

## Great Gun Rights Victory in the McDonald v. Chicago Case

In a vitally-important gun rights case decided June 28, 2010 the U.S. Supreme Court extended the reach of the Second Amendment beyond the federal government to apply also to states, counties, and cities. Gun Owners of California, Gun Owners of America and Gun Owners Foundation filed a scholarly amicus brief in this case, urging the Court to protect all U.S. citizens against any government infringement of the Second Amendment.

Two years ago the Supreme Court decided in *District of Columbia v. Heller* that the Second Amendment to the United States Constitution was violated by a District of Columbia handgun ban. Today, the Court ruled in *McDonald v. Chicago* that a look-a-like Chicago ban violated the Fourteenth Amendment. By so ruling, the Court held that the right to keep and bear arms secured to an American citizen living in the nation's capital was equally secured to that citizen in the nation's third largest city.

The *McDonald* opinion spent 45 pages reviewing the right to keep and bear arms -- its history, its importance to Americans as the chief safeguard against tyrannical government, and even its significance to the newly freed slaves who were previously being disarmed and abused by southern officials in the mid-to-late 1800s. While gun banners are making a big-to-do

about the three sentences of *dicta* in the opinion which seem to provide them a little wiggle room for some types of gun control in the future, the truth is that they only got three sentences in 45 pages! That would be like celebrating a beautiful field goal in a 70-3 loss in the Super Bowl. It ignores the fact that every single one of their arguments were smacked down by the Court.

Gun Owners of California, Gun Owners of America and Gun Owners Foundation join with other gun rights organizations and advocates to celebrate this next great victory after *Heller*; yet, the joy of the victory is tempered by the closeness of the vote — five to four — as well as the tenuous grounds on which *McDonald* was decided. It appears clear that eternal vigilance will be the price of defending the Second Amendment, as future threats are already forming against our gun rights.

### Fighting and Fundraising

By Julie Benson

It is time for gun owners throughout the state, and even the country, to take a stand. A battle has been fought over the freedom established

by the Second Amendment since it was penned. The battle is now more blatant, more intrusive, and more offensive than ever. This is the reason why we exist.

GOC is here to provide voters, and gun owners, with a means to taking that stand. The frustration that has been caused by the relentless efforts of the liberal government has moved gun owners to take action, by donating money, guns, and time to the fight. We are currently expanding our fundraising efforts by planning more dinners and fundraisers throughout the state. The 2010 dinners so far have surpassed the dinners of previous years, in people and money. As we gear up for the second half of this year, we are confident that we will continue to grow as awareness and frustration over the issue increases.

It is with your help that we can become a stronger voice to the California Legislature. If you are interested in donating your time, money, guns, or anything else for that matter, we would greatly appreciate it. The battle for freedom is increasing, and so is Gun Owners of California. We want to create opportunities for you to gather with fellow gun owners and like-minded people to work for something that has a purpose. Please contact Julie Benson at [Julie@gunownersca.com](mailto:Julie@gunownersca.com) or at 916-984-1400 if you are interested in helping our fundraising efforts.

*(Editor's Note: Julie Benson is the newest member of our team at GOC. As Director of Marketing and Communications, she will be managing all of our events and web-based communications.)*

**TO: SENATOR H. L. RICHARDSON, (ret.)**

YES! I want Gun Owners of California, Inc. to continue fighting for our 2nd Amendment rights. I understand the minimum donation of \$35.00 entitles me to full membership benefits.

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- Regular newsletters informing members of pending legislation and issues affecting gun rights.
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- [www.gunownersca.com](http://www.gunownersca.com)

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## It's Was a Great Year - This Week! ...and it's only Wednesday!

By Sam Paredes - Executive Director

For those who pay close attention to the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, both for and against, on Monday, June 28, 2010, the world changed.

In a historic ruling, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) ruled that the Second Amendment is an individual right, "fundamental to our scheme of ordered liberty" and "deeply rooted in the Nation's history and tradition". In *Heller v. Washington DC*, SCOTUS held that the right to keep and bear arms could not be infringed by the federal government, and on June 28, 2010, in *McDonald v. Chicago* the court incorporated the right to also apply against state and local government infringements.

This momentous decision has now opened the door for supporters of the Second Amendment, as our founding fathers envisioned, to challenge in court many of the unconstitutional gun control laws that are on the books of state and local government. For the first time, pro-gunners are not only morally and historically correct about what the Second Amendment means, we are now also LEGALLY correct according to SCOTUS.

That was Monday.

