



Because health doesn't just happen

Davis Children's Meal Ordinance Summary

General summary of events:

Local advocates from First 5 Yolo, with the support of public health advocates from the Center for Science in the Public Interest and the California Center for Public Health Advocacy, discussed with the City of Davis ways in which it could make healthy beverages more accessible. They decided to focus on making healthy beverages the default beverage for children's meals. The Social Services Commission took up this issue and decided to unanimously recommend support of this policy to the City Council. Staff members were directed to draft the ordinance and to solicit input via a survey of all restaurants in the city. Only 3 responded: 1 in support and 2 in opposition. Overall, there was little if any opposition to the ordinance. The beverage industry never contacted anyone in the city to express an opinion about the ordinance. The Social Services Commission reviewed the ordinance draft and unanimously recommended that the City Council adopt the ordinance. The City Council unanimously passed the ordinance on May 26, 2015 and on June 2, 2015 the ordinance was adopted after its second reading by the Council.

What it requires:

For all children's meals (those meals which are a combination of food item(s) and a beverage sold together at a single price and primarily intended for consumption by children) the default beverage (that which is automatically included or offered as part of a children's meal) may only be water, sparkling water, or flavored water (with no added natural or artificial sweeteners), milk or non-dairy milk alternatives.

Note: The purchaser may request an alternative beverage instead of the default beverage offered with a children's meal such as soda or juice. Although not explicitly stated in the ordinance, it appears that such drinks can be requested at no extra cost. The ordinance does state that a purchaser will not be prohibited from purchasing alternative beverages nor will a restaurant be prohibited from selling them.

Juice is not included as a default beverage because packaged juice boxes tend to include more juice than is recommended for children ages one to six years old and because it would most likely make it more difficult to enforce the ordinance (would need to ensure that it is 100% juice).

Who it affects:

All fast food and full-service dining establishments in the city of Davis must complete an initial self-certification so that the city knows which restaurants offer children's meals. Those that offer children's meals must certify that they comply with the new provisions. Restaurants that sell children's meals will then have to confirm that they remain in compliance by completing an annual self-certification. An estimated 18 eateries will need to change the type of default beverage that is included with their children's meals.

When it starts:

Effective on and after September 1, 2015

Violations:

The first fine would be \$100, the second would be \$200, and all subsequent violations within a year of the initial violation would be a maximum of \$500.