

POINT BLANK

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



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2015**

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TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**

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CCRKBA THANKS HILLARY CLINTON FOR ENERGIZING GUN OWNERS

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms thanks Hillary Clinton for energizing the nation's firearms owners to political action and virtually assuring their heavy turnout for the 2016 presidential election.

"Thanks to all of her anti-gun-rights statements, Hillary Clinton has guaranteed that gun owners will exercise their voting rights in November 2016," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb. "She seems eager to double down on Barack Obama's failed attempts to deny gun owners their Second Amendment rights."

Clinton, the former U.S. Secretary of State and U.S. Senator from New York, has a long and active history of supporting gun control measures. And while claiming to be a Second Amendment supporter, she has suggested that gun owners are "a minority of people that hold a viewpoint that terrorizes a majority of people."

"Just as it has been for the past seven years, since Barack Obama was elected, a Clinton nomination will guarantee continued strong gun sales and expanded gun ownership," Gottlieb contended. "Even among those who favor expanded background checks there is strong sentiment for protecting gun rights rather than controlling gun ownership."

"At the annual Gun Rights Policy Conference held at the end of last month, one of the biggest concerns among the activists in attendance was a Clinton nomination, followed by a Clinton election victory," he said. "American gun owners are convinced that she will turn the Oval Office into a war room against the Second Amendment."

"Between now and November 2016," he continued, "we expect Hillary Clinton, Bernie Sanders, Martin O'Malley, or whoever the Democrat nominee is to try to stigmatize and marginalize gun owners, but in fact any of those candidates will energize millions of law-abiding citizens."

Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT) who is running against her voted to allow firearms in checked baggage on Amtrak but supported banning semi-automatic weapons, closing so-called "gun show loopholes" and requiring background checks on all handgun purchases. He is currently rated as a D- by NRA.

"The other announced opponent to Mrs. Clinton for the Democrat nomination is Martin O'Malley (see story on page 3) and he is a dyed-in-the-wool gun hater," continued Gottlieb.

"If Vice President Joe Biden throws his hat in the ring by this time next year," Gottlieb predicted, "if there is any apathy within the firearms community, it will have been transformed into activism."

CHICAGO SURVEY PROVES WHAT CCRKBA CHIEF ‘SAID ALL ALONG’

A recent study by the University of Chicago Crime Lab involving nearly 100 prisoners at the Cook County Jail resulted in a finding that Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, said simply affirms “what we’ve been saying all along: Criminals don’t get their guns from stores or gun shows.”

The survey revealed that few of the inmates interviewed said they got firearms at gun shows or even via on-line sales. They do not normally steal firearms and rarely buy them at gun shops or sporting goods stores.

“About 70 percent said they got their guns from family, fellow gang members or through other social connections,” the newspaper reported. “Only two said they bought a gun at a store. It’s unclear how many of those surveyed were felons, but they can’t hold a state firearm owner’s permit — so they can’t legally purchase a weapon at a store.”

Gottlieb said this is no surprise, since CCRKBA has maintained for years that criminals do not get their guns through normal channels, and they’ve had the data to back that up.

He pointed to a survey done for the Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Statistics published in 2001. Chicago’s survey reinforces what the BJS study found. The BJS learned that only 8.3 percent of criminals said they bought guns retail, and 3.8 percent got them from pawn shops. Only 0.7 percent got guns from gun shows and another 1 percent obtained guns at flea markets. 79 percent obtained guns from family or friends (39.6%), or from illegal sources on the street (39.2%), precluding any sort of background check.

Judging from the results of the Chicago survey, things have not changed much in the past 14 years.

Something else that might have seemed startling, but not to CCRKBA was the notation in the Sun Times story that, “The inmates also told the researchers they typically kept a gun for less than a year, fearing that keeping it long could pose a legal liability. ‘Dirty guns,’ those fired in a crime, could become evidence in a police investigation, according to those interviewed.”

This has long been a concern in the firearms community when it comes to “gun buybacks.” These projects, almost always conducted under a “no questions asked” policy, could allow criminals to get rid of guns they have used in crimes. Unless each firearm taken in a “buyback” is tested in a ballistics lab, there would be no way of knowing if a perpetrator was letting the government destroy evidence.

The Sun Times might have inadvertently punctured a hole in another favorite claim by gun control proponents regarding the origins of crime guns. Oftentimes, anti-gunners in jurisdictions with tough gun laws blame out-of-state sources where gun laws are “lax” for the firearms recovered at crimes.

But the Sun Times noted that, “Research has shown most guns recovered in crimes in Chicago originally were sold by a handful of suburban Cook County gun shops, with Indiana being the largest out-of-state source of crime guns here.”

