

Chamber of Commerce

You are a member of the Summerville **Chamber of Commerce**. The role of the Chamber of Commerce is to promote the businesses of your community. You want people to visit Summerville, shop in the stores of Summerville, and eat at the restaurants of Summerville. The City Council is considering a law that would ban all smoking in Summerville restaurants and other indoor workplaces. You must decide whether to favor it or oppose it. Here are some things to consider:

- Most cities that have banned smoking in restaurants have not experienced any loss of business. Still, owners are often afraid that they might lose business.
- Some smokers may be upset by the ban and take their business elsewhere. On the other hand, many nonsmokers would prefer to eat at smokefree restaurants.
- Only about 20% of people smoke.
- Allowing smoking is expensive to business owners. It increases their cleaning costs and the price of fire and health insurance.
- Some people think that the government should not make rules or laws that limit how people can run their own businesses. We are a free country, after all. On the other hand, some people think that government should protect people's health.

Here's what is going to happen next:

1. One person from your group will tell the City Council how you think they should vote. That person should be ready to provide reasons for why the Council should vote "yes" or "no." The person will have about 2 minutes to share the views of the Chamber of Commerce.
2. After representatives from each group share their views, the Council will take their "first" vote. This vote doesn't count.
3. After the Council has voted, you will be invited to try to convince others in the room that your views are correct. (At that time, you will be told to turn this sheet over and follow the instructions on the back.)
4. The Mayor will then call the Council back, allow you to add anything new, and then a final vote will be taken.

OK, start by selecting the person that will represent you before the Council. Then decide whether you think your group should encourage the Council to vote "yes" or "no." Help your representative prepare as many arguments as possible to support your position.

A member of the City Council may sit in on your meeting.