

Trump immigration orders force Oregon officials to revisit laws

LAUREN E HERNANDEZ
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Local agencies are analyzing President Donald Trump's executive orders that halt federal funding to sanctuary cities and allows law enforcement to perform the functions of immigration officers.

In one executive order, Trump states the federal government has failed in maintaining a federal and state partnership to enforce immigration laws.

The order requires all executive departments and agencies to "employ all lawful means to enforce the immigration laws in the United States."

The new policy empowers state and local law enforcement agencies to perform the functions of an immigration officer "to the maximum extent permitted by law."

Jerry Moore, Chief of Police for the city of Salem, said the order doesn't change the way Salem Police Department will operate.

"There is a state law that says we don't enforce immigration laws and that's how we've done business for as long as we can remember," Moore said. "This executive order doesn't really change that, so unless someone tells me that it has precedence over state law - it's business as usual for us."

Moore refers to Oregon Revised Statute 181.850, which discusses enforcement of federal immigration laws.

The statute states law enforcement agencies may not use agency money, equipment or personnel to detect or apprehend people who are only violating federal immigration laws by being foreign citizens in the United States.

Gretchen Bennett, human rights and relations federal compliance coordinator at the city of Salem, said city law enforcement follows the state practice in order to ensure people are not afraid to reach out to law enforcement for emergency help.

Bennett, who said she was speaking on behalf for Salem Mayor Chuck Bennett, said the city is analyzing Trump's executive orders to understand what, if any, potential policy changes are born from the actions.



WILLAMETTE HERITAGE CENTER
The 1870s clock was atop the old Salem City Hall for nearly 20 years.

"We're in the midst of analyzing it and we've been talking with communities and learning about questions and concerns about fears that folks have about this," Bennett said.

Polk County Sheriff Mark Garton said Oregon law enforcement officers do follow protocol in the event they arrest an undocumented immigrant for a crime.

Upon an arrest, officers take fingerprints and send the prints through the National Crime Information Center, or NCIC, a division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The center compares the prints with any other people who have been arrested in the national system.

If the prints return with information stating the person is an undocumented immigrant and is a criminal in other country, officers are required to contact the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, commonly known as ICE.

Garton said arresting deputies con-

nect with ICE agents and ask if they would like a hold on the suspect. If ICE requests a hold, a law enforcement agency holds the suspect until they can be released to federal agents.

If ICE is not interested in holding the suspect, Garton said the law enforcement agency still lodges them on local charges.

"So does this order really affect what we do on a daily basis? I don't think so," Garton said. "We do our jobs and follow the laws as they are in place."

Trump's order also calls for a cease of funding to sanctuary cities that refuse to comply with federal law.

"These jurisdictions have caused immeasurable harm to the American people and to the very fabric of our Republic," Trump's order reads. "Tens of thousands of removable aliens have been released into communities across the country, solely because their home countries refuse to accept their repatriation."

Trump also plans on terminating the Priority Enforcement Program, or PEP, in order to reinstitute the "Secure Communities Program." The program was administered by ICE from 2008 to 2014 and resulted in the deportation of more than 166,000 undocumented immigrants convicted of crimes.

The order includes a call to build a wall on the United States and Mexico border and the federal government to hire an additional 5,000 Border Patrol officers and 10,000 more ICE agents, asylum officers and immigration judges.

"Continued illegal immigration presents a clear and present danger to the interests of the United States," Trump said.

While Marion and Polk counties have not formally established themselves as sanctuary cities, officials from both counties will continue following Oregon law and closely assess Trump's orders and subsequent actions.

Jolene Kelley, public information officer for the Marion County Board of Commissioner's Office, said there is no formal definition of "sanctuary city," and the county has not made any formal action to determine that status.

"I think that everybody is watching the federal government to see what hap-

pens and see how it may, or could, affect programs," Kelley said.

Regions that have adopted that sanctuary moniker and refuse to comply with federal law face a cut in federal funding.

Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler released a statement in response to Trump's executive order and stood by his city's status as being a sanctuary city.

"We will not be complicit in the deportation of our neighbor," Wheeler said. "We are a city built on immigration."

Cities for Action, a collaborative of mayors throughout the United States who aim to create an inclusive environment for immigrants, released a joint statement in response to Trump's order as well.

