

POINT BLANK

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

GOTTLIEB V. GATES: CCRKBA CHAIR CHALLENGES BILLIONAIRE ANTI-GUNNER TO DEBATE



**September
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The battle over gun rights in Washington State, where the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is headquartered, got hotter when CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb challenged billionaire Microsoft founder Bill Gates to a debate an initiative measure to which Gates and his wife just contributed \$1 million.

Initiative 594, sponsored by the Washington Alliance for Gun Responsibility – largely funded by wealthy elitists living in the Seattle-area – is being touted as a “universal background check” measure on gun sales. However, as Gottlieb has repeatedly pointed out, I-594 requires such checks on all gun transfers, including loans and gifts to non-family members.

It also greatly expands the state’s database on handguns, and increases the waiting period for handgun purchases from five to ten days for individuals who do not have a concealed pistol license.

Gun rights activists have been highly critical of what they see as hypocrisy of the wealthy who can afford their own armed security, trying to erode the gun rights of average citizens.

The campaign between what have been dubbed as the “dueling initiatives,” has taken on the tone of class warfare. It’s the rich against everyone else.

When Gates’ contribution made headlines across the country, Gottlieb – whose efforts have been devoted to passing a competing measure that requires background checks in Washington to comply with the uniform national standard – threw down the gauntlet. He publicly challenged Gates to an open debate, making it clear he would not settle for a surrogate to take the billionaire’s place.

“It’s time for Gates to put his mouth where his money is,” Gottlieb said in a prepared statement. “It’s one thing to be for background checks, but I-594 is a poorly written bad law, and all the money in the world won’t make it better.”

Gottlieb’s I-591 spans less than one page, and also prohibits government gun confiscation without due process.

By contrast, the Gates-supported I-594 stretches 18 pages.

In his challenge, Gottlieb also focused on the major law enforcement opposition to I-594. The Evergreen State’s two largest and most respected law enforcement organizations – the Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs, and the Washington State Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors Association – represent about 7,500 peace officers. That opposition has not

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WISCONSIN, CONNECTICUT VOTERS SUPPORT GUN RIGHTS

Voters in Wisconsin and Connecticut supported gun rights in elections last month.

Pro-gun Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke, won the Democrat primary, beating a city police lieutenant who had gotten support from a number of out-of-state groups, including anti-gun former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's political action committee. According to the newspaper, Bloomberg spent almost \$150,000 on television ads criticizing the incumbent sheriff.

Clarke came out swinging a week after his election victory, and Bloomberg was the target of his wrath. In an Op-ed published by the *Washington Times*, Sheriff Clarke noted that Bloomberg wanted to knock him out of the race because the sheriff had the audacity to advise

his constituents to get firearms and learn to use them in self-defense.

Sheriff Clarke also suggested that Bloomberg do some homework before trying to influence an election.

"Wisconsin happens to be a state where shooting sports are popular and deer hunting is sacrosanct," Clarke wrote. "State law allows people with a permit to carry concealed weapons. The fatal mistake he made was not doing his due diligence before betting on what he either thought or heard was my certain electoral demise Aug. 12. His hubris doesn't require him to assess the political climate before he puts his money on the table."

Meanwhile in Connecticut, gun rights activists are taking credit for influencing the outcome of a Republican primary race to

determine who will challenge anti-gun incumbent Democrat governor Dannel Malloy in November. In that primary, reports Politico, Tom Foley defeated John McKinney, with Foley receiving 56 percent of the tally, to McKinney's 44 percent of the overall vote cast in the election Aug. 12.

According to the *Hartford Courant*, McKinney was targeted by pro-gunners due to his support in the state Senate for gun control in the state which came about after the tragic shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown in 2012, which, reported the paper, is in his district.

DEBATE CHALLENGE

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been widely reported by Washington State media.

"If Gates accepts," Gottlieb said, "I expect him to explain why he thinks I-594 is such a hot idea when the Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs, and the Washington State Law Enforcement Firearms Instructors Association – the largest and most highly-respected law enforcement groups in the state – oppose the measure. He will also have to explain why both organizations emphatically support Initiative 591."

The Gates donation is not the only big money from Microsoft alumni.

"Bill Gates and his billionaire friends Paul Allen, Steve Ballmer and Nick Hanauer are using their

riches in an effort to buy an election," Gottlieb noted. "They will purchase slick advertising, buy professional spokesmen and try to steamroll their opponents. But Gates should speak for himself, and be willing to defend his position one-on-one."

Allen and Balmer both are Microsoft billionaires and Hanauer is a venture capitalist. All of them can afford private security teams.

