

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PUBLIC HEALTH FEES

TOBACCO CONTROL

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH



The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Environmental Health Division (EH), is proposing changes to the Los Angeles County Code, Title 8 – Consumer Protection, Business, and Wage Regulations; Division 1 – Public Health Licenses. These changes impact permit, plan check, and service fees that are collected under the authority of State and County Codes to carry out duties that protect public health and safety.

Overview of Program

EH is responsible for enforcing Los Angeles County Code Chapter 7.83 and Chapter 11.35. The primary purpose is to set minimum standards to protect the health and well-being of youth and the public by encouraging responsible retailing and discouraging violations of tobacco-related laws. EH inspects and permits locations where tobacco is offered in the **unincorporated areas** of Los Angeles County.

A **tobacco retailer** is any person or business that sells, offers for sale or distribution, exchanges, or offers to exchange any type of tobacco, tobacco product, or tobacco paraphernalia. This includes, but is not limited to, markets, liquor stores, and gas stations that offer tobacco for sale.

A **tobacco shop** is any retail business that is exclusively or primarily engaged in selling tobacco, tobacco products, and tobacco paraphernalia. This includes, but is not limited to, cigar shops or lounges, vape shops, and hookah lounges.

Why are the fees changing now?

Fees were last increased in 2018. While fees have remained the same, operational costs have increased annually due to negotiated employee salaries and benefits, along with inflation. From FY 19/20 through FY 25/26, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by about 25%, and cost-of-living increases approved for County workers totaled 20.5%. Yet fees have remained at 2018 levels despite these cost increases.

A comprehensive fee study was conducted along with an evaluation of current operational costs and the fee levels required to cover those costs. The study reviewed direct and indirect costs associated with program administration, inspection, oversight and enforcement. The fee analysis structure was validated by the LA County Auditor-Controller. The last comprehensive fee study for EH programs was conducted in 2011.

A separate fee was established for tobacco shops due to additional code requirements that are part of this inspection.

What are the fee changes?

A summary of the proposed fees is listed below. If approved by the Board of Supervisors, the new fees will go into effect December 15, 2026. Existing permitted businesses will receive a supplemental invoice for any increases in annual health permit fees for Fiscal Year 26/27, and existing businesses where annual permit fee decreased will receive a credit during the FY27/28 annual health permit billing.

To minimize the impact of future increases, starting in FY 27/28, fees will be adjusted annually based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with no fee exceeding the reasonable cost of providing services.

SUMMARY OF TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAM FEES

PERMIT TYPES	Current Fee	Proposed New Fee
TOBACCO RETAIL: A business that sells tobacco products	\$235	\$354
TOBACCO SHOPS: A retail business whose primary purpose is to sell tobacco products and related accessories	\$235	\$502

FEE COMPARSION BY COUNTY

The proposed fees are consistent with those of comparable jurisdictions when accounting for differences in scale and scope. Given Los Angeles County's large population and extensive inspection and service responsibilities, the proposed fees are appropriately aligned with comparable jurisdictions.

PERMIT FEES	LOS ANGELES PROPOSED NEW FEE	PASADENA	LONG BEACH	RIVERSIDE
TOBACCO RETAIL	\$354	\$681	\$731	\$502
TOBACCO SHOPS	\$502	N/A	N/A	N/A

Visit our website to learn more about [Tobacco Retail Facilities](#).

How to provide feedback

Questions and comments can be submitted to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EHfees> or scan the QR code.

