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### **Survey of Texas Voters**

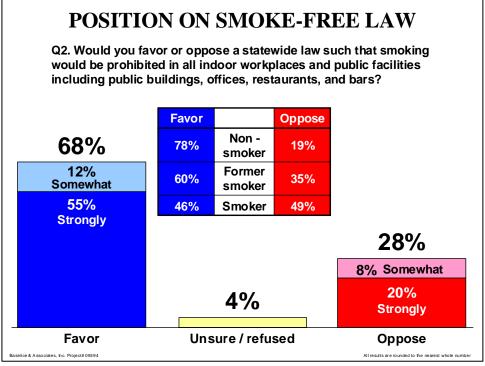
Base1ice & Associates, Inc. was retained to conduct survey research for the purpose of studying attitudes and opinions of voters in Texas. This survey was conducted among N=601 randomly selected voters on January 18-19, 2009. The margin of error for a sample of this size is  $\pm 4.1\%$  at the .95 test level.

### **Position on Smoke-Free Law**

The results to this survey indicate that 68% of Texas voters favor, and 28% oppose, a proposed statewide law that would prohibit smoking in all indoor workplaces and public facilities including public buildings, offices, restaurants, and bars. The following graphic shows five of nine (55%) voters strongly favor the statewide law while one in five (20%) strongly oppose it.

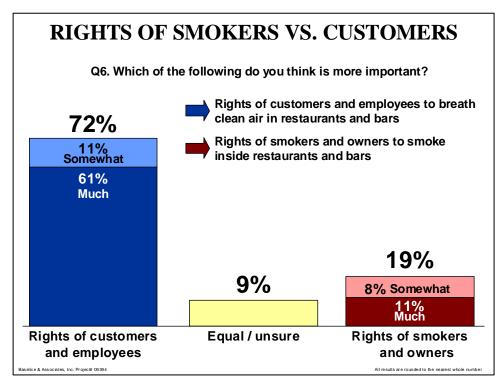
Support for the proposed statewide law is widespread observed and various subgroups. The highest levels of support be found Democrats (77%), African-Americans (78%),Hispanics (74%), females (73%), voters 18-39 years old (73%) and voters residing in the Austin/Waco/Bryan media markets (75%).

Additionally, two in three Republicans (65%), three in five Independents (59%), two in three Anglos (65%), two in three voters over the age of 40 (67%), and five



in eight males (62%) support the proposal.

The graphic also shows the levels of support among the key subgroups of non-smokers, former smokers, and smokers. NOTE: Four in seven Texas voters (57%) state they have never smoked tobacco products and are classified as "non-smokers" while one-quarter of all voters (25%) are "former smokers." One in six Texas voters (17%) state they smoke occasionally or regularly and are classified as "smokers".



# Rights of smokers vs. right of customers

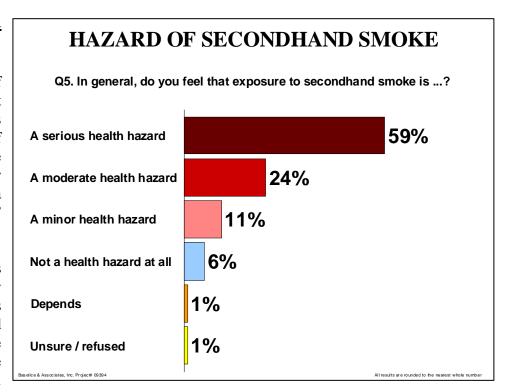
Support of the smoke-free law is driven by various attitudes and beliefs. One such belief is that the rights of customers and employees to breathe clean air in restaurants and bars (72%) is paramount to the rights of smokers to smoke and owners to allow smoking inside restaurants and bars (19%).

Even 53% of regular or occasional smokers say the rights of customers and employees are more

important than the rights of smokers and restaurant/bar owners (31%). While 45% of those opposed to the smoke-free law side with the rights of smokers and restaurant/bar owners, 34% of those opposed to the smoke-free law side with the rights of customers and employees.

## <u>Views on secondhand</u> <u>smoke</u>

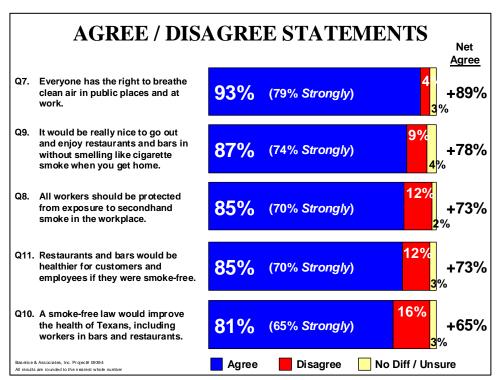
Another attitude and belief that correlates with support of the smoke-free law is one's view of the hazard of secondhand smoke. Three in five (59%) voters view secondhand smoke as a "serious health hazard," and of these voters, 85% support a smoke-free law. Support of the measure is lower, but still a majority of the one in four voters who consider secondhand smoke to be a "moderate health hazard" favor the smoke-free law (56%).



Thirty-seven percent (37%) of voters who consider secondhand smoke to be only a "minor health hazard" support the measure.

# Attitudes on concepts of smoke-free laws

A large majority of Texas voters agree with all five statements regarding the concepts behind smokefree laws. Nearly eight in Texas voters ten (79%) strongly agree that everyone has the right to breathe clean air. seven in eight smokers (87%) and seven in nine of those opposed to smoke-free law (77%)agree that everyone has the right to breathe clean air.



# SMOKE-FREE IMPACT ON DINING OUT Q12. If the legislature passed a law making all restaurants and bars smoke-free, would you go out to bars and restaurants (Ver X: more often, less often / Ver Y: less often, more often), or about as often as you do now? Net +14% 69% More often Less often About as often as now Unsure / refused

# **Impact of Smoke-Free** law on dining out

A majority of non-smokers, smokers. former current smokers indicate they would go out to bars and restaurants about as often as they do now if the legislature passes a law making all restaurants and bars smoke-free. The following chart does illustrate, however, that there should be a net increase of 14% (22% more often minus 8% less often) in terms of going out if the smoke-free law was in

effect. The 14% net gain in patrons would extrapolate to over 1.8 million voters dining out more often if the smoke-free law was in place.