And there was one interesting revelation that shows even criminals have a sense of self-protection.

Quoting Harold Pollack, co-director of the crime lab, the newspaper re-

ported, “Still, the men said they were less concerned about getting caught by the cops than being put in the position of not having a gun to defend themselves and then getting shot.”

There was one surprising revelation by the survey. Chicago criminals reportedly “prefer handguns with a lot of ammunition because they aren’t good marksmen,” according to Pollack. They also don’t practice a lot, and they’re apparently not very familiar with the guns they use. That might put them at a distinct disadvantage against people who do practice, be they police or armed private citizens.



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CCRKBA TELLS O’MALLEY: ‘BACK TO THE DRAWING BOARD!’

When former Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley, now running for the Democratic nomination for president in 2016, released his gun control platform, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms “strongly advised” him to “go back to the drawing board!”

CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb took one look at the manifesto and called it “a disturbing document for any number of reasons.”

His agenda includes licensing and national registration, waiting periods, mandatory safe storage, rejection of national concealed carry, a background check scheme that could discourage legal gun ownership, a ban on so-called “assault weapons” and required microstamping on all firearms.

“Governor O’Malley’s proposal

would not reduce violent crime,” Gottlieb observed. “He’s putting forth an agenda that would ultimately destroy the Second Amendment, treating the right to keep and bear arms like a disease.”

Explaining that if elected president, O’Malley would “Enact comprehensive requirements for gun purchases, including fingerprint licensing,” the document insisted that, “Building from successful reform efforts in Maryland, O’Malley will require all individuals who seek to purchase or transfer any gun to obtain a fingerprint-based license, and complete safety training with a waiting period, in addition to passing a background check.”

A bit of checking reveals that O’Malley’s brand of gun control has not been a success. Homicides in

Baltimore, alone, already exceeded the total for 2014 in early September.

“O’Malley’s scheme reads like a blueprint for government demagoguery,” Gottlieb warned. “If even partly enacted, it would discourage millions of law-abiding citizens from exercising their Second Amendment rights.”

Gottlieb noted that O’Malley used the discredited claim that “40 percent” of all legal firearms transactions do not involve background checks. He noted this claim has been debunked by the Washington Post Fact Checker.

“It’s time for gun control fanatics to stop this campaign against the Second Amendment,” he stated.

“One might expect this from the gun prohibition lobby, but not a serious candidate for the nation’s highest office,” Gottlieb said.

CCRKBA CHAIR CONDEMNS FIREARM WASTE BY HONOLULU POLICE

When the Honolulu, Hawaii Police Department switched from 9mm Smith & Wesson to the Glock 17, the agency and city officials decided that instead of selling the older handguns — some of which were unused — they would be destroyed.

According to Fox News, the guns were worth possibly \$575,000. It’s a figure that left Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms Chairman Alan Gottlieb gasping.

“These guns,” Gottlieb said, “could have provided an important means of self-defense, especially for people who can’t afford new guns.”

Not only were the guns not made available for auction to retailers, even

Honolulu cops couldn’t buy one for their own use, Fox News reported.

The pistols, some 2,300 in all, were melted down. According to the story, “Mayor Kirk Caldwell and the Honolulu Police Department agreed that they would not allow the guns to be sold to the general public and end up on the streets of Honolulu.”

Reacting to the melt-down, Harvey Gerwig, president of the Hawaii Rifle Association, and Bill Richter, president of Lessons in Firearms Education, sent a bristling letter to Mayor Caldwell, condemning the action.

“The reason your office and HPD gave for not selling to the public

seemed to be a slight on those legal gun owners who would have purchased them and who supported you during your election,” the letter stated. “You should be ashamed for suggesting that the good citizens of Hawaii cannot be trusted with buying HPD’s surplus guns for fear of them falling into criminal hands when record numbers of firearms have been bought by those same citizens for the last ten years without any such problems.”

They added, “in these times of lean budgets and continual cost cutting to needed city services, to throw away a half a million dollars seems senseless.”

ANTI-GUN GROUP URGES PEOPLE TO CALL POLICE ON ARMED CITIZENS

The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence has taken its campaign against lawful firearms ownership to a new low, urging members and supporters to call police anytime they see someone carrying a sidearm openly or concealed.

The revelation came from Fox News, which quoted CSGV: “If you see someone carrying a firearm in public—openly or concealed—and have ANY doubts about their intent, call 911 immediately and ask police to come to the scene,” the group wrote on its Facebook page. “Never put your safety, or the safety of your loved ones, at the mercy of weak gun laws that arm individuals in public with little or no criminal and/or mental health screening.”