"Today's executive orders do not change who we are or how we govern our cities, and we will fight against attempts to undermine our values and the security of our cities," the statement reads.

Mat dos Santos, legal director of the ACLU of Oregon, said the civil liberties organization called Trump's order "dangerous."

"Locking up asylum seekers that pose no danger or flight risk is unconstitutional and really benefits nobody," dos Santos said.

Trump's order states the secretary of Homeland Security will publish a comprehensive list of "criminal actions" by undocumented immigrants and any jurisdiction that fails to detain undocumented immigrants in a weekly "Declined Detainer Outcome Report."

"I think Trump hopes that local officials will buckle under the threats of stripping of federal funding, but (sanctuary cities) been working with local organizations to protect immigrant communities," dos Santos said.

As local and state government agencies across the nation delve into the executive orders to determine potential outcomes for their respective agencies, dos Santos said he knows one thing for sure.

"We'll see Trump in court," dos Santos said.

Governor Kate Brown and Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum were unavailable for comment at the time of publication.

Young Hoop Shoot victors net recognition

CHRISTENA BROOKS
SPECIAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNE

Eighteen boys and girls from Silverton, Santiam and Mt. Angel school districts won trophies for their free-throw accuracy at the Silverton Elks Lodge #2210 annual Hoop Shoot competition last month.

Fifty-three contestants from 14 schools took turns making 25 free throws on Jan. 7 at Robert Frost School in Silverton. In keeping with national rules, kids ages 10-13 shot from the free throw line, while 8- and 9-year-olds stood four feet closer to the hoop.

The top finisher was last year's winner, Jacob Axmaker of Sublimity, who sank 23 of 25 shots. He competed in the 12- and 13-year-old boys' division. Second place was Riley Cantu of Mt. Angel, with 22, while third place was Isaac Semerikov of Scotts Mills, with 21.

In the 12- and 13-year-old girls' division, first place was Hailey Arritola of Mt. Angel, with 17; second place was Abigail Thompson of Butte Creek, with 14, and third place was Stella Harrison of Silverton, with 9.

For 10- and 11-year-old boys, first place was William Schaecher of Mt. Angel, with 19; second place was Hosten Kuenzi of Pratum, with 18; and third place was Konnor Rablin of Butte Creek, with 15.

For 10- and 11-year-old girls, first place was Kaylyssa Efimov of Butte Creek with 16; second place was Lily Hayashida of Scotts Mills, with 15; and third place was Abigail Roth of Pratum, with 14.

For 8- and 9-year-old boys, first place was Carter Vittone-Ortiz of Stayton, with 14; second place was Mason Lindemann of Santiam, with 13; and third place was Kody Graves of St. Mary's in Mt. Angel, with 12.



COURTESY OF SILVERTON ELKS CLUB
A winner of the Elks Hoop Shoot representing Silverton Lodge 2210 was Jacob Axmaker.

For 8- and 9-year-old girls, first place was Susie Efimov of Butte Creek, with 18; second place was Maizy Downey of Mari-Linn, with 14; and third place was Amarah Reyna of Stayton, with 9.

The winners of last month's competition now have the opportunity to move on to state Feb. 11 and regionals March 11.

Tom Pembroke, coordinator for Silverton's Hoop Shoot, said the top finishers "went home with a first-, second- or third-place trophy, a belief in hard work, and a smile on their face."

Oregon officials increase ACA ads despite Trump's cuts

WHITNEY M. WOODWORTH
STATESMAN JOURNAL

In light of the Trump administration's decision to halt federal spending on advertising and outreach for health care, Oregon officials are spending an additional \$100,000 in advertising to encourage residents to sign up for health care coverage the final days of open enrollment.

The Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services announced Friday that it will invest the money by expanding its online marketing to reach people statewide. Ads on sites like YouTube, Facebook, Hulu and Pandora will increase during the state's final push to reach Oregonians before the Jan. 31 deadline.

"It's not clear today what outreach HealthCare.gov is doing," DCBS director Patrick Allen said in a statement. "This is no time to make it harder for Oregonians to get the information they need on how to get coverage for themselves and their families for 2017."

