



GUN OWNERS of California

ARE WE MAKING ANY PROGRESS TO RESTORE THE SECOND AMENDMENT IN CALIFORNIA?

By Sam Paredes, Executive Director

It's easy to concentrate on all the attacks and challenges on our Second Amendment rights here in California, but, you should know our efforts are not in vain.

Let's talk about the LEGISLATURE first.

Gun Owners of California followed 42 bills in 2017 that could have affected our Second Amendment rights. Out of those 42 bills, only five of them made it to Governor Brown's desk and then he signed four of them into law. That didn't happen without a monumental amount of work, testifying in legislative committees, walking the halls of the Capitol speaking the truth and coordinating with all our other friends. Yes, it's true that every anti-gun bill signed into law diminishes our rights and must be opposed in future legal challenges, but, from the outside it's difficult to see all the successes we have in the process. No telling how many of the remaining 36 bills would have passed had we not been there putting up a fight.

It takes an immense amount of time and financial resources to lobby the legislature. As well as travel to the Capitol to provide physical testimony, critical analysis must be written and distributed to committee members

and staff, and our positions of support or opposition must be voiced with every member of the legislature on each and every bill. This, alone, is a full-time job that we do with a small but dedicated professional staff.

Now about the ELECTIONS.

Because of our 42 years of political experience in the Capitol, Gun Owners of California has assumed the lead role of working with our Second Amendment partners to research district races, recruit, train and support candidates, plus make critical decisions as to which races merit our participation. Sometimes it is with direct support and sometimes it is with independent actions, which ever one we feel would be more helpful in winning seats.

It isn't just the numbers that determine which races we will tackle; it takes hard work on the ground, coordination with other groups who want to achieve the same goal, and sometimes a special intuition to know which races should garner our attention. Frankly, GOC has been working on the 2018 Elections since the beginning of 2017. Between now and the June Primary Election, GOC staff will be traveling up and down the state evaluating campaigns, meeting with candidates and other organizations to coordinate our efforts in order to pick up important seats in the legislature.

Finally, the COURTS.

Gun Owners of California has earned the role of *amicus brief wrangler*. We have successfully been able to assemble key organizations (such as other pro-gun state associations throughout the country), and law enforcement groups to write critically important court briefs in support of multiple lawsuits that seek to restore our Second Amendment rights. Of course, this requires a serious financial commitment by GOC so we can pay the attorneys who skillfully write them on our behalf.

In 2017, GOC helped fund an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court in the *Silvester v Becerra* case regarding the constitutionality of the ten-day wait-

OVER PLEASE . . .



*Merry Christmas And
Happy New Years From
GOC!*

"...then pealed the bells more loud and deep: "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep; the Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail, With peace on earth, good-will to men..."

~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



ARE WE MAKING ANY PROGRESS...CONT.

ing period. Rest assured that 2018 will bring multiple opportunities to support lawsuits against California's assault weapons laws, magazine bans, ammunition registration, plus other ill-conceived acts that come our way. The cost of supporting each of these briefs is anywhere between \$1,000 and \$15,000. Any way you look at it, the fight for the Second Amendment is very costly but it is well worth it.

It is only through the support of GOC members that we are able to fight this fight. For that we are most humbled and grateful.

GOC IN THE MEDIA – ACROSS THE GLOBE

Where in the World is *Sam Paredes*?

The battle for our gun rights never ends here in California and 2017 was certainly no different. The charge for increased gun control has amped up *everywhere*, and our executive director Sam Paredes has been at the tip of the spear defending our issue. He's traveled from one end of the state to the other, speaking before a multitude of grassroots organizations, at rallies, at the Capitol – and has even made his way right into your living room and car.

