

## The Oregonian

### Portland protests expect 30,000 -- a large crowd, but not the city's biggest

*By Eder Campuzano*

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The City of Portland is bracing for thousands of people to fill the streets Friday after Donald Trump is inaugurated as the 45th president of the United States.

Another 30,000 are expected to meet at Tom McCall Waterfront Park on Saturday as the Portland Women's March -- another Trump-inspired demonstration -- kicks off at noon.

But how does that compare to the kinds of crowds Portland sees for other events? We looked back at political rallies and sporting events to get an idea of the scope.

First, the regular occurrences.

Both the Trailblazers and Timbers draw sizable crowds when they play at home. The Moda Center has a maximum capacity of 19,393 for basketball games, according to marketing material prepared for the team (PDF).

At Providence Park, crowds top out at 21,144, according to the Timbers' site. Both venues draw crowds comparable to the Safeway Waterfront Blues Festival, which attracted 87,000 folks in 2016 -- an average of 21,750 a day.

In years past, the festival drew crowds of more than 100,000.

MusicFestNW at its height in 2008 drew 18,000, making it the third largest indoor music festival in the country. A format shift in recent years capped capacity to 10,000.

Although music festivals and sporting events cause their share of traffic-induced headaches, they pale in comparison to organized protests.

The original organizers of Portland's Women's March came under fire for allegedly silencing people of color and trans people. But the event's new Portland leadership wants to include everyone.

Or, for that matter, another Portland staple. The annual Providence Bridge Pedal attracted 18,000 riders in 2016 with several traffic detours due to the nature of the event.

The 30,000 expected for the Women's March on Portland would handily best those crowds. It's also a one-time event. And those have produced some major crowds in Portland.

When Bernie Sanders came to town in August of 2015 -- seven months before he was visited by a friendly sparrow who went on to become famous in its own right -- he packed the Moda Center's 19,000 seats. Another 9,000 listened to his speech from loudspeakers outside, venue officials said, for a total tally of 28,000.

During his 2004 bid for the presidency, John Kerry was greeted by a crowd of 50,000. (He also had Leonardo DiCaprio and Jon Bon Jovi in tow, so that may have been a factor.)

But when it comes to visits from presidential hopefuls, Barack Obama has both men beat.

In his first White House bid, President Obama drew 72,000 to Tom McCall Waterfront Park in May of 2008, more than twice the number expected there for Saturday's rally.

Obama's crowd had an admirable showing, but it still comes up short when it comes to another Portland event.

On the three occasions that Red Bull's Flugtag visited the city, the event has drawn crowds of more than 80,000. Even when it was cancelled due to boat jam on the Willamette River, 86,000 were present.

## **Portland opposes President-elect Donald Trump's threats against sanctuary cities in legislative agenda**

*By Jessica Floum  
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The Portland City Council formally opposed President-elect Donald Trump's pledge to limit federal funding to so-called "sanctuary cities" that won't cooperate with federal immigration enforcement actions.

Mayor Ted Wheeler vowed to keep Portland a sanctuary city during his campaign, but the City Council has not yet voted on it.

The City Council also agreed to oppose limitations to reproductive health care and rollbacks of climate change policy as part of a federal legislative agenda adopted Thursday.

"Every day we're getting more alarming signals from Washington about core Portland values that are under assault," Commissioner Nick Fish said. "This is going to be a challenging process."

Affordable housing and homelessness remain chief among Mayor Ted Wheeler and the council's priorities. The federal agenda includes getting funding for housing and homelessness initiatives, including supportive housing and services for homeless veterans, children and youth and a housing choice voucher program to subsidize rent increases for those paying about 30 percent of their income or more toward rent.

The City Council approved spending up to \$51 million on a northeast Portland affordable housing development. While \$37 million of the acquisition costs will come from a voter-approved \$258.4 million affordable housing bond, the Portland Housing Bureau plans to apply for a federal housing loan to cover the cost of \$10 million in repairs.

Wheeler will have to get the state on board in order to move forward on the "just cause eviction" process he supports. Ending no cause evictions conflicts with state laws that allow landlords to end month-to-month leases without a reason so long as they give 90 days' notice.

As part of its state legislative agenda, also approved Thursday, the city also hopes to tap into state funds to address unsafe roads. This year, the city reported 44 traffic deaths--the most in more than a decade. More than half of serious injuries and fatalities occurred on just 8 percent of city roads, the agenda said.

Before working with the state and federal governments, the City Council may have to work out its own kinks. City Commissioner Amanda Fritz struck a disapproving tone with the mayor in

Thursday's council meeting. She suggested Wheeler review proper meeting proceedings after he asked whether an amendment required public comment.

"I've been keeping a running list," Wheeler assured Fritz.

"It's not the first time," Fritz responded.

Wheeler removed the Office of Neighborhood Involvement from Fritz's oversight over her objections earlier this month.

Wheeler addressed the council on Fritz's concerns. He said he would keep a list of questions related to proper proceedings, then work with the city attorney to make sure the council is following the correct meeting process.