

## Events in Review

Through the mess and chaos of the 2013 Legislative Session and the extravagant amount of bills that are being forced through the legislative process, we are grateful to report that our fundraising events have all proven to be a greater success than any year prior. With each event being larger than ever, we are proud to welcome so many new members and friends to the Gun Owners membership. We had a brand new event in Corning, California which turned out to be a huge success thanks to the hard work of our Tehama County Committee. We look forward to making this event an annual occurrence!

Our committee members all over the state were dedicated to selling tickets

and securing donations and we couldn't be more proud and appreciative of their hard work! Thanks to everyone who contributed to our events in Yuba City, Redding, Placerville, Rocklin, Oroville, Lone, and Corning. This year, we had more sponsors and guests from the firearms industry than ever before and we are overwhelmed with gratitude to everyone who joined us in the battle to protect the Second Amendment. We couldn't do it without your help and support! We hope to see you out at the next round of fundraising events in 2014!

As always, if you and a group of gun owners would like to put on a GOC fundraising event in your area, email Julie Benson at julie@gunownersca.com for more information!

## Inside the Committee

Continued . . .

In the hallway Senator Yee was visibly distressed and insulted that he had been called out on his "loophole" characterizations. He sputtered and emphasized with a pointed finger that he watched the videos of the original hearings. Well not only did we watch all of the available videos, we were there! There are no

"loopholes". The Senator lost his fervor for the confrontation once the Assembly Sergeants asked us to take our loud conversations to the end of the hall. . .

And that was all in just one day at the Capitol, folks. For more information on all of the

## GOC's Lobbying Efforts Expanded: Pro-Hunting Affiliates

Gun Owners of California is proud to announce our affiliation with the California Deer Association through their generous contribution to the GOC lobbying efforts. We are committed to lobbying on the behalf of CDA to fight against any and all anti-hunting bills brought before the Legislature.

We have been heavily involved in the pro-hunting fight since the beginning and we are honored to be officially fighting beside the California Deer Association. Thanks to CDA for their involvement and willingness to take a stand politically!



legislation (29 bills to be exact) that we are still fighting, go to our website at: [www.gunownersca.com](http://www.gunownersca.com) (click on "legislation").



# California GUN OWNERS

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## We Did It!

### 16th Senate District Special Election: A Major Victory for Liberty

By Sam Paredes, Executive Director

*Rumors of our death have been greatly exaggerated.*

~ Mark Twain

On July 23rd, 2013, the anti-gun leadership in the legislature suffered a stunning setback when Republican Andy Vidak defeated their hand-picked candidate Leticia Perez, in a special election to fill a State Senate seat that was abandoned by incumbent Democrat Michael Rubio. Stunning because this seat was considered by most a safe seat for the left, since registration numbers tilted heavily in the liberal's direction. This victory brings the loss of super-majority status of the Democrats within one vote.

There is plenty of credit to spread around on this one. First, massive kudos have to go out to Andy Vidak, a farmer and small businessman, for his persistence and perseverance. His tireless effort to win this seat under great odds was inspirational. After coming within a gnat's whisker in 2010 of defeating long-term incumbent, Congressman Jim Costa, he dove into the vacated Senate race, knowing full well that even with this victory, he will have to run again in 2014 in the "new" reapportioned 14th Senate District.

Much credit goes to those who raised the money and skillfully marshaled volunteers. Precincts were walked, thousands of phone calls were made; the significant and selfless efforts to pull out all the stops for Vidak were impressive. This is a very hopeful message for the future as to what can be done when there's a solid cooperative energy among people of all walks of life..

What is not known is that there was another effort going on behind the scenes.

The 16th Senate District includes portions of Fresno, Kern, Kings and Tulare counties. In the Special Primary Election held on May 21, 2013, Andy Vidak narrowly missed winning the seat outright by a mere 115 votes. Voter turn-out was a dismal 22% of registered voters.