In 2017 alone, Sam has been interviewed by:

Breitbart News
Sacramento Bee
KCRA TV Sacramento
ABC TV Sacramento
KABC TV Los Angeles
CBS TV Sacramento
NPR
BBC TV– United Kingdom
BBC TV – Australia
Telemundo/NBC Universal

Univision Television
LA Times
The Larry Elder Show
Huffington Post
Fox 40 TV – Sacramento
San Jose Mercury News
Santa Cruz Sentinel
KGO Radio San Francisco
KNX – Radio Los Angeles
KFBK – Radio Sacramento
KTHZ – Radio Sacramento
KHTK – Sep Hendrickson Show
CalMatters
Capitol Public Radio
Modesto Bee
The Independent
The Blaze
KPPC Radio

As one can tell, many in the press corps have Sam's cell on speed dial. He's a quick study on who will give our issue a fair shake – and who won't. We don't necessarily expect them to carry the 2nd Amendment torch, but we think it's perfectly reasonable to ask for some respect along the way. Some give it – others don't – which means they go on the naughty list and Sam likely won't return a phone call. That said, we think Sam covers the ground and the airwaves pretty well – reaching far beyond California with straight-forward talk about the 2nd Amendment, dispelling Fake News along the way.

Oftentimes, the media is more prone to ignite a firestorm of emotion when it comes to guns, yet Sam conveys a measured, insightful perspective to what can be a hostile dialogue. He has been a featured speaker at UCLA where he's been lauded by University professors for bringing an informative and educated response to the table. In addition to previously mentioned media outlets, Sam has also made appearances on MSNBC, ABC World News Tonight, FOX News and even Al Jazeera. GOC will continue speaking the truth, in California and beyond our borders.

ASSAULT WEAPONS AND THANKSGIVING HEARTBURN

On Wednesday, November 22, 2017, the day before Thanksgiving, the California Department of Justice (DOJ) announced regulations that included new definitions regarding California Assault Weapons.

It is as if DOJ was actually trying to give California's gun owners a severe case of heartburn before they even sat down to Thanksgiving dinner.

DOJ has a habit of releasing both illogical and misguided anti-gun regulations on the eve of major holidays, such as the 2016 pre-Christmas and New Year's debacle. There can only be two reasons for this: either the DOJ believes that nobody will be paying attention and all criticism will be diminished by time, or, they really think it's funny to cause pro-Second Amendment groups like GOC to disrupt important family time in order to respond to the submission of the new regulations over the holidays. We can already hear their excuses, "*the truncated timeframe for submitting regulations governs the process, not the holiday calendar,*" or, "*we are so understaffed that we can only release them when we get to them.*" The truth is that they are **not** required by law to do their job in a timeframe that allows for immediate public scrutiny, input and challenges.

Needless to say, we believe that the newly submitted regulations defining California Assault Weapons go far beyond the authority granted to DOJ by the legislature. You can also bet the legislature will just turn their collective anti-Second Amendment heads

NEXT PAGE . . .

and ignore any criticism. That is why we will be working with our Second Amendment partners to challenge this vast overreach in the courts.

The 50 plus pages of new regulations merit serious scrutiny and is currently under review by our legal team. And, given that it would take more space than we have available in this newsletter to print, go to the GOC website at www.gunownersca.com to examine and download. An email copy can be requested by contacting GOC@gunownersca.com.

QUESTIONS AROUND REGARDING AMMO SALES & TRANSFERS IN 2018 AND BEYOND

GOC has received tons of questions about how the new ammunition laws will affect gun owners.

The following is a FAQ on the new ammo laws:

Q. How did we get in this mess?

A. Unless you are new to California or have been living under a rock, California voters passed Proposition 63 in 2016 and the Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law a package of bills known as "Gunmageddon" that included SB 1235. These similar, yet conflicting laws affect ammo purchases, sales, storage, etc. and the Department of Justice is picking and choosing which provisions will go into effect.

Q. Where will I be able to buy ammo?

A. Beginning 1/1/18, you will only be able to buy ammo from a licensed ammo vendor. It will be illegal to buy ammo via mail-order and have it delivered to your home. If you choose to buy via mail-order, the ammo will

have to be delivered to a licensed vendor where you will be able to pick it up after paying specified fees and taxes.

