



# Smoking must be banned from beaches and parks

Editorial  
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## **Smoking must be banned from beaches and parks**

I woke up Monday morning and read the article in The Daily Journal about banning smoking on beaches and in parks; ecstatic can't describe my feelings about it. I really hope Gov. Chris Christie takes it serious enough to sign it and make it penalty worthy once and for all.

I'm a former smoker (three years in October), so I understand the dangers of it and how you can drop the cigarette and walk away forever.

Why are people still smoking? Health concerns aside, what about the price of cigarettes? And people are willing to pay it. That's the shocking thing. You will hear people say they have the right to smoke and they're right, but you also have the right to be intimate with your spouse — just not on the beach or public parks.

Some drug stores already have taken the right steps by taking tobacco products off their shelves and that's a great start. I hope in the next 10 years cigarettes and tobacco products altogether are banned completely and removed from our lives forever.

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## **Political extremism on left and right ignores the good**

Reading Judy Feinstien's letter in The Daily Journal was an eye-opener ("How Dems unfairly label Americans" — DJ-7/12). People will be surprised about my response, but I must admit she is right about a lot of what she says.

I have been a leftist and activist for decades, and I must admit some folks in the liberal and left bracket can be as ignorant as some of their conservative counterparts.

My years of experiencing people means experiencing bad behavior by many people in the political arena. It is especially the extremism on both ends of the spectrum where common sense and reason take a hike.

I have argued with feminists about their dialogue and approach to how they state themselves, even arguing the conservative point of view. I even said at a Socialist convention in front of 200 leftists that Republicans are not always wrong.

In a heated debate, I argued out some reasoning of the right and some even agreed that at times we in the left can agree with some conservatives' points of view even over what liberals put on the table. Socialist Congressman Bernie Sanders worked many times with Libertarian Paul Rand. I've explored different political ideas and notions, even from the CATO Institute.

Some people do not realize some progressive conservatives, liberals and leftists share the same goals with different approaches of getting there.

Remember what some conservative presidents did? It was Eisenhower who brought in the highway system, Nixon put food stamps on the table and tried to introduce the universal income. Reagan gave us the earned tax credit. The elder Bush spoke of a kinder, gentler nation.

We define ourselves as a leftist because we are pro-labor, war on poverty and anti-war. Mostly we do not believe in a corporate and military society. No democracy can be functional when extremists wear blinders and only see to the left or right. Doing the right thing is what matters. The open road leads to a broad spectrum of good ideas, especially for those who are not afraid of the future.

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