

POINT BLANK

**STRAIGHT TALK
ABOUT WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO
PRESERVE YOUR
RIGHT TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**

ELECTION RESULTS NOT ALL BAD FOR GUN OWNERS



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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

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While the overall election results on Nov. 6 may have been disappointing for gun rights activists, there were some favorable results in a couple of states for gun owners, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms noted.

The most significant victory for gun rights came out of the state of Louisiana, where voters soundly approved a state constitutional amendment that strengthened Second Amendment freedoms.

According to the Louisiana Secretary of State's website, the measure passed 73.5 percent to 26.5 percent, with it winning in all parishes except one – Orleans, which includes the city of New Orleans. And there, it fell by just 2,300 votes.

The amendment, which was originally passed earlier this year in the state legislature and sent to voters for their consideration will among other things, subject gun control laws in the state to what is known as a "strict scrutiny" standard to be used by courts in determining whether such laws violate the gun rights of citizens.

Some gun rights activists have suggested that among the existing Louisiana gun control laws whose future could be in jeopardy are ones that restrict concealed carry permits to those age 21 or over.

Also, voters in nine Illinois counties sent a strong message to state lawmakers about increased gun rights. Voters in those counties voted overwhelmingly in favor of proposals which would allow residents in those counties to carry concealed firearms. Illinois remains the only "holdout" state that does not have some form of carry statute.

The Galesburg Register-Mail reported that over 110,000 voters in the counties, amounting to around 68% of the total number of votes cast on these measures, voted in favor, while a little over 52,000 people, or about 32%, voted against. According to the paper, the proposals were non-binding, as the state bars concealed carry, but pro-gun activists hope the strong show of support will influence legislators in the statehouse on this issue.

In Kentucky, another key measure was adopted overwhelmingly. There, voters approved a constitutional amendment that makes hunting and fishing a right. The Bluegrass State becomes the 15th state in the union to approve such an amendment.

According to WHAS 11 News, sportsmen and women believe this is a win-win situation for hunters and gun owners. The measure pulled more than 307,000 votes, amounting to an 84.7 percent approval.

CCRKBA 'ON TOP' OF NEW UN INITIATIVE

The re-election of Barack Obama to another four-year term has jump-started the United Nations effort to adopt an international Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the speed at which the new initiative was announced certainly alarmed many in the firearms community.

Less than 12 hours after his re-election was confirmed, the Obama administration had agreed with more than 150 other nations including China, France, Germany and the United Kingdom, to renew discussions for the proposed treaty.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb said this development could not be any clearer a signal about where the Obama administration plans to go during the next four years, "and they're not wasting any time."

He does not believe that the planned departure of Secretary of State Hillary Clinton will stall the process.

"This administration and its allies at the U.N. are serious about pushing and adopting a treaty," Gottlieb told Point Blank. "It should be obvious to anyone that our warnings about the proposed treaty, and the administration's support for the idea, have been true."

CCRKBA has been in the trenches as the battle has unfolded. Our staff helped craft two pieces of legislation introduced early in 2012, one by Illinois Congressman Joe Walsh and the other by Kansas Sen. Jerry Moran that were designed to prevent the United States from engaging in any treaty that poses a threat to Second

Amendment sovereignty.

Any such treaty would have to face confirmation in the U.S. Senate, and that is where, according to Gottlieb, the battleground will be established.

"Because of the election's outcome," Gottlieb observed, "gun owners will have to remain vigilant. The U.N. is planning a meeting in March 2013 at which time a treaty could be adopted."

Even if the United States ultimately rejects the treaty, this country could be in for some rough international politicking, he warned. European nations and other treaty participants could impose measures that force American companies to comply

with measures in order to continue trading with those nations.

The vote to rekindle treaty discussions came at the U.N. General Assembly's meeting of the First Committee on Disarmament

at the world organization's headquarters in New York City on the morning of Nov. 7.

"It was like a slap in the face to gun owners from the administration," Gottlieb said. "I remembered what the president said a few days before the election about how voting 'is the best revenge.' A lot of people wondered what he was talking about, but now it appears Mr. Obama is looking for revenge against the majority of gun owners who cast their ballots elsewhere."

While some people have contended that the language currently being

discussed does not pose a threat to American gun ownership, Gottlieb is not that confident.

