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Two Missouri Groups Want to Increase Cigarette Tax

(AP)-Two groups want to put a cigarette tax increase on the November 2016 ballot. Missouri Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association Executive Director Ron Leone says it supports increasing the tax by 23-cents per pack for the state's general revenue fund and to help finance Missouri's roads and bridges.

Leone says the increase would generate about 80-100 million dollars annually. "Raise Your Hands For Kids" Board Chairperson Erin Brower says her group wants to increase the tax by 50 cents per pack to help fund early childhood education and health screenings for children.

Brower says the increase would generate about 225-million dollars annually. Missouri's cigarette tax is the lowest in the nation, at 17-cents per pack. Brower says Missouri ranks 49th for child care subsidies.

Associated Press