

The INSIDE

LOCAL NEWS

New Gun Law Faces Challenges

DOJ asks federal judge to postpone part of Measure 114

Measure 114 will be put on ice after Oregon police chiefs and sheriffs have submitted statements to a federal judge, stating their agencies are not staffed or funded to support a permitting program for prospective gun buyers as required under Measure 114. They are working diligently on a system but do not see any way to have it fully operational before the law's enactment date which was scheduled to go into law December 8th.

Measure 114 expands background checks, requires gun owners to take a training course for a permit before they can even buy a gun, ban magazine clips that have more than 10 rounds, and registers all gun owners in a database run by Oregon State Police. The biggest legal flash point is a ban on magazines over 10 rounds unless they are owned by law enforcement or a military



Firearms are displayed at a gun shop in Salem, Oregon, last year. Photo by (Andrew Selsky / The Associated Press)

member or were owned before the measure's passage.

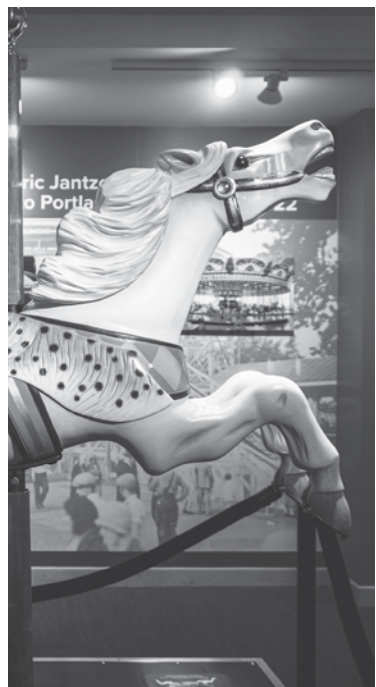
As of last week, Oregon State Police had more than 35,000 pending background check transactions for gun purchases and was averaging 3,000 requests a day compared to less than 900 a day the week before Measure 114 passed, according to agency data.

Those who already own high-capacity magazines can only possess them in their homes or use them at a firing range, in shooting competitions or for hunting as allowed by state law after the measure takes effect.

In a letter to U.S. District Judge

Karin Immergut, who is hearing the lawsuits seeking to block 114 from becoming law, Attorney General Rosenblum said that the state will seek a postponement of the permit requirement to give law enforcement officers more time to implement the new law.

"Postponing the permit requirement by approximately two months should give Oregon law enforcement time to have a fully functional permitting system in place. If Judge Immergut agrees to the postponement, then starting in February anyone who purchases a gun in Oregon will be required to have a permit," Rosenblum said.



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Providing Quality Wastewater Services



Renewable Natural Gas Team

Renewable Energy Project leads to multiple awards

The Eugene-Springfield regional wastewater treatment plant has received regional and national awards for the renewable natural gas system it launched this year. The Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) will be honored with the National Environmental Achievement Award in Resource Recovery from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. In September, it also received an award for Excellence in Resource Recovery

from the Pacific Northwest Clean Water Association, and employee Spencer Goodro was recognized as the Oregon Operator of the Year. The honors are for a Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) project which Goodro helped put into effect.

The MWMC's RNG system collects excess methane gas from the byproducts of wastewater, then cleans it and injects it into NW Natural Gas' system to be reused as fuel. Startup began in November 2021, with the system fully online this past April. The MWMC was the first public agency in the state to meet vendor standards and supply RNG, which offers both environmental and energy cost benefits. "We are proud

to receive these awards, but we're even more proud of how the RNG project came together and what it means to our customers and our region," said MWMC Executive Officer Matt Stouder. "We're also incredibly grateful for Spencer and the entire team's contributions to the success of the project." The MWMC wastewater treatment plant also received the Platinum Peak Performance Award for 100% compliance with industry standards. This is the 15th year in a row it has received the honor from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies. The MWMC will accept the National Environmental Achievement Award in February 2023.

DIVERSITY

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