

January 2026 Newsletter



MERCED COUNTY
ACCT Coalition
A Community Counteracting Tobacco

A Community Counteracting Tobacco (ACCT) Coalition

The ACCT Coalition is made up of stakeholders, community members, and leaders to coordinate tobacco prevention efforts across Merced County. You will be able to represent diverse sectors and discipline of Merced County who are dedicated to preventing tobacco use.



Join us be a leader in your community!



Subcommittees:

Cessation



Media



Policy Advocacy



If you would like to get involved, please contact us at acctcoalition@gmail.com!

COALITION GOALS

- Implement a Tobacco Retail License to reduce access to tobacco by banning flavored tobacco sales.
- Protect local parks and outdoor areas by prohibiting smoking to minimize secondhand smoke exposure and tobacco litter.
- Ensure people who are ready to quit are aware of the resources available to support them.

Join us at our
next meeting!
Thursday,
February
19th 2026

11:00 am
to 12:30pm

THE UNFLAVORED TOBACCO LIST (UTL)

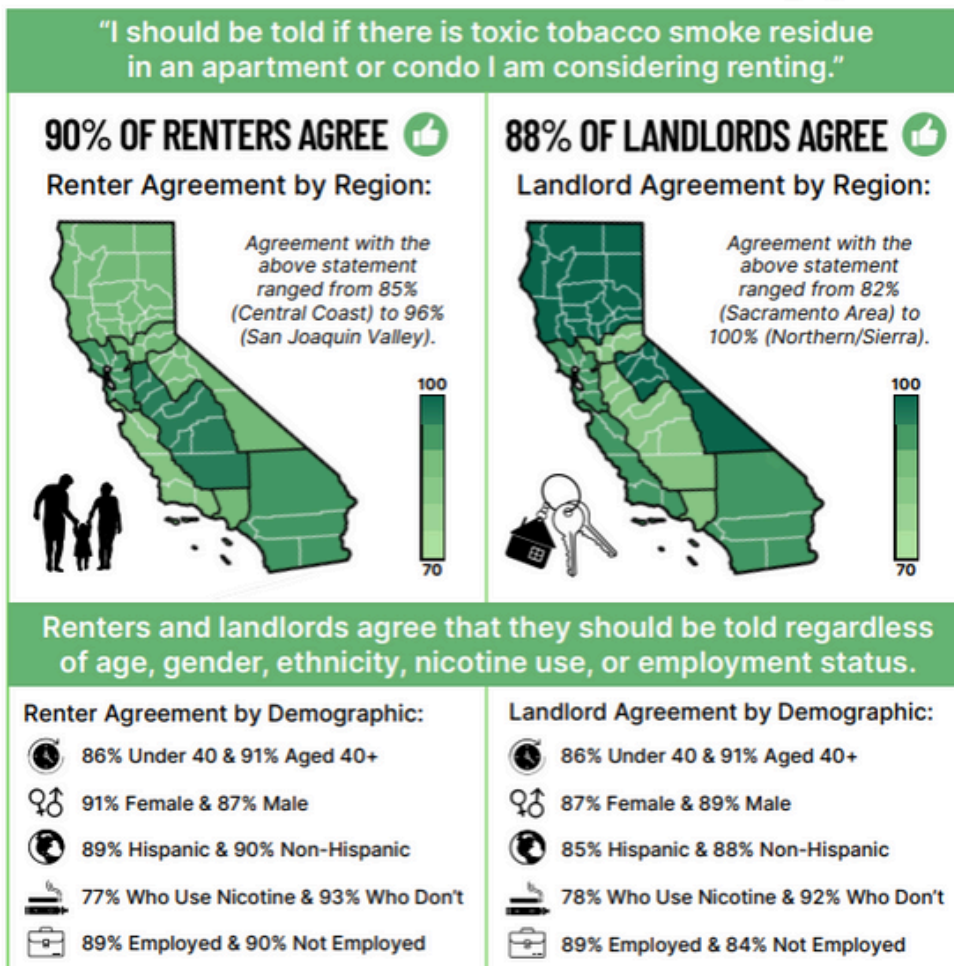
In California, Assembly Bill 3218 and Senate Bill 1230 close loopholes in SB 793, California's flavor law prohibiting the sale of most flavored tobacco products. The UTL contains only tobacco products that lack characterizing flavors. **Any product that is not on the UTL will be deemed a prohibited flavored tobacco product.**

Public Health Law Center, 2025



Unflavored Tobacco List

RENTERS AND LANDLORDS



A 2024 survey conducted by the Policy Research Center for Tobacco and the Environment (CTE) of 2,323 CA residents, including 1,098 renters and 257 landlords, found that 89% of people believed potential tenants should be told about tobacco smoke residue in a rental unit before signing a lease.

SECOND-HAND SMOKE



Side effects of second-hand smoke

Coronary heart disease

Stroke

Lung Cancer

Reproductive health effects in women

Low birth rates

Secondhand smoke is the smoke non-smokers breathe in from burning tobacco products like cigarettes, cigars, and pipes. Exposure to secondhand smoke comes from burning tobacco products such as cigarettes, cigars, and pipes.

QUIT SUPPORT

smokefree.gov

Smokefree.gov is an official website of the United States government. They provide cessation along with special programs for veterans and teens.



The American Lung Association provides more information about lung cancer prevention and screening.



Kick-it California is a free program that helps Californians quit tobacco and nicotine through proven, science-based strategies.



EX® Program, by Truth Initiative in collaboration with Mayo Clinic, brings individuals, employers, health plans, and public health organizations proven, evidence-based quitting approaches and the most established online quit community.

Spotlight: Student Intern Programs



What do you hope to achieve through this program?



Shayndel Tejeda-Cabral
Merced County Public Health

As an intern, I support efforts to promote smoke-free environments, prevent youth tobacco use, and increase awareness about the dangers of tobacco and vaping. I assist with outreach, data collection, and coalition-building initiatives to create a healthier, tobacco-free Merced County. I hope to gain hands-on experience in public health advocacy, deepen my understanding of tobacco prevention strategies, and develop the skills needed to create meaningful change in my community



Natali Fuentes
Merced County Public Health
Department

As an intern, what I hope to achieve through this program is many things. But main achievements that I hope to complete is promoting tobacco free environments to the youth because they are our next generation of doctors, nurses, construction workers, etc. I also hope to achieve hands on experience and research about tobacco prevention so not only can I be an advocate here in the Central Valley but to lead my knowledge to Southern California my hometown.





CONTACT US!



For more information about any material included in this newsletter, please email the ACCT Coalition at acctcoalition@gmail.com



We would like to thank you all for your continuous commitment to the ACCT Coalition. Let's all continue to advocate to reduce tobacco-use among youth and our residents. We look forward to the upcoming work and creating a healthier, tobacco-free community!

Stay Updated!



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[@MercedCountyACCTCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/MercedCountyACCTCoalition)



@acctcoalition: Be sure to follow us on our new instagram!

