

GUNS ON THE BALLOT: VAN ORDEN VS. COOKE IN WI-03

DERRICK VAN ORDEN (R, INCUMBENT) VS. REBECCA COOKE (D)

The election for Wisconsin's 3rd Congressional District is set to be one of the most competitive in the country this November, and gun safety is on the ballot. In WI-03, incumbent Rep. Derrick Van Orden has consistently voted against gun safety laws and received significant support from the gun lobby. Rebecca Cooke, who is challenging Van Orden, has a strong record of supporting gun violence prevention measures. With the balance of power in Congress potentially at stake, the outcome of this contest could shape the future of gun legislation across the country.



Photo by Eric Lee/Bloomberg via Getty Images, FILE

REP. VAN ORDEN IS AN NRA-ENDORSED CANDIDATE WITH EXTREMIST VIEWS ON THE SECOND AMENDMENT.

- He's received the highest possible NRA rating and a 100% rating from Gun Owners of America.
- The Gun Lobby has donated \$21,669.79 to Van Orden, including \$5,950 in [NRA Direct Support](#) and \$9,864 in [NRA Independent Support](#).
- He has voted for [H.J.Res.44](#), which would have [repealed](#) President Biden's Executive Order outlawing the use of firearm stabilizing braces, which have been used to circumvent regulations and transform pistols into more lethal short-barreled rifles.

AS CONGRESSMAN, VAN ORDEN HAS EXHIBITED IRRESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERSHIP, ALONG WITH VIOLENT AND ERRATIC BEHAVIOR TOWARDS MINORS.

- Van Orden has publicly displayed irresponsible gun ownership practices, such as taking a [loaded firearm](#) into an airport and [bragging](#) about hunting with assault rifles.
- An [ethics complaint](#) has been filed against Rep. Van Orden for berating and being physically aggressive towards Senate pages.
- He has [harassed](#) a seventeen-year-old librarian for having LGBTQ+ books displayed.

CHALLENGER REBECCA COOKE IS A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER AND NONPROFIT LEADER WHO SUPPORTS GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION.

- Cooke has [called](#) for universal background checks and extreme risk laws (also known as red flag laws).
- She has previously [stated](#) "I want people to be responsible gun owners, to lawfully obtain and securely store firearms..."

THE STAKES FOR WISCONSIN THIS NOVEMBER ARE HIGH: EVERY 12 HOURS, SOMEONE IN WISCONSIN IS KILLED BY GUN VIOLENCE.

- Each year, 708 people in Wisconsin are killed by gun violence, including 30 children.
- Wisconsin has the 13th lowest rate of firearm mortality in the country, and the firearm suicide rate is 3.0% higher than the national average.