

POLITICS

US attorney will no longer bring felony charges against people for carrying rifles or shotguns in DC



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BY MICHAEL KUNZELMAN

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal prosecutors in the nation's capital will no longer bring felony charges against people for possessing rifles or shotguns in the District of Columbia, according to a new policy adopted by the leader of the nation's largest U.S. attorney's office.

That office will continue to pursue charges when someone is accused of using a shotgun or rifle in a violent crime or has a criminal record that makes it illegal to have a firearm. Local authorities in Washington can prosecute people for illegally possessing unregistered rifles and shotguns.

[U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro](#) said in a statement that the change is based on guidance from the Justice Department and the Office of Solicitor General and conforms with two Supreme Court decisions on gun rights.



Pirro, a former Fox News host, has been a vocal critic of local officials' crime-fighting efforts since Republican President Donald Trump installed her in office in May. Her policy shift means federal prosecutors will not pursue charges under the D.C. law that made it illegal to carry rifles or shotguns, except in limited cases involving permit holders.

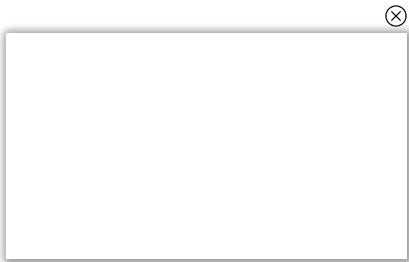
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The change also overlaps with Trump's declaration of a [crime emergency](#) in the city, flooding the streets of Washington with patrols of hundreds of federal agents and National Guard members. The White House says 76 firearms have been seized since the crackdown started this month.

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The new policy also covers large-capacity magazines, but it does not apply to handguns.

"We will continue to seize all illegal and unlicensed firearms, and to vigorously prosecute all crimes connected with them," Pirro said, adding that she and Trump "are committed to prosecuting gun crime."

Pirro said a blanket ban on possessing shotguns and rifles violates the [Supreme Court's](#) ruling in 2022 that struck down a New York gun law and held that Americans have a right to carry firearms in public for self-defense. She also pointed to the high court's 2008 decision in [District of Columbia v. Heller](#) striking down the city's ban on handguns in the home.

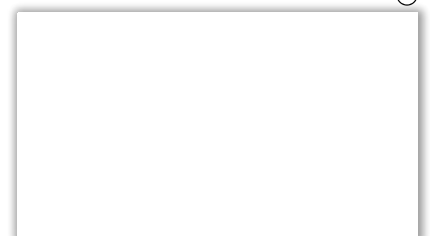


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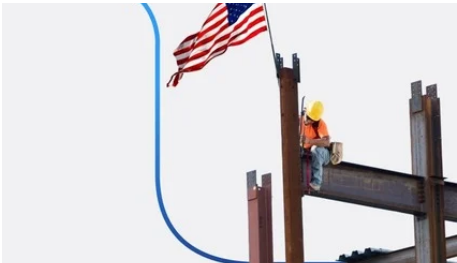


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