SAF FACTSHEET · NOVEMBER 2026

THE RIGHT TO CARRY DOES NOT END AT STATE LINES

In many states, the Second Amendment right to carry is more limited than a driver's license.

SAF is working to change that.



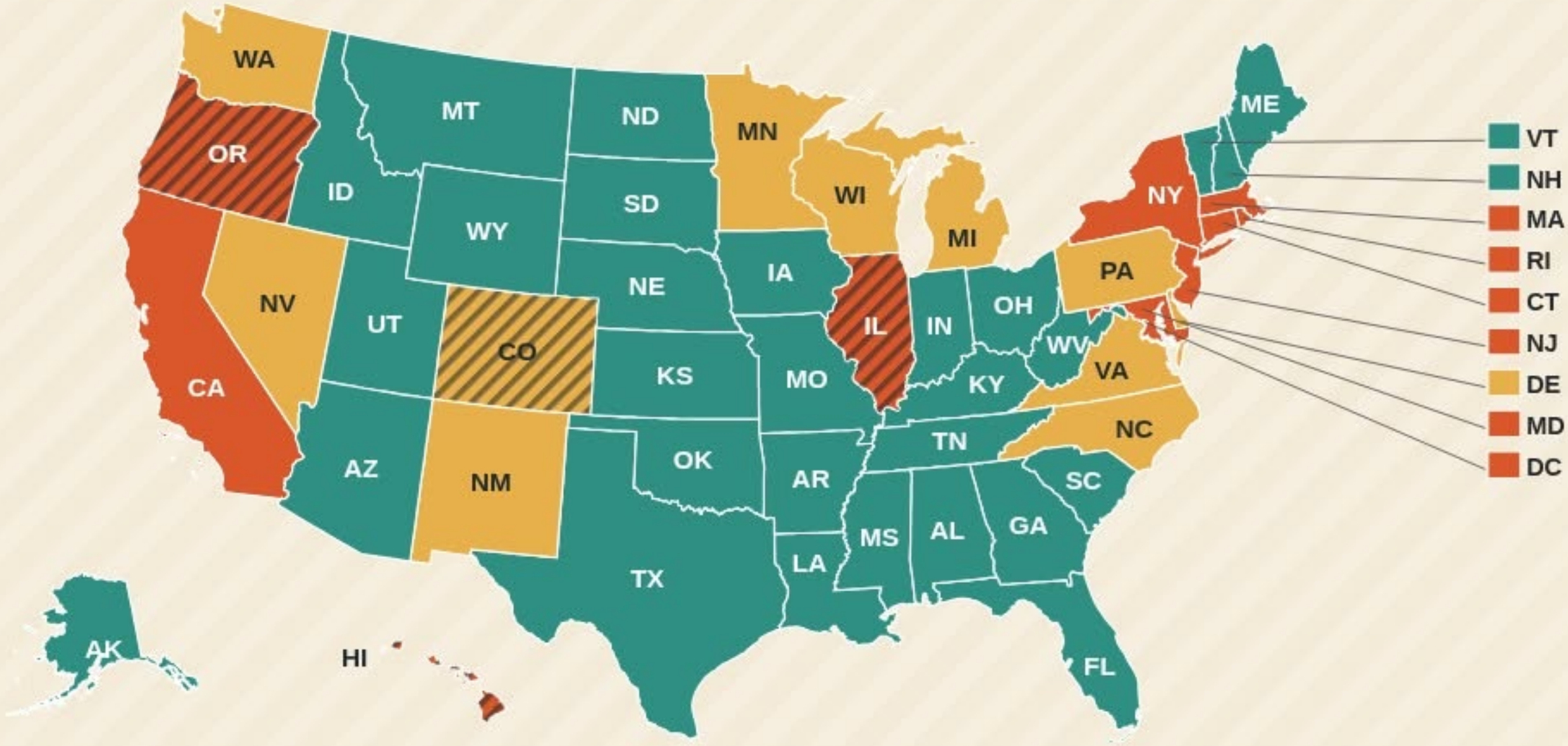
A Concord-type stage with soldiers standing guard on top, ca. 1869. U.S. National Archives (NARA 530910), public domain.

