



**TANYA ORTIZ
FRANKLIN**
BOARD DISTRICT 7

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Bob Blumenfield
Chair, Planning and Land Use Committee
Los Angeles City Hall
200 N. Spring Street, Room

Re: Support for Council District 15 (CD15) Interim Control Ordinance Regulating Smoke Shops Near Sensitive Uses (Council File 25-0916)

Dear Councilmember Blumenfield,

As the elected School Board Member for Los Angeles Unified School District's Board District 7, representing South Los Angeles through the Harbor Area, I write in strong support of Council File 25-0916, which proposes an Interim Control Ordinance to temporarily prohibit the establishment or expansion of smoke shops near sensitive uses within CD15.

Board District 7 includes Wilmington and the greater Harbor Area, communities that have experienced decades of cumulative impacts from industrial pollution due to its location near major ports, freeways, industrial facilities and refineries. Wilmington residents experience disproportionately high exposure to toxic air contaminants, resulting in elevated rates of asthma and other respiratory conditions among children and families. Thus, the unchecked proliferation of smoke shops represents yet another preventable public health burden in an already overburdened community.

Too often, these businesses operate near schools, parks, child-care centers, and churches, and many sell flavored tobacco products alongside candy, chips, and sugary drinks that intentionally attract young people. In Wilmington, these shops are frequently located along walking routes, increasing youth exposure to tobacco products and normalizing their presence in spaces meant to support learning, health, and development. For students at Banning High School in Wilmington, smoke shops near campus add to existing air quality burdens and undermine their health and ability to thrive.

LAUSD has made a clear commitment to tobacco prevention. Tobacco use is prohibited on all campuses, and the District invests in evidence-based programs that educate students about the dangers of tobacco use. These efforts are weakened when students leave campus and are confronted with environments designed to entice them toward harmful products.

I strongly support this Interim Control Ordinance and urge its swift adoption. This action would provide the City with the time and tools needed to develop thoughtful, enforceable regulations that prioritize youth safety, public health, and environmental equity for Council District 15 and beyond. Thank you for your leadership and consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact my office should you need any additional information.

In partnership,

Tanya Ortiz Franklin
LA Unified School Board Member, District 7