Point Blank visited the CSGV Facebook page and found another message: “Oh, these poor babies. God forbid they should have to endure some responsibilities to go with all those rights they demand. Keep calling 911, folks, ANYTIME you see an armed individual in public and have doubts about their intentions. We WILL NOT allow the well-being of our loved ones to be threatened by insane gun laws.”

Dave Workman, communications director for the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, observed: “Not only is this much like ‘swatting’ someone as a prank by calling police to report a dangerous circumstance for which a SWAT team is called out, what the CSGV

is suggesting could distract officers from responding to real crimes.”

It’s not clear what “insane gun laws” the CSGV was referring to, although it is clear they do not like open or concealed carry. Fox News noted that open carry is legal in every state except for five: California, Florida, Illinois, New York, and South Carolina, as well as the District of Columbia. Several states that allow open carry have “stringent” laws that require some sort of permit or license, the network noted.

From all indications, this effort is aimed at harassing law-abiding gun owners by police proxy. Critics of the idea say it should result in charges against the complainant, and even obstruction of justice charges.

GUNS ON LEGISLATIVE AGENDAS IN TWO STATES

The 2016 legislative sessions haven’t started but gun owners in Florida and Michigan could have their hands full in those states.

In Florida, there was action recently on a pair of bills that will impact gun owners. According to the *Bradenton News-Herald*, a state House subcommittee approved both bills in mid-September, and both now are expected to be heard during next year’s session in Tallahassee.

One concerns allowing concealed carry of handguns on college campuses, and the other makes technical changes to current law regarding discharge of firearms in residential areas.

The latter bill would change the

current law to bar discharge in areas where the shooter should know are primarily residential and the neighborhood’s density is one or more homes per acre.

The bill was partially the result of a furor that took place earlier this year when a St. Petersburg man set up a firing range at his house to practice with his 9mm. The neighbors reportedly didn’t like it, but the range was legal despite the heavy density of the surrounding neighborhood.

In Michigan, it looks like state legislators will be considering a pair of bills impacting gun rights.

According to the *Detroit Free Press*, both bills are being heard first in the state Senate. One, SB 442, would

limit the number of places that people could openly carry guns, but allow for concealed carry in those same places. Such places include schools, hospitals, churches or sports stadiums. A second bill, SB 478, would mandate background checks for the purchase of guns in the state.

Both bills have been referred to the Senate’s Judiciary Committee. They are among a large number of bills dealing with many topics that have been introduced for this upcoming session, reports the newspaper.

Members in both states will want to contact their legislators and let them know how they feel about the various pieces of legislation affecting their gun rights.

CUOMO’S NEW DEMAND FOR NATIONAL GUN CONTROL

Anti-gun New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo demanded more gun control legislation in reaction to the Labor Day shooting of a “top lawyer in his administration,” apparently by a stray bullet, and he “insisted that all people looking to purchase a firearm should undergo background checks to prevent criminals and the mentally ill from obtaining a gun.”

The governor, who championed the Secure Ammunition and

Firearms Enforcement (SAFE) Act – which is among the most restrictive in the country – has long advocated for tougher gun laws, yet his trophy legislation did not prevent the shooting that killed attorney and former Cuomo aide Carey Gabay.

Gabay was appointed First Deputy Counsel for Empire State Development in January. Prior to that he was a top Cuomo aide.

Cuomo told reporters that opponents of additional federal gun

laws are “delusional,” the Albany Times Union reported. Second Amendment activists might say the same thing about the governor, and anyone else who believes that criminals will be even slightly deterred by new gun laws, which seem only to penalize law-abiding gun owners.

The New York Times reported that the number of shooting victims has risen over the same period last year in New York.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

Under current federal law and most state laws, it is a crime to knowingly deliver by any means a firearm or ammunition to any person you have reason to believe is prohibited by law from possessing one.

Title 18 US Code, section 922(d) reads, in part: “It shall be unlawful for any person to sell or otherwise dispose of any firearm or ammunition to any person knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such person...” and then lists the prohibited categories.

Last month the former Virginia governor, and current-U.S. Senator Tim Kaine, who claims to be a gun owner and Second Amendment supporter, introduced a bill that would alter that language making it easier for federal prosecutors to convict anyone of violating it.

S. 2016 would delete the introductory sentence and replace it with “Unless the transferor has taken reasonable steps to determine that the recipient is not legally barred from possessing firearms or ammunition under paragraphs (1) through (9), it shall be unlawful for any person to sell or otherwise dispose of any firearm or ammunition to a person who...”

