

# County Judge Shoots Down Gun Control Measure

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

last December, ruling that it violates the state constitution. Raschio ruled that all of the law's provisions are unconstitutional. After a six-day trial in September, the law was permanently blocked, unless it is overturned on appeal.

That's just what Oregon Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum plans to do, she said in an email to Oregon Public Broadcasting last week.

"The Harney County judge's ruling is wrong," she wrote. "Worse, it needlessly puts Oregonians lives at risk. The state will file and appeal and we believe we will prevail."

The petition to address gun control was sponsored by Lift EveryVoice Oregon, with chief petitioners that included activist Marilyn Keller, Rev. Dr. Mark Knudson, and Rabbi Michael Cahana.

"The people of Oregon took the work of reducing gun violence into their own hands because so little was being done,"

Keller said in a press release. "Measure 114 provides the two most effective changes, supported by evidence-based studies, for reducing gun-related homicides and suicides."

In the same press release, Cahana added that he feels confident that the appeal will be successful.

"Everyone at Lift Every Voice Oregon is grateful to Attorney General Rosenblum and her skilled attorneys and staff for their tireless efforts to make Measure 114 fully operational," he said. "We look forward to their further efforts in state court to achieve a similar result as soon as possible."

In a telephone interview, Rev. Knutson said he was not surprised by Raschio's ruling because of the questions he asked at the trial, but felt confident it will be overturned by the state Court of Appeals.

His rationale will not hold up. "I have great confidence in our Oregon AG to reverse it and to complete the process and implement it as Oregon law," he said.



Phoenix Police Department Sgt. Kevin Johnson shows off the new Axon Body 2 body camera. (AP Photo)

## City Council Approves \$2.6M for Police Body Cameras

### Public officers will have body cameras by the Summer

The City Council in Portland, Oregon, approved \$2.6 million for permanent police body cameras in a unanimous vote, a crucial step toward the city no longer being among the last major U.S. police agencies without the technology.

All of the city's roughly 800 uniformed officers who interact with the public will have body-worn cameras by the summer, after training and further negotiations with the police union, The Oregonian/OregonLive reported Wednesday. But only around 300 patrol officers will be required to wear them routinely on their

shifts, the news outlet reported.

Roughly 500 other sworn members, including detectives and sergeants, will put on their cameras when they interact with the public, said police spokesperson Mike Benner. The City Council's approval for the cameras came after a 60-day pilot program that lasted from August to October and equipped 150 officers with cameras. The vote makes the pilot program permanent.

Among the 50 largest police departments in the country, Portland, until this year, was the only one that had not yet deployed body cameras. A settlement with the U.S. Department of Justice requires Portland's police bureau to implement a body camera policy. The settlement stemmed from a 2012 lawsuit brought by the federal government against Portland over allegations its police used excessive force against people with mental illness.

Wednesday's vote followed nearly a decade of at times contentious negotiations between the city and the police union over the technology. Among the major disagreements was whether officers who use deadly force can review camera footage before writing reports or being interviewed by investigators.

Under a negotiated policy between the city and its police union, officers who use deadly force won't get to view their camera's footage until after they've provided an audio-recorded statement to internal affairs within 48 hours of the incident. During Wednesday's vote, Mayor Ted Wheeler said the policy might take time to implement. "It's going to take some time for us to phase in the rollout of body cameras and make sure that everybody has sufficient training and sufficient understanding of how these tools will work," he said.

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