Swipe → why national carry reciprocity is the answer

MAP

WHERE YOUR PERMIT STOPS WORKING

In many states, the Second Amendment right to carry is more limited than a driver's license.



- Permitless carry for eligible adults (29 states)
- Requires a permit; honors some or all out-of-state permits
- Requires its own permit; honors none from other states
- Closed to most visitors (HI, OR, IL, CO)

Ten states and D.C. honor no other state's carry permit.

Source: state carry statutes and agency reciprocity pages; USCCA (Oct. 16, 2026)

CASE STUDY

A HERO, THEN AN ARRESTED "CRIMINAL"



Lloyd Muldrow (center) with his Carnegie Medal, presented Dec. 5, 2023, in Jacksonville, N.C. Photo: Carnegie Hero Fund Commission.

On July 4, 2022, Lloyd Muldrow, a Marine Corps veteran, walked into a Baltimore social club after a man had pistol-whipped his friend. Without drawing his own gun, he helped pin the attacker down. He would later receive the Carnegie Medal for his heroism.

His carry permit was issued by Virginia, and Maryland honors no other state's permits. *The Washington Times* reported that police officers **"thanked him — and then they arrested him."**

Source: *The Baltimore Banner* (Nov. 1, 2022); *The Washington Times* (Sept. 2, 2022); Carnegie Hero Fund; Md. State Police

$12,804.63

What one husband and wife have spent, counting renewals, required travel, and permits they later let lapse, to carry in **46 states and D.C.**

His New York City permit alone cost $1,459 and took a year start to finish; his California permit cost $720.63. His wife skipped both “due to the HIGH costs & required additional training.”

CUMULATIVE EXPENSES LIKE THESE IMPLICATE CONSTITUTIONAL CONCERNS

“[B]ecause any permitting scheme can be put toward abusive ends, we do not rule out constitutional challenges to shall-issue regimes where, for example, lengthy wait times in processing license applications or **exorbitant fees deny ordinary citizens their right to public carry.**”

N.Y. State Rifle & Pistol Ass’n v. Bruen (2022), footnote 9

Source: School of the American Rifle, YouTube (Mar. 15, 2026); *Bruen* (2022), n.9

UP CLOSE

THREE PERMITS FOR ONE COMMUTE



Around Washington, a short drive or a few Metro stops can cross three jurisdictions. **Maryland and D.C. honor no other state's permit**, so a Virginian who wants to stay armed on routine errands needs two more permits, each with its own training, fees, and fingerprints.

	Virginia	Maryland	D.C.
Training	One of nine options, e.g., hunter education	16-hour course by a Qualified Handgun Instructor (unless exempt)	At least 16 hours, plus 2 hours of range training
Fees	$100 (statutory cap)	$125; $75 to renew	$75, plus $35 fingerprinting
Valid for	5 years	About 2 years at first	2 years

Source: Va. Code §§ 18.2-308.014, -308.06; Md. State Police; D.C. Code §§ 7-2509.02, 22-4504; MPD

BEYOND THE MONEY

THE BURDENS GO BEYOND JUST THE FINANCIAL

Training rarely transfers in full.

Maryland takes only its own instructors' courses unless you are exempt (e.g., veterans); D.C. never waives D.C.-law training.

Fingerprints, again.

Since Sept. 1, 2026, California requires new fingerprints at every renewal.

A renewal treadmill.

Terms run from one year (Massachusetts nonresident) to five (Virginia), each on its own clock.

Some doors stay shut.

Even with permits covering 46 states plus D.C., the husband and wife behind School of the American Rifle said in March 2026 they could not carry in Hawaii, Oregon, Illinois, or Colorado. (Illinois allows vehicle carry; Hawaii has since opened to Hawaii Rifle Association members.)

