

# Accomplishments



## Arizona Citizens Defense League ([www.AzCDL.org](http://www.AzCDL.org)) *Protecting Your Freedom*

**AzCDL has been successful in getting pro-rights legislation introduced in every legislative session we have been involved with.**

***AzCDL was instrumental in the introduction and/or passage of the legislation listed below.***

### Your Right to Keep and Bear Arms

- ★ Constitutional Carry—Restoration of the right of law-abiding adults to carry openly or discreetly without first seeking written permission via a “permit.”
- ★ Prohibiting state and local government officials from confiscating lawfully held firearms during an emergency.
- ★ Strengthened state preemption of firearm and knife laws.
- ★ Requiring operators of public (state and local government) property, that prohibit firearms, to provide storage for your firearm that is readily accessible on entry and permits immediate retrieval on exit.
- ★ Prohibiting political subdivisions (counties, cities, towns, etc.) from maintaining de facto registration records of firearms, or their owners.
- ★ Prohibiting the courts from ordering the forfeiture of firearms when a person is convicted of carrying on public property that bans firearms.
- ★ Preventing private or public employers, property owners, and others, from banning firearms in a locked vehicle.
- ★ Repealing the prohibition on carrying a firearm in a game refuge.
- ★ Prohibiting firearms seized by, or surrendered to, law enforcement from being scrapped. They must now be sold to authorized dealers.

### Concealed Weapon (CCW) Permits

Article 2, Section 26 of the 1912 Arizona Constitution states that your right to bear arms “shall not be impaired.” In 1990, a state appellate court ruled that it was not an “impairment” to restrict concealed (discreet) carry.

In 1994, the Arizona legislature, instead of simply affirming your right to carry openly or discreetly, decided that if you expected your clothing to cover your firearm, you were required to undergo 16 hours of training, followed by a written and shooting test, in order to request the privilege to carry discreetly—but only for 4 years. After that, you were required to attend another 4 hours of training, pass another test, and submit another set of fingerprints. The process had to be repeated every 4 years.

CCW permit training could only be obtained from instructors approved by the Department of Public Safety who, via administrative rulings, declared that training had an expiration date and could only be conducted in Arizona.

*Keep in mind that in Arizona, no permit is required for open carry, which is Constitutionally protected, and does not require training, testing, fingerprinting or applications.*

Since AzCDL was formed in 2005, we have steadily worked to improve your ability to obtain and keep a CCW permit, ultimately leading to the passage of Constitutional Carry, making the CCW permit optional for discreet carry. The following are highlights of our achievements:

- ★ Lengthening the permit period from 4 to 5 years.
- ★ Reduction of the initial 16 hour training requirement to 8 hours.
- ★ Elimination of the fingerprint and training requirements for CCW permit renewals.
- ★ Expansion of the training experiences that qualify for a CCW permit, to include NRA training, military experience, CCW permits obtained in other states, etc.
- ★ Universal recognition, by Arizona, of concealed weapon permits held by residents of other states.
- ★ Preventing law enforcement from confiscating a firearm from someone with a suspended permit if it is otherwise lawfully possessed.
- ★ Reduction in the penalty for not having your CCW permit in your possession (when required), from a Class 2 Misdemeanor to a Petty Offense.
- ★ Passage of Constitutional Carry in 2010, making the permit optional for carrying discreetly in Arizona.

### Self Defense

- ★ Passage of a *Constitutional Amendment* to protect victims from being sued by their attackers.
- ★ Restoration (in 2006) of “innocent until proven guilty” in self defense situations that was taken away, via legislation, in 1997.
- ★ Castle Doctrine strengthened.
- ★ Strengthening the elements of justification for the use of force.
- ★ Clarification that a person has no duty to retreat in any place that they have a right to be.
- ★ Establishment of a justification for the defensive display of a firearm.
- ★ Adding the presumption, in certain civil actions, that a victim acted reasonably when using physical or deadly force.

### Hunting

- ★ Allowing the possession of an otherwise “prohibited” weapon (i.e., for self defense) while hunting.
- ★ Expansion of the definition of Hunter Harassment.
- ★ Allowing the use of sound suppressors when hunting.
- ★ Magazine capacity cannot be limited by the Game and Fish Commission.

