

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON**

ORDINANCE NO. 1338

Amending MCC Chapter 15 – Firearms and Declaring an Emergency.

(Language ~~stricken~~ is deleted; underlined language is new.)

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- A. Multnomah County is committed to ensuring that all residents, employees, and visitors have access to County buildings, services, and programs in an environment that is safe and welcoming.
- B. County buildings often serve vulnerable populations, including children, survivors of violence, and individuals in crisis, for whom the visible or known presence of firearms can cause heightened anxiety, retraumatization, or deter them from seeking services.
- C. The presence of firearms in public buildings, even when carried by individuals with a concealed handgun license, can contribute to a culture of fear, undermine trust and feelings of safety with the community, as well as increase the risk of accidental discharge, intimidation, or escalation during conflicts.
- D. Multnomah County takes proactive steps to reduce gun violence, including funding community-based violence prevention programs, supporting the Gun Violence Impacted Families Program, expanding behavioral health crisis services, and collaborating with partners including the Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, the Multnomah County District Attorney, the City of Portland, City of Gresham, and school districts.
- E. Oregon lawmakers passed Senate Bill 243 in June 2025, also known as the Community Safety Firearms Act, which goes into effect September 1, 2025. The legislation expands the list of locations where carrying a gun is prohibited by permitting the County to eliminate the affirmative defense for concealed handgun license holders in ORS 166.370(3)(g) in certain public buildings.
- F. As required by Senate Bill 243, the County will publish the CHL policy and list all included buildings online, and the County will post clearly visible signs at all normal points of entry to the buildings subject to the CHL restriction.

- G. This Ordinance will be implemented through Administrative Procedures, and violation of the provisions in Multnomah County buildings may lead to exclusion from such buildings.
- H. It is the policy of the Board that enforcement of this Ordinance begin as soon as possible, and no more than six months after the effective date.

Multnomah County Ordains as Follows:

Section 1. MCC 15.063 is amended as follows:

§ 15.063 DEFINITIONS.

For purposes of this subchapter, the following definitions apply unless the context requires a different meaning:

* * *

(E) **MULTNOMAH COUNTY BUILDING**: means a building owned or controlled by Multnomah County or its Districts and used for official meetings.

Section 2. MCC 15.064 is amended as follows:

§ 15.064 POSSESSION OF ~~LOADED FIREARMS~~ IN A PUBLIC PLACE.

(A) It is unlawful for any person in a public place, to carry a firearm upon the person, or while in a vehicle in a public place, unless all ammunition has been removed from the chamber and from the cylinder, clip, or magazine. A person who violates this section is subject to penalty even if the person did not know that ammunition was in the cylinder, chamber, clip or magazine.

(B) The prohibitions of subsection (A) of this section do not apply to or affect:

- (1) Those listed in ORS 166.173(2).
- (2) Licensed hunters engaged in lawful hunting.
- (3) Persons engaged in target shooting at an established shooting range, shooting gallery or other area designed and built for the purpose of target shooting.
- (4) A government employee authorized or required by their employment or office to carry firearms.
- (5) A security guard employed at a financial institution insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and an armed security professional that is

certified by the Department of Public Safety Standards and Training while on duty.

- (6) Any person otherwise authorized by law to possess a loaded firearm in a public place.
- (7) A person with written authorization from the Multnomah County Sheriff or their designee.

(C) The affirmative defense described in ORS 166.370 (3)(g), concerning persons licensed to carry a concealed handgun under ORS 166.291 and 166.292, does not apply to the possession of firearms within a Multnomah County building.

(~~E~~D) It is unlawful for any person who possesses a firearm, clip or magazine in or upon a public place, or while in a vehicle in a public place, to refuse to permit a peace officer to inspect that firearm, clip or magazine after the peace officer has identified himself or herself as such. The prohibitions of this subsection do not apply to or affect the persons listed in subsection (B) of this section.

Section 3. This Ordinance, being necessary for the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of Multnomah County, an emergency is declared and the ordinance takes effect on September 1, 2025, and will be enforceable once applicable signage is posted on impacted County buildings and online.

FIRST READING AND ADOPTION: September 4, 2025



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

Jessica Vega Pederson

Jessica Vega Pederson, Chair

REVIEWED:
JENNY M. MADKOUR, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

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By _____
Jenny M. Madkour, County Attorney

SUBMITTED BY: Commissioner Shannon Singleton, District 2
Commissioner Julia Brim-Edwards, District 3