Source: Md. State Police; D.C. Code § 7-2509.02; Cal. Penal Code § 26185; Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 140, § 131F; Va. Code; School of the American Rifle (YouTube); 430 ILCS 66/40(e); *Solinsky* judgment

HISTORY

INTERSTATE TRAVELERS WERE ARMED, AND THE LAW MADE ROOM FOR THEM

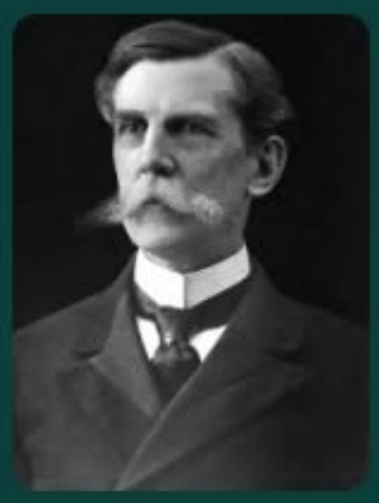
Many early states and territories restricted concealed carry, and many of those laws exempted travelers.

1813 **Kentucky** banned concealed carry of certain weapons **“unless when travelling on a journey.”**

1820 **Indiana’s** concealed carry ban **“shall not be so construed as to affect travellers.”**

1863 **California** barred concealed carry by anyone not a **“peace officer or traveler.”**

1905 **Reno, Nevada** required City Council permission to carry concealed, but not **“to persons traveling through the state.”**



“…it has been a subject of grave discussion, in some of the state courts, whether a statute prohibiting persons, **when not on a journey, or as travellers,** from wearing or carrying concealed weapons, be constitutional.”

James Kent, *Commentaries on American Law* (6th ed. 1848), a note carried into the 12th edition (1873), edited by Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., later a Justice, and quoted in *Heller*. Photo: Holmes, public domain.

Source: *Solinsky v. Lopez* complaint (D. Haw. 2026), compiling historical laws; Duke Center for Firearms Law; Kent, *Commentaries*; *D.C. v. Heller* (2008)

IN COURT

SAF IS FIGHTING FOR RECIPROCITY

A first-ever win

In *CRPA v. Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department*, where SAF was a co-plaintiff, a federal court on Aug. 20, 2024, issued the **first-ever court win forcing a state to accept carry permit applications from nonresidents.**

SAF'S AMICUS BRIEFS

> "A general right to publicly carry arms for self-defense cannot coexist with each state having the option to require visitors from other states to undergo a costly and time-consuming permit process to exercise that right."
>
> ***Gardner v. Maryland* · U.S. Supreme Court · 2025**

> "The Second Amendment mandates interstate reciprocity for travelers as demonstrated by the historical traveler's exception laws presented in this brief."
>
> ***Duvall v. State* · Maryland · 2026**

> A state "may not refuse to honor the permits issued by other states and insist that every nonresident complete its own redundant licensing scheme …"
>
> ***Johnson v. Jacobson* · U.S. Supreme Court · 2026**

Nonresident permits were never enough: the *CRPA* court declined to order California to honor other states' permits. **That takes reciprocity.**

Source: *CRPA v. L.A. Cnty. Sheriff's Dep't* (C.D. Cal. Aug. 20, 2024); SAF amicus briefs in *Gardner*, *Duvall*, *Johnson*

SAFETY

CARRY RECIPROCITY WOULD HAVE NO SAFETY TRADEOFF

0.12%

Virginia State Police figures for 2024 list **686,994** resident permits issued and **815** revoked, about 0.12%.


SAF FACTSHEET · OCTOBER 2026

SECOND AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

AMERICANS WHO LEGALLY CARRY FIREARMS ARE NOT A CRIMINAL THREAT, AND THE DATA PROVES IT.

Official state records show that permit holders **rarely commit crimes**. Instead, when an attacker strikes, some of them are the first line of defense. Laws that ban them from everyday "sensitive places" disarm the people least likely to cause harm, inadvertently helping violent criminals.

