

POINT BLANK

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

ILLINOIS ISSUES CCW PERMITS



April 2014

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**CITIZENS
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FOR THE RIGHT
TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**

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Thousands of Illinois citizens have joined the ranks of legally-armed Americans as the first wave of state concealed carry permits has been issued.

Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms offered sincere congratulations to the first 5,000 permit recipients. By the end of this year, they will have lots of company, according to State Police predictions that as many as 400,000 permits will be issued during the first 12 months of the new law's effective date.

"While politicians had to be dragged kicking and screaming into compliance with the Second Amendment," Gottlieb said, "the good citizens of Illinois have been rushing to enjoy their newly-restored firearms freedom. State officials said today they have received more than 50,000 permit applications.

CCRKBA can look at this situation with no small amount of satisfaction because it was a federal court case filed by our sister organization, the Second Amendment Foundation, which forced Illinois legislators to enter the 21st Century. That case, *Moore v. Madigan*, set the bar when it comes to explaining that the Second Amendment right to bear arms extends beyond someone's front porch.

"It's about time for Illinois citizens to join millions of other Americans in the exercise of their fundamental right to keep and especially bear arms," Gottlieb observed. "The die-hard anti-gun politicians who opposed this new law are horribly out of touch with their constituents."

A new poll on public attitudes regarding the new law revealed that gun rights activists have a lot of work that still needs to be done.

Crain's Chicago Business website reported on the poll, conducted by Southern Illinois University. It showed the majority of respondents still hold views against Second Amendment rights, but the numbers are changing.

The poll asked four questions. Pollsters asked respondents whether they felt more or less safe with people carrying concealed, and over half (52.3 percent) said they were "less safe", to nearly 32 percent who felt "more safe."

With respect to people's general views on the Second Amendment and gun rights, 53 percent of respondents felt gun control was more important than protecting gun rights. That was down from nearly 60 percent opposition in 2013. The number of people who were polled who felt the other way – protecting gun rights was more important than gun control – rose from 31 percent in 2013 to 41.5 percent in this latest poll.

There is also action taking place in the state Capitol concerning the new concealed-carry law, with the Chicago Sun-Times reporting that a bi-partisan quartet of lawmakers has introduced a bill that would close an apparent loophole in the law concerning the training requirements. The bill, according to the newspaper, would make lying about applicants' completion of those training requirements a misdemeanor offense.

SPECULATION THAT RAHM EMANUEL MAY RUN FOR PRESIDENT

Increasing speculation that anti-gun Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel may run for president in 2016 if current media favorite Hillary Clinton steps aside prompted the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms to check his record and the criticisms leveled at him.

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb has constantly blasted Emanuel – who served in both the Clinton and Obama anti-gun administrations – for pushing a ban on so-called “assault weapons” as a solution to Chicago’s bloody crime wave.

The only problem with that was that it did not appear semi-auto rifles had been used in many, if any, of the hundreds of slayings logged by the city in 2012.

Emanuel also insisted that “comprehensive background checks” would prevent violence, a notion so demonstrably untrue that Gottlieb called it a “perpetuation of an urban myth.”

“If the city could round up every one of these shooters,” Gottlieb said at the time, “they would find that none of them acquired their guns through legal channels, and thus were never subject to a background check, and Emanuel knows it. For him to suggest, much less believe, that his city’s crime problem would disappear by banning guns and expanding checks on law-abiding citizens is at best delusional.”

Emanuel is hardly the only political figure to suggest that some new gun law might reduce crime or address a particular problem. The mayor’s shoot-from-the-lip approach to pushing his agenda has kept him in the spotlight for many years.

What prompted the speculation about an Emanuel run for president? According to published reports in the Washington Post, Washington Times and the Daily Beast, Democrat party insiders have been talking up an Emanuel run. Pundits love to speculate, and this time the speculation seems to have taken on a life of its own.

In addition to gun bans and expanded background checks, Emanuel did suggest one thing that sounded familiar to CCRKBA, because it followed a successful anti-crime measure championed by the organization almost 20 years ago. It was called “Hard Time for Armed Crime.”

“Mayor Emanuel wanted to lock up people for a minimum of three years when they commit crimes with firearms and make them serve at least 85 percent of their time,” Gottlieb recalled. “That’s a strategy that was developed by the firearms community, and he should of at least given us credit.”

Emanuel’s earlier proposal to slap law-abiding Illinois gun owners with a handgun registration mandate that included a \$65 per-gun fee also got CCRKBA’s attention.

