



GUN OWNERS of California

A MESSAGE FOR 2021

By Sam Paredes, Executive Director

It is difficult to believe that the year of COVID is stretching out from 2020 into 2021 and some say there's no end in sight. It is even harder to believe that we are already almost a quarter of the way through 2021.

No question about it. It has been a year full of challenges for everyone. But none of that has stopped the leftist anti-gunners from pursuing their assault of the 2nd Amendment. As a matter of fact, the election of Joe Biden has emboldened them to reach for the brass ring. There's all kinds of talk about national gun bans, ammunition taxes and registration, total registration and more.

Here's the truth: yes, on a federal level we will be seeing a stronger push for more severe gun control measures, but thankfully, the margins in the House and Senate are so close that we expect that very little may actually move forward. A vote against the 2nd Amendment could cost some moderates their seats, so we are hoping they bear that in mind.

Here, in California however, the looney left is in full control of the legislative process with a super-majority in both the Senate and Assembly. They can pass anything they want at any time, as they have been able to do for years.

This does not scare us or deter us.

Although, we are not allowed to physically lobby the legislature in person, we

are still participating in all hearings and expressing our opposition and support for the various bills (mostly opposition). The legislature is really pushing the envelope to come up with new ideas that will satisfy their constitution hating constituency.

They are again trying to ban gun shows, not only on state owned fairgrounds, but on county property as well. They have not gotten the message that the government cannot outright ban the exercising of legal activities on public property. The courts have said that doing so would be a violation of the 1st Amendment right to peaceably assemble and the right of free speech. And we believe a violation of the 14th Amendment, which is the right of equal protection, would be trampled when the government can pick and choose which legal activities can be conducted on public property and which cannot. As a means of hedging their bets, if the ban on gun shows fails, they want to prevent vendors from selling what they are calling "precursor parts" but we know them as normal, everyday "gun parts." Can you imagine a gun show where there are no gun parts for sale? Yeah, you get it, no gun shows.

YES, Election Talk

Let's talk about elections. Yeah, I know, everybody is sick and tired of hearing about elections. And, even though we got a royal shellacking nationally, we did pick up seats here in California – both in Congress and in the Assembly. It could have been a lot worse, but it sure could have been better. GOC is not taking a break - our founder, the late Senator H.L. Richardson taught us

that when things aren't going our way, we can either tuck our tail between our legs and hide in a corner, or work on the inevitable residuals. Things like lists of new volunteers or donors, new collaborations with other groups, identification of up-and-coming political talent that can be trained for the future, as well as new potential candidates for office. We are already working on the 2022 elections at GOC.

Some people ask me why I am not discouraged and why I am so hopeful given the state of the world at present. The answer is simple. It's because Gun Owners of California and its colleagues at Gun Owners of America have done some incredible work since our creation in 1975, and because we truly believe we stand on the precipice of making more progress to restore and protect the 2nd Amendment than ever before. This is not going to happen in the legislature or in Congress, though – but in the courts.

The legacy that President Donald Trump left us in his appointments to the District, Appellate and especially Supreme Courts has set the stage for us to gain the legal building blocks that may eventually allow us the opportunity to potentially overturn anti-gun policies in California and across the fruited plain. Please take the time to read our update on the courts.

It's important to understand that this will not happen overnight, and it will not come for free. Even though GOC has been unable to hold any of the an-

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A MESSAGE FOR 2021...CONT.

nual fundraising dinners that make up a significant portion of our financial revenue, we are very grateful that many of our members and friends have continued to support GOC through the mail, the internet and our website store. **We hope that you will continue to fight with us as we navigate through all the challenges that we face.** As is emblazoned in the middle of our logo... United!

BREAKDOWN ON THE COURTS

Gun Owners of California is proud to continue our "friend of the court" wrangler status as we move into 2021. In January, we filed not one, but TWO amicus briefs less than a week apart.

In November 2020, SCOTUS agreed to hear **Caniglia v Strom**, a 4th Amendment case that has a direct and significant bearing on the 2nd Amendment. In short, police used the principle of "community caretaking" to enter the home of Edward Caniglia whereupon they seized and confiscated his firearms without a warrant.