"Firearms owners cannot allow themselves to become complacent, just because somebody doesn't think this would eventually become a threat," he noted. "Between now and the time that a proposed treaty comes up for a vote, who can say with any certainty that amendments won't be added that pose a danger to our rights? Better to be safe than sorry, and that's why the Citizens Committee is going to stay on top of this."



POINT BLANK

"Straight talk about what you can do to preserve your right to keep and bear arms."

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CCRKBA BLAMES GUN POLICIES FOR CHICAGO MURDER RATE

The City of Chicago has had an uptick in the number of homicides in 2012, and the Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms suggested that part of the problem lies with anti-gun policies of the city's mayor, Rahm Emanuel.

Emanuel, elected last year as Chicago's mayor following the retirement of anti-gun Democrat Richard Daley, has "perpetuated the draconian anti-gun policies of his predecessor even after the Supreme Court ruling in 2010 essentially nullified the city's ban on handgun ownership."

"Rahm Emanuel and the city council" have done everything possible to prevent law-abiding Chicago residents from exercising their Sec-

ond Amendment rights since the Supreme Court's *McDonald* ruling. They have stalled, dodged and road-blocked efforts to bring sanity to the city's restrictive gun regulations, all in an effort to discourage citizens from arming themselves against criminal violence," said CCRKBA chairman Alan Gottlieb.

The *Christian Science Monitor* reported that the number of homicides inside Chicago's city limits up to the end of October had already exceeded the total number from all of last year.

"All Chicago can offer as a measure of its gun policy effectiveness is a body count of more than 435 people, which is more than all of last year. It is despicable that the city under Mayor

Emanuel continues to envelope honest citizens in bureaucratic red tape while it is clearly unable to curb the violence," Gottlieb added.

CCRKBA's chairman also suggested that Emanuel and members of Chicago's city council adopt policies to allow residents to defend themselves.

"It is time for Emanuel and his council cronies to stand aside and let citizens have the tools to fight back," Gottlieb stated. "The high court made it possible for Chicago residents to exercise their right to have a firearm for personal protection. The city under Emanuel has adopted an anti-gun strategy to deliberately thwart the court's intentions."

CCRKBA REMINDS TRAVELERS TO CHECK THE LAW

Following a shooting of a Canadian border guard at the main U.S.-Canada border crossing between Seattle, WA, and Vancouver, B.C., attention was focused on a troubling trend for Canadian customs officials – the increasing number of firearms confiscated from people attempting to cross the border from the U.S. into Canada.

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms routinely reminds travelers that they need to check ahead about firearms laws if they plan to cross the border, and that it is illegal to take a handgun into Canada without going through the proper procedures.

There is no concealed carry in Canada, and permits from any of the United States have no legal standing.

According to *Postmedia News*, since 2007, officers manning border crossings into the far western Canadian province of British Columbia seized almost 800 guns, with their counterparts working crossings into southern Ontario province taking a similar number during that same time frame.

These two provinces boast some of the most important border crossings between the United States and Canada, including the Peace Arch crossing, where this shooting occurred, and crossings from Buffalo, N.Y., to Niagara Falls, Ontario, and the two entry points from Detroit, MI, into Windsor, Ontario.

It was also reported that for the first six months of this year, nearly 250 firearms were confiscated at border

entry points into Canada.

The news service reports these figures were released as a result of an inquiry in Canada's House of Commons, as it looks into the issues raised following the mid-October incident, in which a man from suburban Seattle opened fire on the guard as he attempted to enter Canada; the guard was hit in the neck but survived and the suspect later killed himself.

One union official told *Postmedia News* a main reason why so many weapons are seized is that most of them come from legally licensed American gun owners who aren't aware that Canada boasts dramatically tougher gun laws than here in the U.S., which include the requirement that such firearms are declared upon arrival in the country.

GUN OWNERS WIN ONE, LOSE ONE IN COOK COUNTY, IL

Illinois firearms owners are considering their options after the Cook County Board adopted a controversial \$25 tax on firearms sold within the county.

Initially, proponents of the anti-gun tax measure said it was to help fill budget gaps for health care and legal actions involving gun charges, but it was later revealed that part of the money would be used to support "anti-violence" initiatives. The final budget sets aside \$2 million to provide grants to such organizations and to set up a "guncourt," according to the Chicago Tribune.