On Tuesday, June 29, 2010, at the State Capitol in Sacramento, Gun Owners of California, in cooperation with some of our closest colleagues, defeated AB 2223 - the expansion of the ban on the use of ammunition containing lead to all state wildlife areas. This came as a major blow to environmental extremists led by the author Assemblyman Pedro Nava (D-Santa

Barbara) and the Audubon Society who were the sponsors of the bill. It happened even though Nava personally lobbied the members of the committee to support his bill.

The issue boiled down to the fact that neither Nava nor Audubon could produce one shred of scientific proof that any species in the State of California was affected by lead other than the California Condor which the members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water felt was taken care of in previous legislation. Several Democrat members of the committee who have never voted with Republicans on issues related to guns or hunting came out after the hearing to thank our team (GOC, NSSF, Safari Club Int'l, and CA Association of Firearms Retailers) for informing them of facts so overwhelming that, in this case, they could not overlook them to support the bill. It pays to maintain a cordial and professional relationship with members of the legislature, even most of our opponents.

That's the good news, here's the bad...

In the face of the fact that Canadian Members of Parliament have voted to abandon their long gun registration

program because it is of little to no law enforcement use, is obscenely expensive (costing over \$2 billion so far) and because as one Member of Parliament put it, "Canadians don't need another report to know that the long-gun registry is very efficient at harassing law-abiding farmers and outdoors enthusiasts, while wasting billions of taxpayer dollars," the California State Senate Committee on Public Safety passed on a 4-2 vote AB 1810 by Assemblyman Mike Feuer (D-Los Angeles). There was only one of the seven members of the committee present when testimony on the bill was presented. What a way to run a government...

The Legislature is on summer vacation for the month of July and will return in August for the final month of the 2009/2010 legislative session. We will continue to fight AB 1810, as well as AB 1934 the ban on "open carry," and AB 2358 the expansion of ammunition registration bill.

Featured  
Candidate  
Profiles



Legislators are the ones who affect our firearms freedoms more than anybody. As long as there is an anti-gun majority running the Senate and the Assembly, we will have to fight them. Our goal is to systematically elect a pro-2nd Amendment majority so that we are in charge instead of them. It's better to elect your friends, whom you don't have to convince of anything, than to have to try to convince your enemies that they are wrong.

The following candidates really deserve our attention and recognition. Please read their profiles to learn a little about each of them. Some of these candidates will absolutely be coming to Sacramento because their real race was in the Primary, and some of them are extremely competitive in districts that are presently held by anti-gun Democrats. Please pay special attention to those close races.

Along with your continued support of GOC and GOC Campaign Committee (our PAC), we encourage you to support these candidates even though they may not be from your area. By helping to elect these folks you are actually making them your Senators and Assemblymembers. We have included their links to their campaign for your convenience.

## State Senate

**SD 4 Doug LaMalfa** – Former Assemblyman Doug LaMalfa will be returning to the Capitol after a hard fought victory in the Primary Election. LaMalfa will win the General in this heavily conservative and Republican District. LaMalfa is an unabashed defender of the 2nd Amendment and is a strong supporter of Gun Owners of California. He is no rookie; he already knows how to lead and will be the “Go To” gun guy in the Senate. [www.douglamalfa.com](http://www.douglamalfa.com)

**SD 12 Anthony Cannella** – Term-limited pro-gun Sen. Jeff Denham is moving on to Congress. Anthony is a civil engineer by profession and the Mayor of the City of Ceres. This is a critical swing district and Cannella is facing “F” rated Assemblywoman Anna Caballero for the seat. This is one of GOC Campaign Committee’s targeted races and we

will do everything possible to keep this a pro-gun seat by electing Anthony Cannella. [www.anthonycannella.com](http://www.anthonycannella.com)

**SD 16 Tim Thiesen** – It has been determined that Democrat candidate Michael Rubio does not live in the district and according to the Constitution is ineligible to run for this seat. The winner will replace anti-gun Democrat Sen. Dean Florez. If the courts rule that Rubio is ineligible, then Thiesen wins, but if they don't uphold the Constitution, this will be a barn-burner!  
[www.thiesenforsenate.com](http://www.thiesenforsenate.com)

**SD 17 Tom Berryhill** – As an Assemblyman, Tom walked the walk, and talked the talk. He was unafraid and un-intimidated to stand on the Assembly floor to defend the 2nd Amendment; he sponsored legislation to protect hunting in CA and was always willing to help when GOC needed it. He will be coming to the Senate in Nov.  
[www.tomberryhill.com](http://www.tomberryhill.com)

