



News Release

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Commissioners Continue Liquor Store Expansion Small Business Opportunities in Portland Metro area

Changes in consumer market influence statewide initiative Screening of proposals begins this March

PORTLAND, OR – The Oregon Liquor Control Commission is looking for prospective small business owners interested in operating liquor stores in the Portland metro region. This latest phase of the OLCC’s retail store expansion could add up to [eight new liquor stores](#).

Beginning February 5th, 2021, the Oregon Liquor Control Commission will begin accepting liquor store operator applications during the open recruitment for potential locations in Multnomah, Washington and Clackamas counties. The application period will be open from February 5th through March 22nd, 2021.

The OLCC’s retail expansion program started in 2015 when there were 248 liquor stores across the state. Currently, there are 282 liquor stores operating in Oregon. Population growth, shifting demographics and consumer demand are factors in the store location decision making process.



The OLCC contracts with retail liquor agents to sell distilled spirits; the small businesses are independently owned in each community. During the last five years, the Commission has approved 36 new stores, one of the largest expansion efforts since the end of Prohibition in 1933.

"To date, the open-recruitment process has been a success for Oregonians, keeping up with our state's growing population and the demand for distilled spirits, while optimizing revenue for Oregon taxpayers," said Steve Marks, OLCC Executive Director. "This growth responds to underlying market factors that drive our objective to improve the customer shopping experience."

Open recruitment of retail liquor store applicants is a statewide market-driven process encouraging a variety of retail models that fit the community where a liquor store is proposed. This includes traditional stand-alone liquor stores as well as existing retail business that will incorporate the sale of distilled spirits into their current operation such as grocery and convenience stores.

Information on how to apply to become a liquor store operator is available on [OLCC's web page](#); additional informational inquiries should be sent to OLCC.Retailservices@oregon.gov. Applicants will be given an opportunity to present their business plans directly to Commissioners. Commissioners will scrutinize the proposals and question applicants to determine the most qualified operators.

There will be an opportunity for the public to submit comments on proposed liquor store locations after the Commissioners select liquor store operators to run the new stores. Applicants for any proposed location that receives significant public opposition will be required to return before the Commission for final consideration before a formal decision is made.

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