CCRKBA criticized Emanuel and the Chicago City Council for having done “everything possible to prevent law-abiding Chicago residents from exercising their restored Second Amendment rights.”

Last year, after Texas Sen. Ted Cruz went after Emanuel for using “strong arm” tactics in an attempt to pressure banks to cut off lines of credit to firearms manufacturers. At the time, Sen. Cruz had sent letters to officials at Bank of America and

TC Bank, and the CEOs of Sturm, Ruger and Smith & Wesson, after the story surfaced.

At the time, Gottlieb said Emanuel was “acting like a Chicago gangster instead of a public servant.”

“How dare the mayor engage in this kind of anti-gun lobbying effort,” the CCRKBA chairman questioned, “trying to cut off operating capital to a pair of perfectly legal companies that happen to be engaged in perhaps the most heavily-regulated business in the country?”



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

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DETROIT TOP COP SUPPORTS ARMED SELF-DEFENSE

Detroit, Mich., Police Chief James Craig recently raised eyebrows when he told reporters that the city's criminal element should worry about private citizens fighting back.

"A lot of good Detroiters are fed up," Craig told WDIV News. "The message should be that, you know, people are going to protect themselves."

Craig, who started his career with the Detroit Police Department before a budget cut erased his job and sent him to California for a 28-year career with the Los Angeles Police, appears to have undergone something of

an epiphany in his support for the right to keep and bear arms. Out in California, he learned that not many citizens get concealed carry permits.

However, when he was hired as the police chief in Portland, Maine, Craig saw a lot of citizens getting concealed carry licenses. He learned they didn't cause problems, and he learned to understand the Second Amendment.

"If you are confronted with an immediate threat to your safety," he said, "you're not going to have time to dial 911. It becomes an issue of, the threat is here, I have to respond

to the threat."

He offered some advice to armed citizens about shooting in self-defense, including the observation that people should not chase bad guys and shoot them, nor should they open fire on someone through a door.

The chief said Motor City residents have been dealing with "an epidemic of violence for some time" and he did not have a problem with people fighting back. Recently, when armed citizens killed a burglar and would-be carjacker, Chief Craig seemed supportive.

NEW CUSTOMS & BORDER CHIEF NO STRANGER TO CCRKBA

Gil Kerlikowske, recently named permanent commissioner for the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Customs and Border Protection agency, is no stranger to the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

He is the former Seattle, WA police chief who infamously lost his personal sidearm on the day after Christmas in 2004 from his city-owned car, and CCRKBA still has a reward posted for the recovery of the gun, and conviction of the thief.

While he was the Seattle top cop, Kerlikowske testified before the Legislature on more than one occasion in support of gun control laws. He was once honored by Washington CeaseFire, the northwest's most active gun control lobbying group, for his gun control efforts.

But the loss of his gun blunted that activity for about a year. The pistol, a 9mm Glock, was taken from his department vehicle while it was parked on a downtown Seattle street. Kerlikowske and his wife had gone to do some post-holiday shopping and when they returned, the pistol was missing.

The embarrassing theft resulted in Evergreen State gun rights activists nicknaming Kerlikowske as "the empty holster."

For the past few years, Kerlikowske has served as President Barack Obama's Drug Czar.

Prior to his Seattle stint, Kerlikowske served in law enforcement in Buffalo, N.Y. and St. Petersburg, FL.

Sen. Tom Carper (D-Del.), chairman of the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, issued a congratulatory

statement following Kerlikowske's confirmation.

"As one of the Department of Homeland Security's largest operational divisions, Customs and Border Protection plays an essential role in the Department's mission to keep Americans safe by protecting our borders while promoting international trade," Carper said. "I believe that the President made an excellent choice in selecting Mr. Kerlikowske to lead this important agency. His breadth of experience in law enforcement and drug policy prepare him well to take on this role, and our nation will benefit immensely from his leadership. I commend my colleagues for joining me in supporting his nomination and I look forward to working with him in this new position."

GOTTLIEB HITS GUN GRABBERS IN WA INITIATIVE FIGHT

Supporters of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms know Alan Gottlieb as its chairman but now he has another role, as a key spokesman for I-591.

With Initiative 591, which prevents government gun confiscation without due process and requires that background checks in Washington comply with a uniform national standard, Gottlieb has launched an effort to counter wealthy backers of Initiative 594, including former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's and his Mayors Against Illegal Guns. I-594 is an 18-page gun control measure disguised as a "universal background check" proposal sponsored by the Washington Alliance for Gun Responsibility (WAGR).