WHEN SECONDS COUNTED

Armed citizens who stopped attackers before police arrived

JULY 17, 2022 · GREENWOOD, INDIANA

15 sec. TO STOP IT

Greenwood Park Mall food court

A gunman with a rifle opened fire. Elisjahe Dicken, 22, "a legally armed citizen," engaged him from 40 yards and stopped him about 15 seconds after the shooting began. He fired ten rounds, "striking the gunman eight times."[4]

The mall's code of conduct said "no weapons." Dicken, who had a carry license, was armed anyway. That broke mall policy, not the law.[4]

OCT. 20, 2019 · WHITE SETTLEMENT, TEXAS

1 shot FIRED

West Freeway Church of Christ

When a gunman opened fire on the congregation, Jack Wilson, head of the church's volunteer security team, "fired a single round," stopping the attack. The Governor said Wilson "responded with strength, bravery, and skill to save those in the church that day."[5]

Wilson was awarded the Governor's Medal of Courage, "the highest award given to civilians by the Governor."[5]

OCT. 15, 2026 · BEND, OREGON

Before police ARRIVED

Silver Rail Elementary School

A father saw a gunman force his way into his children's school. He "took a pistol he legally secured in his vehicle," followed him in, and shot him as a teacher fought for the gun. Police said he "bravely stepped in to stop the suspect."[6] News reports say he is licensed to carry.[6]

Oregon's Governor thanked "the community member who heroically intervened to stop further loss of life."[6] **Ironically, he had to break the law to do it: that school district bans guns on school grounds even for license holders.**[7][8]

PERMIT HOLDERS RARELY COMMIT CRIMES

Newest official state data

TEXAS, 2025 Violent-crime convictions, ages 21 and older

License holders' share of the population in Texas (21 and over): 6.2%

License holders' share of violent convictions: 0.75%

18 per 100,000 — License holders convicted in 2025 (258 of 1,486,121 active licenses)

161 per 100,000 — Other Texans 21 and older (34,346 convictions)

9× Texans without a license were convicted of violent crimes at about nine times the license holders' rate.

Violent crimes counted: murder and capital murder, kidnapping, robbery, assault and aggravated assault, sexual assault and other sexual-contact offenses, and injury to a child, elderly or disabled person. Not counted: threats, deadly conduct, weapons and license offenses, and non-contact offenses. Of 34,480 violent convictions (of 44,893 total), 258 were of people licensed when the offense occurred. SAF tally from the DPS table of 1,486,121 active licenses at the end of 2025 (of 22,886,881 Texans aged 21 and older).[9]

0.36% FLORIDA — 8,661,440 licenses issued since 1987. Only 24,251 revoked **for any reason** and not reinstated, through Sept. 30, 2026.[10]

≤0.09% MINNESOTA — In 2025, at most 342 convictions of permit holders were in violent-crime categories (assault, domestic assault, protection-order violations, sex offenses, homicide incl. negligent and vehicular, robbery), among **381,485** valid permits.[11][12]

≈0.24% MICHIGAN — 2,371 license holders were convicted of a crime (any felony or misdemeanor, including traffic misdemeanors) in FY 2024–25, out of about **850,000** active licenses (859,376 as of Oct. 1, 2026).[13]

0.12% VIRGINIA — In 2024, 815 revocations for any disqualification (reasons not reported) against **686,994** resident permits issued, the newest year published.[14]

POLICE LEADERS AGREE

People who are willing to go through this process before they exercise their right to carry are simply not likely to break the law; quite the opposite – they demonstrate a tremendous law-abiding predisposition.

BRIAN R. MARVEL – President, Peace Officers Research Association of California (PORAC),[15] which represents "over 80,000 law enforcement and public safety professionals" – sworn declaration, 2023[16]

INDEPENDENT RESEARCHERS AGREE

"[T]he available evidence shows that license holders as a group are particularly law-abiding and are rarely convicted for violent crimes."

RAND CORPORATION, GUN POLICY IN AMERICA, UPDATED JAN. 2026[17]

Sources, methods, and the "Concealed Carry Killers" claim: page 2.

MORE DATA

SAF's factsheet ***Americans Who Legally Carry Firearms Are Not a Criminal Threat***

Read SAF's factsheet at saf.org

Source: Va. State Police, *Facts & Figures 2024*; SAF factsheet (Oct. 2026)

SECOND AMENDMENT FOUNDATION

SUPPORT OUR WORK

The Second Amendment Foundation is a 501(c)(3) dedicated to education, research, and legal action on the right to keep and bear arms.

Donate at saf.org/donate

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Full factsheet with sources: “The Right to Carry Does Not End at State Lines”

Prepared by Kostas Moros, Director of Legal Research & Education, Second Amendment Foundation.