



Governor Scott Walker and state republicans trash Constitutional Carry. Do they work for the police, or for you?

If there were any lingering doubters left contemplating the fairness of the failing grade issued to Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker by WGO (issued even before he was elected as a result of his failure to answer a simple gun rights survey), then the Governor's actions in the last couple weeks ought to have taken care of any stubborn holdouts. Or so we should hope.

For months on end my staff and I attempted to get a straight answer from Walker's office on the question of Constitutional Carry, and each time we were met with the same robotic stonewalling. "Governor Walker has said he will sign a concealed carry bill that makes it to his desk," said the gatekeepers. "Governor Walker has said he will sign a concealed carry bill that makes it to his desk," they said, again. It almost seemed as if they were repeating themselves.

Indeed, but what about Constitutional Carry? We got our answer just last week as WGO and the Wisconsin Campaign

Walker's F-Grade Well-Deserved

By Corey Graff, Executive Director

for Liberty turned up grassroots pressure on SB93 — the no-permit "Constitutional Carry" bill authored by State Senator Pam Galloway — and state media began to report that state legislators were "leaning toward Constitutional Carry." It was then that Walker swooped out of the clouds and took a boot to the face of liberty. Just in time, this hero of big government and do-gooder for the emerging police state ripped your right to bear arms from the jaws of victory.

According to WEAU-13 news Eau Claire, "Walker issued a statement Friday saying any bill that reaches his desk should include a permit and training."

And there you have it: Scott Walker loses the respect of gun owners as he — ignoring tens of thousands of WGO member petitions, phone calls and e-mails delivered to his office — snuggles up to anti-gun police organizations while knifing gun owners in the back.

Constitutional Carry Fight Just Beginning

Yes, I know the institutional gun lobby initially gave lip service to SB93 — which, at the time of this writing has magically morphed into the NRA's Personal Protection Act (PPA) — and they claim any concealed carry bill is a step in the right direction.

They also assert that in nearly every other state where Constitutional Carry has passed, it is always preceded by acceptance of a permit

bill, paving the way like the Lewis and Clark of gun rights. But there's a problem with this excuse: Those states don't boast majorities or a coveted super-trifecta of newly-elected republicans. It's one thing to argue for incrementalism when you're politically outgunned; it's another thing to preemptively concede the battle when you're in power, which is precisely what state republicans have done by taking Constitutional Carry off the table.

As of this writing, I expect the permit-to-carry bill to pass, but the real test is what happens afterward when things quiet down. That's when state politicians will tell gun owners to shut up and go away, "we gave you your carry bill," they will say. And many will.

But not us. You see, the fire for Constitutional Carry has already been lit. The people have gotten a taste for the political feasibility of liberty only to have it yanked away not by anti-gun democrats, but by republicans who are working for state police rather than for them. What that means for Walker, and the other F-rated big-government anti-gun republicans in the Wisconsin legislature, is this: If you fought against Constitutional Carry, your F-rating is well-deserved, a fact that will not be lost on voters in upcoming elections. 

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Mission

To restore and defend the right to keep and bear arms through on-target strategy, and to hold accountable all those who surrender that right through compromise.



Constitutional Concealed Carry Derailed By State Republicans

Madison, Wis. — In email alerts issued over the past several weeks, Wisconsin Gun Owners (WGO) warned Governor Scott Walker and Assembly Speaker Jeff Fitzgerald (R) were conspiring to sell out Constitutional Carry. Just last week, Governor Walker showed his true colors and the state legislature fell in lockstep by turning SB93 — the no-permit Constitutional Carry bill — into one requiring permits and training, at Walker's insistence.



WGO Executive Director Corey Graff testifies in favor of Constitutional Carry, SB93, at a public hearing held in Wausau on May 12.

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CCW Assembly Hearing: Sham Lip-Service Party Held at State Capital