The board earlier had been presented with a proposed tax on ammunition sales as well, but following opposition by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, the ammunition tax proposal was withdrawn.

While CCRKBA reacted favorably to news that Board President Toni Preckwinkle had withdrawn

the ammunition tax measure, it still insisted that the gun tax had to go as well. Preckwinkle had proposed the gun and ammunition taxes to help fill the county's huge budget hole.

The county ultimately adopted that gun tax against the opposition of firearms owners from all corners of the Prairie State.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb was disappointed that the entire package was not withdrawn.

"Gun owners have won a partial victory," Gottlieb acknowledged, "but Preckwinkle is still trying to make them shoulder more than their fair share with this tax proposal. Illegally-armed criminals are not going to pay any tax, so waging class warfare against legal firearms owners is way off target, and we brought attention to it."

He added at the time that a "full retreat from this proposed gun ownership penalty is necessary."

Gottlieb also wondered who really is at fault for the county's budget

troubles, which will not be solved by adding the new tax on firearms sales.

"Besides," he said, "it's not gun owners but government that got Cook County into the budget mess. How does a county government come up short by an estimated \$3 billion, anyway?"

"Experienced shooters and hunters know enough to conserve their ammunition," he observed. "Public officials like Preckwinkle should take a lesson from that when it comes to spending taxpayer dollars. Instead, she wants to just dig deeper in everyone's pockets, whether they are gun owners, smokers or gamblers."

Several other new or increased taxes, including ones on cigarettes and gambling, also were part of the final package, along with an exemption for police from the new gun tax, according to the *Chicago Tribune*.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) has vowed to introduce a new and much more restrictive "assault weapon" ban. Representative Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY) has urged the President Obama to take executive action (by-passing Congress) to impose newer, stricter gun control measures.

Although they lost a handful of seats, the Republicans retained control of the House of Representatives. They also lost three seats in the U.S. Senate, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) announced he would call for a rule change that would prevent a Republican filibuster of the president's agenda.

There are 70+ new Representatives headed for Capitol Hill, along with a dozen new Senators. They will be in their home districts until after the first of the year. NOW is the time to get in touch with them, politely tell them you will not tolerate ANY further restrictions on your right to keep and bear arms. They work for you, and it's your responsibility to give them appropriate guidance and advice on the gun issue. This is especially true for new members.

Contact information for current office-holders can be found in the left margin of the CCRKBA web site (<http://www.ccrkba.org>) by clicking on "Congressional Information." New officials won't have web sites until after they assume office in January, although you can usually get their information from their campaign headquarters or website.

CCRKBA 'STANDS ITS GROUND' IN FLORIDA

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms was in the forefront defending Florida's so-called "Stand-Your-Ground" law during the final public meeting of a gubernatorial task force appointed earlier this year to study the law.

Gov. Rick Scott appointed the panel, headed by Lt. Gov. Jennifer Carroll, to examine the statute in response to public outcry following the February 2012 shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin by George Zimmerman, a legally-armed citizen, during a physical confrontation in the community of Sanford.

CCRKBA Legislative Director Joe Waldron told the panel that the law does not need fixing.

The task force is supposed to present a report in December, but Waldron told *Point Blank* that the State Legislature is under no obligation to act on any recommendations.

Stand-Your-Ground (SYG) statutes have been adopted in 24 states, including Florida, and during his testimony, Waldron noted that in several other states, the legal concept has been upheld by court rulings.

The task force recently recommended that the SYG law remain intact despite calls for its change or repeal.

Zimmerman was involved in the neighborhood watch program. In that confrontation, Zimmerman called police but before they arrived, there was a physical confrontation during which Zimmerman—who is now charged with second-degree murder—suffered head injuries that left him with scalp cuts.

The *Palm Beach Post* reported that the committee made that recommendation after finishing a series

of hearings around the state, which included one Nov. 13 in Pensacola, where Waldron testified in defense of the legal concept behind the statute.

Waldron told the committee that the state should not change a law which has worked for the past seven years.

"But after that single incident nine months ago," Waldron observed, "we're told Florida's stand your ground law is terribly flawed, and should be repealed or at least restricted severely. The law has been in place for seven years. Laws should not be made – or repealed – based on a single, anecdotal incident."

Waldron further noted that in some states, the stand your ground concept has been enacted by way of court rulings.

