

Sample Letter to Editor

As Clean Air Kansas City is swinging into high gear, it is time that you make your voices heard! Letters to the editor are one of the best ways to let policy makers and others know community viewpoints on an issue!

Listed below are several newspapers and how to write a letter to the editor. Click the links below (or do it the old fashioned way with pen and paper) and let you local citizens know what you think. Here is a sample letter if you have never written to a newspaper editor before. Feel free to use some of the facts and talking points listed below, but make sure to put it in your own words-it means more that way. Letters from those who oppose 100% smoke-free public environments are starting to appear, so now is the time to write.

Sample Letter

Dear Editor,

It is easy to see why the Kansas City metro should move to a smoke-free policy:

- **Secondhand smoke is not just a nuisance, its dangerous!** 100% smoke-free public places and workplaces protect the health of our community.
- **We all have a right to breathe clean, safe, smoke-free indoor air!** Secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, including 200 poisons (over 40 are known to cause cancer).
- **There is no safe level of secondhand smoke!** Ventilation systems do not protect the health of our families or workers. They may reduce odors but does not eliminate the exposure to the toxic chemicals and cancer causing agents in secondhand smoke.
- **Smoke-free public places are good for you, me and business!** Independent and reputable studies of sales tax data show that smoke-free laws do not hurt restaurant business, bar business or tourism.

Pass the necessary ordinance to help keep Kansas City safe. It is a quality of life issue.

Name

Address

Day Time Phone

Talking Points/Facts

- Restaurant and bar workers exposed to secondhand smoke can triple their risk of lung cancer.
- For every eight smokers that die, one non-smoker will die from exposure to secondhand smoke.
- Smoke-filled rooms can have up to six times the air pollution as a busy highway.
- Secondhand smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals, including over 50 known carcinogens.
- The risk of heart attack is 91% higher for women regularly exposed to secondhand smoke.

- Experts agree, increased ventilation cannot protect non-smokers from the cancer causing chemicals in smoke.
- Non-smoking establishments have lower cleaning costs, maintenance expenses, and insurance fees.

Who to contact

Kansas City Star - letters@kcstar.com

Send letters of up to 150 words to The Kansas City Star, Letters, 1729 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. or email to letters@kcstar.com. Please include name, address and daytime phone number. Letters will be edited for length and clarity.

To call and leave comments for the Voices section call (816) 234-4474

Johnson County Sun - tworth@sunpublications.com

Send letters to the editors at 7373 W 107th St. Overland Park, KS 66212, or email to tworth@sunpublications.com. Submission should be 150 words or less and include their name, address, and day and night phone numbers. Only the name and city will be printed.

To call and leave message for the Talk back section call 913-381-4884 or email to talkback@sunpublications.com

Shawnee Dispatch - <http://www.shawneedispatch.com/site/submit/letters.html>

Send letters to the editors at P.O. Box 3278, Shawnee, KS 66203, or online at www.shawneedispatch.com/site/submit/letters.html. Submissions should be 300 words or less.

Desoto Explorer - <http://www.desotoexplorer.com/site/submit/letters.html>

Send letters to the editors at 33041 W. 83rd St., P.O. Box 639, De Soto, KS 66018, or online at www.desotoexplorere.com/site/submit.letters.html. Submissions should be 350 words or less.

Olathe Daily News editor@theolathenews.com Gardner/Spring Hill Submissions@GardnerNews.com