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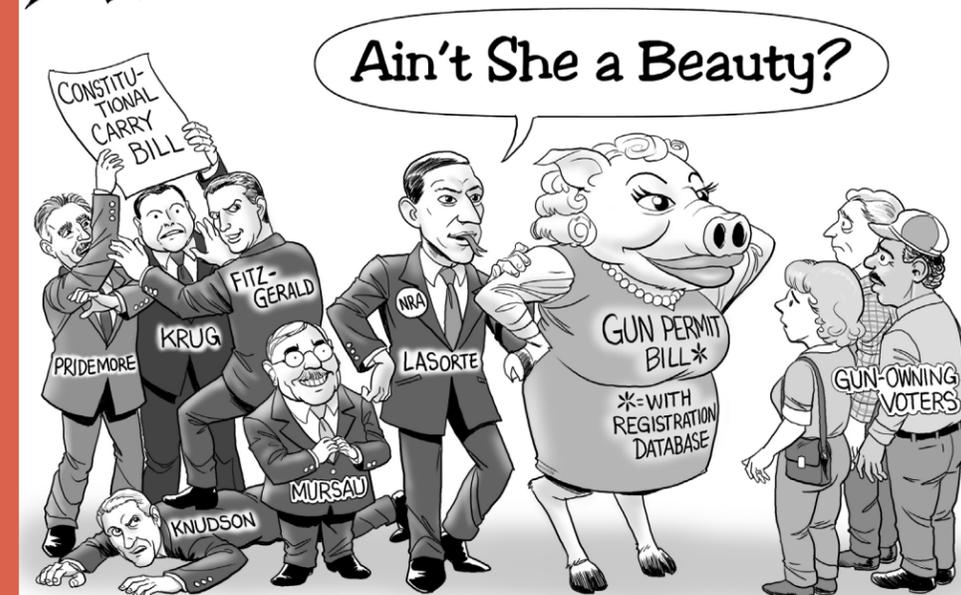
"Walker issued a statement Friday saying any bill that reaches his desk should include a permit and training."

— WEAU-13 News

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Despite republicans taking control of Wisconsin's legislature in the Nov. 2 mid-term elections, no commitment on Constitutional Carry (concealed carry with no permit system) was issued from Governor-elect Scott Walker (R). Instead, the governor harpooned Constitutional Carry against the wishes of gun owners when he went public on June 3, 2011 with a demand for the legislature to bring him a permit bill.

The newly-elected legislature — where republicans now control the assembly and state senate — has breathed new life into growing momentum in Wisconsin to by-pass a “Shall-Issue” concealed carry law in favor of one modeled after Vermont's or Alaska's laws.

If successful, the reform would mean anyone who may legally purchase a firearm may legally carry it. Similar legislation was passed in Arizona this year, and several other states — Texas, Utah and Iowa — are on the cusp of rolling back permit-to-carry requirements.

While WGO has been in contact with Governor Walker's press secretary, Cullen Werwie, Walker refused to comment on Constitutional Carry until late last week when WEAU-13 news Eau Claire reported, “Walker issued a statement Friday saying any bill that reaches his desk should include a permit and training” (*Walker: Concealed carry needs permit, training 6/3/11*).



WGO Executive Director Corey Graff discusses Constitutional Carry with State Senator Pam Galloway at the public hearing held in Wausau. Galloway, who authored SB93, Constitutional Carry, is studying the WGO flyer, which was given to everyone in attendance. “I’m glad I’m on the right side of this issue!” she said.

Walker did earn an F rating due to his failure to answer the WGO candidate survey, which asks candidates their position on no-permit carry. The survey was re-issued to Walker giving him the opportunity to tell gun owners his views, but he has not responded.

Meanwhile, five organizations — Wisconsin Campaign for Liberty, Gun Owners of America (GOA), National Association for Gun Rights (NAGR), Wisconsin Carry, Inc., and the United States Concealed Carry Association (USCCA) — have led the push by stating their support for Constitutional Carry.

“Given how the elections turned out, asking the Wisconsin legislature for a “shall-issue” concealed carry bill will be like kissing your sister,” wrote Tim Schmidt, president of

the United States Concealed Carry Association.

Wisconsin Carry, Inc. has reported that the Wisconsin Republican Party has adopted no-permit carry into its official platform.

Divide and Conquer at Public Hearings

On Thursday, May 12, two public hearings were scheduled for two different carry bills. AB126 was the assembly permit-to-carry bill heard in Madison at 10:30 am, while SB90 its Senate version, was heard in Wausau before the State Senate Committee on the Judiciary at noon.

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WGO and Concealed Carry

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While many gun owners assumed the permit bill, AB126/SB90 (as of press time now SB93) is a “step in the right direction,” WGO reminded them it includes fees (a gun tax) and a registration list of licensees maintained as a criminal database by the Department of Justice.

“Do you support new taxes, bigger government and gun registration?” asked WGO.

Anti-Gun Police Chiefs Back Permit Bill?

According to a story in the Wausau News Herald (*Galloway introduces concealed gun bill*, May 4, 2011), “Wausau Police Chief Jeff Hardel said he doesn't support concealed carry.”