**For our successes, AzCDL was recognized at the Gun Rights Policy Conferences in 2006, 2008, and 2010.**

**Choose  Success**

**Join AzCDL Today!**

**Apply online at [www.AzCDL.org](http://www.AzCDL.org)  
or call (623) 242-9086 for an application.**



# Why AzCDL?



**Arizona Citizens  
Defense League**  
([www.AzCDL.org](http://www.AzCDL.org))  
**Protecting Your Freedom**

## Wonder why there is an AzCDL?

It all started with a handful of activists who didn't like the status quo when it came to the right to bear arms in Arizona, and decided to do something about it.

The image of freedom in Arizona doesn't match reality. The state constitution says that our right to bear arms "shall not be impaired." Yet, in 1990 a state appellate court ruled that it was not an "impairment" to restrict "concealed" carry.

In 1994, the Arizona legislature, instead of simply affirming the right to carry openly or discreetly, declared that if you expected your clothing to cover your firearm you were required to undergo 16 hours of training, followed by a written and shooting test, and then submit a request for the privilege to carry "concealed"—but for only 4 years. After that, you had to take another 4 hour class, pass another test, and submit another set of fingerprints. The process had to be repeated every 4 years.

And, you could only take these courses from instructors approved by the Department of Public Safety (DPS). Even though it was not part of the law, DPS also decreed, via administrative "rulings," that training had an expiration date and could only be conducted in Arizona.

The same year that the permit system was created (1994), the appellate courts ruled in two decisions that "concealed" is in the eye of the observer. If a firearm in your vehicle could not be seen from outside the vehicle, it was concealed. If your openly carried firearm was not visible to an observer, it could be interpreted as concealed.

The only sure way to carry openly or in your vehicle, without breaking the law, was to obtain a CCW permit.

Then, in 1997 the legislature, at the urging of law enforcement, declared that you no longer had the right of "innocent until proven guilty" in a self-defense situation. The burden of proof was now on you to prove your innocence—after you admitted to the "crime."

Firearms preemption was Balkanized. Cities like Tucson were able to ban firearms, worn by law-abiding citizens, from their parks.

The disintegration of Arizona's right to bear arms seemingly went unnoticed. Longtime residents remembered the "good old days" when it seemed everyone wore a gun, and didn't seem to be aware that things were different now. People moving to Arizona from states with restrictive gun laws were happy that they would be "allowed" to carry a firearm. They confused "permission" with "freedom."

There were those of us who decided it was time to restore what had been lost. What began as online discussions became face-to-face strategy meetings, which led to formally organizing in 2005. That same year, we experienced success at the legislature—the first improvement in the CCW training requirements since they were created in 1994.

As our success grew, so did our membership. It took a few years for the legislature to realize we weren't a passing fad and that we are "the" gun lobby in Arizona fighting every year for YOUR right to bear arms.

Highlights of our accomplishments are on reverse side of this brochure. You can find a complete list of what we've accomplished at our website.

## CAN WE COUNT ON YOU?

Join us in our fight for YOUR freedom!  
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**ARIZONA CITIZENS  
DEFENSE LEAGUE**

***Protecting Your Freedom***

## AzCDL Legislative Goals

AzCDL believes that the emphasis of gun laws should be on criminal misuse and that law-abiding citizens should be able to own and carry firearms unaffected by unnecessary laws or regulations. Towards that end, we are pursuing the following legislative improvements:

- ✓ "Freedom to Carry" – Restore and protect the right of law-abiding citizens to carry a firearm openly or discreetly anywhere they have a right to be.
- ✓ Fewer restrictions on the lawful carrying of firearms on Public property (buildings, parks, etc.).
- ✓ "Restaurant Carry" – The ability of law-abiding citizens to dine out while armed.
- ✓ Strengthening and preservation of the right of presumed innocence in self-defense situations.
- ✓ Strong State Preemption – Firearms laws should be consistent throughout the State.
- ✓ Liability responsibility for property owners who ban firearms.
- ✓ Continued improvements to CCW laws.

***We never rest!*** Every legislative session our lobbyists are at the State Capitol fighting for your rights! Between sessions we are working on the next year's legislative proposals.

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