Titled the “Responsible Transfer of Firearms Act,” the change appears to be relatively simple. In many cases, it is almost impossible for a prosecutor to prove that a firearm seller “knows or has reasonable cause to believe” that a buyer is in fact a prohibited person.

The change in language places the burden of proof on the seller to demonstrate what active and/or overt “reasonable steps” he or she took before transferring a firearm. Nowhere is the term “reasonable steps” defined so it is left open to prosecutorial discretion.

Private individuals do not have access to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) or other law enforcement data bases, so a seller’s options are limited. Presumably a buyer who can show a current, valid state-issued concealed carry license might constitute a “reasonable step.” Might. It’s all up to the local federal prosecutor or U.S. Attorney.

The federal law applies to ammunition sale and possession, not just firearms. Under S. 2016, someone looking to dispose of excess ammunition assumes the burden to prove the new possessor is not a prohibited person.

Contact information for your Senators may be found at www.senate.gov or at the “Congressional Information” link in the left margin at www.ccrkba.org. Contact information on all federal elected officials may also be found in the “blue pages” at the front of your telephone directory.

CALIFORNIA ASSEMBLYMAN DEFENDS SECOND AMENDMENT

California Assemblyman Brian Jones, a Santee Republican representing the 71st Assembly District, has a history of promoting and defending firearms ownership that might be best exemplified by the Second Amendment Awareness event he sponsors at the Lemon Grove Rod & Gun Club in Alpine.

He is a member of that club and a life member of the California Rifle and Pistol Association.

Jones recently hosted the fifth annual such event, held in conjunction with Constitution Week, according to a press release from his office. He noted that the event has been growing steadily since the inaugural event.

According to his biography, Jones took office in December 2010 and before joining the State Assembly, he served on the Santee City Council. A former businessman and vice president for Diversified Realty Advisors, he also once managed a large non-profit "character

education assembly" program for elementary schools.

Jones grew up in Santee, and attended San Diego State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. He served as a full-time staff member at Sonrise Community Church in Santee, and is on the board of directors of the East County Boys and Girls Club.

The *Ramona Sentinel* noted that Jones uses his event not only to invite friends to enjoy safe shooting activities, but to introduce new shooters and educate everyone about legislation related to gun rights. The Lemon Grove Rod & Gun Club provides firearms and ammunition, and there are several firearms safety officers at the event.

Not only is Jones a shooter and strong Second Amendment advocate, he also enjoys other outdoor activities including off-roading, mountain biking and motorcycling, his biography noted.

Writing in an Op-Ed back in 2013 in the wake of the Sandy Hook tragedy,

Jones criticized politicians "in both Sacramento and Washington, D.C." for exploiting that sad event to introduce gun control measures "to further restrict access to firearms for law-abiding citizens."

"Too often," he wrote, "there is a wrongheaded, knee-jerk reaction to rush and pass new laws."

He warned about the consequences of such hasty actions, and cautioned against letting "emotion and hysteria overshadow the facts."

"We must home in on the sad truth of the situation," he observed, "no law or series of laws could ever have prevented this tragedy. This kind of evil respects no law, nor any code of civilized society."

Jones does not appear inclined to call it quits on the rights of gun owners, in California or elsewhere.

For his willingness to step forward in defense of the Second Amendment civil rights, Assemblyman Jones is the October 2015 Defender of the Month.

TACOMA, WA OFFICIALS WANT 'DROP BOX' FOR GUNS

City officials of Tacoma, Washington announced they want to place a "drop box" where people can deposit unwanted firearms as a means to get guns "off the street."

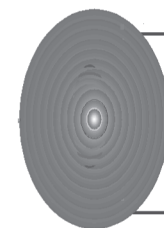
The effort was promptly criticized by Second Amendment activists, who contended that it is not just a bad idea, it might even be a dangerous idea. One person even suggested that nothing would prevent somebody from attempting to steal from the "drop box."

According to the *Tacoma News Tribune*, this drop box idea was "still in the planning stages," as explained by Police Chief Don Ramsdell. But the proposal got quick support from Melissa Cordeiro, Tacoma's "gang reduction project coordinator," the newspaper said.

Guns left in the drop box would be examined to determine whether they had been used in a crime, and if so, efforts would be made to find the last owner.

This may be the first time such an idea was ever tried, the newspaper indicated, quoting Cordeiro, who said, "That's why we have to be really careful and really think it through."

According to the newspaper, this anonymous gun drop box is "part of a gun safety education program" started by the city in 2014. It was proposed as an alternative to calling police to have them come pick up a gun, which eliminates any possibility of anonymity.