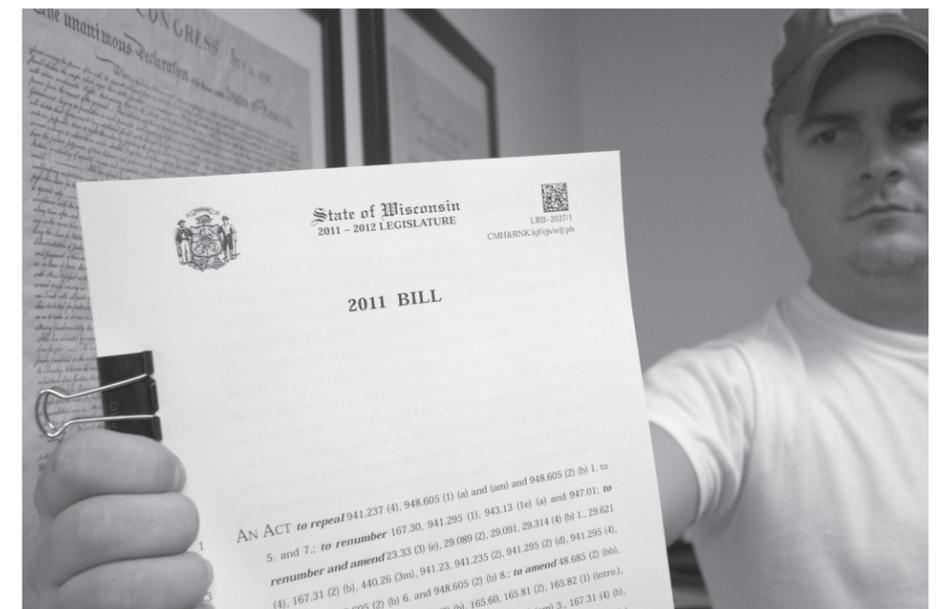
“The DOJ would maintain a database of license holders and police officers would be able to access it to see if someone is carrying a firearm legally”

He goes on to say how much he dislikes Constitutional rights: “Overall, I think you'll find law enforcement doesn't support (concealed carry).

“But if it's going to pass,” said the Chief, “then I just think we need to have a proper system in place.” “...A proper system in place.”

Translation: An anti-gun police chief who doesn't respect your right to self-defense, or the Constitution, will support a “proper system.”

By “proper system” is meant



Two concealed carry bills were introduced — one a permit bill, the old Personal Protection Act from the days of Jim Doyle, and the other Constitutional Carry. WGO says the tactic allowed some republicans to give lip service to Constitutional Carry while ramming the permit bill into law.

taking a blow torch to the Second Amendment by turning a right into a privilege by permit, guilty-until-proven-innocent Brady-style background checks, fees (new gun tax), and gun owner registration — providing DOJ (under which works the anti-gun BATFE) a list of everyone who carries.

“Does this sound like a step in the right direction?” asked WGO.

Darling & JFC Ram Training and Permits

On June 9, the Joint Finance Committee, co-chaired by State Senator Alberta Darling (R-8) — notorious F-rated anti-gun compromiser — defied the wishes of gun owners when her committee turned SB93 into a permit bill, and tacked on the requirement for mandatory training.

“Wednesday, JFC co-chair Alberta Darling told 27 News she would also like to see a bill with training

and permit requirements,” reported WQOW-18 Eau Claire News.

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Photo by WGO Staff

Anti-gun State Senator Fred Risser (D) appeared to babble incoherently as pro-gun activists shut down his attempts to formulate an opposing argument.

Castle Doctrine Self-Defense Bill Introduced

By David Smail



Photo by WGO Staff

The author testifies for Constitutional Carry before the State Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

All but one state has granted some form of concealed carry and a growing number of states have returned to full Constitutional freedom in the right of unfringed Constitutional Carry. Yet there is another movement sweeping across our land that should also cause great rejoicing. At this time, 38 states have some level of Castle Doctrine self-defense law. While some are more comprehensive than others, all are of significant benefit.

Self-Defense From Frivolous Prosecution

If you're not familiar with the Castle Doctrine right of Self-Defense, a very basic description provides immunity from prosecution for an act of self-defense for any person who uses deadly force to stop an aggressor's attack who has illegally entered his residence. Often this immunity also protects from civil lawsuits which can cause the defender great expense in legal defense and awarded judgments even if the defender was found innocent by reason of self-defense. Many states expand this immunity to other locations in addition to the residence, i.e. on one's property;

in one's business; and in one's vehicle. More comprehensive laws include "any place you may legally be" when attacked. Usually any duty to retreat from the attacker is removed and a defender may "stand his ground."

While the term "Castle Doctrine" sounds strange to our ears, this situation has come about because of the ongoing attack against a property owner's right to defend his life and property with force when necessary. Our Founding Fathers would have considered it an unbearable infringement upon their right of life and property to be required to retreat and flee from an aggressor.