I-591 is backed by a coalition of hunters, target shooters, gun collectors and law enforcement firearms trainers calling itself Protect Our Gun Rights (POGR).

A major difference between the two measures is that I-591 will prohibit government firearms seizures without due process of law.

There is not a word about protecting the rights of gun owners in I-594, only details about who must undergo a background check in order to transfer a firearm. Those who dismiss confiscations forget the seizure of private firearms following Hurricane Katrina.

In a recent fund-raising appeal, Gottlieb acknowledged, "Our pockets are definitely not as deep as Bloomberg's. But our voices are many. And we stand together ready to speak the truth to all citizens and voters here in Washington State."

The so-called "dueling initiatives" campaign is likely to receive national attention. Backers of the gun control measure, which calls for so-called "universal background checks" on all firearms transfers – not just gun sales, but loans of firearms between friends for example – has some credibility problems because it began with claims that it will help prevent mass shootings.

The reason is because it has been repeatedly pointed out that most mass shooters in recent memory passed background checks. Those who didn't

used guns stole from people who did. This is not being discussed or even acknowledged by backers of I-594.

The measure is being called a massive registration scheme because it would retain records on firearms transfers and sales that include long guns, not just handguns.

Backers of I-594 raised almost twice as much money and collected fewer signatures than the grassroots I-591 campaign.

Public disclosure documents show that I-594 backers have raised more than \$1.5 million against slightly more than \$700,000 reported by POGR.

At stake, say gun rights activists, is what the "next step" could be. If I-594 passes, it will embolden gun grabbers to try the initiative process in other states, with a good idea of how much money it will take to get an anti-gun result.

On the short list is neighboring Oregon. Both states are dominated by liberal enclaves; Seattle and Portland.

CLARKE, PAST DEFENDER OF THE MONTH, EARNS MORE ACCOLADES

Milwaukee County, WI Sheriff David A. Clarke, a recipient of the Defender of the Month award from CCRKBA last September, was in the news recently, defending the Second Amendment and self-defense, during the Conservative Action Political Conference (CPAC).

Sheriff Clarke told the audience, while holding up a copy of the U.S.

Constitution, that, "The armed citizen made this country free. The armed citizen will keep this country free."

Sheriff Clarke was on a panel discussion about firearms issues along with award-winning pro-gun journalist Emily Miller, senior opinion editor at the *Washington Times*, when he observed, "The Second Amendment is pretty clear. You don't

have to be a constitutional scholar to understand it."

Clarke earned a round of applause when he acknowledged that police cannot always respond immediately to an emergency, and sometimes not even in a timely manner. So, armed citizens will have to deal with the problem, themselves.

FEINSTEIN LAUNCHES NEW ATTACK ON SEMI-AUTOS

Anti-gun California Sen. Dianne Feinstein has launched a new campaign to ban the importation of so-called "assault weapons" that she claims are not "generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes."

Sen. Feinstein announced that she wants President Obama to "ensure that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) fully enforces the ban on the importation of these military-style firearms."

She also wants the president to prohibit importation of "assault pistols," whatever they are, and bar the importation of firearm components that might be assembled in the United States and fall into Feinstein's definition of an "assault weapon."

One other tenet to her attack is that she wants the ban expanded to prohibit the use of thumbhole stocks that have prevented certain firearms from being classified as "assault rifles."

Such cosmetic alterations were made to some gun models during the Clinton ban, simply demonstrating that cosmetic changes do not alter the way such firearms function.

This latest attack is nothing new, though it comes coincidentally at a time that the BATF is under fire from Capitol Hill over a "storefront sting" scandal that may rival Operation Fast and Furious in negative publicity for the agency. That project has some embarrassing components, such as using a mentally-disabled man in one of the stings and then charging him

with a crime. BATF agents also lost several firearms in one operation.

Feinstein also has rekindled interest among gun owners about the origin of the so-called "sporting purposes" requirement for imported firearms. It was part of the 1968 Gun Control Act designed to bar the import of military surplus rifles, and has been a political thorn in the side of gun rights activists for more than four decades. Prior to GCA '68, the idea of limiting firearms ownership to "sporting" firearms had never been an issue.

The senator's newest push on firearms may not be successful, but it reminds gun owners that she is still a threat to their rights. CCRKBA keeps a sharp eye on Feinstein's.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

All politics are local.

Local elected officials are just as important as those you choose to send to Washington, DC, or to the state capitol. Even in states with strong preemption laws, county or city officials may be able to create "no discharge" areas for firearm use. County and city administrators set the tone for the "official" attitude towards gun owners and their activities.

