



## Office of the Will County Board

Herbert Brooks, Jr., Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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# Board urges Illinois to allow concealed carry

*Members debate role of county in taking up controversial issue*

JOLIET, IL- The Will County Board today approved a resolution supporting legislation allowing Illinois residents the right to carry concealed firearms. The resolution does not allow Will County residents the right to conceal carry, as the Illinois legislature must still pass a law. Illinois is the only state that does not allow citizens to carry concealed firearms in public, and faces a June 9th deadline to draft such a law.

“We had a healthy and open debate today about concealed carry,” said Speaker Herbert Brooks, Jr. “Not everyone agreed to this proposed change in Illinois law, but everyone did respect the democratic process that provides for discussion and deliberation about issues important to our constituents. I appreciate the thoughtful comments expressed by board members today, even though we did not all see eye to eye.”

The approved resolution states “the protection of the citizens of Will County, and their health, safety and welfare, is of paramount importance to the Will County Board.” It continues by urging the Illinois state legislature to enact a concealed carry law consistent with the decision rendered in the case of Moore v. Madigan. As a result of the decision, Illinois is to “craft a new gun law that will impose reasonable limitations, consistent with the public safety and the 2nd Amendment as interpreted in this opinion, on the carrying of guns in public.”

“This resolution supports what the federal appellate court has already ruled on,” said Republican Caucus Chair Jim Moustis (R-Frankfort). “Hopefully showing support will spur our legislators in Springfield to pass a law consistent with the court’s ruling.”

The resolution urges certain safeguards and rights, including that the Illinois State Police should issue licenses, prohibit the carrying of a handgun in certain locations, and establish reasonable qualifications for licensees. In addition, the board called for amending the Freedom of Information Act to prohibit the release of information about applicants for licenses and about license holders.

The board approved the resolution on a vote of 15 in favor, six against and two voting present. Democratic Caucus Chair Diane Zigrossi (D-Lockport) was one dissenting vote. “My opposition to this resolution is because this is a state issue and not a county issue,” said Zigrossi. “According to some of our local legislators, Will County’s support of this resolution would have no bearing on their ultimate decision.”

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