Yet the courts of the last fifty years have — by ignoring and reinterpreting the Constitution — granted greater protection to the attacker than are granted to the one attacked. The right of deadly force to protect one's life and freedoms was first granted by Almighty God as

expressed in Exodus 22:2. "If a thief be found breaking in and be smitten that he die, there shall no blood be shed for him." If the thief be caught in the daytime, he must make full restitution or be sold (into slavery) for his theft.

Early English common law firmly upheld the principle of Castle Doctrine. In 1758 the noted English Jurist William Blackstone wrote concerning the Laws of England, "The law of England has so particular and tender a regard to the immunity of a man's house, that it stiles it his Castle, and will never suffer it to be violated with immunity ... For this reason no doors can in general be broken open to execute any civil process." (Even to the

agents of the crown who attempted to enter without the proper warrant.) Our country's founders realized the wisdom of English common law and made it the foundation of our early system of law.

The foundation for the principle of Castle Doctrine and the fabric of our system of law was based upon two eternal principles. (1) The Sovereignty of the individual citizen. Note: the sovereignty of every level of American government depends upon the basic sovereignty of the individual citizen for its delegated sovereignty granted by each individual citizen in union with other sovereign citizens. Declaration of Independence, "That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." (2) The right of private property: United States

"Our Founding Fathers would have considered it an unbearable infringement upon their right of life and property to be required to retreat and flee from an aggressor."

Constitution Fourth amendment. Note: from this right flows every other right, even the sustenance of life itself.

Take courage fellow citizens.

The pendulum of freedom is swinging back from the rights of the law breakers and violent attacker to the rights of the law-abiding and conscientious citizen. Call your legislators to support AB69 and SB79 with the inclusion of protection "any place you may legally be." 

David Smail is a member of Marinette County A.C.E. and the Marinette County Republican Party

WGO and Concealed Carry

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Also heard in Wausau was SB93, the no-permit bill, which would have ushered in Constitutional Carry with the option of getting a permit for reciprocity purposes.

WGO testified in favor of SB93, and handed out a flyer for information on the bait-and-switch pulled on gun owners by the institutional gun lobby and anti-gun republicans in the assembly.

"Our veterans did not fight in foreign wars for privileges," said Corey Graff, Executive Director of WGO. "They fought for rights. For freedom. For liberty. If you don't understand this basic concept, you're probably not qualified to be representing We the People."

In an e-mail alert issued before the hearings, WGO reported that the Madison heading "presents you with a false dilemma: Support a bad carry bill, or publicly oppose 'concealed carry. This is a mockery. State politicians

think they can divide-and-conquer gun owners — driving permit-to-carry supporters to Madison and pushing those who support Constitutional Carry up to Wausau.

"We recommend attending to show your support for Constitutional Carry, despite the fact that republican leadership only allowed the permit bill."

Reporting that a backroom deal had been struck, WGO alerted gun owners that both bills would be allowed to be introduced in the state senate — but the real bill that leadership was pushing (ie. not actively fighting against) was the permit bill.

"We believe this gives the NRA and Rep. Jeff Mursau (R-36) in particular the opportunity to give lip service to Constitutional Carry, while actively working to ram a permit bill into law. It allows them to speak out of both sides of their mouth," the alert said.

Constitutional Carry legislation was not given a hearing in the assembly. According to inside sources,



Photo by WGO Staff

State Senator Rich Zipperer chairs the State Senate Committee on Judiciary, and heard overwhelming positive testimony from citizens on Constitutional Carry, SB93. A surprising number of gun owners said the notion of a permit to exercise rights was offensive to them.

Assembly leader Jeff Fitzgerald (R) and the republican establishment was using every procedural trick in the book to block Constitutional Carry.

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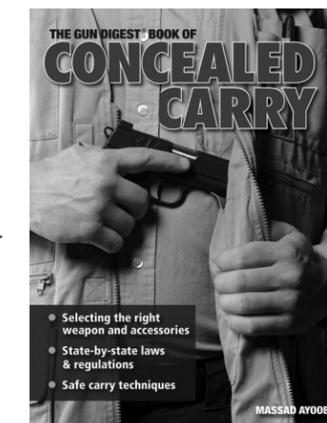


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CCW Assembly Hearing: Sham Lip-Service Party Held at State Capital

WGO Staff Report

Madison, Wis. — Despite attempts by neocons to conceal the truth from gun owners, Constitutional Carry was the phrase of the day during the May 12 Wisconsin State Assembly committee hearing in Madison on licensed concealed carry, thanks to activists from

Party (with the exception of pro-constitutional carry Representatives Scott Krug and Dean Knutson) proved to be the enemies of freedom and limited government despite their deceptive rhetoric to the contrary.