At the top of the list is the elected sheriff of the county. He, or she, not only enforces the laws as passed by the legislature and other bodies but they hold a great degree of influence over county and city administrators' attitudes towards firearms.

In campaign rallies or meetings, don't be afraid to ask a candidate if her or she supports your fundamental right to own and use firearms.

I have never met an anti-gunner who didn't begin his or her answer to such a question with, "Of course I support the Second Amendment, however..." Try to ask whether they support or oppose specific gun control measures, especially if they are the topic of legislative action in your home state. This is your opportunity to educate candidates on the true impact, positive or negative, of proposed gun laws.

Local office election campaigns have a fraction of the budget of Congressional or even state-wide campaigns. And volunteers play a more critical role in the success of local elections. Volunteers are the lifeblood of many local campaigns, conducting voter registration drives, canvassing neighborhoods, stuffing envelopes, manning a telephone bank (especially the "get out the vote" calls on election day) and even assisting in taking elderly or disabled voters to the polls.

November 4 will be here sooner than you think. Now is the time to start looking at elections, identifying candidates, determining their position on the firearms issue, and choosing to support those who support us.

A YOUNG VOICE IN SUPPORT OF THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

Grown-ups can learn a lot from children, especially 9-year-old Shyanne Roberts of Franklinville, N.J., and that's why we are recognizing this courageous young lady as the Gun Rights Defender of the Month.

She earned it.

In an interview with *Point Blank*, Miss Roberts, a student at Main Road Elementary, became a standout for her generation. She did that while telling a room full of adults a lot of things they should already know. When Miss Roberts testified before a legislative committee discussing a new gun control measure in the Garden State, there was only the honesty of a child with a love for the shooting sports.

She reminded lawmakers that instituting a magazine capacity limit "was punishing me instead of the other people that did something wrong."



Shyanne Roberts

"I started shooting in my dad's lap when I was five," she told *Point Blank*, "and started competing when I was seven."

Miss Roberts has become an icon on YouTube. She has her own Facebook page that her dad, Dan, monitors because some adults simply cannot control their foul sentiments toward

even youngsters who support gun rights.

Shyanne competes with a Ruger 10/22 semi-auto rifle, a Walther P22 pistol and a bolt-action single-shot Cricket .22-caliber rifle. She is moving up this year to an AR-15, a Remington 11-87 shotgun in 20-gauge, and a Glock 19 pistol.

She was nervous, but was willing to go for it after having seen 15-year-old Sarah Merkle testify against restrictive gun laws in Maryland last year. As with Merkle's case, the video of Shyanne's remarks went viral with tens of thousands of views.

Her fellow students were "stunned," Shyanne recalled, that she had been able to testify, and one of her teachers told her, "Girl power rocks!"

Indeed it does. When she was finished, the crowd broke out in applause.

Miss Roberts told lawmakers that if they adopt new magazine capacity limits, it will seriously handicap her ability to compete in some matches, where speed and accuracy count. Having to reload in the middle of a relay will cut seconds off her time, her father noted.

Shyanne has two older sisters and one younger brother. She will turn 10 in August, and she is already thinking about one day trying to earn a national title in shooting competition.

Dan Roberts told *Point Blank* that, because he owns firearms, he wanted his children to learn to be safe around them. Shyanne appears to have inherited his interest, but is definitely developing her own knack for defending not only her rights, but everyone else's in the process.

"I just walked right up and testified," she said via telephone.

LA LAWMAKERS BACK IN SESSION

The Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms wants to provide our members a look at what's ahead in this session in Louisiana.

One measure, HB 20, would allow concealed carry permit holders to carry their firearms into establishments that serve alcohol, while another piece of legislation, HB 10, would allow it for just off-duty law enforcement officers.

A potentially significant bill, HR 494, would amend the state's Constitution to allow for "constitutional" carry of firearms, that being concealed or open carry without a permit.

Another bill, SB 212, would impact hunters, and if passed, would allow certain hunters who use firearms to use "sound suppressors" while hunting certain animals in the state. A second bill up for discussion in the Senate, SB 361, would allow police, regardless of whether they are on-duty, to carry concealed firearms anywhere within the state, even in locations that are currently off limits to firearms.

Among the other bills the House will be looking at which are a pair of bills (HR 653 and HR 753) addressing possession of firearms by those suspected of domestic violence, and another bill (HR 707) that would allow certain school employees to carry their firearms while on campus.



QUICK SHOTS

Anti-gunners are going after “Stand Your Ground” in South Carolina.

