

The RI Tobacco Control Network opposes HB 5362 and urges the General Assembly to do the same

Why Big Tobacco supports rolling back tobacco taxes:

- High tobacco excise taxes are among the most effective ways of reducing tobacco use: high price prevents youth from starting to smoke, and encourages adult smokers to quit.
- Cigarette price and tax increases work even more effectively to reduce smoking among males, Blacks, Hispanics, and low-income smokers.
- A cigarette tax increase that raises prices by 10% will reduce smoking among pregnant women by 7%, preventing thousands of spontaneous abortions and still-born births, and saving tens of thousands of newborns from suffering from smoking-affected births and related health consequences.
- Every single state that has raised its cigarette tax rate has subsequently received more tax revenue than they would have received without a rate increase, despite the fact that cigarette tax increases reduce state smoking levels and despite any related increases in cigarette smuggling or tax evasion. Put simply, *the increased tax per pack brings in more new state revenue than is lost from the related reductions in the number of packs sold and taxed in the state.*

<http://www.tobaccofreekids.org/research/factsheets/pdf/0146.pdf>



Rhode Island Tobacco Control Network

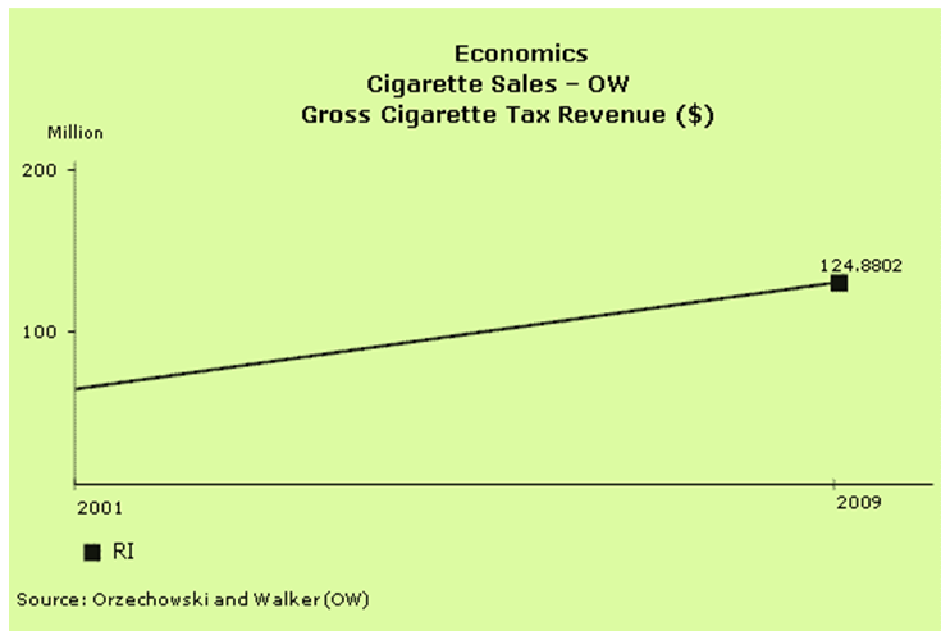
History proves that **high tobacco taxes are good** for Rhode Island

Since 2001, the cigarette excise tax has gone up **SIX** times,
smoking rates have gone DOWN and **State revenues have gone way UP!**

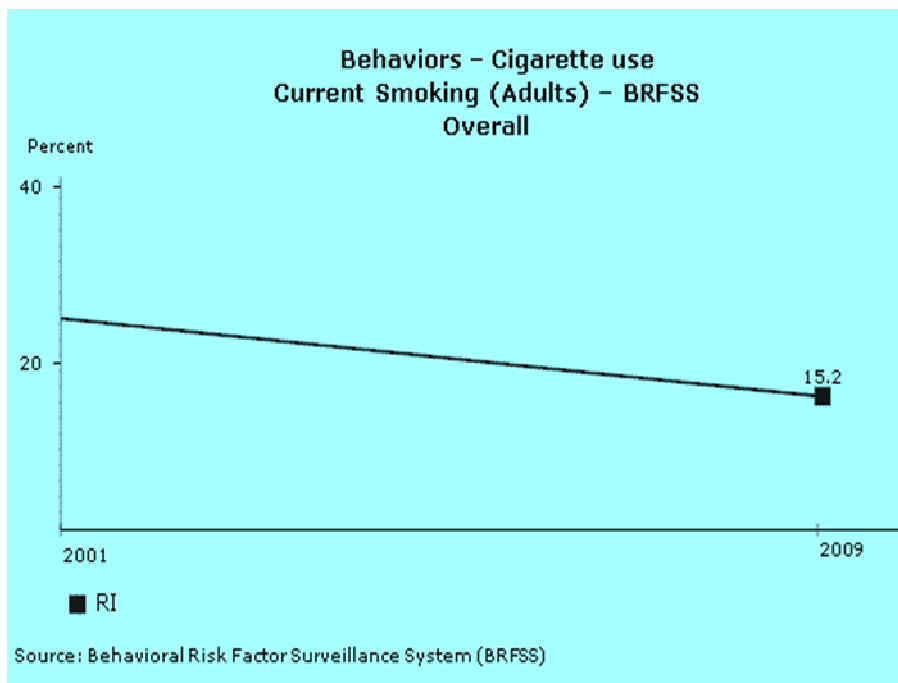
In 2001, the state excise tax was 71-cents per pack and the gross cigarette tax revenue in RI was **\$59.1 million**

In 2009, the state excise tax was raised to \$3.46 per pack and the gross cigarette tax revenue in RI was **\$124.9 million**

In 2012, the state excise tax was raised to \$3.50 per pack and the gross cigarette tax revenue in RI was **\$131.1 million**



SOURCE: Orzechowski and Walker (OW) Orzechowski and Walker, 2007. The Tax Burden on Tobacco-Historical Compilation. Volume 42. Arlington, Virginia: Orzechowski and Walker Consulting.
<http://apps.nccd.cdc.gov/statesystem/TrendReport/TrendReports.aspx#ReportDetail>



Smoking rates have gone down!

In 2001, 24% of RI adults smoked.

In 2011, 20% of RI adults smoked.

**Please reject
HB 5362!**

www.RITCN.org