

Highland Park raises cigarette buying age to 21

Highland Park raises the age to buy cigarettes to 21. (Journal file photo)

HIGHLAND PARK —

People under 21 years old will no longer be able to buy cigarettes in Highland Park.

The Borough Council voted Tuesday night to ban sales of tobacco products or electronic smoking devices to people under 21, which proponents say will help improve public health.



"I am glad that the Council has chosen to adopt an ordinance that will protect our youth and the future health of our community," Councilman Joshua Fine, who first proposed the ordinance, said Thursday.

Highland Park is joining a recent trend of towns in New Jersey and nationwide that have taken it upon themselves to ban tobacco sales to people under 21. In Middlesex County, Sayreville has also raised the cigarette buying age. Englewood and Teaneck also banned sales to people under 21. A proposal is also in the works in [Princeton](#).

In Highland Park, shop owners who violate the ban could face fines. They'll also be required to put up signs informing customers of the new smoking age. One poll said that [two-thirds of Americans support raising the cigarette age](#).

One study, done at the request of the federal government, [pointed to enormous health benefits](#) of raising the tobacco purchasing age to 21, including 250,000 fewer premature deaths among people born from 2000 to 2019, [according to CNN](#).

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