Knowing that Special Elections are always decided with low voter turn-outs, Gun Owners decided to forensically evaluate this race, and we determined this election provided a unique opportunity to seize a win – and right from under the nose of the gun grabbers. The arrogance of the liberal majority was positively prophetic.

During the last week before the election, a strong coalition of pro-gun supporters and Tea Party members - under the leadership of Gun Owners of California - worked together to contact tens of thousands of voters from all parties, encouraging their vote to protect the Second Amendment. The response was overwhelming.

In the Primary Election, Vidak received 31,610 votes. In the General Election, he garnered 42,224 votes, winning by 3,084 votes. Even though voter turn-out was pushed to over 30%, it's clear that we were able to convince voters that Vidak deserved their vote.

**Communicating with voters about how important your participation is at the ballot box is what Gun Owners does best.** Every single vote counts – and we will continue to work in the trenches to convey this message. The Vidak win is more than just a symbolic victory as to what we can do when we coordinate wisely – organizationally – and financially.

Special thanks go out to Marie Roberson of the North Valley Patriots/Turlock Tea Party for your willingness to take on any and every challenge with great enthusiasm, and to Assembly Republican Brian Jones for your leadership and encouragement.



See Inside . . .

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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## Gun Owners of California Membership Benefits

- Regular newsletters informing members of pending legislation and issues affecting gun rights.
- Information alerts through our website, email.
- Voting records of all California Legislators.
- Access to all Legislators through our website.

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

Gun Owners of California, Inc.

1831 Iron Point Road, Suite 120

Folsom, CA 95630

Office (916) 984-1400

Fax (916) 984-1402



email: [gunownca@gunownersca.com](mailto:gunownca@gunownersca.com)

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## Inside the Committee:

### Sam Paredes calls out Senator Yee on the Facts

By Mary Barb - Legislative Assistant

As usual, California proved itself to be one of the least Second Amendment friendly states in the country. At each hearing, dozens and dozens of people have shown up to face-off in the battle of “gun-rights” versus “gun-control”. Some there in support of gun-control have lost loved ones to gun violence, while others have been saved by their right to keep and bear arms. Many good patriots have shown and testified their support of the Second Amendment, as an extremely basic right is being severely threatened by the emotion and irrational reactions to unfortunate and tragic occurrences. We are here to give you an inside-look at what has happened behind the doors of the State Capitol, and just what they are saying about your gun rights ...

For an example of a day’s work under the copper dome, here are a few details from just one of the many committee hearings we’ve encountered. On Tuesday, August 13th, a package of bills passed a key legislative hurdle in the Public Safety Committee room, setting up a white-hot Capitol showdown.

**A total of six bills were heard, all of which passed out of Assembly Public Safety and were sent on to Assembly Appropriations Suspense Calendar, which will be voted on come August 29th.**

- **SB 47 (Yee)** ASSAULT WEAPONS – Bans “Bullet Button” guns.
- **SB 374 (Steinberg)** FIREARMS: ASSAULT WEAPONS – Bans all semi-auto centerfire long guns with detachable magazines.
- **SB 396 (Hancock)** FIREARMS: MAGAZINE CAPACITY – Makes all grandfathered Hi-Cap (10 rounds or more) illegal to possess.
- **SB 567 (Jackson)** FIREARMS: SHOTGUNS – Revises the definition of a shotgun.
- **SB 683 (Block)** FIREARMS: Requires all gun buyers to get a Firearm Safety Certificate before buying any gun.

• **SB 755 (Wolk)** FIREARMS: Expands the number of crimes that are punishable by a 5 or 10 year ban on firearms ownership.

In Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson’s presentation on SB 567, she boldly stated that the Mossberg shotgun, the firearm primarily targeted by this bill, was made with a rifled bore so that it could get around the law, and this bill is specifically designed to close that loophole.

