



Bans on Guns in Polling Places

No updates required since May 7, 2025

Background

The 2020 election cycle saw an alarming increase in reports of intimidation against voters and election officials. Guns at polling places, even if not used to commit violence, can be used to intimidate voters and election officials, as evidenced by our country's long and fraught history of political violence, often targeted at Black voters and other historically disenfranchised groups. Combined with the marked rise in threats to election officials and violent rhetoric around elections, the proliferation of firearms in our country represents an increasing danger for everyone participating in the voting process. There is currently no federal law prohibiting the possession of firearms in polling places, and therefore these policy decisions are left to the states. Our map distinguishes between states with total prohibitions on guns in polling places, and states with partial bans. Partial bans have exceptions for either open or concealed carry of firearms.

Scoring

- State has a total prohibition against guns in polling places, 1 point
- State has a partial prohibition against guns in polling places, ½ point
- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places, 0 points

Summary Table

| Category | Number | List |
|--|-----------|---|
| State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places | 25 states | Alabama Alaska Arkansas Idaho Indiana Iowa Kansas Kentucky Maine Minnesota Montana Nevada New Hampshire North Carolina North Dakota Oklahoma Oregon Pennsylvania Rhode Island |



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| | | |
|---|---------------------|---|
| | | South Dakota Tennessee Utah West Virginia Wisconsin Wyoming |
| State has a total prohibition on guns in polling places | 16 states & D.C. | Arizona California Colorado Delaware D.C. Florida Georgia Hawaii Louisiana Maryland Massachusetts New Jersey New York South Carolina Texas Virginia Vermont |
| State has a partial prohibition on guns in polling places | 9 states | Connecticut Illinois Michigan Missouri Mississippi Nebraska New Mexico Ohio Washington |



State-by-State Sources and More Detail

Alabama (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Alaska (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Arizona (1)

- State has a total prohibition against guns in polling places ([ARS § 13-3102\(A\)\(11\)](#)).

Arkansas (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

California (1)

- State has a total prohibition against guns in polling places ([CA Election Code § 18544\(a\)](#)).

Colorado (1)

- State has a total prohibition against guns in polling places ([Colo. Rev. Stat. § 1-13-724](#)).

Connecticut (1/2)

- State has a partial prohibition on guns in polling places ([Conn. Gen. Stat. § 29-35](#)).

Delaware (1)

- State has a total prohibition on guns in polling places ([Del. Code. Ann. tit. 15, § 1457A](#)).

D.C. (1)

- Has a total prohibition against guns in polling places ([DC ST § 7-2509.07\(a\)\(5\)](#)).

Florida (1)

- State has a total prohibition against guns in polling places ([FRS § 790.06\(12\)\(a\)6](#)).

Georgia (1)

- State has a total prohibition against guns in polling places ([Ga. Code Ann. § 16-11-127\(b\)\(7\)](#)).

Hawaii (1)

- State has a total prohibition on guns in polling places ([Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 134-A\(11\)](#)).

Idaho (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.



Illinois (1/2)

- State has a partial prohibition on guns in polling places ([720 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/24-1\(a\)\(10\)](#)).

Indiana (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Iowa (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Kansas (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Kentucky (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Louisiana (1)

- State has a total prohibition against guns in polling places ([LRS 18: § 461.7\(C\)\(3\)](#)).

Maine (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Maryland (1)

- State has a total prohibition on guns in polling places ([Md. Code Ann., Crim. Law § 4-111\(d\)](#)).

Massachusetts (1)

- State has a total prohibition on guns in polling places ([MA HB 4885](#) (2024)).

Michigan (1/2)

- State has a partial prohibition on guns in polling places ([MI HB 4128](#) (2024)).

Minnesota (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Mississippi (1/2)

- State has a partial prohibition against guns in polling places ([MCA § 45-9-101\(13\)](#)).

Missouri (1/2)

- State has a partial prohibition against guns in polling places ([MRS § 571.107.1\(2\)](#)).



Montana (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Nebraska (1/2)

- State has a partial prohibition on guns in polling places ([Neb. Rev. Stat. § 28-1202.01](#)).

Nevada (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

New Hampshire (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

New Jersey (1)

- State has a total prohibition on guns in polling places ([2022 AB 4769](#)).

New Mexico (1/2)

- State has a partial prohibition against guns in polling places ([NM SB 5 \(2024\)](#)).

New York (1)

- State has a total prohibition on guns in polling places ([N.Y. Penal Law § 265.01-e\(2\)\(q\)](#)).

North Carolina (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

North Dakota (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Ohio (1/2)

- State has a partial prohibition against guns in polling places. The state bans concealed and open carry of firearms, but these restrictions only apply to poll observers ([ORC § 3505.21\(B\)](#)).

Oklahoma (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Oregon (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places

Pennsylvania (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.



Rhode Island (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

South Carolina (1)

- State has a total prohibition against guns in polling places ([SC ST § 23-31-215\(M\)\(3\)](#)).

South Dakota (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Tennessee (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Texas (1)

- State has a total prohibition against guns in polling places ([Texas Penal Code § 46.03\(a\)\(2\)](#)).

Utah (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Vermont (1)

- State has a total prohibition on guns in polling places ([SB 209](#) (2024)).

Virginia (1)

- State has a total prohibition on guns in polling places ([Va. Code Ann. §§ 24.2-604\(a\)](#); 24.2-671; 24.2-802.1).

Washington (1/2)

- State has a partial prohibition on guns in polling places ([WA HB 1630](#) (2022)).

West Virginia (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Wisconsin (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.

Wyoming (0)

- State has no clear prohibition on guns in polling places.



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