul pods inexpensive, sold at stores. Price of unit ends up evening up when compared to tobacco
- Question on min price. Has someone done a regulation on pack size? Mostly in MN, single cig at a certain price
- How many communities have done flavor and how does that effect? St. Paul 91 percent completed. With flavor restricted most e-cigs — yes it would. Is Juul flavored? Yes it is.

Tobacco Retailers Table

- Question to Down In The Valley: How much money comes from tobacco? — ½ of our profits
- Why do you sell other things? Records, etc? — We are a unique, shopping experience. The structure works. E-cigs are low profit on our business.
- Top Star Tobacco and E-cig: New store, we depend on E-Cig products. Over 70 percent of our sales
- Gas station retailer: We have been in business for a long time. If we don’t sell cigarettes, we can’t survive on gas sales only. 8 to 15 percent profit from tobacco products. Tobacco is 40 percent of product sales.
- State law should be passed across the board. I think you shouldn’t sell a product that kills half the people that use it.
- Advocate for informed decision making. Tobacco is linked to brain damage, childhood development. Ingredients are not listed. Not full idea of effects by 21. It kills!
- How do you prevent retailers from going out of business? Cap retailer number. They would take licenses away from business that decided to remove them at some point in time. GV would not allow them to apply for them again.
- Retailer: against regulations in general. I hear the term, my ears ring. If you want it, you’ll find a way to get it! It will only create a black market for tobacco
- Asked about 21 and over ok in tobacco store only. What percentage of lost revenue if stop of flavor tobacco. Depends on the store. Gas station- 50 percent of store. Menthol big sales.
- Asked where minors are getting it. Vendor said, many from internet. In store they have to show ID.
- Resident asked about minimum package.
- Asked about flavor ban
- Against because tobacco stores will still be able to sell, but other retailers won’t.
- For because it will keep it out of the reach of youth.
- Against if its only 21 and over regulation enacted. Existence of black market means 21 won’t solve everything. I think they should limit number of tobacco stores. 21 is a step, we need more. The younger people start, the earlier they get addicted.
- Price will prohibit kids from purchasing. Retailers responded that higher prices are good for them.
- Concern that there is a level field—if one community adopts a ban but neighboring cities don’t, it won’t help.
- How much of retailers business is Juul? — Zero to little, but those are available online.

Hennepin County Department Of Health Table
• Advertisement question (Shep) — Certain percentage of the window can be designated for ads. Limiting signage in front windows. The county did not address advertisement. The signage policy applies to any business.

• Question: Has it been difficult to instill changes, from policy perspectives, in different cities? What is the likelihood of the regulations being implemented in Golden Valley? Hennepin County can’t comment on city’s implementation. What we can say is you want to give retailers time to work on inventory before enacting a flavor ordinance.

• Are any cities banning all sales? San Francisco is trying to ban all e-cigs sales.

• PowerPoint used available somewhere. Contact Maria.

• Asked about the cap of licenses, how it would work. Normally, grandfather in but it would be up to the city. If someone close if over limit, would not be able to add another.

• Would raising age to 21 solve most of the problems? HC said it would reduce. Residents said you can see other places.

• What percentage would be taking away from retailers? HC said ask retailers.

• Resident said 21 makes sense. Another person said it makes sense for pharmacy not to sell.

• Commented that other neighboring cities already limit density (noted it from the handouts)

• For, because price is deterrent for younger people

• Has anyone considered a compromise on age, like 19, to keep it away from schools without taking freedoms away from adults?