"Gates should also make sure that if he accepts my challenge to debate, his bodyguards do not loan each other firearms, because that would be prohibited under the language of the gun control initiative he's funding," Gottlieb said. "I won't bring bodyguards, because I don't have any. My defense is the facts."



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

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UTAH CITIES UPDATING REGS TO COMPLY WITH PREEMPTION

Several communities in Utah have reportedly been looking at their local gun ordinances in an effort to bring them into line with the State's preemption statute, and the result will mean less confusion for gun owners.

It's part of the "Legal Preemption Project," launched by the Second Amendment Foundation, which is the sister organization of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. CCRKBA has joined SAF in an occasional legal dispute, one being a lawsuit against the City of Seattle, Wash.

That lawsuit was the result of an attempt by Seattle to first defy, and then to skirt, Washington's preemption law. At the time, CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb had sternly warned Mayors Against Illegal Guns, not to push forward with an attempt to ban firearms from public property in the city.

After defeating Seattle, the project was launched in seven states.

State preemption statutes typically contain a provision that nullifies existing ordinances and regulations that are in conflict with such state laws. However, that doesn't mean

cities and towns automatically remove those measures from their municipal codes. Many of those old ordinances linger for years until someone tries to enforce them.

CCRKBA is always on the lookout for violations, and when one comes to the organization's attention, it is referred to SAF for action.

Gottlieb noted to *Point Blank* that the preemption project ideally will get quick cooperation from local governments, which typically requires little more than some legislation to amend an offending regulation, or repeal it outright.

MISSOURI VOTERS STRENGTHEN STATE RKBA AMENDMENT

Anti-gunners were upset after a devastating primary election loss in Missouri that saw voters, by an almost two-to-one margin, strengthened the State's constitutional right to keep and bear arms provision.

According to the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, the Michael Bloomberg-funded Moms Demand Action group issued a statement after seeing the amendment pass. "Today Missouri voters approved a gun lobby-backed proposal that could gravely undermine public safety," the statement read.

Gun prohibitionists intent on preventing the amendment from being passed, warned before the election that it could "impede enforcement of reasonable firearms restrictions," the Post-Dispatch story noted. But such rhetoric has been ineffective in the past when anti-gunners opposed concealed carry reform laws in several states, and

such predictions have proven to be wrong with the test of time.

According to the Missouri Secretary of State's office, over 600,000 state residents, or nearly 61 percent of those who voted, cast ballots in favor of Constitutional Amendment 5, a measure that strengthened gun rights in the state. The measure called for residents' rights to own firearms to be "unalienable", and also extended those rights to include ammunition and other accessories.

The *St. Louis Post Dispatch* reported the measure failed in St. Louis but passed widely elsewhere in the state.

The Missouri amendment states that the right is unalienable: "Any restriction on these rights shall be subject to strict scrutiny and the state of Missouri shall be obligated to uphold these rights and shall under no circumstances decline to protect against their infringement."

This high level of scrutiny causes

anti-gunners to claim that the amendment will make it possible for criminals and mentally ill people to have guns without restrictions.

However, even in their own arguments, the group "No on Amendment 5" acknowledged that the measure contained this language: "Nothing in this amendment shall be construed to prevent the passage of general laws by the General Assembly that limit such rights for convicted violent felons or persons adjudged to be a danger to self or others as the result of a mental disorder or mental infirmity."

Still, they argued that, "While many will see this language as reasonable, allowing government to determine who can possess firearms is fraught with unseen and unknown danger. Historical cases of governments using "mental illness" as an excuse to detain and imprison its citizens are many."

CCRKBA CHIEF GETS ORIGINAL GA. 2A RESOLUTION

When he spoke in Atlanta recently at the GeorgiaCarry.org at their annual convention's dinner, Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, came away with something special, the original signed and framed House Resolution 1655, in which the Georgia House calls on Congress to "protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

The resolution further expressed the State of Georgia's "commitment to protecting the rights of our citizens against any attempt to curtail those rights."

Gottlieb accepted the original document, signed by the clerk of the Georgia State House with the official state seal affixed, from State Rep. Tom Kirby of the state's 114th District and a prime sponsor of the resolution.

Georgia Carry has grown to more than 7,300 members. The organization, according to the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, "lobbied heavily" for the state's new gun law that expands where legally-armed citizens can carry firearms. The expanded list includes churches, government buildings under certain

conditions, public schools and bars, the newspaper said.

The new law has been criticized by gun control organizations.

