



RULES

Reston Bans E-Cigarettes

The Reston Association board in Fairfax County, Va., unanimously voted in June to ban the use of electronic cigarettes in public spaces, according to an article in *Washingtonian* magazine.

Proponents of e-cigarettes, which contain nicotine-infused liquid as well as artificial flavorings, claim the devices emit a harmless vapor instead of the second-hand smoke released by tobacco products. But Kirsten Carr, director of communications with the Reston Association Board of Directors, cites Reston residents' confusion about the difference between tobacco smoke and emissions from e-cigarettes as one reason for the ban.

In an interview with Fox's *WTTG* affiliate in Washington, D.C., Carr says that some residents expressed concern when they noticed other people "smoking" in public areas at the beginning of this year's pool season. "People didn't understand the vapors and thought they were a nuisance," Carr said shortly after the board's decision was announced. "We already have a strict no-smoking policy, so we just expanded it to include e-cigarettes."

While a growing percentage of the 44 million U.S. tobacco smokers have turned to the devices as a substitute for tobacco, the popularity of e-cigarettes among teenagers—and even younger children—also is on the rise. According to a *USA Today* article, although e-cigarettes may not be as harmful as tobacco products, "they do emit toxic chemicals into the environment." The Food and Drug Administration is investigating the safety of e-cigarettes.