

## **NC Local Government Authority and Process For Passing Tobacco-Free Local Ordinances, Rules, and Policies**

### **Cities, Towns, and Villages:**

These municipal entities may pass regulations to cover government buildings, government grounds and public places in their own incorporated areas, and do not need any additional approval from a Board of County Commissioners.

### **County Government:**

Authority to pass a Board of County Commissioners ordinance that covers government buildings, government grounds and public places in the unincorporated areas. Municipalities within the County may choose to adopt that ordinance within their boundaries. Municipalities are not required to adopt the ordinance, and may withdraw permitting the ordinance at a future time.

### **Boards of Health:**

Authority to pass Rules that may cover government buildings, government grounds and public places in the entire county, including municipalities. Once a Board of County Commissioners approves such a rule by ordinance, it's the North Carolina Division of Public Health's position that the rule shall apply to the county and all municipalities within the county.

### **Health Departments / Health Directors:**

In the cases of Health Departments that are still seeking building and/or grounds policies for Health Department facilities ONLY, they now must obtain Board of County Commissioners approval.