

Accomplishments



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 following legislation

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.

Because of our accomplishments, Guns & Ammo magazine rated Arizona as the #1 state for gun owners for six years running since 2013.

Additionally, AzCDL has received awards for our activism at the Gun Rights Policy Conferences in 2006, 2008, 2010, 2015, 2018 and 2019.

Join AzCDL Today!

Apply online at www.AzCDL.org



or call (623) 242-9086 for an application.