The amicus brief states that the *"Application of warrantless 'community caretaking' searches to houses would violate the explicit text of the Fourth Amendment, would be inconsistent with the common-law tradition that one's house is one's castle, would have been anathema to the Founders, and would mark an unprecedented, dangerous departure from this Court's jurisprudence."*

The government has argued in both District and Appellate courts that the doctrine of "community caretaking" outweighs 4th Amendment prohibitions against warrantless searches, seizures and the intrusion on individual privacy.

If this dangerous concept is not stopped by SCOTUS, the notion of granting the government 'community caretaking' authority that extends to the home has the potential of putting 'Red Flag Laws' on steroids.

In the case of **NYSRPA v Corlett**, GOC is bringing the voice of law enforcement and other state firearm groups before SCOTUS, **asking the court to determine whether the 2nd Amendment allows the government to prohibit ordinary law-abiding citizens from carrying handguns outside the home for self-defense.** This case presents an issue of exceptional importance because some states virtually eliminate the right to carry outside the home.

Currently, most states permit law-abiding citizens to carry a handgun outside the home. "Shall issue" states provide a legal framework in which a license or permit must be issued if the applicant meets objective criteria specified by statute. In addition, eighteen states have "permitless" or "constitutional" carry, in which no permit is required to carry a concealed handgun outside the home. Eight states maintain a "may-issue" status, which permits a license only upon approval of a local police chief or sheriff.

The GOC brief states *"We have convincingly demonstrated that there is a deep, long-standing split among the circuits regarding whether the protection of the 2nd Amendment to carry handguns exists outside the home, and that it is imperative for this Court to resolve that circuit split...The continued refusal of eight states, with the blessing of four Circuit Courts of Appeals, to recognize 2nd Amendment rights outside the home is depriving tens of millions of law-abiding citizens of the most fundamental right of all, the right to defend one's own life and the lives of others."*

In addition to the New York State Rifle & Pistol Assoc. v Corlett and Caniglia

v Strom cases, GOC is also heavily involved in the following legal activity – and as we have said many times before, waiting on court decisions is never easy:

Rhode v Becerra**CA's Ammo Sales Laws & Regulations**

We have had to do a lot of waiting on this one and we must be patient. GOC asked to 9th Circuit to declare California's ammunition sales law and regulations as a clear violation of 2nd Amendment. The case has been argued and we are awaiting a decision.

Duncan v Becerra**CA's Standard Cap Magazines**

A 3-judge panel of the 9th Circuit ruled that California's magazine laws were unconstitutional, yet on **February 25, 2021**, the 9th set aside the favorable ruling of the 3-judge panel and will rehear the case en banc (full court review).

Rupp v Becerra**CA's Assault Weapons Laws**

This case to overturn California's assault weapons laws has been fully argued before the 9th Circuit. Awaiting decision of the 3-judge panel.

****Each amicus brief can be found on GOC's website on "The Courts" under the "News" tab****

2021 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The 2021-22 Legislative Session has begun, and now that the bill introduction deadline has passed, we have a better idea of what battles GOC will be facing under the dome. Much remains to be seen how the Legislature will operate, given the continued challenges of COVID and the social distancing restrictions to gather. As of print time, we are still not permitted into the Capitol building and are limited to emails and phone calls with members of the Assembly and Senate as well as their staffs. We will not, however, let this pre-

vent us from making our views known, and we strongly encourage you to jump into the fight as well.

On the GOC website, under **Current Legislation**, we have a list of all the bills we are tracking, with our position and links to additional details about each proposal. Also, under **Legislative Resources**, we have provided links to the policy committees to which gun-related bills are generally referred. It is here that you are able to weigh in – you can submit a letter of support or opposition which will then be added into the official record. **It is imperative that legislators hear from YOU - the 2nd Amendment community – if we stay silent, they will continue to dismiss us as irrelevant.**

A.B.216 | SUPPORT

Peace officers: firearms: establishment serving the public | Ramos (D)

This bill makes it unlawful for a business serving the public to prohibit or otherwise restrict a peace officer from carrying a weapon on the premises that the peace officer is authorized to carry, regardless of whether the peace officer is engaged in the actual discharge of duties while carrying the weapon.

A.B.228 | SUPPORT

Theft of firearms: receiving stolen property | Rodriguez (D)

This bill would, upon approval by the voters, appropriately increase the penalty for knowingly buying or receiving a stolen firearm, regardless of the value of the firearm, punishable as either a misdemeanor or a felony.

A.B.311 | OPPOSE

Gun shows and precursor parts | