

POINT BLANK

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



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OUR GUN RIGHTS AND NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS

Our traditional individual Second Amendment civil right as law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms is on the line in next year's national elections.

It is not too early to consider what is at stake in the elections to be held in November of next year, just 11 months from now.

At the present time, there is a plethora of presidential candidates of various stripes on Second Amendment issues in both major political parties. It would be well for gun owners to acquaint themselves with the candidates' positions on Second Amendment issues. Some Republican and Democrat candidate selection primaries and caucuses will be held as early as next month.

The records and positions of some candidates are definitely pro-gun rights. The records of some candidates are obviously anti-gun rights. The records and positions of others are all over the ball park. As one reporter, Jason Clayworth of *The Des Moines Register*, noted recently, "Republican and Democratic presidential candidates dance on political eggshells when it comes to gun control because it's a divisive issue that can change the outcome of an election... Estimates from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives show more than 200 million guns in the United States. Those estimates equate to a lot of votes, gun rights advocates say."

It's up to every law-abiding, gun-owning American citizen to make his or her vote count, but it won't be counted unless the individual registers to vote and in fact does vote. It would be a good idea for gun owners to make sure they are registered to vote so that they are able to vote in their state's primary and general elections.

Remember, too, that it's not only the presidential elections that take place in 2008. Congressional elections take place, too, as well as elections for state officials in many states.

There's much at stake for gun owners in next year's elections. The future composition of the U.S. Supreme Court with its potential for interpretation of the Second Amendment is just one matter that probably will be at stake during the next presidential term, as Court vacancies are likely to occur because of some Justices' age and retirement.

The legislative issues are most important for gun owners, and these very well could include universal firearms registration, national gun owner licensing, national one-gun-a-month or even one-gun-a-year firearms purchase limitations, national bans on .50 caliber rifles, reauthorization of the Clinton-era ban on the importation and manufacture of certain semiautomatic firearms, and bans on some or all civilian handgun purchases and/or possession.

CCRKBA BLASTS BLOOMBERG FOR ANTI-FIREARMS BIGOTRY

CCRKBA charged last month that New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's anti-gun hysteria is perpetuating social bigotry against firearms and against law-abiding American gun owners.

CCRKBA noted that a new series of anti-gun posters beginning to show up around New York City are an affront to law-abiding gun owners while serving as an attempt to scare younger people from pursuing legal gun ownership.

The Bloomberg campaign is taking off just as a major polling organization reports that public support for stricter gun laws has been declined.

The Bloomberg signs have two messages: "Guns Open Doors for Young People...Prison Doors" and the other reads "JAIL" in capital letters, with the "L" being the image of a Beretta semiautomatic pistol. Only when one gets close to the sign to read the small print is it apparent that the posters carry what might constitute a "disclaimer:" "Get Caught Carrying an Illegal Gun, Get 3-1/2 Years in Prison." The posters were sponsored by the Citizens Crime Commission of New York City, headed by Richard Aborn, Past President of Handgun Control, Inc.

The Bloomberg-Aborn campaign came just as the Gallup News Service noted that the gap between the proportion of Americans advocating stricter gun laws and those in favor of maintaining or weakening existing gun laws – once nearly 60 points in favor of stronger gun laws and registering 14 points a year ago – is just four points in Gallup's latest poll. According to the October 4-7,

2007, survey, 51 percent of Americans believes the laws governing the sale of firearms should be stricter. When combined, the percentages saying the laws either should be kept as they are or made less strict is nearly as high at 47 percent. In addition, Gallup since 1975 has found a solid majority of Americans disagreeing with laws that ban handguns.

"If New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg had his way," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, "all guns would be illegal. In his Utopian world, signs like that would not be confined to the Big Apple. They also would show up in places like Lander, Wyoming or Ft. Collins, Colorado.

"Now it appears Mayor Bloomberg has teamed with one of the most virulently anti-gun extremists in the nation. If Bloomberg truly wanted to do something about criminal misuse of firearms, instead of teaming with Aborn to pander social bigotry against guns and the people who own them, these posters would carry a different message so that the average person, looking at the poster from a distance, would not be left with the impression that guns in general are bad."

Gottlieb said that, "If Bloomberg wants us to believe he really isn't trying to take guns from everyone, he should revise those signs so people can tell the difference. If he doesn't change the wording, then he is showing his true colors. Bloomberg is frightening people into giving up their firearms, or never buying a firearm in the first place. He is demonizing inanimate objects in the furtherance of his anti-gun agenda, and planting the subliminal message that anyone who owns a gun is a

criminal who belongs behind bars.

"What is the Citizens Crime Commission? It's not about reducing crime. It's about attacking gun ownership. And Mayor Bloomberg is in bed with this bunch. He should publicly apologize to people who legally own and carry firearms every day in every corner of this country. Right now, he is holding up guns and their owners to public scorn and ridicule."



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

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CCRKBA NOTES STUDENTS WANT CAMPUS GUN CARRY

A major issue confronting the American public is whether or not law-abiding students and professors should be allowed to carry concealed firearms on campus in order to be able to protect themselves and others from violent, murderous criminals should the need arise.

The issue came to the fore earlier this year following the multiple murders on the campus of Virginia Tech University. According to the policy of Virginia Tech and, for that matter, a number of other colleges and universities throughout the United States, students and professors are not permitted to carry firearms on campus even if they have state issued permits to carry concealed firearms.

"These absurd policies prevent law-abiding citizens from being able to protect themselves and other innocents from mad campus killers even if they are authorized by state authority to carry concealed firearms," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director.

"As a reaction to these idiotic college and university 'gun free zone' policies," he noted, "students across America began wearing empty gun holsters on campus to protest laws and other policies that prohibit concealed firearms on campus."

In fact, the protest was launched by a group of college students, parents and citizens after the multiple criminal shootings at Virginia Tech, reported T.R. Risner of usavanguard.com. The group began using the name Students for Concealed Carry on Campus (SCCC) for identification. Some backers maintain that the Second Amendment to the U.S.

Constitution recognizes the right of students to carry concealed firearms on campuses throughout the United States.

While at least 15 students wore the holsters during a late October manifestation of the concealed carry sentiment at Ohio State University, a dozen students at the University of Idaho chose to wear empty holsters. SCCC reportedly hopes to have thousands of students across the country participating in the empty holster protests.

Some students at the Seattle Pacific University participated in the protest. At least one student contended that many students are left vulnerable in the face of campus violence because of laws that prohibit concealed carry on campus. "People who otherwise would be able to defend themselves are left defenseless when on campus," said Ethan Bratt.

An Ohio State student believes guns in the proper hands would stop violence. "There have been cases where people have been assaulted at bus stops simply because, uh, alright, the meter police car just passed, and he's not going to be back here for 20 or 30 minutes, and I know that guy can't have a weapon, because he's on campus," said Evan Peck, President of Ohio State University Pistol Club.

Andrew Dysart, SCCC head on the campus of George Mason University in Northern Virginia, believes that the campuses labeled "gun free zones" are inviting campus massacres. "You wonder how much it plays into people's minds that they know students don't have any weapons," Dysart said.

George Mason University (GMU)

supposedly prohibits carrying concealed firearms on campus for "safety reasons." GMU spokeswoman Tracy Schario said that, "We do not allow weapons on campus for the safety and security of our student body and faculty."

Risner writes that Utah is the only state in the nation that specifically allows concealed firearms on campus. Brent Tenney, a student at the University of Utah, brings a loaded 9mm semiautomatic with him to class every day. "It's not that I run around scared all day long," said the business major, "but if something happens to me, I do want to be prepared." Utah legislators and law enforcement authorities say they know of no modern day shootings at the university.

Some lawmakers cite a shooting rampage in Mississippi in 1997 as an example of why concealed firearms should be allowed on campuses. After a teen shot two students at Pearl High School, an assistant principal held the gunman at bay with a .45 caliber pistol that the principal kept in his truck.

Across the nation, writes Risner, 38 states ban weapons at schools. Of the 38, 16 explicitly prohibit weapons on college campuses. In other states, such as Alabama, each school is allowed to formulate its own policy. At least one of these, the University of South Alabama, chose to prohibit guns on campus, and its campus is known as a "gun free zone."

"The whole concept of 'gun free zones' is completely wacky, in my opinion," said Snyder. "It just broadcasts to criminals the helplessness of innocent people in the zones and invites predatory criminal behavior."

THE ROAD AHEAD FOR FIREARMS

Alan M. Gottlieb, C

Among the challenges on the road ahead for America's law-abiding gun owners is keeping the former Clinton federal semi-auto ban dead and buried.

The challenges on the road ahead also include stopping Congress from passing Federal legislation that could put gun shows out of business as well as a score of anti-gun rights proposals aimed at flattening our tires.

If we can do that we will then have a chance to stop being a defensive driver and build the support for and pass a national concealed carry law... so that we can have the same rights that were given to law enforcement.

If we make a wrong turn, the road ahead has a cliff we could drive off of and crash and burn. It is the 2008 Presidential and Congressional elections.

Our gun rights are always only one election away from extinction. And we must remember that.

The gun grabbers know that in the marginal election districts and battleground states gun control is a losing issue.

So many of them, both Democrats and Republicans now say that they support the Second Amendment or are silent when it comes to our rights.

This is no flip-flop. This is 100% calculated.

If on the road ahead, the gun ban crowd can get away with this, you can stick a fork in our gun rights because every anti-gun rights politician in the future will use this trick to triangulate the Second Amendment.

The 2008 election could be a road block that stands in our way to protect and expand the gains we have

made over the past several years. And this election for all practical purposes has already started.

This critical election will be our biggest test. If the enemies of firearms freedom gain ground our rights will be under attack at an unprecedented level.

If the gun banners get to the voting booth and so to speak their dog won't hunt, our hunting season will get extended.

And speaking of hunting season, having guns or driving with firearms in your vehicle on public lands is now being threatened.

As are threats to ammunition manufacture and sale, threats to your firearm rights at work, where you shop, study and worship.

And, of course, we must do everything we can both in congress and in the courts to overturn the Washington, D.C. gun ban and make sure that the San Francisco gun ban and New Orleans gun confiscation court victories remain intact and send a message that will be heard loud and clear.

But our work does not stop there.

I have no doubt that if we stop the gun-grabber agenda cold in the next national election our opponents will accelerate their assault on our rights at the state and local level.

Among the key states that the anti-gun movement will target will be California, Illinois, and New York to name a few.

We can expect a push to increase the number of states which still ban so-called "assault weapons" from the seven states that still have the ban in effect.

We can expect to see at the state level, a number of states attempting to kill gun shows as we know them

because our opponents know how important these shows are for us to reach, educate, and organize gun owners to protect the rest of our rights.

We can also expect to see them push for a ban on fifty-caliber rifles like the one they passed in California.

We also have a responsibility to make sure that our brothers and sisters that live in Wisconsin and Illinois that do not allow concealed carry of firearms for self-protection get laws passed to give them the same rights and freedoms the rest of us enjoy.

In addition, there are a number of states where we need to change "may issue" to "shall issue" concealed carry permit states.

And, of course, reciprocity. The more states we get to recognize other states' permits the better chance we will have in getting a national concealed carry law passed.

I predict that together, on the concealed carry reciprocity battlefield, we will continue to have numerous victories in the upcoming year.

While we must maintain an energized base of gun owner support and keep it secure from defection, it is just as important to reach out to those in the middle.

Successful movements do both. Those that don't are often defeated. And with the public's deep concerns about rising crime rates, terrorism, and the continuing war on terrorists, which our opponents constantly exploit, we must succeed.

In a free society, rights protect the individual from the government. In a dictatorship, rights protect the

REARM OWNERS IN 2008

Chairman, CCRKBA

government from the people.

If enough legal precedents for end-runs of all the protections contained in the Bill of Rights are allowed to go unchecked, where will those precedents be to stop future leaders from dismantling our constitutional rights?

Over the next 12 months, it is OUR job to make sure that the Bill of Rights remains intact.

That job starts with making sure that every elected lawmaker is lobbied by us from the time they get up in the morning until they are tucked safely in bed at night and that the good guys win in the 2008 elections.

The gun grabbers, like Senators Hillary Clinton, Ted Kennedy, Charles Schumer and Diane Feinstein as well as San Francisco gun banner Nancy

Pelosi, who as Speaker of the House of Representatives has stacked key committees with anti-gun leadership, have looked at our driving record and found our weaknesses.

They know that issues like waiting periods, assault weapon bans, Saturday Night Special bans along with one gun a month sale limitations, kids with guns, .50 caliber rifles that they now call "Second Amendment pornography," gun show background checks and terrorism divide our base and drive those non-gun owners in the middle in greater numbers to support their legislative attack on our rights.

In addition to all of the above, we have to worry about an international assault on our rights led by the United Nations and a European Union which grows more anti-American by

the day, legal court battles from Main Street to the Supreme Court and not winning in the 2008 election cycle, which could decide if we have any gun rights left at all.

Because we face great up-coming challenges, we must remember that our gun rights are always in danger.

It is important to fight smart. We are dealing with a deadly force issue and we must sound reasonable or risk alienating the public.

It's not what you say but how you say it. If the public does not consider our positions as part of the solutions it will consider us as the problem.