**SD 18 Jean Fuller** – Having served two terms in the Assembly, Fuller will fill the seat of termed-out Sen. Roy Ashburn. She is a proven friend of the 2nd Amendment and the hunting community with a solid career “A” rating. She will win the Nov. General in this heavily conservative district.  
[www.jeanfuller.com](http://www.jeanfuller.com)

**SD 36 Joel Anderson** – When attacks against the 2nd Amendment reached the Assembly floor, Joel Anderson's microphone was always one of the first to be raised. Joel is one of the few legislators who hates being part of the minority and has spent a good part of his career electing other pro-gun conservatives to office. Even though Joel has an opponent in the General Election, look for him to be helping other pro-gunners win in their races.  
[www.taxfightersforanderson.com](http://www.taxfightersforanderson.com)

## State Assembly

**AD 5 Andy Pugno** – An attorney specializing in taxpayer advocacy, Andy is no newcomer to politics. He's worked in the Capitol and was Chief Counsel to Prop.8 the defense of traditional

# 2010 Featured Candidate Profiles

*This is what Gun Owners of California is all about.*

marriage initiative. Although he is running in a safe Republican seat, the liberal Democrats are targeting his seat because they don't want such a vocal opponent in the Assembly. Andy will be as strong a pro-gunner as he is a defender of traditional marriage. [www.andypugno.com](http://www.andypugno.com)

**AD 10 – Jack Sieglock** – This is a very important race. In 2006, incumbent Alyson Huber defeated Sieglock by 474 votes in the tightest race of the year. Since being elected, Huber has either refrained from voting or voted against any anti-gun legislation, except that she has voted for the anti-gun leadership who appoints all of the committees and schedules all of the votes. In order to keep the seat under Democrat control, the liberal leadership allows Huber to amass a pro-gun record, that is, as long as hers is not the key vote needed to pass any anti-gun measure. The bottom line is that a pro-gun majority cannot be accomplished without Republicans holding all Republican seats and this is one of them. If the 2nd Amendment is to be truly defended, Jack Sieglock must win. Gun Owners of California Campaign Committee predicts that Jack will again make AD 10 a reliable conservative district by a comfortable margin.  
[www.jacksieglock.com](http://www.jacksieglock.com)

**AD 15 Abram Wilson** – Try as she might to avoid the appearance of being anti-gun by abstaining on a few controversial gun votes, incumbent Assemblywoman Joan Buchanan has still earned an “F” rating. Both candidates were unopposed in the June Primary, but in this Democrat leaning district Wilson out polled Buchanan 42,133 to 39,968 votes. Wilson is working very hard to return this seat to the pro-gun side and with a little help from the general public apathy with Democrat politicians, he should win. [www.wilsonforassembly2010.com](http://www.wilsonforassembly2010.com)

**AD 25 Kristin Olsen** – “I fully support the 2nd Amendment and will do everything within my power to protect it. We need less government – not more. Any attempt to restrict or prohibit our right to bear arms is government violating the Constitution and intruding into our lives. Our founding fathers included the 2nd Amendment in the Bill of Rights to ensure we

have the opportunity to protect ourselves – even from our own government if necessary. We have a constitutional right to protect our property and ourselves. As an Assemblymember, I will resist anything that compromises that right.” No Democrats filed to run against a strong field of Republicans in this district. Olsen wins!

**AD 29 Linda Halderman** – “I support the 2nd Amendment right of citizens to keep and bear arms without the intrusive hand of government. I do not support government infringement on the right of law-abiding citizens to defend ourselves and our families.” Dr. Halderman is a surgeon by profession and a public servant at heart. Fluent in Spanish and extremely intelligent, she will be a staunch defender of our firearms freedoms. She has taken opposition in the General Election.  
[www.lindahalderman.com](http://www.lindahalderman.com)

**AD 30 David Valadao** – This seat is of critical importance. In 2008, GOC helped to swing this otherwise Democrat seat to the pro-gun Republican side by a vote margin of 1,310 votes. David is running to replace Danny Gilmore who chose not to run again for re-election. Valadao is a solid pro-gunner and will be facing Fran Florez, the same opponent Gilmore defeated in 2008. This election will be very close.  
[www.valadaoassembly.com](http://www.valadaoassembly.com)

**AD 35 Mike Stoker** – Radical environmentalist and anti-gun Assemblyman Pedro Nava is finally termed out and cannot run again. Usually a reliable Democrat seat, the 35th district is one that could be captured by the right Republican in the right year. Mike Stoker, a 2nd Amendment supporter, is the right candidate, strongly integrated in the community and a hard worker. That part is taken care of and this is shaping up to be the right year.  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mike-Stoker-For-Assembly-2010/81616694293>

**AD 54 Martha Flores-Gibson** – As both candidates were unopposed, the Primary election was an insight into how close this race will be as they were separated by 1,021 votes. A defeat of Democrat incumbent anti-gun Assemblywoman Bonnie Lowenthal would be a major blow to the

anti-gun majority. This is another race that will be watched very closely.

