



WHY PERMITLESS CARRY IS BAD FOR FLORIDA

Florida is in the midst of a gun violence crisis. In 2021, 3,142 people were killed by guns across the state—nearly 700 more people than died from gun violence just one decade earlier in 2012.

Despite this historically high level of gun violence, Governor DeSantis has pledged to pass permitless carry in Florida, which would allow people who have never passed a background check or fired a gun in their lives to carry hidden, loaded guns in public crowds. The evidence is clear that this policy is bad for public safety, and passing this law in the face of rising violence will only add fuel to an already raging fire.

PERMITLESS CARRY LAWS STRIP IMPORTANT PUBLIC SAFETY PROVISIONS.

Currently, people who want to obtain a concealed carry permit in Florida must pass a background check, complete firearm safety training, and meet heightened eligibility standards. These provisions help ensure that people with a history of violent or risky behavior cannot carry firearms in public places. **In fact, between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, 7,605 Florida residents with a disqualifying history were denied concealed carry permits.** Permitless carry would strip these important provisions.

States regularly require training in a number of different fields as a means to promote public health and safety. For instance, the state of Florida requires 1,200 hours of training to obtain a license to cut hair, 500 hours of training to obtain a massage therapist license, and 240 hours of training to become a licensed manicurist. If Florida passes permitless carry, the state will require zero hours of training—or even require that a person has ever held a gun—for people to carry a loaded firearm in public.



Research is clear that when states weaken their concealed carry laws and remove these kinds of provisions, increases in violence will follow. One recent study found that when states weakened their concealed carry laws and removed provisions like live fire training and violent misdemeanor prohibitions—both of which Florida currently has—they experienced a 22% increase in gun assaults and a 35% increase in gun homicides.

WHEN STATES WEAKEN THEIR CONCEALED CARRY LAWS, VIOLENT CRIME AND GUN VIOLENCE GET WORSE.

Studies show that weakening public carry laws is associated with a 13–15% increase in violent crime rates, as well as an 11% increase in rates of homicides committed with handguns.

Other studies have found that weaker concealed carry laws increase other forms of violence as well. One analysis found that states with weak or no regulations on concealed carry had 29% higher rates of workplace homicides committed with firearms. Another study found that states that passed permitless carry laws experienced a 13% increase in fatal and nonfatal police shootings of civilians.

PERMITLESS CARRY MAKES IT HARDER FOR POLICE OFFICERS TO DO THEIR JOBS.

It's no wonder that law enforcement groups in the state of Florida and across the country have opposed efforts to weaken concealed carry laws. Without a permit requirement, law enforcement officers have no way of differentiating between people who are lawfully carrying guns and people who are illegally carrying guns. As Lincoln, Nebraska, Police Chief Teresa Ewins explained, permitless carry laws create “another layer of difficulty for [officers] because it's hard to understand who has a gun, who doesn't have a gun and then having people who are not trained.”

Law enforcement in permitless carry states must also contend with the abundant challenges of an increasingly armed public, such as increased gun thefts and concerns about their own safety when investigating suspicious activities. These challenges translate into measurable decreases in police effectiveness: researchers documented a 13% decline in police clearance rates for violent crimes in cities within states that weakened concealed carry laws.

MOST FLORIDIANS WANT STRONGER—NOT WEAKER—GUN LAWS.

[Recent polling by Giffords](#) shows that Miami-Dade voters support stronger gun laws by a 20:1 margin. In fact, over two-thirds (68%) of Miami-Dade voters oppose permitless carry, with 60% of voters strongly opposing the policy. This opposition spans political characteristics, with a majority of Republicans, DeSantis voters, and gun owners opposing permitless carry. National polling similarly shows that most Americans want people to obtain permits to carry guns in public. **This data makes it clear that permitless carry has been proposed at the behest of the gun lobby, not the people of Florida.**

Importantly, even people living in permitless carry states do not support permitless carry. Nearly three-quarters (72%) of adults in the 25 states with permitless carry oppose these policies.

PERMITLESS CARRY IS NOTHING BUT BAD NEWS FOR FLORIDA.

Governor DeSantis has promised that he will pass this reckless and dangerous policy this year—despite research showing that this will only worsen the gun violence crisis, despite concerns from law enforcement, and despite what the people of Florida actually want.

Florida families and communities deserve real solutions to address gun violence—not extremist proposals that jeopardize public health and safety.

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