

WASHINGTON COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY

Washington County, Tennessee

October 28, 2025

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE REPEAL OF THE CRIMINAL IMPLICATIONS OF TENNESSEE CODE ANNOTATED § 39-17-1307 ("INTENT TO GO ARMED")

WHEREAS, Tennessee is recognized as a constitutional carry state, meaning that law-abiding citizens have the right to carry firearms in public without the requirement of a government-issued permit; and

WHEREAS, the legislative intent behind Tennessee's constitutional carry law was to ensure that responsible citizens may exercise their Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms without fear of prosecution for lawful carry; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Code Annotated § 39-17-1307(a)(1) currently states that "a person commits an offense who carries, with the intent to go armed, a firearm or a club," thereby retaining criminal implications inconsistent with the principle of constitutional carry; and

WHEREAS, this statutory structure effectively criminalizes the mere act of carrying a firearm with lawful intent and conditions law enforcement to assume probable cause that a crime is being committed upon observing any citizen carrying a firearm; and

WHEREAS, under current law, citizens are placed in the position of having to prove they qualify for a statutory exception or defense—contrary to the presumption of innocence and the spirit of both the U.S. and Tennessee Constitutions; and

WHEREAS, the United States Supreme Court, in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* (2022), affirmed that the Second and Fourteenth Amendments protect the individual's right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home; and

WHEREAS, the continued criminalization of the “intent to go armed” contradicts the intent of constitutional carry and imposes undue legal and constitutional burdens on Tennessee citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Republican Party Executive Committee:

1. Supports the full implementation of constitutional carry as established in Tennessee law;
2. Urges the Tennessee General Assembly to repeal Tennessee Code Annotated § 39-17-1307(a)(1) and eliminate the criminalization of the lawful intent to carry arms;
3. Affirms the right to keep and bear arms as guaranteed by the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 26 of the Tennessee Constitution;
4. Recognizes the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution (Article VI, Clause 2), which establishes federal law as the supreme law of the land and prohibits state laws that infringe upon constitutional rights;
5. Believes that Tennessee citizens deserve clarity, liberty, and limited government—and that all laws restricting lawful carry should be repealed to preserve those values.

Adopted this 28th day of October, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Washington County Republican Party Executive Committee