[www.marthafloresgibson.com](http://www.marthafloresgibson.com)

**AD 59 Tim Donnelly** – He is a Christian, Pro-Life, Pro-Marriage, Pro-2nd Amendment and a Minuteman. Not a politician, he is a small business owner, a father and a grandfather, just an ordinary Californian who believes the 2nd Amendment confers upon every citizen the individual right to keep and bear arms, and that this right must not be infringed. In a six-way race for the Republican nomination, Connelly won even though he was far outspent by his opponents. He should breeze through the General Election.  
[www.donnellyforassembly.com](http://www.donnellyforassembly.com)

**AD 61 Ray Moors** – Moors is a self-described “Blue Collar” business owner of Joey's Bar-B-Q restaurants in the Inland Empire. In a district made for assuring Democrat victories, Moors came in just 519 votes behind anti-gun incumbent Assemblywoman Norma Torrez in the Primary. Here's the real kicker, Torrez spent over \$84,000 while Moors spent \$2,719 total! This is a major upset in the making. [www.raymoors.com](http://www.raymoors.com)

**AD 63 Mike Morrell** – Mike won his Primary by a convincing margin in a seven-way race. His victory broke all convention as he was outspent and won in parts of the district that were expected to vote for other candidates. Morrell is a deeply rooted conservative and defender of the 2nd Amendment who understands the importance of working to become the majority in the Assembly in order to stop the leftward movement of the California Legislature. Look for him to be a strong leader. [www.morrellforassembly.com](http://www.morrellforassembly.com)

**AD 68 Allan Mansoor** – If anyone has ever been “ready” to step-up to the Legislature it is Allan. In all his years of elective office on the local level, he was always involved in electing others to join his conservative leadership. A strong pro-gunner, and a proficient fundraiser, don't be surprised if in a short time you hear his name bounced around as potential Republican Leader. He will win the General election in this heavily Republican district.

[www.allanmansoor.com](http://www.allanmansoor.com)



**AD 69 Robert Hammond** – This is another usually reliable Democrat seat that has the potential of being captured by a Republican. Incumbent Assemblyman Jose Solario is the former Chairman of the Assembly Public Safety Committee and accumulated one the most anti-gun records in the lower house. After spending over \$68,000 Solario was only able to out-poll Hammond, who spent almost nothing, by 2,146 votes. This district is entirely in Orange County.  
[www.roberthammondforassembly2010.com](http://www.roberthammondforassembly2010.com)

**AD 70 Don Wagner** – In a four-way race for the Republican nomination Don worked his way to a comfortable victory. With deep business and community ties in Orange County, Don is a very strong conservative and dedicated supporter of our right to keep and bear arms. He has an opponent in November, but knowing a little about this guy, he's probably also trying to figure out how he can help drag other pro-gunners across the victory line with him.  
[www.wagnerforassembly.com](http://www.wagnerforassembly.com)

**AD 78 Rick Powell** – Running against reliably liberal Assemblyman Marty Block, Powell - a retired Army (full) Colonel, has the opportunity to pull off another major upset if he defeats Block in the General. Block spent over \$55,000 to gain 2,465 more votes than all Republican votes cast. The Reps spent almost nothing. It will be interesting to see how Block tries to besmirch a retired decorated war veteran and former Green Beret. [www.colrickpowell.com](http://www.colrickpowell.com)

**AD 80 Steve Sanchez** – This district is one of the truly competitive seats in the Assembly. The last Republican to hold this seat was Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia who survived three hotly contested elections. Term limits made this an open seat in 2008. In a year when Obama and the Democrats swept most of the elections, Manuel Perez was able to defeat a strong Republican by only 2.7%. With neither candidate facing Primary opponents, Democrat Perez spent \$135,000 to out-poll Sanchez by 3,043 votes who spent zero dollars. Sanchez is a retired Marine Sergeant, an “A” rated pro-2nd Amendment defender who will put up a real fight.  
[www.stevesanchezforassembly.com](http://www.stevesanchezforassembly.com)