

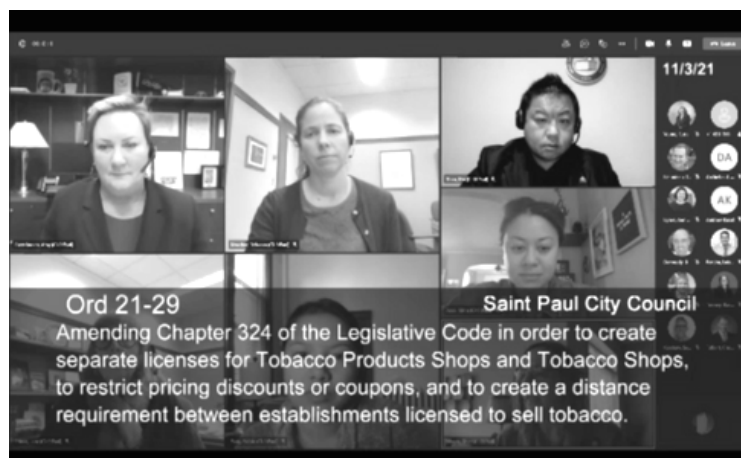


## Saint Paul Passes Most Comprehensive Commercial Tobacco Ordinance in the Country

The Saint Paul City Council voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance to prohibit the redemption of coupons and discounts for all commercial tobacco and vaping products on November 3, 2021.

The ordinance also sets a minimum price for cigarettes and chewing tobacco at \$10 each and increases penalties for retailers who illegally sell commercial tobacco products to people under the age of 21 or violate the city's flavored tobacco restrictions.

During the meeting, several council members detailed their support for the measure.



*Saint Paul City Council adopted an ordinance prohibiting the use of coupons and price promotions for commercial tobacco and vaping products.*

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Councilmember Rebecca Noecker said she was pleased that the Council is supporting young people and preparing them to be healthy adults.

Councilmember Nelsie Yang talked about the heartwarming letters the Council received from young people expressing how important this change is for them, their families, and their communities. Yang also encouraged other cities to follow St. Paul's lead.

Councilmember Jane Prince echoed her comments from the public hearing about the strong and diverse community coalition that asked the Council to lead on this issue.

Finally, Council President Amy Brendmoen thanked everyone who helped bring this ordinance across the finish line.

This first-of-its-kind ordinance will make commercial tobacco products less accessible and appealing to young people by keeping prices high. It will protect communities that have been targeted by tobacco industry marketing including youth, African American, Indigenous, LGBTQ, and other people of color. To learn more about how the tobacco industry uses price discounts visit [www.dontdiscountmylife.org](http://www.dontdiscountmylife.org).

## ANSR Advocate Wins Youth Advocate of the Year Award

Grace Plowman, an ANSR youth advocate, was named a 2021 Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids Youth Advocate of the Year Award recipient. Plowman has advocated for policy changes at the city and state level – including testifying in favor of Tobacco 21 and policies to end the sale of flavored tobacco products. In addition, Plowman organized her peers and created a tobacco prevention advocacy group at Mounds View High School, while encouraging teens to quit smoking and vaping.

“I know that I’m not the only teen that’s against tobacco, but I am one of the few that is speaking up and giving a voice to my peers,” Plowman said. “Through speaking out, I hope that I’ve shown my friends and other people my age that it isn’t ‘lame’ or ‘uncool’ to speak up against tobacco and to advocate for ourselves. It is a great feeling knowing that I am making change and taking steps to become part of a smoke-free generation.”

“Grace is a remarkable leader in her community and in our state,” said nominator Katie Engman, program director of policy and compliance at ANSR. “Grace doesn’t just talk the talk, she also helps educate, enforce and advance tobacco prevention policies. We are all better off because Grace discovered she has a powerful voice and is determined to use it to protect her fellow students. I have no doubt that Grace will represent Minnesota well as a national youth advocate.”



*Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids' 2021 Youth Advocate of the Year Award recipient, Grace Plowman.*

## 2021 Program Sharing Prevention Conference a Success

The Minnesota Prevention Resource Center hosted the 47th annual Minnesota Prevention Program Sharing Conference in October. This year's virtual conference included over 54 speakers, 3 keynote presentations, 32 breakout sessions, 2 networking sessions, and opportunities to interact with exhibitors from around the state.

Over the course of two days, attendees learned about the latest programs and research in substance abuse prevention, health equity, coalition-building, youth advocacy, community engagement, and resiliency and wellness. Next year's conference will be held in Duluth, Minnesota on October 20th-21st, 2022. For more information, visit [www.mnprc.org](http://www.mnprc.org).

## ANSR FUNDING UPDATE



ANSR continues to look for ways to fill the funding void left when ClearWay Minnesota sunset. We have had some recent successes!

- ANSR raised \$21,909.33 on Give to the Max Day, Minnesota's annual giving holiday. Thank you to all who donated! [www.ansrmn.org/donate](http://www.ansrmn.org/donate).
- For the second year in a row, ANSR received a \$10,000 grant from the Hardenberg Foundation. Hardenberg supports charitable organizations serving individuals located in the East Metro, Ramsey and Washington Counties of Minnesota, and the St. Croix River Valley. We are grateful for their continued support!

# Youth Access to E-cigarettes Online

One of the many ways youth access e-cigarettes is buying them online. But, so far, little has been done to prevent online sales to youth. This lack of regulation and enforcement is concerning because e-cigarette retail websites often have inadequate age verification procedures which allow youth easy access to purchase these dangerous products.

To document how easy it is to obtain e-cigarettes on the internet, we purchased



Preventing online sales of vape products is an important policy priority.



flavored e-cigarette products from six online retailers' websites in 2021. We found online retailers often have minimal age verification procedures or none at all. For those sites with an age verification step, youth could easily bypass this process by providing a parent or guardian's birthdate and credit card. The packaging label on the outside of five of the six e-cigarette products ordered required an adult signature upon delivery yet all deliveries were left without obtaining an adult signature. Our study was conducted prior to new federal regulations implemented on October 21, 2021 that prohibits these products from being shipped via USPS. Online retailers can still ship products via private carrier.

States and local jurisdictions can pass policies to prohibit or restrict internet-based delivery sales, shipments, and deliveries. Five states have taken these policy measures. There is currently a bill in the Minnesota legislature that will end the sale of all flavored tobacco. Included in the bill is a provision to restrict internet-based sales of e-cigarette products.

## ANSR Membership Form

*Already a member? Not your renewal date? Pass this form along to someone you think might be interested. Share your newsletter. Also, please send in your email address to help us update our records.*



I want to help ANSR's ongoing work:

- Guarantor \_\_\$100 \_\_ \$200 \_\_ Other
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- Contributing member \_\_\$30 \_\_ \$40
- Regular member \_\_ \$25
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Anyone wishing to donate to ANSR or renew their membership online may do so at [www.ansrmn.org/donate](http://www.ansrmn.org/donate)

Please mail this form with your check to:  
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 2395 University Ave. W., Suite 310  
 St. Paul, MN 55114-1512



## ⚠️ Emerging Product Alert: Delta-8 ⚠️

Delta-8 is a new product in the cannabis market that is becoming increasingly popular and more readily available in convenience stores, gas stations, and tobacco shops across the state. Delta-8 products come from cannabidiol (CBD) which are extracted from hemp. These products are sold in different forms including edibles, liquids for vaping, and “flowers” for smoking.

Like delta-9 THC, delta-8 has intoxicating effects; however, it is less potent in THC levels. Because this product is still very new to the cannabis market, there is very little research on the long term health effects on the body.

The Minnesota Board of Pharmacy says many CBD products sold in the state are illegal, and it wants the Legislature to change the state’s approach to the marketing and sale of the popular hemp products.