The announcement came less than a day after Politico reported the new administration was pulling the plug on advertising in the "crucial final days of the 2017 enrollment period." This included pulling ads that have already been paid for.

A Health and Human Services spokesman told Politico the decision to pull advertising was a cost-saving measure.

Elizabeth Cronen, spokeswoman for the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace, said her organization met the morning after the announcement and decided they wanted to work to get the

word out to Oregonians despite the pull-back by the federal government. They increased their number of online ads and broadened their target areas throughout the state.

There's a great deal of uncertainty about what the federal government is doing with the Affordable Care Act, she said, but one thing is certain: If Oregonians don't enroll by the deadline they won't have 2017 coverage.

With more than 150,000 Oregonians having selected a plan through HealthCare.gov, this year's enrollment total outpaced every previous period's tallies. The additional 115,000 people in the state who may be eligible for financial assistance will have to sign up by Jan. 31. After the deadline, people will only be able to get coverage for special circumstances, like losing job-related coverage and getting married.

In addition to increased marketing the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace and its partners are holding open free enrollment events throughout the state, including an event in Salem on Saturday, Jan. 28 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at PH Tech headquarters on 3993 Fairview Industrial Dr. SE.

Further information is available at <http://www.oregonhealthcare.gov/get-help.html>. Consumers also can call the Oregon Health Insurance Marketplace at 1-855-268-3767 for free assistance. Those wanting to shop for plans can visit HealthCare.gov or call 1-800-318-2596.

For questions, comments and news tips, email reporter Whitney Woodworth at wmwoodwort@statesmanjournal.com, call 503-399-6884 or follow on Twitter @wmwoodworth

Seasonal jobs in question after hiring freeze

ZACH URNESS
STATESMAN JOURNAL

Thousands of jobs in the Northwest are in flux this week following President Donald Trump's hiring freeze of civilian employees in the federal government.

Seasonal firefighters and park rangers hired each summer won't have a clear answer on the status of their jobs until the executive order is clarified, officials said.

The order, issued Jan. 23, said "no vacant positions existing at noon on January 22, 2017, may be filled and no new positions may be created, except in limited circumstances."

The statement came as agencies including the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management prepare to hire a small army of seasonal employees for an array of jobs on public lands.

The Forest Service hired about 11,000 seasonal employees in 2015 — about 6,200 of which were firefighting-related, the Missoulian reported. Department of Interior hires "thousands" more for firefighting-related jobs, but an exact number wasn't immediately available, National Interagency Fire Center spokeswoman Jessica Gardetto said.

In the Pacific Northwest, the Forest Service and National Park Service previously announced plans to hire 1,250 people this summer for recreation, visitor services, and engineering.

All of those jobs are up in the air following the announcement.

"The administration hasn't provided details about how this hiring freeze will work on the ground in Oregon," Oregon Senator Ron Wyden said in a statement. "I'm concerned that even a 90-day hiring freeze could interfere with preparing for fire season and hiring wildland fire-

fighters before fire season hits."

Gardetto said the order's exemption of jobs "necessary to meet national security or public safety" could apply to firefighting.

"We typically start seasonal wildland fire hiring in the winter months, so at this point, we are not sure how this will affect us," Gardetto said. "We are awaiting further guidance on this issue."

As for jobs that don't meet the national security or public safety exemption — a seasonal ranger at Crater Lake National Park, for example — the future is unclear.

The freeze comes at a time when national parks and federal lands in Oregon and nationwide have seen a steep increase in crowds without any increase in staffing at federal agencies.

"(National parks) cannot continue to be hampered by low staffing, and that's exactly what will happen with this hiring

freeze," said Theresa Pierno, president and CEO of National Parks Conservation Association, in a press release. "Park rangers are already forced to do more with less because they don't have enough staff to handle record-breaking crowds."

Babete Anderson, National Press Officer for the Forest Service, said only that the agency was "waiting for further clarification and direction." Questions to the National Park Service were not immediately returned.

This story will be updated as more information becomes available.

Zach Urness has been an outdoors writer, photographer and videographer in Oregon for eight years. He is the author of the book "Hiking Southern Oregon" and can be reached at zurness@StatesmanJournal.com or (503) 399-6801. Find him on Twitter at @ZachsORoutdoors.