



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF MISSOURI  
Legislative Update  
March 27, 2018

**Census 2020**  
**Census Citizenship Question Will Result in Inaccurate Count**

*LWV Will Work to Reverse Decision*

Washington, DC – The League of Women Voters president **Chris Carson** issued the following statement in response to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross' decision to include a question pertaining to citizenship in the 2020 Census:

"Including a question about citizenship in the 2020 Census will damage the chances for an accurate count of our country's population. This unprecedented change to the way we count the number people living in the United States is a betrayal of the idea that in America, every person counts.

"Make no mistake: this decision isn't about improving demographic data on citizenship. It's designed to frighten immigrants—citizens and noncitizens alike—so they won't participate in the Census. It's a blatant political maneuver meant to disenfranchise these groups and deny them equal representation. So Secretary Ross' claim that this question helps enforce the Voting Rights Act is preposterous. Indeed, including this question on the Census undermines the rights of eligible voters and threatens a process vital to our democracy.

"For more than 200 years, the Census has collected information about the geographic distribution of our population so we can provide representation and invest in our communities equitably. A fair and accurate Census is essential to the way the federal government allocates resources for infrastructure, education, and transportation. Census data is critical when determining resources for fire, water and trash collection. Without a complete count of our nation's people, businesses will not have the tools to make sound investment decisions that keep our communities thriving.

"Adding this question to the Census now is not only unnecessary and jeopardizes the accuracy of the report, but it comes at a huge financial expense. Taxpayers should not be held responsible for the time and cost of changing the forms and making the report less accurate.

"The United States Constitution mandates an accurate count of all people living in the United States – not all citizens. Non-citizens are an integral part of our economy and need to be included in the 2020 Census to paint a complete picture of our great country. The clock is ticking toward 2020. We call on Congress to take action and correct this issue before it is too late."

## Firearms Legislation in Missouri

We had previously sent information about gun legislation, but we are providing additional detail in this report to use to contact state legislators. Following the massacre at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas School in Florida in February and the “March for Our Lives” held around the world this last weekend, the subject of firearms safety is at the top of public discussion.

FYI: The policy statement summary on gun control of LWVUS is:

*“Protect the health and safety of citizens through limiting the accessibility and regulating the ownership of handguns and semi-automatic weapons. Support regulation of firearms for consumer safety.”*

**The following bills under consideration in the Missouri State Legislature related to expansion of guns and gun rights have all been passed out of committee but are not yet on a House calendar.**

### **[HB 1936](#) – The Carrying of Concealed Firearms**

This bill makes changes to the list of locations an individual can carry a concealed firearm within this state and the list of locations an individual with a concealed carry permit can carry a concealed firearm within the state. This bill also prohibits the state, political subdivisions, and public institutions of higher learning from imposing any policies or contractual requirements that would have the effect of prohibiting employees or students from the carrying of concealed firearms into locations where concealed carry is not otherwise prohibited by law. No changes have been made to the penalties for carrying a concealed firearm in locations prohibited under these sections.

This was passed by the General Laws Committee on February 26. It was referred to the Rules-Legislative Oversight Committee on February 28; a hearing in that committee has not been scheduled.

### **[HB1937](#) - Rep. Jered Taylor (R-Nixa) - **Prohibits municipalities from regulating open carry of firearms****

This bill prohibits any political subdivision from passing any ordinance which regulates the **open carrying** of firearms. Supporters say that the right to own firearms is a protected right and political subdivisions should not have the authority to restrict that right, including the ability to carry a firearm publicly.

This was voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws and voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee.

### **[HB1256](#) - Rep. Nick Shroer (R-O'Fallon) - **Restricting use of firearm tracking technology****

This bill states that the required use of electronic firearm tracking technology, with specified exceptions, will be unlawful. Any person violating these provisions is guilty of a class E felony. While there are currently no laws in Missouri that require the use of firearm tracking technology, this bill would prevent any political subdivision from instituting such a requirement.

This bill was voted Do Pass by the Standing Committee on General Laws and voted Do Pass by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee.

**HB1865** - Rep. Hill (R-Lake St. Louis) - **Allows guns in cars**

This bill allows a firearms owner to transport and store firearms in privately owned, locked vehicles in parking garages, lots, and parking spaces. Property owners, tenants, employers, and business entities are exempt from both civil and criminal liability for any occurrences involving these firearms and the entity may require firearms to be kept in a locked case and hidden from view if stored in a vehicle. Supporters say that this bill is necessary to ensure that Missourians can exercise their right to carry concealed weapons. If individuals want to carry concealed weapons and are barred from bringing their firearms into certain buildings, they need to be able to store their firearms in their vehicles. Those who oppose the bill say that a property owner should have control over their own property.

This bill was voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws and voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee.

**HB1326** - Rep. Steven Roberts (D-St. Louis City) - **Tax deduction for firearm training**

Beginning January 1, 2019, this bill authorizes an individual income tax deduction of up to \$150 per taxpayer for the cost of up to eight hours of firearm education and training courses or firearm safety courses that teach proper and safe firearm handling. The provisions of this bill will expire on December 31 six years after the effective date. Supporters say that the goal of this bill is to incentivize gun owners to get firearms training. SB 656 from 2016 changed the law so that individuals can carry concealed firearms without obtaining a concealed carry permit, thereby avoiding any firearms training requirements. Supporters believe there is a real benefit to obtaining such training which would impact more than just the individual carrying the gun. Those who oppose the bill say that should not be rewarding gun owners for being responsible. Training should be required before anyone can carry a concealed weapon.

This bill was voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on General Laws and voted "Do Pass" by the Rules- Legislative Oversight Committee.

**The following bills under consideration in the Missouri State Legislature related to limiting guns or ammunition have NOT been passed out of committee.**

**HB 1733** - Rep. Peter Merideth (D-St. Louis City) - **Repeals Stand Your Ground & Open Carry laws**

This bill repeals and modifies provisions passed in SB 656 (2016) relating to the duty to retreat, the concealed carry of firearms, and concealed carry permit training requirements.

This bill was heard by the General Laws Committee on February 27 but the motion to pass failed.

**HB2281** - Rep. Greg Razer (D-Kansas City) - **Background checks for all gun sales**

This bill requires all sales or transfers of firearms to be processed by a federally licensed firearms dealer who is first required to conduct a National Instant Criminal Background Check System background check to determine if the purchaser/transferee is legally barred from possessing a firearm. This bill does not require federally licensed dealers to ask for any additional information or take any additional steps beyond those actions currently required by federal law. This bill ensures that the information obtained by the dealer or submitted to the FBI cannot be imported into a searchable database.

This bill was heard by the General Laws Committee but the motion to pass failed.

**HB2081** – Rep. Stacey Newman (D-St. Louis) - **Restricting ammunition sales to minors (mirroring federal law).**

This bill makes it illegal to sell or give away a grenade or rocket launchers, a fully automatic weapon, such as a machine gun, or certain devices that increase the rate of fire of a firearm, such as devices commonly referred to as bump stocks and trigger cranks. The bill also makes it illegal to sell or give away firearm magazines holding more than 30 bullets. This bill was introduced but hasn't had a hearing.

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You may want to contact your state representative in regard to these bills as they may be sent to the House for a vote. A list of state representatives is at this link:

<https://www.house.mo.gov/MemberRoster.aspx>