

STATE OF WISCONSIN
TOWN OF WASHINGTON, VILAS COUNTY
CODE OF ORDINANCES

**CHAPTER 25: TOWN OF WASHINGTON TOWN BUILDINGS WEAPONS
PROHIBITION ORDINANCE**

25.01 Title and Purpose

The title of this ordinance is the Town of Washington Town Buildings Weapons Prohibition Ordinance.

The purpose of this ordinance is to prohibit the carrying of firearms and weapons within buildings owned, occupied, or controlled by the Town of Washington to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the Town.

25.02 Authority

The town board has specific authority under Wisconsin Statutes §60.01(1), 60.22(1), 66.0107(2), 943.13(1m)(c)4, and 66.0409(2) to adopt this Town Buildings Weapons Prohibition Ordinance.

25.03 Definitions

- A. Carry means to go armed with.
- B. Weapon means an electric weapon as defined in Wis. Stat. §941.295(1c)(a), a billy club, bow, crossbow, slingshot, airgun, any device which a projectile may be launched of a type or at a speed that is likely to cause substantial bodily harm or worse, or any other object that meets the definition of a "dangerous weapon" as defined under Wis. Stat. §939.22(10) and Wis. Stat. §948.60.
- C. Firearm means a handgun, pistol, rifle of any caliber, shotgun of any gauge, or revolver of any caliber, or any weapon that acts by force of gunpowder whether loaded or unloaded.

25.04 Provisions

- A. The possession of weapons in the Town of Washington buildings is prohibited.
- B. No person shall have in his or her possession or carry any firearm or weapon within any town owned or leased buildings.
- C. Signs meeting the requirements of Wis. Stat. 943.13(2)(bm)1 at a minimum of 5 inches by 7 inches, which set forth the restriction on weapons shall be posted in a prominent place near all entrances to town owned or leased buildings. All signs shall be posted and maintained so that any individual entering the building can be reasonably expected to see the sign.

25.05 Exemptions

Except as otherwise provided, this ordinance shall not be construed to apply to the following persons while acting in their official capacity and within lawful authority:

- A. Any law enforcement officer in the performance of their duties.
- B. Any member of the U.S. Armed Forces or the National Guard in the performance of their duties.
- C. Any private security person as defined in Wis. Stat. §440.26(1m)(h) who meets all the requirements under Wis. Stat. §167.31(4)(a)(4) in the performance of their duties.
- D. Any person duly authorized by the Town Board to possess a firearm or weapon in a Town of Washington building.
- E. Any person who leases premises in the building.

25.06 Enforcement

This ordinance may be enforced by any law enforcement officer authorized to enforce the laws of the State of Wisconsin and additionally as provided in the Town of Washington Citation Ordinance.

25.07 Penalty Provision

The penalties under Wis. Stat. §943.13(1m) are adopted by reference.

Any person who fails to comply with the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, pay a forfeiture of \$100.00 plus court costs for the first offense, or \$200.00 plus court costs for all subsequent offenses.

25.08 Severability

If any provision of this ordinance or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are severable.

25.09 Adoption of Ordinance

This ordinance, adopted by a majority of the town board with a quorum present and voting and proper notice having been given, formally adopts the Town of Washington Town Buildings Weapons Prohibition Ordinance.

This ordinance repeals and replaces all previous Town of Washington Firearms and Weapons Ordinances.

25.10 Effective Date

The prohibitions set forth in this ordinance shall not be effective until signs meeting the requirements of Wis. Stat. §943.13(2)(bm)1 are posted prominently at all entrances of such buildings providing notice of said restrictions.

The Town Clerk shall properly post or publish this ordinance under §60.80, Wis. Stats.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption and posting or publication as provided by law.

Adopted this 9th day of February 2026.



Jim Egan, Town Chairperson

Attest:



Nancy Sobralski, Town Clerk

Published and/or posted this 10th day of February 2026.

Town of Washington Ordinance Amendment Record

Chapter 25: Town of Washington Town Buildings Weapons Prohibition Ordinance

Date	Article	Section	Amendment Summary
2-9-2026			New ordinance adopted