Julie Leftwitch, the Legal Director for the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence, was a witness in support of Senator Jackson’s bill. She attempted to discount the knowledge, experience, and expertise of the opposition before even hearing their testimonies by stating her understanding of the Second Amendment: “... I am sure you will hear today, opponents of the gun violence prevention bills that are before you will argue that the Second Amendment *prohibits* strong gun laws, and it does not ... the US Supreme Court ruled for the first time in the Heller Case that the Second Amendment guarantees the right of *law abiding, responsible individuals*, the right to possess a *handgun* in the home for self-defense. It made clear that the law is not absolute, and that many gun laws are consistent with the Second Amendment, particularly those that are dangerous weapons such as assault weapons.” While we obviously disagree with her interpretation of the ruling, there were quiet chuckles heard throughout the room, coming from some of those in support of the Second Amendment.

Our colleague and friend, Gerald Upholt, with the California Association of Firearms Retailers, responded to Senator Jackson with clear knowledge on the subject, explaining that “... Mossberg has had that shotgun with the rifled barrel for at least 20 years that I know of. The reason that it was developed was because in the mid-west and the eastern states, the housing density is fairly high and the density of the forest is very high in many places, so the Fish and Game departments there said ‘well you can’t use rifles for hunting deer because the projectiles carry too far’ so they have limited the hunters to using shotguns with either buck shot or rifled slugs.

The barrel was rifled to increase the accuracy of the rifle slugs. By themselves they are not very accurate but if you have a shotgun barrel that is rifled, it increases the accuracy of the shotgun and you have a much better chance of actually humanely killing a deer, instead of wounding it and that’s the reason for the rifled bore on a Mossberg shotgun, *it has nothing to do with getting away from the definition of a shotgun or anything like that.*” Even though the bill proceeded to garner a majority of “aye” votes, we are confident the Senator didn’t like being confronted with the facts she failed to research on her own. *Well done, Gerald. Well done.*

Another bill that has been interesting to follow through the process has been SB 374, authored by Senator Darrell Steinberg. In one of his most recent presentations on the bill, Senator Steinberg led off by telling the committee that, “The state of California once led the Nation in responding to the victims and potential victims of assault weapons and over the course of the 20 plus years that California’s assault weapons ban has been in effect; the gun industry, the manufacturers have found numerous ways to get around the ban.” At one point, he even went so far as to say “This entire package is not focused on trying to prohibit or limit law-abiding citizens from having guns. It seeks to close the loopholes that were never supposed to exist.”

Ed Worley, the National Rifle Association’s Lobbyist countered Steinberg’s “loopholes” comment by stating that “We are not looking at a loophole, but rather a vast expansion of government control over a constitutional right!” ... something Senator Steinberg seems to pride himself in every time.

The Democratic committee members even refused to consider the testimony of Aaron Maguire, representing the California State Sheriffs’ Association, who labeled the bill as being “vastly over-inclusive of firearms that are legitimate sporting and hunting weapons.” We are grateful to have the Sheriff’s Association on our side regarding this issue.

Republican Assemblywoman Marie Waldron stated her common sense opposition by reminding Steinberg that “...the vast majority of crimes are committed with handguns, so this won’t really have an effect on that statistic ... how will we get the criminals to register their weapons that are illegal? ... it’s not really going to affect those people because ... they are going to continue to break the law. Only law abiding citizens will once again, be affected ...” *Assemblywoman, we thank you for your refreshingly sensible reminder!*

Assemblywoman Melissa Melendez (Republican) laughingly addressed Senator Steinberg by saying “This will probably come as no surprise but I cannot support this bill. I know, I know you are shocked, I know you were hopeful. Ideologically, we are vastly different on our views of gun control and gun rights and I get that ... We are talking about this bill and making so many weapons illegal for so many people. It’s disturbing to me that we are going to take something about 95% of the rifles in production, or a very high number, they would now become considered illegal.” She went on to ask the Senator “You don’t happen to hunt, do you?” He responded with “I do not.” She then asked “If we ban these weapons, what do you propose that our hunters use for deer hunting and things of that nature, what will they use?”

