

V. APPENDIX

Table 1: State Constitutional Gun-Rights Provisions

State	Constitutional Provision	Citation	Comment
Alabama	“That every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state.”	ALA. CONST. art. I, § 26.	Self-defense right explicit
Alaska	“A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The individual right to keep and bear arms shall not be denied or infringed”	ALASKA CONST. art. I, § 19.	Second Amendment language plus individual right explicit
Arizona	“The right of the individual citizen to bear arms in defense of himself or the state shall not be impaired, but nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing individuals or corporations to organize, maintain, or employ an armed body of men.”	ARIZ. CONST. art. II, § 26.	Self-defense right explicit
Arkansas	“The citizens of this State shall have the right to keep and bear arms, for their common defense.”	ARK. CONST. art. II, § 5.	“Common defense” provision
California	NO PROVISION		
Colorado	“The right of no person to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall be called in question; but nothing herein contained shall be construed to justify the practice of carrying concealed weapons.”	COLO. CONST. art. II, § 13.	Self-defense right explicit

State	Constitutional Provision	Citation	Comment
Connecticut	“Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state.”	CONN. CONST. art. I, § 15.	Self-defense right explicit
Delaware	“A person has the right to keep and bear arms for the defense of self, family, home and State, and for hunting and recreational use.”	DEL. CONST. art. I, § 20.	Self-defense right explicit
Florida	“The right of the people to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves and of the lawful authority of the state shall not be infringed, except that the manner of bearing arms may be regulated by law.”	FLA. CONST. art. I, § 8(a).	Self-defense right explicit
Georgia	“The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed, but the General Assembly shall have power to prescribe the manner in which arms may be borne.”	GA. CONST. art. I, § 1, ¶ 8.	Recognition of right without reference to militia, common defense, or self- defense
Hawaii	“A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”	HAW. CONST. art. I, § 17.	Second Amendment language

State	Constitutional Provision	Citation	Comment
Idaho	“The people have the right to keep and bear arms, which right shall not be abridged; but this provision shall not prevent the passage of laws to govern the carrying of weapons concealed on the person nor prevent the passage of legislation providing minimum sentences . . . nor prevent the passage of legislation providing penalties for the possession of firearms by a convicted felon”	IDAHO CONST. art. I, § 11.	Recognition of right without reference to militia, common defense, or self-defense
Illinois	“Subject only to the police power, the right of the individual citizen to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”	ILL. CONST. art. I, § 22.	Recognition of right without reference to militia, common defense, or self-defense
Indiana	“The people shall have a right to bear arms, for the defense of themselves and the State.”	IND. CONST. art. I, § 32.	Self-defense right explicit
Iowa	NO PROVISION		
Kansas	“A person has the right to keep and bear arms for the defense of self, family, home and state, for lawful hunting and recreational use, and for any other lawful purpose”	KAN. CONST. Bill of Rights § 4.	Self-defense right explicit, as well as other non-militia uses
Kentucky	“All men . . . have certain inherent and inalienable rights . . . [including] . . . [t]he right to bear arms in defense of themselves and of the State, subject to the power of the General Assembly to enact laws to prevent persons from carrying concealed weapons.”	KY. CONST. Bill of Rights § 1.	Self-defense right explicit

State	Constitutional Provision	Citation	Comment
Louisiana	“The right of each citizen to keep and bear arms shall not be abridged, but this provision shall not prevent the passage of laws to prohibit the carrying of weapons concealed on the person.”	LA. CONST. art. I, § 11.	Recognition of right without reference to militia, common defense, or self-defense
Maine	“Every citizen has a right to keep and bear arms and this right shall never be questioned.”	ME. CONST. art. I, § 16.	Recognition of right without reference to militia, common defense, or self-defense
Maryland	NO PROVISION		
Massachusetts	“The people have a right to keep and bear arms for the common defence. And as, in time of peace, armies are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be maintained without the consent of the legislature.”	MASS. CONST. pt. I, art. XVII.	“Common defense” provision
Michigan	“Every person has a right to keep and bear arms for the defense of himself and the state.”	MICH. CONST. art. I, § 6.	Self-defense right explicit
Minnesota	NO PROVISION		
Mississippi	“The right of every citizen to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person, or property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall not be called in question, but the legislature may regulate or forbid carrying concealed weapons.”	MISS. CONST. art. III, § 12.	Self-defense right explicit

State	Constitutional Provision	Citation	Comment
Missouri	“That the right of every citizen to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person and property, or when lawfully summoned in aid of the civil power, shall not be questioned; but this shall not justify the wearing of concealed weapons.”	MO. CONST. art. I, § 23.	Self-defense right explicit
Montana	“The right of any person to keep and bear arms in defense of his own home, person, and property, or in aid of the civil power when thereto legally summoned, shall not be called in question, but nothing herein contained shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons.”	MONT. CONST. art. II, § 12.	Self-defense right explicit
Nebraska	“All persons . . . have certain inherent and inalienable rights; among these . . . the right to keep and bear arms for security or defense of self, family, home, and others, and for lawful common defense, hunting, recreational use, and all other lawful purposes, and such rights shall not be denied or infringed by the state”	NEB. CONST. art. I, § 1.	Self-defense right explicit, as well as other non-militia uses
Nevada	“Every citizen has the right to keep and bear arms for security and defense, for lawful hunting and recreational use and for other lawful purposes.”	NEV. CONST. art. I, § 11(1).	Self-defense right explicit, as well as other non-militia uses
New Hampshire	“All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state.”	N.H. CONST. pt. I, art. 2-a.	Self-defense right explicit
New Jersey	NO PROVISION		