QUICK SHOTS

There's plenty of explaining to do for a suburban Atlanta police agency after a routine burglary call went south, leaving a homeowner and officer wounded.

According to the *Atlanta-Journal Constitution*, DeKalb County police responded to a suburban Atlanta neighborhood the night of August 31 to check out reports of a burglary. The responding officers accidentally entered the wrong house—two doors down from the actual residence where the report came from—and encountered the homeowner and his dog, when all heck broke loose. Both the homeowner and the officer who were wounded suffered non-life threatening injuries. The homeowner was able to go home after a brief trip to the hospital. The officer was briefly hospitalized.

The Boise, Idaho city council is looking at changes to their laws regarding the carrying of firearms in city parks.

According to KBSX-FM, the Boise State University public radio station, the councilman who has proposed the changes is doing so to put the regulations in line with state law. What this could mean for Boise gun owners doesn't appear to be clear, but whatever the case, the council, reports the radio station, could vote on these changes later this fall.

The Carlsbad, California Coast News reported that the city council approved a procedural motion at

its meeting Sept. 1 to amend local zoning rules to allow indoor shooting ranges in industrial zones.

The move by the council to make indoor ranges legal in industrial zones stemmed from a city planner's decision to block a gun shop owner's request for a use permit to open such a facility at her business in the city.

In Florida, a commissioner for a local fire district wants his firefighters to add a little something to their equipment: firearms.

According to the *Naples News*, Bonita Springs fire district Commissioner Fred Forbes made that suggestion and was expected to officially propose it at the district commissioners' next meeting.

How far this will go is obviously anyone's guess, but the commissioner's suggestion is in response to recent incidents around the country in which first responders have been shot and killed, although the paper noted Forbes couldn't cite a case of this nature involving firefighters.

The *Pittsburgh Tribune-Review*, in a recent editorial, called the Seattle gun Tax proposal a "Second Amendment potshot" and suggests such a tax "presupposes that every gun sold in Seattle is used for mayhem." The tax, which is set to start in 2016, has prompted a joint lawsuit from three gun rights groups, including the sister organization of the Citizens' Committee for the Right to Keep and

Bear Arms, the Second Amendment Foundation.

The taxes in question would add \$25 to the purchase of all new guns sold in the city, plus an ammunition tax between two and five cents a round.

According to KTHV-TV, Faulkner County, Arkansas's Quorum Court was presented with a proposal from county officials during a meeting Sept. 15 that would allow employees of the county to carry their weapons concealed while on the job and in such locations as the courthouse, coroner's office and tax assessor's office.

The proposal is in response to changes in state law. The court did not vote on the plan at that meeting reports the TV station, which adds that regular gun owners will not see any changes to current rules—they'll still be barred from bringing their guns onto public property.

The Arizona Department of Public Safety reported recently that there are more than 245,300 active concealed weapons permits in the state.

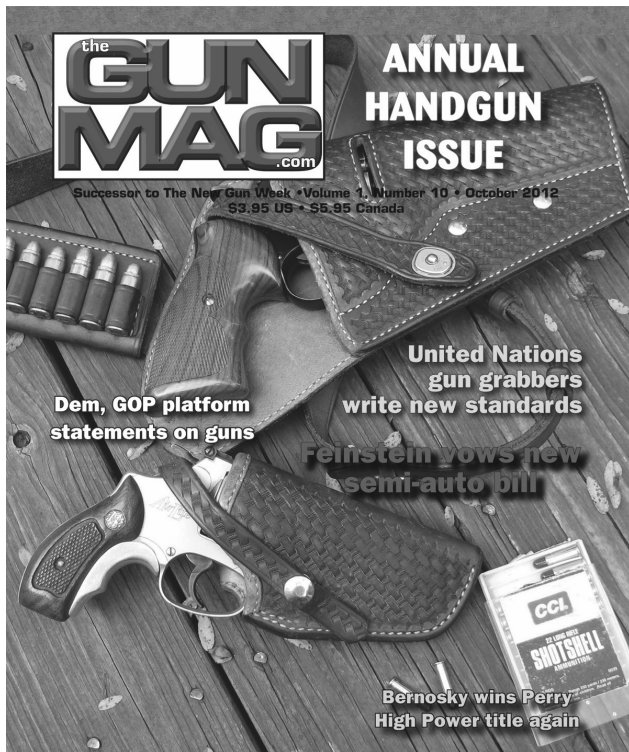
The county with the highest number of permits is Maricopa, with more than 92,000 in circulation.

More than 52,200 permits have been issued to women, with the largest group being in the 60-69 age category. Men in the 60-69 age group again accounting for the highest number at nearly 49,000.

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