The State newspaper of Columbia reports that the leader of the state’s Legislative Black Caucus, a Democrat representative from Spartanburg, has introduced a bill that would repeal the state’s “Stand Your Ground” self-defense law. The newspaper reported that the lawmaker indicated the proposal would not change people’s self-defense rights while at home or in their vehicles, but would eliminate the defense from being used for incidents in public places.

The paper reported its chances of passage this session look bleak, and the bill has already ignited a lot of debate, with at least one other Democrat already stating his opposition to the proposed bill.



A Tennessee man came to the aid of his elderly mother recently, helping her fend off an alleged crook, using his firearm.

The incident took place in Seymour, when the man, identified as Kenny Guffey, called his 83-year old mother, only to hear on the other end of the line her panicking with the sight of the intruder, who was holding a knife. So Guffey, who was just minutes away from his mom’s house, sped to that location, confronted the suspect, who then reportedly used a shovel to knock the gun out of Guffey’s hand. The two men then fought, resulting in Guffey regaining control of his handgun, and then held

the suspect at gunpoint until police arrived.



A pro-gun state preemption bill has made it to the governor’s desk in West Virginia.

The bill, Senate Bill 317, passed both the state’s House and Senate and was awaiting the governor’s signature. The measure, if signed, would toss out locally-passed gun laws and also allows for concealed carry holders to carry their firearms at local parks.

There was some opposition to the bill. The mayor of Charleston said that if the measure is signed, he may shut down some of his city’s recreation centers if he feels too many people are bringing their firearms in.



A bill that has passed the Utah House of Representatives that will protect gun owners.

The *Salt Lake Tribune* reported the House passed a HB 276, that would change state statutes to note that the carrying of a firearm does not rise to the level of disorderly conduct.

The Republican who proposed the legislation told the *Tribune* he has heard of cases where gun owners who were going hunting or carrying their weapons but not doing so in a threatening manner have been charged with disorderly conduct because other people felt nervous, hence the need for the new law.



From the “only cops should have guns file” in this issue comes a story out of South Carolina over a very controversial traffic stop encounter between a cop and a senior citizen that ended with the cop shooting the elderly man after he reached for his walking cane.

A dash cam video obtained by the State newspaper in Columbia showed the incident, which started out, according to the paper, as a stopover expired tabs on a highway near the town of Clover. The county sheriff, in a news conference, told reporters, reports the State, he found after numerous examinations of the video that the officer did nothing wrong, but that he was planning to speak to lawmakers asking them to pass new laws requiring instructions be placed in drivers’ manuals regarding what motorists should or should not do when stopped by police.



People in Oklahoma are talking about a recent incident involving law enforcement officers and lawmakers in the state’s capitol building in Oklahoma City.

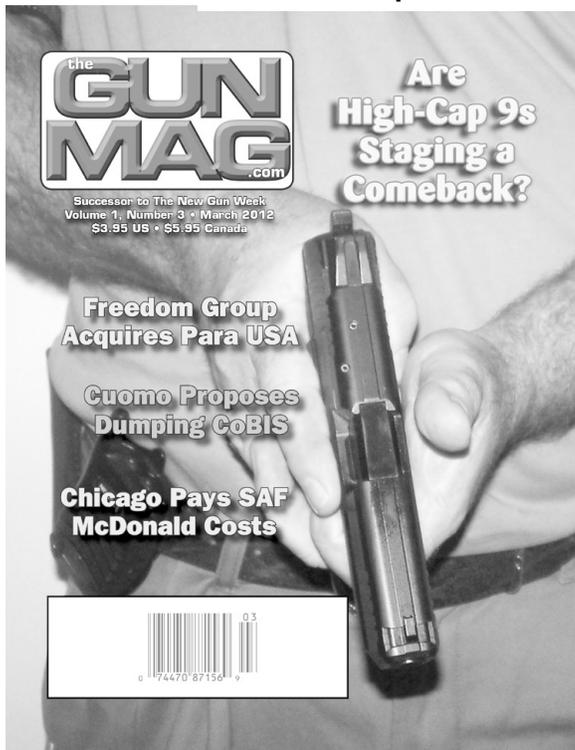
According to KTUL-TV, county sheriffs from around the state converged on the capitol for their annual meet and greet with lawmakers. However, the sheriffs walked out after being asked to disarm.

One sheriff said that request came from at least one senator, and that left that sheriff, Wagoner County’s Bob Colbert, less than thrilled. “We’re the people that protect these people,” Colbert told KTUL.

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