"The stand your ground concept has been through the courts all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court," he said. "The legal concept governs federal case law regarding self-defense. In all 50 states, if you are subjected to a potentially lethal attack or one that poses the risk of serious bodily injury, you have the right of self-defense, up to and including the use of lethal force."

Waldron told the task force that "stand your ground" is nothing more than an extension of an old legal concept.

"Stand your ground, also known as no duty to retreat, is nothing more than an extension of the Castle Doctrine concept – a man's home is his castle – and in your castle you have no duty to retreat in order to defend yourself, or your loved ones, from assault," he said, also pointing out that this concept has its roots in English common law.

CCRKBA Chairman, Alan Gottlieb echoed Waldron's testimony in a statement to the press.

"Laws that protect millions of citizens should not be changed because of public reaction to a single case," Gottlieb commented. "We are hopeful that Florida lawmakers will use common sense and not attempt to change or repeal this statute."

Among other recommendations of the committee, reported by the *Post*, were several requests of the state legislature. Those included a more clear definition of what constitutes "unlawful activity" as it pertains to whether self-defense deadly force is justified or not, spelling out the role of neighborhood watch volunteers in the law, allowing innocent third parties to sue someone who uses justifiable force in self-defense, and changing technical language in the law in order for police to properly investigate such cases.

The committee also suggested, according to the paper, that criminal justice and law enforcement professionals, such as police and prosecutors, be given additional training on such self-defense laws. But the committee also noted, said the *Post*, that everyone has a right to feel safe and secure within Florida, and as such, everyone has a "fundamental right to stand their ground and defend themselves from attack" with an appropriate amount of force anywhere they are if they are minding their own business.

The recommendations now go to the state legislature. Florida's incoming House speaker told the *Associated Press* he is not interested in making major changes to the law in the upcoming session.

RISING GUN OWNERSHIP, CARRY = FALLING CRIME

When an outdoors writer for the Springfield, Mass. *Republican* recently noted that firearms ownership is up while violent crime is down, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms responded with a “we told you so!”

“That’s what we’ve been telling people for a very long time,” noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. “Our rolling billboard campaign from 2011 drove that point home in cities across the country, but I guess people still need to be reminded that guns save lives.”

The Massachusetts newspaper got its information from the FBI and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

One tidbit of information from writer Frank Sousa that CCRKBA was surprised to see in print was the acknowledgement that, “I know from limited experience there are many gun owners who do not claim ownership as their mate does not believe in it, and do not know, that guns are in their house.”

Sousa added, “I cannot understand anyone who does not want to be able to protect their family from invasion by felons who are intent on a broad range of heinous crimes.”

The Wichita, Kansas *Eagle* looked at the overall number of permit holders, who since getting their permit, found themselves charged with a firearm-related crime and discovered in the nearly five years – and over 51,000 permits issued during that time – there weren’t very many instances of that occurring.

The paper, citing records from the state, reported November 18 that only 44 permit holders through late October had been charged with a

firearm-related criminal offense. Further, the *Eagle* added that of the 44, only 17 of those have ended up losing their licenses after being convicted of those crimes, with another 17 on suspension and 10 more that have had their permits restored.

Out in Washington more than 384,000 active concealed pistol licenses are in circulation, according to that state’s Department of Licensing.

It appears to be having an effect, since Seattle continues to enjoy one of the lowest homicide rates in the country for a city of its size. And that includes this year’s spike in the number of murders to above 20 before mid-year. For the past few years, the Jet City’s homicide rate has hovered right around 20. That is far below the number of murders in Milwaukee, Baltimore and Washington, D.C.

Officials in that Northwest city still haven’t gotten over CCRKBA’s court victory against their attempt to ban even legally-carried firearms in city park facilities. CCKRBA joined with other gun rights organizations to thwart the city’s attempt to sidestep state preemption in a case that was taken all the way to the state supreme court. However, high court justices declined a request for their review of lower court rulings that went unanimously against Seattle.

The *Virginian Pilot* reported that applications for concealed carry permits have continued to climb in several cities, including Virginia Beach. At press time, the newspaper said officials in that city were “on track to process about 5,000 applications” by the end of this year. Likewise in the communities from Norfolk and Chesapeake, where permit applications are also rising, the newspaper said.