Wisconsin Gun Owners and the Wisconsin Campaign for Liberty.

The room was packed to overflowing

when the proceedings began at 10:30 with two plus hours of testimony from various police chiefs and the NRA lobbyist.

Most of the cops were for licensed carry, with the Dane County sheriff being vehemently opposed. As usual, the NRA mouthpiece was a true neocon in his vigorous support of “Mother, may I?” carry.

False Dilemma: Constitutional Carry Not On the Table

Public testimony was definitely in favor of some form of concealed carry. Some people who signed up as anti-AB126 (especially Pastor Richard Church of Campaign for Liberty) eloquently laid out the constitutional case against licenses, permits, government lists and fees.

Observant people could watch the pro-permit control freak types on the Assembly committee getting angry as their script wasn't being followed. As usual, the Republican

“Observant people could watch the pro-permit control freak types on the Assembly committee getting angry as their script wasn't being followed.”

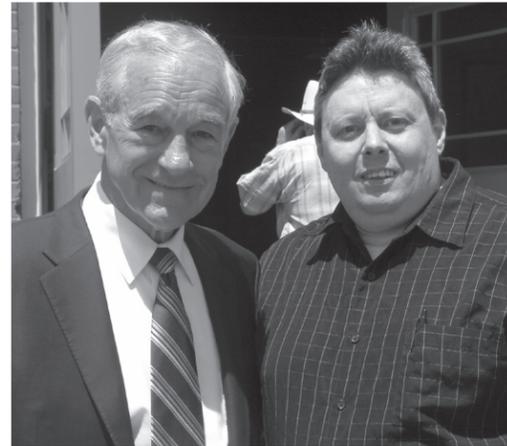
It was obvious that many of the pro-permit people had never thought — or had never even heard of — Constitutional Carry, and more

than a few light bulbs went on in the minds of decent but uneducated (until the public hearing) pro-gun people.

The Assembly committee didn't want to let those of us who declared support for Constitutional Carry speak, but several of us insisted on having our say, and we were able to testify late in the day. One gentleman who spoke in favor of licensed carry also told the Assembly that he was now in favor of Constitutional Carry.

This was a classic republican trick — choose the lesser of two evils. While it's worked for them for decades, it failed this time. A large percentage of those in attendance were Constitutional Carry supporters, and we gained some converts to the cause.

Most importantly, Wisconsin Gun Owners and other freedom activists are starting to define the terms and frame the argument. The phrase Constitutional Carry is now



WGO Director Teno Groppi (r) meets with Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) in Iowa.

widely known and uttered by the media in Wisconsin. If free carry is constitutional, then licensed carry is unconstitutional by definition and reality.

Even though the Assembly bills in favor of Constitutional Carry were blocked by Republican leader Jeff Fitzgerald, this is no time to ease off the pressure, as gun owners regroup to keep pushing for the issue. While Assembly Republicans along with some gun owners are unconvincingly trying to sell licensed carry as some kind of significant progress, it would be a prime example of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory — a trick that the Republican Party has mastered for many years.



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WGO and Concealed Carry

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Despite the fact that all four of the democrats on that committee still voted against the bill with Darling's preemptive surrender, the proposal passed 12-4, sending it to the general legislature for a vote.

“The state Department of Justice could charge people applying for permits up to \$37 plus \$13 for a background check. Applicants would also have to provide proof of firearms training. Training could include a firearms safety course, a state hunter's safety course or documentation that an applicant participated in a shooting competition.”

Yes, SB93 Creates a Gun Owner Registration List

“The DOJ would maintain a database of license holders and police officers would be able to access it to see if someone is carrying a firearm legally,” reported WQO8 News.

Given that SB93 went from a true return to the Second Amendment right to bear arms, to a massive expansion in government control over gun owners, it's no surprise that State Rep. Scott Suder (R-Abbotsford) stepped forward to praise the compromise.

“This legislation will seriously enhance public safety and allow Wisconsinites to exercise their Second Amendment rights, and I commend Representative Jeff Mursau (R-Crivitz) and Senator Pam Galloway (R-Wausau) for working to make this bill a reality for law-abiding gun owners, sportsmen and citizens statewide.”



Over ten thousand WGO member petitions were delivered to Governor Scott Walker and members of the legislature in bright blaze-orange personalized envelopes that read, “SUPPORT Constitutional Carry!”

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