



## Indiana: Carrying Handguns in Public with No Permit

- ❑ **Bottom Line:** The gun lobby is pushing a proposal in Indiana that would let people carry loaded handguns in public, openly or concealed, without a permit. Eliminating Indiana's handgun carry license requirement would lower the bar for who may carry handguns in public, and would let dangerous people legally carry loaded handguns in crowded town centers and on city streets. Lawmakers should put the safety of their constituents first and reject permitless carry in Indiana.
- ❑ **The vast majority of states require that a person get a permit before carrying a concealed gun in public.**
  - In the vast majority of US states, including Indiana, a person must have a permit to carry a concealed, loaded handgun in public. These laws ensure that core public safety standards are preserved when people carry guns in public places.
  - Permitless carry bills seek to repeal these important public safety laws, and allow people to carry concealed guns in public without a permit or safety training.
  - **Eighty-eight percent** of Americans think that a person should get a permit before carrying a concealed handgun in public.<sup>1</sup>
- ❑ **Permitless carry would dramatically lower the bar for who can carry a handgun in public in Indiana—to include dangerous people with histories of violent or emotionally unstable behavior, weapons offenders, and people who abuse alcohol or drugs.**
  - **Violent and emotionally unstable people:** Under current Indiana law, law enforcement deny handgun carry licenses to people who have a propensity for violent or emotionally unstable conduct.<sup>2</sup> But permitless carry would strip law enforcement of this authority, and allow these dangerous people to legally carry loaded handguns throughout the state.
  - **Weapons offenders:** Under current Indiana law, law enforcement deny handgun carry licenses to people who have been convicted of certain weapons offenses.<sup>3</sup> But permitless carry would strip law enforcement of this authority, and allow weapons offenders to legally carry loaded handguns throughout the state.
  - **Alcohol and drug abusers:** Under current Indiana law, law enforcement deny handgun carry licenses to people who have records of abusing alcohol or drugs.<sup>4</sup> But permitless carry would strip law enforcement of this authority, and allow alcohol and drug abusers to legally carry loaded handguns throughout the state.
  - **No background check:** The vast majority of US states require a criminal background check before a person can get a permit and carry a concealed handgun. Under current Indiana law, applicants for handgun carry licenses must pass criminal history records checks to ensure that they are not a felon, domestic abuser, person with dangerous mental illness, or otherwise legally prohibited from having guns.<sup>5</sup> But permitless carry would remove this important safeguard and allow people who have never passed a criminal background check to legally carry loaded handguns throughout the state.

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<sup>1</sup> Strategies 360 Survey, March 2015.

<sup>2</sup> Burns Ind. Code Ann. § 35-47-1-7(6).

<sup>3</sup> Burns Ind. Code Ann. § 35-47-1-7(8).

<sup>4</sup> Burns Ind. Code Ann. § 35-47-1-7(5).

<sup>5</sup> Burns Ind. Code Ann. § 35-47-2-3(c).