Senator Steinberg was clearly not prepared for this question and stumbled over himself before responding, “rifles which have the ability to, uh, carry 10 rounds in a magazine which cannot be detached. When the 10 rounds are completed, guns can then be reloaded with 10 new rounds, um, in the conventional, manual way.” Assemblywoman Melendez finished with “We can’t ban everything. This is about personal responsibility of human beings-not the weapons they are using.”

Yet of course, the common sense of the pro-gun testimonies and very well educated statements of the Republican committee members fell on deaf ears, as this bill flew out of the hearing by an overwhelming majority.

But the excitement didn’t end there! Another bill that really made some feathers ruffle was SB 47, authored by Senator Leland Yee. Senator Yee led off his presentation by stating that because of yet another “loophole” in the current assault weapons ban “we have found that there are, in fact, weapons that are out there that skirt that particular ban. What this bill is designed to do is

basically close that particular loophole.” His bill would, in essence, ban the bullet button.

With his response to Senator Yee, Sam Paredes, the Executive Director of Gun Owners of California got a real rise out the Senator when he said “... I believe that Mr. Worley and myself are the only two people in this room, who were here when the original bill was discussed at the beginning of the ‘assault weapons ban’ phenomenon. This is not some ‘loophole’ as has been pointed out by the author and many people who support their bill. The use of a tool to remove a magazine was something that was specifically discussed in the legislative process, was specifically discussed in the regulation making process and the specifically included the use of a bullet tip or a cartridge as a tool and it defined it as tool in order to be able to remove the magazine. There was no misconception ... There is no loophole here. That was a part of the discussion and I think it is important that *we keep honestly to what the discussion was* that drove this bill in the first place. Number two, ... The reports put out by the Department of Justice that are mandated by the state of California Legislature show that these guns are not ...bullet button guns are not used in commissions of a crime! ... In the state of California, 300 times a day, law-abiding citizens use all manner of firearms to defend themselves in their homes. As a matter of fact, year after year after year, it has proven out nationwide and in California that there are far more lawful uses of self-defense with the use of a firearm among law-abiding citizens than there are with police! *Those are facts.* And that is what we need to be talking about. This bill will only take away firearms from people who completely abide by the law and who are not part of any criminal element in the state of California. For that and a whole bunch of other reasons, we are in strong opposition. Thank you.”

Although his bill passed, Senator Yee stood up and asked the pro-gun lobbyists out into the hall to further discuss their differences. Apparently,



Senator Yee, Tom Pederson (CRPA), Sam Paredes (GOC), Ed Worley (NRA) - left to right

Senator Yee didn’t like being held accountable for his misrepresentation of what happened at the initial assault weapons ban hearings.

**It sure seems like we have a lot of “loopholes” in California laws that need to be closed!**

Inside the Committee  
Continued on page 4. . .

## Have you been tuned in?

Do you want to hear weekly updates and stories from inside the halls of the State Capitol? Want the insiders scoop on the legal battle that’s taking place in defense of your Second Amendment rights? Then tune in to the Just Guns Radio Show on Monday 105.5FM (Sacramento)! Gun Owners of California is proud to partner with the Just Guns Store on a radio show dedicated to ... well, guns!

Each show, hosts Josh Deaser, Sam Paredes and Julie Benson discuss the industry, the politics, the laws, and the right! With regular guest, Chuck Michel, the premier Second Amendment attorney in the State of California, we get updates, advice, and behind the scene stories from the legal side of the pro-gun fight. Special guests have included some of the top pro-gun legislators in the State, as well as insiders from the country’s most well-known gun and ammunition manufactures.

**Starting Monday, September 9th, Just Guns Radio will be moving to 8:00am-9:00am and 5:00pm-6:00pm!** Tune in to Money 105.5FM (Sacramento/Marysville/Stockton). To listen online, go to: [money1055.com](http://money1055.com), [justgunsradio.com](http://justgunsradio.com), or [iHeartRadio.com](http://iHeartRadio.com).