It will take all of our collective efforts to insure that our individual rights are protected in the upcoming year. With Freedom's Future at stake, let's take the road ahead.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

We face next month the beginning of the Second Session of the 110th Congress. The same anti-gun bills introduced in 2007 will remain on deck during 2008, and the same anti-gun crowd which came into congressional leadership as a result of the November 2006 elections will remain in place. That includes Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California as Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rep. John Conyers of Michigan as Chairman of the House Committee on the Judiciary, and Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont as Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. All of these congressional leaders, and others as well, have histories of voting against and in some cases actively working against the rights of law-abiding American gun owners.

We at CCRKBA and also at some other national gun rights organizations have been struggling hard over the past year to preserve our gun rights against the Capitol Hill gun grabbers and it hasn't been easy.

We really need your help to keep reminding President George W. Bush, who remains in office for another year, that we are counting on him to prevent the gun control monstrosities sought by Capitol Hill gun grabbers.

Let us ask President Bush, even demand of him, that he exercise his presidential veto power to reject any restrictive gun control legislation that may reach his desk from now until the conclusion of his term in office on January 20, 2009. Gun control is an excuse for avoiding the hard solutions to the crime problem. The focus should be on the criminals and not on law-abiding gun owners. Study after study has demonstrated the ineffectiveness of gun control laws as solutions to crime problems. Gun control philosophy is a failed philosophy and it ought to be rejected as soon as it rears its ugly head.

PAUL BELIEN NAMED CCRKBA DEFENDER

"In this day and age, when opponents of the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms attack the right as something out of date in modern society, it is most significant when a modern scholar and international man of letters sees our American Second Amendment precisely as most necessary in our modern world," says John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director. "Paul Belien, who designates the Second Amendment a 'pillar of freedom,' is such an individual. It is because he presents his gun rights position so well that he most certainly deserves to be named CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for December."

Paul Belien is Editor of the *Brussels Journal*. He also is an adjunct fellow of the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C.

In a recent *Washington Times* column outlining the international threat to individual freedom presented by rising Islamization, Belien wrote that, "The citizens of Europe are extremely worried by this Islamization process, but their political leaders impose it on them against their wish. Europe is in worse shape than America because European democracies lack two pillars of freedom that America still has – solidly enshrined in the First and Second Amendments to its Constitution. In many European countries, freedom of speech no longer exists. It has been restricted by laws intended to curb so-called 'hate speech.' These laws forbid people to express their worries about massive immigration and the Islamization of their na-

tions.

"Europe, with few exceptions, such as Switzerland, is also unfamiliar with the second pillar of free societies: the right of the citizens to keep and bear arms. In countries such as Belgium even pepper spray is an illegal weapon. The result is that the law-abiding citizens are at the mercy of criminals, many of them of foreign extraction."

In his column, Belien went on to discuss the results in societies which do not have something like our beloved Second Amendment or otherwise respect and insure the right of law-abiding citizens to arm themselves for their own protection and, indeed, for the good of society at large.

He noted that when delegates at a counterjihad meeting, "who had been invited to the European Parliament by one of Europe's so-called far-right parties, discussed strategies to counter the spread of Islamization, EU bureaucrats convened at a meeting room two floors below. On the fifth floor of the parliament building, they discussed the 'harmonization' of self-defense legislation in the 27 EU member states. This means that, if the EU gets its way, the citizens of all member states will soon be submitted to Belgium's strict rules and that pepper sprays will be banned everywhere.

"Meanwhile, as became clear from the country reports given at the counter jihad meeting, Europe's no-go zones are multiplying. These are areas where the police no longer dare to venture and where Islamists hold sway. Every night since the beginning of last year, immigrant youths have been torching cars and clashing with police in Amsterdam's Slotervaart dis-

trict. The incidents started October 14 when a policewoman shot dead a 22-year old ethnic Moroccan while he was stabbing her and a colleague with a knife. Senior police officers compare the current situation in Amsterdam to the 2005 Ramadan riots in Paris. Media outside the Netherlands, however, hardly mention the riots, which aim to drive the police from Slotervaart and turn the neighborhood into a no-go area – yet another pocket of Eurabia on Europe's soil."

Born in 1959, Belien has a law degree with specializations in Social Security Law and European Law and a doctorate in International Studies. He worked as a professional journalist in both Belgium and the Netherlands. He was one of the nine "founding fathers" of the Flemish liberal party VLD in 1991-1992. He is married to Dr. Alexandra Colen, a former lecturer in linguistics at the universities of Ghent and Antwerp, and a Member of Parliament for the Flemish-secessionist party Viaams Blok since 1995. The couple home schooled their children.

After the murder of an Antwerp bus passenger, Dr. Paul Belien wrote that, "The Belgian state is no longer able to guarantee the security of its citizens. Belgians do not have a constitutional or legal right to bear arms...With the government and police failing to protect law-abiding citizens the latter are totally unprotected. Saturday's murder has shocked bus drivers and train conductors, but they stress they are not in the least surprised. Violence on public transport has become a fact of life."



QUICK SHOTS

In Washington, D.C., CCRKBA announced its opposition to S. 2237, by Sen. Joseph R. Biden, Jr., of Delaware, a 2008 presidential candidate. "Although Biden is promoting this measure simply as a 'bill to fight crime,' in reality it contains provisions which, if adopted, would constitute serious infringement on the individual Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding American citizens to keep and bear arms," said John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director. "For instance," he continued, "it would reauthorize the Clinton era ban on the importation and manufacture of certain semiautomatic firearms and require that all firearm sales at gun shows be submitted to federal background checks." S. 2237 has been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, under the chairmanship of Sen. Patrick J. Leahy of Vermont.

CCRKBA noted last month that Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York, the supposed front-runner for the 2008 Democrat presidential nomination, supports giving driver licenses to illegal aliens but opposes right to carry statutes that provide for concealed carry licenses for law-abiding citizens and others who are here legally. Citing her comments during a recent Democrat presidential candidates debate, Alan M. Gottlieb, CCRKBA Chairman, said "Clinton must think people in this country illegally are entitled to greater rights than those who are here legally. Maybe it's because she knows that

illegal aliens would vote for her, while law-abiding American gun owners won't. She supports firearms registration and gun owner licensing. She supports banning sport-utility rifles and magazine restrictions. She has opposed legislation to prevent junk harassment lawsuits against the firearms industry."

In Anne Arundel County, Maryland, the abundance of deer is being used to feed the hungry, reports *The Capital* of Annapolis. Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry, a nationwide organization, connects hunters with the needy by paying butchers to process deer meat and then getting it to local food banks. The newspaper reported last month that local chapter coordinator David McMullen one week unloaded more than 1,150 pounds of venison steaks, roasts and ground meat at the Anne Arundel County Food Bank. "It's a great program," he said. "It encourages hunters to return to their heritage as food providers. It is a great way for hunters to give back and help their fellow man." The venison is distributed to the several food pantries and soup kitchens around the county.

In Orlando, Florida, two holders of concealed firearms permits surprised armed thugs who approached them one day last month. Both men opened fire rather than surrender their wallets, reported the *Orlando*

Sentinel, and the robbers took off. "They left with broken egos," said Juan Amezaga. "They didn't get nothing from us. If more people stood up for themselves, a lot of crime could be prevented. And the concealed weapons permit – that's great!" Amezaga and Stephen Soto said they exercised their constitutional right to own guns, carried them legally and defended themselves within the Sunshine State's deadly force law. "It's appropriate, people have to defend themselves," said Sgt. Barbara Jones of the Orlando police. "It's no different from us using a gun. It has to be justified and we will, or course, investigate what happened."

In Idaho, officials are trying to attract more gun makers, touting state laws aimed at promoting gun ownership and manufacturing, reports the Associated Press. "It certainly would be an industry that would thrive in Idaho because of the interest we have in hunting and the way the state embraces firearms," said Jan Roeser, an Idaho Department of Labor economist. "I think Idaho is on its way to developing an industry base." About 200 small arms manufacturers in the United States rack up about two billion dollars a year in sales. Other states such as Montana, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming also are trying to attract gun manufacturers. "Much of what it will come down to is which state will be the most aggressive in appealing to the industry," said firearms industry analyst Richard Schelowitz.

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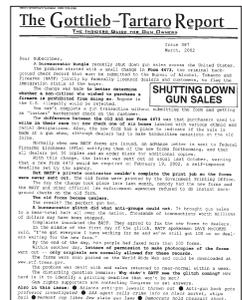
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The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report:

Here's a monthly newsletter that gives you inside gun-rights information from the desks of active principals in the battle for the right to keep and bear arms. The GOTTLIEB-TARTARO REPORT is headed by Alan M. Gottlieb – chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms – and Joseph P. Tartaro – editor of Gun Week and president of the Second Amendment Foundation. This monthly newsletter is full of inside gun rights news straight from the desks of the experts. Not available on newsstands. Regular subscription \$60 per year.

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