Q. Can I drive out-of-state to purchase ammo?

A. No! Beginning 1/1/18, it will be illegal to import ammo from outside the state into California. You cannot drive to dealers or gun shows in Arizona, Nevada, or Oregon (or any other state) to buy ammo and drive it back home. It is no secret that DOJ has agents at major gun shows and guns/ammo dealers in neighboring states, and they are looking for Californians who are trying to bring illegal merchandise (high capacity magazines) back across the border. Make no mistake: they have established procedures to communicate with agents or CHP officers to stop vehicles after they cross the state line. Expect that they will be doing the same for ammunition.

Q. Who is an approved ammo vendor?

A. All current California gun dealers will be vendors. Anyone else who sells more than 500 rounds of ammo per year will have to obtain a vendor's license.

Q. Am I limited on the amount or type of ammo I buy?

A. No. No one is limited on how much or what type of ammo they buy. But, beginning on 1/1/19, all ammo purchases will require a background check and the ammo vendor will be required to transmit all purchase information to the DOJ where they will maintain an ammo purchaser's database. The information will be kept by DOJ for two years.

Q. Will I be able to sell ammo to a friend?

A. Yes, but you will have to go to a licensed dealer to do it just as you

would for a private party transfer of a gun.

Q. What happens if I buy ammo at a gun range?

A. Any ammo purchased at a gun range will not require registration as long as the ammo is totally consumed at the range. It will be a crime to take a single round of unused, unregistered ammo off the range premises.

Q. Can I take my own ammo out of state and bring it back?

A. Yes, but it would be wise to have some sort of proof that you purchased it or reloaded it in California.

Q. What about reloading ammo?

A. Reloaders are free from all the purchase restrictions. It is and will be legal to buy any and all components including bullets, primers, cases and powder via mail-order and have it delivered to your home.

All of these restrictions only affect fully loaded cartridges, not components or blanks.

If you have any other questions, feel free to call GOC at (916) 984-1400 or go to our website at:

www.gunownersca.com.

Stay Armed and Informed!



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Are you tired of the frustration and anxiety caused by the often overwhelming liberal majority around you? Do you feel better when surrounded by ardent gun owners and supporters of the Second Amendment? Are you ready to get involved in order to help **GROW GOC** and **STRENGTHEN** our efforts in the fight?

JOIN A COMMITTEE! We have fundraising events throughout Northern California and we are always looking for new areas to build a network of strong Second Amendment-loving citizens! If you are interested in joining an existing committee or would like to learn more about starting a new one in your area, contact Julie Benson at julie@gunownersca.com.

Existing Fundraising Committees:

- Yuba City/Marysville
- Sacramento
- Oroville
- Vacaville

- Dublin
- Lone/El Dorado County

Areas of Interest:

- Redding
- Central Valley
- Southern California

Our Vacaville event nearly **doubled** in size this year because people want to hear that groups like GOC are fighting for them, plus they are hungry to gather with like-minded 2nd Amendment people in their community. Will you join us? The return on the investment of time is huge – it will help GOC and the pro-gun cause in the Golden State!

GREAT NEWS ON GOC'S BLOG

GOC is pleased to report that our blog has been getting lots of attention recently – not just in California, but on the national scene as well. **Ammunition Depot** has listed us as one of the top 50 Blogs for Gun Enthusiasts in the country and **Feedspot**, the “content reader” for favorite blogs and news websites has also recognized us for great sub-

stance. Not just that, but GOC has been asked to submit articles to a variety of state and national media, including California Treasurer John Chiang’s statewide newsletter and Breitbart News.

Our pieces run the gamut – from recent posts about defending a California patriot, to bias in the media and how the anti-gun folks love to profit from tragedy. The blog is informative and even entertaining at times, because we neither have the time nor the inclination to mince words and we certainly don’t err on the side of the politically correct.

We’ve also begun a weekly news update. We aren’t interested in spamming anyone’s inbox (we NEVER sell any name that is on any list at any time) but sometimes people just need a one-stop place to catch up on relevant gun news. To sign up to receive these informative messages, go to the bottom of our homepage at www.gunownersca.com.

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.

\$100 \$75 \$50 \$35 Other \$ _____

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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.

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