House Resolution 1655 said:

WHEREAS, the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed"; and

WHEREAS, the intent and purpose of the Second Amendment is to preserve and guarantee, not grant, the preexisting right of individuals to keep and bear arms; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the United States provides very specific and limited powers to the federal government then reinforces those limitations in the Tenth Amendment, stating, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people"; and

WHEREAS, the Constitution clearly states that Congress has no authority to infringe on the people's Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, including any attempt to ban or restrict ownership of a

firearm including but not limited to a semiautomatic firearm or any magazine of a firearm, or to require any firearm, magazine, or other firearm accessory to be registered in any manner; and

WHEREAS, no public servant in the State of Georgia has the authority to enforce or attempt to enforce any federal act, law, statute, rule, or regulation relating to a firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition owned or manufactured commercially or privately in Georgia and that remains exclusively within the borders of the state; and

WHEREAS, the State of Georgia may defend the rights of the citizens of this state in a federal prosecution for a violation of federal law that is in direct conflict with the United States Constitution relating to the manufacture, sale, transfer, or possession of a firearm, firearm accessory, or ammunition owned or manufactured and retained exclusively within the borders of this state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, that the members of this body join in requesting that Congress protect and defend the Constitution of the United States, and in expressing the State of Georgia's commitment to protecting the rights of our citizens against any attempt to curtail those rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized and directed to transmit appropriate copies of this resolution to the Georgia congressional delegation.

NY SAFE ACT CAUSING BUSINESS CASUALTIES?

Remington Arms announced in August that it is laying off more than 105 employees from its facility in Iliion, NY, and moving at least 80 of those jobs to Huntsville, Ala.

According to WKTV and The Outdoor Wire, the Alabama plant was opened in May. That brings production of Remington firearms to a more gun-friendly environment than New York a year after passage of the SAFE Act, which was pushed

through by anti-gun New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

The company would not confirm that its decision was connected to the SAFE Act, but the Outdoor Wire did note that the jobs are moving, but the employees who held them are not. This amounts to serious job loss in the Iliion area, and if it is because of the gun control legislation, there might be speculation that this could have political fallout.

NEW BOOK CONFIRMS ADMINISTRATION'S DEAF EARS ON GUN RIGHTS

A new book just released confirms that the Obama administration prefers “politics over policy” and essentially closed its ears to gun rights organizations in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook tragedy.

The White House would not even acknowledge the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms during so-called “discussions.”

New York Times best-selling author Frank Miniter's new book, *The Future of the Gun*, suggests that the Obama administration essentially “pushed away” the gun rights community when there might have been an opportunity for productive dialogue. According to a preview of the book by *Washington Examiner's* Paul Bedard,

the administration “wrongly thought the country was on their side in banning assault weapons.”

Gottlieb is no stranger to deaf ears from gun control proponents.

Last year, when he offered to sit down with the man now largely financing Washington state's gun control measure, Initiative 594, he wasn't interested. Here's how the *Seattle Times* reported that situation:

“Alan Gottlieb, a prominent Bellevue Second Amendment activist, said he reached out to (wealthy venture capitalized Nick) Hanauer through an intermediary to see if he'd discuss ways to make his background-check initiative more palatable to gun-rights advocates.

“Hanauer wasn't interested,” the *Times* reported.

“I thought his response was a little arrogant,” Gottlieb said. “I don't think he has any interest in meeting with people who don't share his views.”

“Hanauer said by the time Gottlieb reached out, initiative backers were ‘on a fast track’ to file the measure,” the *Times* said. “He added that since Gottlieb has spent his career pushing pro-gun laws, he ‘was not someone we considered seriously’ as a source for advice’.”

Thanks to revelations like this, the general public may finally understand that anti-gunners are far more interested in divisive politics than productive discourse.

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

The mid-term elections are less than two months away. For states with mail-in balloting, ballots go out in mid-October.

Now is the time to be checking on your status as a voter. Is your voter registration current? Address correct? Name changes since the last election? How about your family members? Co-workers? Shooting or hunting buddies?

This is the time to make any changes or corrections necessary to ensure that YOUR VOTE COUNTS on November 4.

Voter registration in most of the United States is done at the county level, through the County Auditor or County Elections Office. Registration or updates may also be conducted on line in most states.

“Rock the vote” is a web site designed to assist younger or first time voters in registering to accomplish this cherished right. The theme focuses on younger voters, but the procedure provided works for everyone. You can visit their web site at: www.rockthevote.com

Mail-in balloting is an available option in many states. While putting a stamp on an envelope and dropping it in the mail may not offer the sense of civic accomplishment that accompanies going to the polls, it ensures that weather, travel or other distractions don't prevent your vote from being counted.

This is particularly important for those who will be in the field during the fall hunting seasons. If you are planning a hunting trip that will take you out of town on election day, it is your responsibility to get an absentee ballot, fill it out before you leave, and make sure it goes into the mailbox.