There is no clear statement from any branch of the federal government to say how delta-8 products are regulated.



*Delta 8 products (bottom to top): Cake Delta8 Disposable Vape, URB Finest Flowers delta-8 product Vape Cartridge 1 ml; Trolly Medicated Cherry Bombers, and Stoner Patch Dummies*

Delta-8 is not a tobacco product so many commercial tobacco regulations in Minnesota do not apply to the sale and use of this product. However, there is some overlap in regulation.

Delta-8 products can be vaped, heated, or smoked. Therefore, vaping, heating, or smoking Delta-8 in areas prohibited by the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act (MCIAA) would be a violation of state law.

Similarly, the minimum legal sales age (MLSA) for electronic delivery devices is age 21 and since the definition of electronic delivery device may include delta-8 products, then the state MLSA would apply if the product meets the definition of electronic smoking devices, tobacco-related devices, and nicotine or lobelia products. Further, state law requires that retailers be licensed to sell electronic delivery devices, which is defined to broadly cover the consumption of any substance, including delta-8. If a retailer is selling electronic delivery devices to be used with delta-8, they would likely need a tobacco retail license.

ANSR will continue to track this emerging product.



*Photo Credit: Association for Nonsmokers-MN (ANSR)*

*Delta-8 products often mimic popular candy products.*

## In Memoriam

Two metro city councils lost members in recent months. Terry Quigley, Shoreview City Councilmember, passed away on January 13th, 2022, at the age of 85. Dave McClung, Arden Hills City Councilmember, passed away on December 1, 2021 at the age of 53 after a yearlong battle with cancer. Both Terry and Dave were longtime supporters of ANSR's work.

"Terry was a friend to tobacco prevention for decades," said Jeanne Weigum, ANSR President. "He served on the board of the American Lung Association and struck up a friendship with me during that time." Weigum continued, "When he was elected to the Shoreview City Council he took every opportunity to work on policies that would reduce tobacco's harm and influence. He regularly called or sent me emails asking what I thought about a particular policy or asking what could be done that would be effective. Gene Nichols, Shoreview resident and tobacco prevention advocate, added, "Terry always took time to research, question, and listen to all sides of an issue".



Terry Quigley



Dave McClung

Dave McClung was the champion of the Arden Hills Tobacco Free Parks policy in 2005. When young people from the community contacted him advocating for their parks to be tobacco-free, he listened. Dave knew that neighboring communities were passing tobacco-free parks policies. He wanted to make sure that kids in Arden Hills were protected from secondhand smoke and that the environment was protected from toxic tobacco litter, too.

When Arden Hills was considering ending the sale of flavored tobacco products and increasing the minimum legal sales age to 21, Dave took a thoughtful approach, taking the time to gather information and understand the many aspects of the issue. At the end of the day, he was a strong supporter of the change and played an important role in creating a healthier community.

## CONSIDER A TAX-FREE DISTRIBUTION TO ANSR

*If you are 70.5 or older you can make a gift of up to \$100,000 this year from your IRA to provide assistance to nonprofits you care about.*

*Contact your IRA administrator to get started with your gift. While you will not receive an income tax deduction, you will not pay taxes on any distributions made to ANSR.*



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Thank you for all you do for ANSR. Please consider sharing this newsletter with a friend!



## ANSR's Rose Hauge Retires

After eight years (to the day!), Rose Hauge retired from ANSR on January 10. Rose made tremendous contributions to ANSR's Live Smoke Free program over her tenure, including enhancing the program's partnership with fire departments, incorporating cessation support into policy efforts, assisting hundreds of multi-unit housing properties with smoke-free policy adoption, and lending a supportive ear to countless multi-unit housing residents. Rose's contributions to commercial tobacco prevention will be long-lasting and she will be missed! Thank you, Rose!



*Rose's contributions to ANSR and commercial tobacco prevention were invaluable.*