## NATION

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### PUBLIC NOTICE OF ENACTMENT OF AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA

Deposits are federally insured by the NOJA, a US Government Agency, for up to \$250,000. Annual Percentage field (APP) effective 12/15/2015 and subject to change at any time. 12-month APR is 1.05%, 270 penalty days. 24-month APR is 1.50%, 360 penalty days. 36-month APR is 1.75%, 540 penalty days. Offer expires 1/31/16.

Notice is hereby given that the City Commission of the City of Alachua will hold a public hearing on a proposed ordinance. The hearing will be held on Monday, January 11, 2016, at 6:30 p.m., in the James A. Lewis Commission Chambers in City Hall, located at 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, Alachua, Florida.

The ordinance title is as follows:

### **ORDINANCE 16-02**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF ALACHUA, FLORIDA, PROVIDING AN EXTENSION OF ORDINANCE 15-08, EXTENDING FOR THREE (3) MONTHS THE TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON ALL APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL FOR "DISPENSING ORGANIZATIONS" LAWS OF FLORIDA, AND AS FURTHER DEFINED CHAPTER 64-4.001, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, AND PROVIDING FOR A THREE (3) MONTH MORATORIUM ON ALL APPLICATIONS FOR DEVELOPMENT APPROVAL FOR "DISPENSING ORGANIZATION FACILITIES" AS DEFINED IN CHAPTER 64-4.001, FLORIDA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE; PROVIDING FOR EXEMPTIONS; PROVIDING FOR AN ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDY; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

At the public hearing, all interested parties may appear and be heard with respect to the proposed ordinance. Copies of the proposed ordinance and related materials are available for public inspection at the Planning and Community Development Department, 15100 NW 142nd Terrace, on any regular business day between the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Written comments on the proposed ordinance may be sent to the following address:

City of Alachua, Planning and Community Development, P.O. Box 9, Alachua, FL 32616. Notice is given pursuant to Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, that, in order to appeal any decision made at the public hearing, you will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, you may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any persons with a disability requiring reasonable accommodation in order to participate in this meeting should call the City Clerk at (386) 418-6100 x 101 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing.

AP-NORC POLL

# Groups split on religious freedom

By Rachel Zoll and Emily Swanson The Associated Press

WASHINGTON Americans place a higher priority on preserving the religious freedom of Christians than for other faith groups, ranking Muslims as the least deserving of the protections, according to a new survey.

Solid majorities said it was extremely or very important for the U.S. to uphold religious freedom in general. However, the percentages varied dramatically when respondents were asked about specific faith traditions, according to a poll by The Associated Press and the NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Eighty-two percent said religious liberty protections were important for Christians, compared with 61 percent who said the same for Muslims. About seven in 10 said preserving Jews' religious freedom was important, while 67 percent said so of Mormons. People who

identified with no religion were ranked about even with Muslims in needing support to live out their beliefs.

Charles Haynes, director of the Religious Freedom Center of the Newseum Institute, said the findings reflect deep divisions among Americans about the very definition of religious liberty, which has taken on newly politicized meanings in a time of debate over gay marriage and the threat from Islamic extremists.

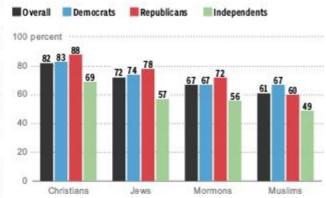
"Religious freedom is now in the eye of the beholder," Haynes said. "People in different traditions, with different ideological commitments, define religious freedom differently."

The poll was conducted Dec. 10 through Dec. 13, after Islamic extremist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, California, and during intensifying anti-Muslim rhetoric by Donald Trump and other candidates for the Republican presidential nomination. The furor

### Guarding religious freedoms

An AP-NORC Center poll finds fewer Americans believe it is important to protect the religious freedoms of Muslims than those of other religious groups.

Percentage saying it is extremely or very important that each of these groups be allowed to practice their religion freely:



NOTE: Results based on survey of 1,042 U.S. adults conducted Dec. 10-13. Margin of error is ±3.9 percentage points.

SOURCE: The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

has led to a spike in vandalism of mosques and harassment of U.S. Muslims over the last month.

In the survey, 88 percent of Republicans said it was important to protect the religious liberty of Christians, while only 60 percent said so for Muslims. Democrats also ranked religious freedom

AP-NORC Center: http:// www.apnorc.org/

for Muslims as a lower priority. Eighty-three percent of Democrats said the protections were important for Christians, while only 67 percent said so for

**NEW LAWS** DIVERGENT PATHS

# States are diverging on guns, voting

By Geoff Mulvihill The Associated Press

TRENTON, N.J. - Laws taking effect at the start of the new year show states diverging on some hotbutton issues.

Restrictions on carrying guns will ease in Texas, for example, but will get tighter in California. It will be easier to register to vote in Oregon, but there will be another step to take at the polls in North Carolina.

The opposing directions in the states reflect a nation with increasingly polarized politics.

In the debate over gun control, both sides say their arguments are strengthened by a string of mass shootings this year. That includes the December attack at a county health department gathering in San Bernardino, California, when a couple who investigators say pledged allegiance to the leader of the Islamic State group killed 14 people.

Everytown for Gun Safety, a group backed by billionaire former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, is seeking to be a counterweight to the National Rifle Association's lobbying of state lawmakers. Both groups are expected to be



Scott Smith, a supporter of open carry gun laws, wears a pistol as he prepares for a rally in support of open carry gun laws Jan. 26 at the Capitol in Austin, Texas. Despite its reputation as the trigger-happy heart of American gun culture, Texas is late to the open carry party, at least when it comes to handguns. On New Year's Day, it'll become the 45th state to legalize carrying a pistol in plain sight. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

active in legislatures in the coming year.

Whether to raise the minimum wage has become another hot topic in states and cities, with the issue getting no traction in the Republican-led Congress. New voting laws, mean-

while, could help shape the outcomes in state and federal elections in the coming year. Democrats and others who want to boost voter participation have been pushing to expand access to the polls, while conservatives have pushed for measures aimed at preventing election fraud. Each side says the other is using

legislation to help their favored party in elections. A look at some of the more notable laws taking

effect in January:

Texas, the second-most populous state, is joining 44 other states in allowing at least some firearm owners to carry handguns openly in public places. Under the Texas law, guns can be carried by those with licenses and only in holsters.

Meanwhile, California, the most populous state, has multiple new laws on gun control. One tightens a ban on firearms in and around schools. Under the

new law, the prohibition will apply even to most people who are allowed to carry concealed weapons generally. Another will allow people to request that a judge order weapons be taken away from relatives who are believed to pose a threat.

## VOTING

California and Oregon will become the first states that automatically register eligible voters when they obtain or renew their driver's licenses. Critics of the measures - mostly Republicans - say that could lead to voter fraud and is part of a plan to register more voters who are likely to be Democrats. They say voters should register voluntarily. In both states, people will be able to opt out of being registered.

Similar measures have been proposed in other states but never adopted. This year, Republican Gov. Chris Christie vetoed the concept in New Jersey.

In North Carolina, a voter identification law passed in 2013 that requires people to show a photo ID is taking effect.

An amendment adopted this year allows voters who have trouble obtaining the required ID to vote anyway.

That provision keeps North Carolina from joining eight states in which a photo ID is strictly required. There are still legal challenges over the law, and opponents want a judge to delay implementation.

In most states, voters are asked to show some kind of identification.

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