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Oregon News

[Oregon attorney general sues Yamhill, Harney counties over gun ordinances](#)

The Oregonian

Oregon's attorney general filed lawsuits Friday against two counties that had adopted ordinances that sought to nullify new statewide gun safety laws and declaring themselves "Second Amendment Sanctuaries."

In her lawsuits against Yamhill and Harney counties, Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum asked the circuit courts in those jurisdictions to declare the ordinances "invalid and void" because they conflict "with paramount state law."

"Gun safety laws exist to help keep guns out of dangerous hands and keep people safe. A county commission simply doesn't get to override state law in this way," Rosenblum said.

The ordinances, passed by county commissioners in the two counties earlier this year, did not apply to local, federal or state firearms regulations that were in effect as of last February. But they did encompass a bill passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor on June 1 that mandates the safe storage of guns and bans them from the Oregon State Capitol and Portland International Airport.

[Over 10,000 Oregon households received federal Emergency Rental Assistance funds](#)

KGW

Tens of thousands of families in Oregon applied for rent assistance during the pandemic. The federal government allocated \$204 million to the state to help, but the money came with a deadline.

Oregon had at least spend 65% of the money by September 30 or the feds could take it back and reallocate the money to a state or municipality that had made more progress processing renters' applications.

This dashboard shows that as of September 30, Oregon allocated \$69.6 million of its total rent assistance budget of \$204 million. That's 73% of the funds, distributed to 10,720 households in the state.

Oregon Housing and Community Services Executive Director Margaret Salazar detailed the program's progress at a media briefing Friday. "To be clear, OHCS and our local program administrators have never processed and distributed this much rental assistance in such short time. This is a historic accomplishment."

The 73% figure, which exceeds the 65% benchmark, should make Oregon eligible to receive additional funding, Salazar said. "We believe this funding will be needed in our state and we'll advocate for Oregon to receive additional funds."

[Oregon's chip industry, facing labor shortage, turns to TV and radio ads – and hiring people still in school](#)

The Oregonian

Intel has taken to running TV ads during the Portland telecast of Sunday Night Football, one of the most popular programs on the air — but not to hawk its microprocessors.

It's trying to lure workers

...trying to lure workers.

And at a time when the most entry-level job seekers are in demand at restaurants, hotels, bus companies and health care clinics, Intel's pitch is to perhaps try advanced microcircuitry manufacturing instead.

The microelectronics industry faces a particular labor squeeze. Demand is up at nearly every chip company. And Intel, the state's largest corporate employer, plans to open a \$3 billion factory expansion in Hillsboro early next year that will add hundreds more jobs.

Electronics companies large and small say they're struggling to find workers, so they're putting up billboards, buying TV and radio ads and bringing in new hires still in school to plug the holes.

"I think a lot of people have this misconception that Intel is this black box or that Intel is only hiring people with a master's degree or a Ph.D.," said Intel spokeswoman Elly Akopyan. She said the company's ad campaign aims to demystify chip manufacturing and make it clear it's a job that just about anybody can do.

"We need to create a pipeline of manufacturing workers to come work for us," Akopyan said.

[Oregon redraws congressional, legislative districts](#)

The World Link

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has signed into law a new plan creating new congressional and legislative districts in the state.

The special Oregon Legislative special session to redraw the state's political districts, which includes a new sixth U.S. House seat ended Tuesday and shortly after the session ended, Brown signed Senate Bill 881, which creates six new congressional districts, and Senate Bill 882, which creates Oregon's new state legislative districts.

House Republican Leader Christine Drazan (R-Canby) said the partisan maps are a wake-up call for Oregonians.

"They know Democrats had to cheat to get these maps across the floor," Drazan said. "Democrats in Oregon have passed rigged political maps that will guarantee super-sized majorities in the legislature and immediate control of more than 80 percent of Oregon's congressional seats. They should be ashamed that they have gerrymandered Oregonians out of their shot at fair elections for the next decade. This is by no means over."

Drazan said the congressional map adopted by the legislature is illegal, drawn for partisan benefit and will not survive legal challenge.

