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The tobacco industry has a long history of using flavored tobacco to target youth and communities of color. The majority of youth who start experimenting with tobacco begin with flavored tobacco.¹ These products come in a variety of candy-like flavors including bubble gum, grape, menthol and cotton candy and include e-cigarettes, hookah tobacco, cigars, smokeless tobacco, and even flavored accessories such as blunt wraps.

Since 2009, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has banned flavored cigarettes nationwide. However, this ban included an exemption for menthol flavored cigarettes and doesn't extend to non-cigarette tobacco products. There are currently no state laws in California restricting the sale of flavored tobacco products. It is up to local communities to take action to protect their youth from the lure of enticing flavored tobacco.

The first community to restrict the sale of flavored tobacco in California was Santa Clara County in 2010. Since then, thirty-five communities have passed similar policies.

What products may be included?

- 1. E-Cigarettes** – Restricts the sale of flavored electronic cigarettes.
- 2. Menthol** – Restricts the sale of tobacco products labelled as menthol, including cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, little cigars, etc.
- 3. Little Cigars** – Restricts the sale of flavored little cigars, which are small, usually filtered cigars wrapped in brown paper containing tobacco leaf. Little cigars became a popular alternative following the FDA's ban on flavored cigarettes.
- 4. Smokeless Tobacco** – Restricts the sale of flavored smokeless tobacco such as chewing tobacco, dip, snus and snuff.

5. Components & Accessories – Restricts the sale of flavored accessory products such as blunt wraps and e-juice additives. These products cannot be smoked alone and serve as a delivery system for smoked products.

6. Products Marketed as Flavored – Tobacco companies sometimes try to circumvent flavor restrictions by marketing products as flavored without directly labelling them as such. This policy option allows communities to broaden the definition of flavored tobacco to include these products.

What exemptions are allowed?

- 1. Adult-Only Stores Exempted** – Adult-only retailers are limited to customers who are 21 and over. This limits sales of flavored tobacco to stores that youth do not have access to.
- 2. Grandfathered Retailers Exempted** – Allows retailers that were in operation prior to a specified date to continue selling flavored tobacco products.
- 3. Limited to Youth-Populated Areas** – Retailers are required to be a certain distance away from schools, parks, or other youth-oriented locations. Since many flavored tobacco products target youth, including buffer zones is a way to limit their access to flavored products.

Resources

The Center has additional resources on tobacco retailer licensing ordinances, plug-in policies, and ordinances restricting menthol tobacco available at: <http://center4tobaccopolicy.org/tobacco-policy/tobacco-retail-environment/>. ChangeLab Solutions has model ordinance language available for ordinances restricting flavored tobacco at: <http://changelabsolutions.org>.

City/County Date Passed	Products Included						Exemptions		
	E-Cigs	Menthol	Little Cigars	Smokeless	Components & Accessories	Products marketed as flavored	Adult-Only Stores Exempted	Grandfathered Retailers Exempted?	Limited to Youth-Populated Areas?
San Carlos April 2019	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Larkspur April 2019	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Sacramento April 2019	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Albany April 2019	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Corte Madera March 2019	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Hermosa Beach Jan 2019	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
San Pablo Dec 2018	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Alameda Nov 2018	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Santa Cruz Nov 2018	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Marin County Nov 2018	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Saratoga Oct 2018	X		X	X	X	X			
Half Moon Bay Oct 2018	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Portola Valley Sep 2018	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Beverly Hills August 2018	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Richmond July 2018	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Sausalito July 2018	X	X	X	X	X				
San Mateo County June 2018	X	X	X	X	X	X			
San Francisco June 2018	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Mono County July 2018		X	X	X	X	X			
Windsor March 2018	X		X**	X	X	X			

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Cloverdale Dec 2017	X		X	X		X			
Fairfax Dec 2017	X		X**	X**		X			
San Leandro Oct 2017	X		X	X	X	X			
Palo Alto Oct 2017	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Oakland Sep 2017	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Contra Costa County July 2017	X	X	X	X	X	X			X 1000 ft
Los Gatos May 2017	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		
Novato Jan 2017	X		X**	X	X	X			
Santa Clara County Oct 2016	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Yolo County Oct 2016	X	X	X	X	X				
Manhattan Beach Dec 2015	X		X	X	X	X	X		
El Cerrito Oct 2015	X	X*	X	X	X	X			
Berkeley Sep 2015	X	X	X	X	X	X			X 600 ft
Sonoma June 2015	X		X**	X***	X				
Hayward July 2014	X	X*	X	X	X	X		X	X 500 ft

¹ Ambrose, B.K., et al., Flavored Tobacco Product Use Among US Youth Aged 12-17 Years, 2013-2014. JAMA, 2015; p.1-3.

*Does not include menthol cigarettes

**Exempts packages of at least 5 or more

***Doesn't apply to pipe tobacco