

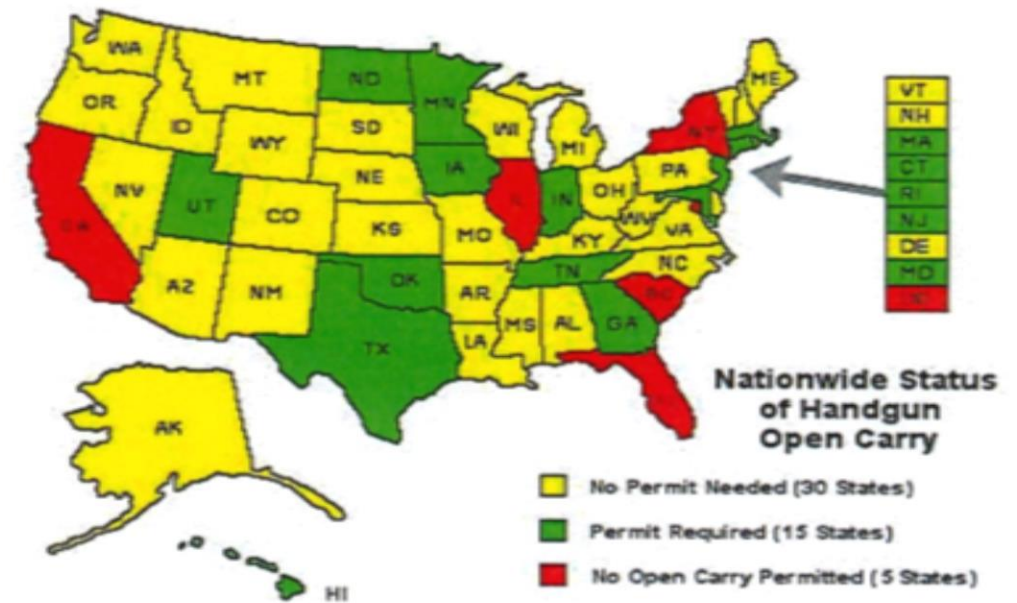


Texas House Bill 910:
***Open Carry and
Public Transportation***

- Effective January 1, 2016, House Bill 910 became law, **allowing licensed Texas gun owners the right to legally carry their holstered handgun in public.**

(Stores, businesses, buses, facilities w/ restrictions)

- This law allows Texas residents who have an existing concealed handgun license or someone who lawfully received a license in Texas to “open carry” or conceal carry.



45 States currently have open carry.
30 of them do not require permit/license.
**All 45 states have operating transit systems.*

- As a result of the new statewide law, licensed gun owners are allowed to bring their handgun onto public transit vehicles.

(This applies to VIA and all transit systems in Texas.)

- VIA employees must know how to properly interact with an “open carry” riders and customers.



CORPUS CHRISTI REGIONAL
TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY



“Need To Knows”...

- Operators/Supervisors cannot request to see an individual's *right to carry or concealed handgun license*. This can only be done by a sworn law enforcement officer (state-wide practice).
- Brandishing a gun, improper exhibition, threatening, being unsafe or careless, or gesturing in a malicious manner are all cause for potential criminal trespass or arrest by an officer.
- Actions creating a public disturbance mean an individual may be removed from the bus.
- Knowing the law and its restrictions will help to avoid any potential overreaction or unnecessary panic or disturbance when an “open carry” rider boards your vehicle.
- Suspicious behavior, as with all customers, will be reported by discreet onboard communication systems.
- If you feel the situation is urgent, discreetly contact the dispatcher and law enforcement will be dispatched (Transit Police/SAPD/Bexar County Sheriff).

The law states that a licensed “open carry” gun owner MUST:

1. Keep their firearm holstered at all times.
2. Open Carriers are required to either holster their weapon around the shoulder or on their belt.
3. Never touch/motion toward their weapon in an intimidating manner.



If a customer...

- **Expresses discomfort or fear to the operator, and suspicious/threatening behavior *has not been exhibited* by the open carry individual:**
The operator may offer the opportunity for the patron to get off at the next stop and catch the next available bus.

If a customer...

- **Expresses concern directly to the open carry individual, and the situation begins to escalate:**
The operator will stop the bus, contact the Dispatcher and report.
Either a Supervisor or Transit Police Officer will arrive, and communicate to the open carrier that a ride may be provided to them in order to get them to their destination (by Transit Police).



Every transit system in Texas is complying with open carry, which became effective on January 1, 2016.
Texas became the 45th state in the nation to have open carry.

“The Audit”

Until recently, those words meant pull out the files and documents for some man or woman to pour over to find opportunities for process or operational improvements. Now with the birth of the 1st and 2nd Amendment Audits by citizen groups, “The Audit” has taken on an entirely new look, feel and risk. . .









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