Military members, merchant mariners and their families not only have the right to vote in their home state elections, they are encouraged to do so. Most military units have a “Voting Officer” designated who can assist in filling out and submitting a Federal Post Card Application that covers both registration and ensures you will receive a mail-in ballot. Absentee voter assistance is also available via the Federal Voter Assistance Program at <http://www.fvap.gov/>

Voting isn't just a right, it's a civic duty. How you vote will determine the future of your gun rights. And remember: Elections matter.

VICTIM ADVOCATE SAYS GUNS 'EMPOWER' PEOPLE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES

Salem, Ore., resident Rachel Lucas, who grew up in a liberal, anti-gun household, seems on her way to becoming a gun rights advocate that gun prohibitionists could ever experience.

A survivor of a brutal attack several years ago – the kind of incident which she acknowledged “changes your life forever” – the mom, former music and voice teacher, is now a proud gun owner and an activist for gun rights and crime victims. She has an Oregon Concealed Handgun License (CHL) and carries.

She has testified before the Oregon Legislature against various gun control proposals. In the wake of the horrible attacks at the Clackamas Mall and Sandy Hook, she founded Safer Oregon – Oregon Crime Victims for Self Protection.

“At one point in my life,” Lucas told *Point Blank*, “I really was anti-gun. I bought the whole Brady thing hook, line and sinker. But when I went shooting; if we can get women to try out shooting, then we win them over.”

Following her violent attack, which she detailed in a riveting

August Op-ed article that appeared in the *Salem Statesman-Journal*, Lucas went through “a lot of therapy.” She experienced panic attacks.

“You think you’re over it,” she said, “but then something hits out of the blue, some new challenge that you have to work through. You heal, but the scars are always there.”

Now something else is there as well: Confidence.

“When I shot a gun for the first time,” she recalled, “I realized a whole area where I had been scared. It empowered me...I know I can protect myself.”

She took a class, which is a requirement to obtain an Oregon CHL, and after buying her first handgun, she “went shooting every week.”

Lucas is hardly the only woman who has lived through a traumatic experience, and she has determined that by stepping forward and telling her story, others are inspired to do likewise.

“If they’re going to attack women,” she said, “then women can stand up and tell their stories. Women are stronger nowadays. I feel like women

who have been victims of crime have powerful stories to tell and we have one of the strongest voices to protect our rights.”

The Lucas family moved and her fledgling grassroots organization went on something of a hiatus. But what rekindled her activism was a segment of “The View,” during which an advertisement supporting background checks was shown. This message was produced by anti-gun billionaire Michael Bloomberg’s Everytown for Gun Safety, and it depicts a woman on the telephone with police as her ex-husband kicks in the front door, grabs their son and then pulls a pistol out of his pocket and, of camera after the screen goes dramatically black, a shot is fired.

It was the reaction of three of the four female panelists that got Lucas’ attention. All three suggested that the video actually makes a case for owning a gun.

Lucas thinks the philosophy and message of her organization “needs to go nationwide.” The gun control battle is waged largely on an emotional level, she acknowledged, but there are two sides to the argument, with plenty of emotion on the side of victims who have armed themselves.

“We want to help people learn to testify,” she explained. “There’s a way to share...You want to help people aim and shoot and tell their stories to win hearts and minds. There is strength in numbers.”

But it takes someone like Rachel Lucas to inspire people, which she had been doing rather well in Oregon. That’s why she is being recognized as our Gun Rights Defender of the Month.

ANOTHER ANTI-GUN MAYOR IN LEGAL TROUBLE

Another member of Mayors Against Illegal Guns is in legal trouble, and this isn’t the first go-round for Monticello, N.Y. Mayor Gordon Jenkins.

According to the Washington Free Beacon, Jenkins – who earlier pleaded guilty to selling “knockoff” copies of merchandise and was last year arrested for allegedly driving while intoxicated – has been arrested on charges of bribery. Jenkins was

arrested in mid-August, the Free Beacon reported, as was Monticello Building Inspector James Snowden.

Jenkins is not the only member of Bloomberg’s mayoral gun control group to run afoul of the law. Several mayors have gotten into trouble, and some have even been sentenced to prison. The list includes former New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin, and former Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, both Democrats. Jenkins is also a Democrat.



QUICK SHOTS

From the only cops should have guns file comes this story about a suburban Chicago, IL, police department is in trouble with the feds over their handling of some guns.

The *Arlington Heights Daily Herald* reported that the U.S. Department of Defense is looking into the matter, which concerns two M-16A1 rifles that were loaned to the Des Plaines police department over 10 years ago as part of a federal program, but which earlier this year turned up missing as part of an internal department audit.

