

# Oregon cities setting rules after opting in to legal pot

By ANDREW SELSKY  
Associated Press

SALEM— Some 30 counties and cities in Oregon approved some type of marijuana businesses in last week's election, and officials in those communities now must establish rules for every step in the production and supply chain.

When voters legalized recreational marijuana statewide two years ago, the communities — from the cowboy town of Pendleton to Sweet Home in the Willamette Valley — opted out.

But many switched it up this month, voting to allow at least some form of the pot industry, including medical marijuana.

"No one has done this in Oregon since liquor Prohibition," said Scott Winkels, a lobbyist with the League of Oregon Cities. "This is the first time we've had to step in and develop and regulate a marketplace for a controlled substance since 1933."

Local officials must determine operating hours for marijuana retailers, growing farms and processors. They also were trying to figure out whether the businesses should be allowed near parks and what sort of security and odor controls the businesses must provide.

The rule-setting also was happening in other states that have legalized recreational marijuana.

In California, which approved pot last week, the San Jose City Council imposed a temporary ban — including on outdoor gardens — to give officials time to develop regulations for sales and farming.

## Colorado

In Colorado, where voters passed marijuana in

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**Scott Winkels**

a lobbyist with the League of Oregon Cities

2012, the rules were still being tweaked.

This month, Denver became the first U.S. city to allow people to use marijuana in bars and restaurants, though state licensing officials announced a rule Friday that prohibits businesses with liquor licenses from allowing pot consumption on their premises. The move strikes a major blow to the voter-passed initiative.

In Oregon, the Liquor Control Commission didn't begin finalizing regulations and licensing businesses until this year. The communities that approved marijuana businesses on Election Day are now starting to look at regulations.

"Most have been borrowing from each other," said Rob Bovett, legal counsel of Association of Oregon Counties, describing efforts to establish ordinances. Opt-in ballot measures go into effect in January, Bovett said. If the jurisdictions want to reap the tax benefits at the earliest opportunity, they should have the regulations finalized before then so marijuana companies can seek licenses and start doing business, liquor commission spokesman Mark Pettinger said.

The League of Oregon Cities has drawn up a guide to help struggling

local officials.

It says cities may impose restrictions on the hours of operation and the locations of producers, processors, wholesalers, as well as retailers and medical marijuana grow sites, processing sites and dispensaries. They may also regulate public access and how the businesses operate.

"Probably most cities will use (the guide) as a template," Winkels said. "The easiest way is to cut and paste the ordinance in ... though some will probably be making local adjustments."

Robert Snyder, lawyer for the town of Sweet Home, said forming the rules is "going to take work" and that it will be up to the city council to decide whether to get public input.

One marijuana ballot measure that passed last week imposed a 3 percent local sales tax on marijuana products, on top of a 17 percent state sales tax, Bovett said.

Even counties and cities that decided to prohibit marijuana businesses hedged their bets by approving the additional tax so they can be prepared to impose it if voters eventually say yes to pot.

"All (of Oregon's) 111 cities and counties voted yes on the local tax," Bovett said.

# Unemployment slightly higher in county than US

The Daily Astorian

Clatsop County posted a 5.3 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October, according to the state Employment Department.

Unemployment was down from the previous month and the year prior, both 5.5 percent. The county had the 10th-lowest unemployment among Oregon's 36 counties, tied with Wasco County. The state posted a 5.3 unemployment rate, and the U.S. 4.9 percent.

The state compares seasonally expected changes with employment realities to create seasonally adjusted figures.

Clatsop County shed 570 jobs in October, 10 fewer than expected. Total nonfarm payroll employment was 17,970, 360 more than the year prior, for a growth rate of 2 percent.

The private sector lost 710 jobs in October, while government employment rose by 140.



| Area      | Oct. 2016 | Sept. 2016 | 1-yr. ago |
|-----------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Clatsop   | 5.3       | 5.5        | 5.5       |
| Columbia  | 6.6       | 6.8        | 7.1       |
| Tillamook | 5.5       | 5.6        | 5.8       |
| Oregon    | 5.3       | 5.5        | 5.6       |
| U.S.      | 4.9       | 5          | 5         |

\*Preliminary, seasonally adjusted rates. Source: Oregon Employment Department

Daily Astorian graphic

Leisure and hospitality cut 380 jobs over the month, along with 80 lost by retail trade, 70 in professional and business services and another 70 in food manufacturing. Local government

education added 190 jobs with the start of the school year.

Over the past year, the private sector has added 280 jobs, and governments another 80. The professional and business services sector has added 230 positions over the past year, along with 60 in leisure and hospitality. Manufacturing lost 60 jobs over that time frame.

Columbia County posted a 6.6 percent unemployment rate in October, down 6.8 percent from the month prior and 7.1 percent from a year ago. The county's nonfarm payroll employment was 10,730, with a growth rate of 1.7 percent from the year prior.

Tillamook County posted a 5.5 percent seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in October, down from 5.6 percent the year prior and 5.8 percent a year ago. The county's nonfarm payroll employment was 9,000, with a growth rate of 1.9 percent from the year prior.

# No marijuana ban in Manzanita

Prohibition fails by wide margin

By LYRA FONTAINE

The Daily Astorian

**'I wasn't surprised. We had a very engaged citizenry behind the initiative.'**

**Brant Kucera**

Cannon Beach City Manager

MANZANITA —Recreational marijuana is still legal to sell and buy in Manzanita.

While Cannon Beach citizens brought the marijuana question to voters, the Manzanita City Council decided to put a measure on the ballot asking voters whether recreational marijuana sales and processing businesses should be prohibited within city limits.

The ban failed, with 308 Manzanita voters, about 67 percent, against it and 149 votes in favor of prohibition.

Manzanita is part of the Pine Grove precinct, which voted in favor of marijuana legalization in 2014. However, it was unclear

how many of those who voted "yes" were Manzanita residents, which led to the council to bring the question to voters, said Kristin Grasseeth, city of Manzanita administrative assistant.

There have been no marijuana business applications since the recent failing of the ban.

If the ban had passed, Oregon Coast Cannabis would have only been able to sell medical marijuana, not recreational. The Manzanita shop has been selling both.

"That was all just pending on what the city's final decision

was, whether they would be able to continue selling the recreational or if they would have to cease," Grasseeth said.

While the two cities had similar proposals, Manzanita's margin of victory surpassed that of Cannon Beach.

"I wasn't surprised," Cannon Beach City Manager Brant Kucera said. "We had a very engaged citizenry behind the initiative. If you look at Manzanita, they had a similar (measure). The council put it on the ballot, and it went down by a far, far greater margin than ours did."

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