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Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein Statement as Court Sides with Cities Challenging State Ban on Local Tobacco Laws

Says decision reaffirms the importance of home rule allowing cities to act in the best interest of the health and safety of residents, particularly young people

COLUMBUS, OH— Columbus City Attorney Zach Klein today issued a statement as the Tenth District Court of Appeals upheld an earlier decision overturning a state law stripping away the rights of cities to regulate the sale of tobacco products at the local level.

In Columbus, the law would invalidate all local tobacco regulations, including the city's ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products, the city's licensing of tobacco retailers, and compliance checks run by the Columbus Public Health to ensure retailers aren't selling to those under the age of 21.

City Attorney Zach Klein's full statement:

“This decision is a significant win that reaffirms a bedrock principle of our state’s Constitution—that cities have the right to make their own decisions about what’s best for the health and safety of those they represent. In Columbus, we’ve made real, meaningful progress to reduce tobacco usage and keep these products out of the hands of teens. This decision is the next step to ensure that these measures remain in place, and we stand ready to continue to defend our right to home rule as this case progresses.”

Columbus is joined on the lawsuit by cities of Athens, Barberton, Bexley, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Dublin, Gahanna, Grandview Heights, Heath, Hilliard, Kent, North Ridgeville, Oberlin, Oxford, Reynoldsburg, Springfield, Toledo, Upper Arlington, Whitehall, and Worthington.

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