Raise the Age KS Questions

❖ What will Raise the Age KS do?
  o Raise The Age KS is a statewide effort led by the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition and
diverse health leaders across Kansas to decrease youth tobacco use by increasing the
age of sale for all tobacco products to 21. This change would apply to retail sellers,
internet sellers, mail order, and vending machines.

❖ Why are we doing this?
  o Tobacco use is STILL the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United
States. 95% of current smokers started before 21 and each year, 1200 Kansas youth and
young adults become daily smokers. Adolescent brains are uniquely vulnerable to the
effects of nicotine, effecting the youth’s brain stronger and more rapidly. This makes it
harder for youth to quit.
  o E-cigarette use among high school students has exploded in recent years - In KS 34.8%
of high school students report ever using an electronic vapor product. These products
have high Nicotine content and fun flavors which makes them particularly attractive and
addictive to youth and young adults.
  o The only way to end youth nicotine and tobacco addiction is to prevent youth from
starting in the first place. This is what T21 is all about.

❖ What kind of products will this apply to?
  o Raises the Age will apply to the selling of cigarettes, e-cigarettes, and other tobacco
products (OTPs)

❖ What are Other Tobacco Products (OTPs)?
  o Think of the products that are used in your community that aren’t cigarettes or e-
cigarettes. This category includes cigars, little cigars (like Swisher Sweets or Black and
Mild), hookah, and chewing tobacco. This is a very diverse category of products and
includes tobacco that is flavored.

❖ Vaping has increased so much in the last few years, maybe we should focus on
changing e-cigarettes to T21. Why is this “tobacco” 21?
  o All tobacco products are addictive and harmful to the health of young people. If we
don’t include all products in Tobacco 21, youth will be incentivized to use the products
that weren’t included.

❖ Does Tobacco 21 hurt business?
  o 18-20 year-olds comprise only 2 percent of tobacco sales. There is no data indicating
that retailers are going out of business or not going into areas with T 21 ordinances in
Kansas. In fact, there is data to show that convenience store profit trends in Kansas City
has steadily increased at the same rate for the two years before and after they passed
T21.

❖ What Kansas communities already have Tobacco 21?
  o 20+ communities including:
     Kansas City, Iola, Garden City, Parsons, Holcomb, Lansing, Leavenworth, Bonner Springs,
Edwardsville, Leawood, Lenexa, Merriam, Mission Hills, Olathe, Overland Park, Prairie
Village, Roeland Park, Westwood, Westwood Hills, Finney County, Shawnee County,
Douglas County, and Johnson County.