A spokeswoman for the Department of Defense told the newspaper that the agency's inspector general is reviewing this incident, and the Des Plaines police have been suspended from the program.

Pennsylvania has become the latest state to see its legislature consider a proposal regarding the storage of guns by employees in their cars while at work.

According to *LancasterOnline.com*, House Bill 2243, cosponsored by Lancaster state Representative Bryan Cutler, would prohibit employers from preventing their employees from storing their personal firearms in their vehicles while on company property; there would be exceptions, reports the website, including for post offices and schools.

Further, the bill would allow employees and their family members legal recourse against employers if such policies prevent them from defending themselves and as a result are hurt.

The website reports the bill is in the House's Transportation Committee and is awaiting review there.

A prominent professional basketball player has been sent to the sidelines as a result of violating New York State's tough gun laws.

Raymond Felton, a player for the Dallas Mavericks, was suspended by

the National Basketball Association for four games, according to a report from *ESPNDallas.com*. Felton was disciplined as a result of a guilty plea he made as part of a plea bargain last month on two weapons-related charges. According to the website, Felton, who was a member of the New York Knicks at the time of the violations, admitted he was in possession of a pistol without a license and also a large-capacity magazine.

ESPNDallas reported Felton was fined and also sentenced to community service time. The suspension will be for the first four games of the season.

According to a story in the *Texas Tribune*, state gun rights supporters are expressing opposition to proposed new rules being looked at by the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission that would have allowed booze sales at shows in public facilities provided several restrictions were met. However, pro-gun folks, reported the *Tribune*, are concerned the current proposal's wording could create conflicts that could result in some gun shows not occurring.

Discussion is continuing on the proposal.

An armed citizen in Valley of the Sun in, AZ, put an end to a carjacking.

KTVK-TV reported the incident happened when a woman arrived home and was immediately confronted by the suspect, who had asked to use her phone. When the resident refused, the bad guy allegedly pulled her out of her vehicle, and drove off. A neighbor woman went to the vehicle and opened the passenger-side door, only to herself be knocked to the ground. The suspect got away, but not before the neighbor woman's husband opened fire with his gun at the car.

The suspect, reported KTVK, ended up crashing the car a short distance

away, and when police showed up to that scene, they found that the bad guy had been wounded from the gunshots; he died later at a hospital.

A city councilman in a Nashville, TN, suburb wants to make it easier for concealed carry permit holders to carry their guns while out for their morning run or walk.

According to WSMV-TV, Murfreesboro councilman Ed Smotherman is looking at proposing an amendment to a proposal that would ban guns in city parks that would exempt permit holders from those rules while using what is known as the "greenway" system, meaning area trails and trailheads.

The TV station reported that since it is an amendment to a proposed rule, it will get a vote without regular protocols needed, and that the city attorney will have to advise the council further before any action would be taken.

Gun rights supporters in one North Carolina county have, for the time being, put the brakes on a proposed gun ordinance.

According to WRAL-TV, a packed audience, many of whom were opposed to the proposal, filled the chambers of the Harnett County Commission. The commissioners were looking at the legislation, which if passed would regulate where firearms in the county could be discharged and also regulate the discharge of explosive devices.

One resident, reported the TV station, suggested in testimony the proposal was "anti-gun" and demanded a public vote on it. The county's sheriff, however, indicated that the rules were designed for urban areas within the county.

Commissioners voted to set aside the proposal, according to WRAL, and have a subcommittee look into it further.



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This year we'll take a look at critical issues such as: city gun bans, "smart" guns, concealed carry, federal legislation, legal actions, gun show regulation, state and local activity. We'll preview the 2014 elections, discuss state legislative battles and analyze Right to Keep and Bear Arms court cases.

The full roster of GRPC 2014 speakers has not yet been set. Past speakers have included: Alan M. Gottlieb, Joseph P. Tartaro, Eugene Volokh, G. Gordon Liddy, Michael Reagan, Larry Elder, Ken Hamblin, John Lott, Sandy Froman, Massad Ayoob, Tom Gresham, Alan Gura, Reps. Bob Barr and Joe Barton and many others. Check our web sites -- www.saf.org or www.ccrkba.org for updates.

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Books, monographs and other materials—enough to start a Second Amendment library are free, as are Saturday luncheon, Friday and Saturday evening receptions and morning and afternoon snack breaks. Other meals, travel and lodging are to be paid by attendee. To register for the special room rate of \$112 per night, call the Hyatt Regency Chicago O'Hare Airport hotel at 1-847-696-1234 and mention GRPC. A tentative agenda will be sent in late August.

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