"Political gerrymandering in Oregon is illegal and drawing congressional lines to ensure five out of six seats for your party long-term is gerrymandering," Drazan said. "Oregonians will only get the fair maps they deserve, free of partisan influence, by supporting an independent redistricting commission in the next election. Politicians should not be drawing their own political lines. If Oregonians believe we need fair redistricting, then they should overturn what resulted from this charade of a vote at the ballot box."

[Former Vice President Pence speaks at Oregon GOP fundraiser in Hillsboro](#)

KATU

"Well hello, Oregon."

That was how former Vice President Mike Pence welcomed the crowd at the Washington County GOP Annual Reagan Day Dinner Saturday night. He was the keynote speaker for the event.

The former VP touched on several topics during his speech, including the coronavirus vaccine.

"I would encourage every American to get vaccinated, but that's your choice," said Pence. He, along with his wife, got the vaccine publicly in December of 2020, when it was first made available to select groups. Although he touted the Trump Administration's response to the pandemic, he made it clear he believes everyone has the right to say "no" a shot.

"Joe Biden also said 'this is not about freedom,' but America is about freedom. We will not allow American liberty to be a casualty of the coronavirus pandemic."

President Biden signed an executive order in September that required all government employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

The order came as the CDC reported a substantial increase in coronavirus cases.

[Map: Look up how partisan your new legislative, congressional districts are in Oregon](#)

The Oregonian \$\$\$

After lawmakers redrew Oregon's 90 legislative districts and created a new six-district congressional map, many voters will find themselves in a district whose political leanings have changed – or in new ones entirely -- come 2022.

At a macro level, Democrats are highly likely to maintain their supermajorities in both chambers of the Legislature.

As a result, many individual voters will find their district or districts, and the amount of attention they get from politicians, are all but certain to change. The Oregonian/OregonLive launched a new tool that allows you to look up which districts your home has been drawn into and the partisan ramifications of the neighbors who will now cast votes to determine who will represent you.

Bend Mayor Sally Russell is among those who will experience a change of political wind as a result of Democrats' biggest district-drawing power play.

Her home in a historic area near the Deschutes River and downtown Bend will remain in the same state House and Senate districts. Specifically, she votes in heavily Democratic state House District 54, currently represented by first-term Democratic Rep. Jason Kropf, and competitive state Senate District 27, currently represented by second-term Republican Sen. Tim Knopp.

Under the new maps, Russell and her neighbors will become part of a newly drawn 5th Congressional District, the oddest shaped of all the congressional districts Democrats drew this fall. They'll vote in a district that spans much of Deschutes County, then crosses the Cascade Mountain Range to take in parts of Linn and Marion counties and most of Clackamas County, including Oregon City, Milwaukie and Lake Oswego.

That change was part of Democrats' strategy, derided by Republicans as patently partisan and against the rules, to maximize the power of Democratic voter distribution patterns. They managed to create five Democrat-safe or -leaning congressional districts and just one safe Republican district, all but guaranteeing their party 83% of Oregon's seats in the U.S. House, while Joe Biden won 56% of the votes in the 2020 race for president.

That highly partisan line-drawing also fueled renewed drive among good government types to try to get a measure on the fall 2022 ballot that would ask voters to create an independent redistricting commission empowered to redraw the lines in 2023 ahead of the 2024 election cycle.

Sen. Brian Clem, a Salem Democrat, has announced he will avoid running against Rep. Raquel Moore-Green, a Republican he admires who has been redistricted into a single district with him, by stepping down from politics for now to care for his aging mother.

Similarly, Sen. Michael Dembrow, a Portland Democrat, announced during his 2020 race that it would be his last – meaning he won't have to face off against his friend and colleague Sen. Lew Frederick, another Portland Democrat, whose district lawmakers expanded to include Dembrow's

home.

Less certain is what will happen to lawmakers who are slated to wake up in 2022 sharing districts with each other: fellow doctors and freshmen Democratic Reps. Lisa Reynolds and Maxine Dexter in deep blue Northwest Portland-centered District 33; Democratic Rep. Marty Wilde and Republican Rep. Cedric Hayden, who will inhabit a new overwhelmingly rural and Republican-leaning District 12 east of Eugene; and Democratic Rep. Anna Williams and Republican Rep. Daniel Bonham, whose current homes both lie in a new Democratic-leaning District 52 stretching from Corbett east to The Dalles.

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