State	Constitutional Provision	Citation	Comment
New Mexico	“No law shall abridge the right of the citizen to keep and bear arms for security and defense, for lawful hunting and recreational use and for other lawful purposes, but nothing herein shall be held to permit the carrying of concealed weapons.”	N.M. CONST. art. II, § 6.	Self-defense right explicit, as well as other non-militia uses
New York	NO PROVISION		
North Carolina	“A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed”	N.C. CONST. art. I, § 30.	Second Amendment language
North Dakota	“All individuals . . . have certain inalienable rights, among which are . . . to keep and bear arms for the defense of their person, family, property, and the state, and for lawful hunting, recreational, and other lawful purposes, which shall not be infringed.”	N.D. CONST. art. I, § 1.	Self-defense right explicit, as well as other non-militia uses
Ohio	“The people have the right to bear arms for their defense and security; but standing armies, in time of peace, are dangerous to liberty, and shall not be kept up; and the military shall be in strict subordination to the civil power.”	OHIO CONST. art. I, § 4.	Self-defense right explicit

State	Constitutional Provision	Citation	Comment
Oklahoma	“The right of a citizen to keep and bear arms in defense of his home, person, or property, or in aid of the civil power, when thereunto legally summoned, shall never be prohibited; but nothing herein contained shall prevent the Legislature from regulating the carrying of weapons.”	OKLA. CONST. art. II, § 26.	Self-defense right explicit
Oregon	“The people shall have the right to bear arms for the defence (sic) of themselves, and the State, but the Military shall be kept in strict subordination to the civil power[.]”	OR. CONST. art. I, § 27.	Self-defense right explicit
Pennsylvania	“The right of the citizens to bear arms in defence of themselves and the State shall not be questioned.”	PA. CONST. art. I, § 21.	Self-defense right explicit
Rhode Island	“The right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”	R.I. CONST. art. I, § 22.	Recognition of right without reference to militia, common defense, or self- defense
South Carolina	“A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. As, in times of peace, armies are dangerous to liberty, they shall not be maintained without the consent of the General Assembly.”	S.C. CONST. art. I, § 20.	Second Amendment language
South Dakota	“The right of the citizens to bear arms of defense of themselves and the state shall not be denied.”	S.D. CONST. art. VI, § 24.	Self-defense right explicit

State	Constitutional Provision	Citation	Comment
Tennessee	“That the citizens of this State have a right to keep and to bear arms for their common defense; but the Legislature shall have power, by law, to regulate the wearing of arms with a view to prevent crime.”	TENN. CONST. art. I, § 26.	“Common defense” provision
Texas	“Every citizen shall have the right to keep and bear arms in the lawful defense of himself or the State; but the Legislature shall have power, by law, to regulate the wearing of arms, with the view to prevent crime.”	TEX. CONST. art. I, § 23.	Self-defense right explicit
Utah	“The individual right of the people to keep and bear arms for security and defense of self, family, others, property, or the state, as well as for other lawful purposes shall not be infringed; but nothing herein shall prevent the Legislature from defining the lawful use of arms.”	UTAH CONST. art. I, § 6.	Self-defense right explicit
Vermont	“That the people have a right to bear arms for the defence of themselves and the State— and as standing armies in the time of peace are dangerous to liberty, they ought not to be kept up; and that the military should be kept under strict subordination to and governed by the civil power.”	VT. CONST. ch. 1, art. XVI.	Self-defense right explicit

State	Constitutional Provision	Citation	Comment
Virginia	“That a well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state, therefore, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed”	VA. CONST. art. I, § 13.	“Militia” purpose, but variation from the Second Amendment language
Washington	“The right of the individual citizen to bear arms in defense of himself, or the state, shall not be impaired, but nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing individuals or corporations to organize, maintain or employ an armed body of men.”	WASH. CONST. art. I, § 24.	Self-defense right explicit
West Virginia	“A person has the right to keep and bear arms for the defense of self, family, home and state, and for lawful hunting and recreational use.”	W. VA. CONST. art. III, § 22.	Self-defense right explicit, as well as other non-militia uses
Wisconsin	“The people have the right to keep and bear arms for security, defense, hunting, recreation or any other lawful purpose.”	WIS. CONST. art. I, § 25.	Self-defense right explicit, as well as other non-militia uses
Wyoming	“The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and of the state shall not be denied.”	WYO. CONST. art. I, § 24.	Self-defense right explicit