Wyoming citizens do not need licenses or permits to carry, but many residents get them to enjoy reciprocity with other states, according to the Casper *Star Tribune*. The Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation told the newspaper that permit applications have increased this year.

Missouri citizens are also arming, according to KSPR in Springfield. Since 2008, the station reported, applications have been steadily increasing. In the months leading up to the election, the pace really picked up in some areas.

In Georgia has been the creation of a Facebook page for a group called Houston County Carries Concealed. This group has actually raised money for billboards that promote concealed carry for senior citizens and others. The group was formed by a former county prosecutor, according to WMAZ News.

A Texas lawmaker wants to change concealed carry laws there to combine the carry permit with a driver’s license, including licenses for truckers. This report came from LandlineMag.com, which noted that it would ostensibly help improve efficiency for law enforcement. The bill will be considered when the legislature meets in January.

Meanwhile, NWI.com was making a big deal of a gun “buy-back” program that recently rounded up 153 firearms in Calumet City, Chicago Heights and Midlothian on the same weekend that Chicago posted another four homicides and 22 people shot. A photograph showed many of the firearms appeared to be old, some were hunting rifles, at least one was an antique shotgun, and several were handguns.



QUICK SHOTS

A gun shop owner in Smyrna, GA, was recently given a prestigious honor by that Georgia city.

According to the *Marietta Daily Journal*, Jay Wallace, who owns the Adventure Outdoors shop, was named Smyrna's Citizen of the Year during a local chamber of commerce breakfast November 8.

The shop has been in the news, according to the paper, primarily because it was among several shops sued by anti-gun New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg as an alleged source of illegal firearms on the streets of New York City.



There appears to be an increase in the number of people carrying firearms in one region of Virginia.

So reports the *Virginian-Pilot* of Norfolk, which reported that several cities in the south Hampton Roads region have seen increased numbers of applications for state concealed carry permits. Virginia Beach, for one, according to the paper, is expecting to process close to 5,000 permit requests by the end of the year, a significant increase from 2011.

The paper adds other cities, such as Norfolk, are also seeing increases. One instructor told the *Virginian-Pilot* that interest in getting concealed carry permits rose after the movie theater shooting in Colorado a few months ago.

This phenomenon is not limited to Virginia. Nationally, there has been a steady climb in the number of citizens acquiring carry permits and licenses. In Washington, for ex-

ample, *Point Blank* recently checked with the Department of Licensing and learned that more than 382,000 active concealed pistol licenses are in circulation.



A major gun sales website recently reached a milestone.

GunBroker.com, which calls itself the world's largest Internet auction site for firearms, announced Nov. 12 that it had reached the \$2 billion mark in cumulative merchandise sales.

In a statement, the website's president was thrilled.

"This is an incredible day for the entire GunBroker.com team," observed Steve Urvan, CEO of GunBroker.com. "Doubling sales in less than three years to reach the \$2 billion mark is an incredible accomplishment and one that we are extremely proud of."

The website has seen steady user growth as well; they report an average of more than 265,000 new users per year for the past several years.



Arkansas lawmakers could soon consider open-carry laws on the heels of similar laws recently passed in neighboring Oklahoma.

KLRT-TV reports state legislators are looking at several possible pieces of legislation which would help make Arkansas the 44th state to allow some form of open-carry for gun owners. The station said such efforts have

been tried twice in recent years in the legislature, but both times they failed.

The chances of this attempt going anywhere are questionable, as the state's governor, according to the TV station, has gone on record in the past opposing open-carry legislation.

Nationally, open carry has been steadily growing, although the number of people who do it still remains small compared to the number of citizens who are licensed to carry concealed. In many states, no license or permit is required to carry a firearm openly. The open carry movement even operates its own website, which has thousands of members.



A leading firearms manufacturer has received a top industry award.

GLOCK, on Nov. 13, announced they had received the "Excellence in Firearms Manufacturing" award from the National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers at their annual trade show that started Nov. 6 in Orlando, FL. The company noted this was the first time in their history they had received this honor.

"GLOCK is proud to be recognized for its attention to detail and commitment to excellence in manufacturing," said Josh Dorsey, GLOCK Vice President, in a statement. "This award is a testament to our hard work and dedication to delivering our best, every day. We are in great company among the other award winners in the optics, accessories and ammunition categories."

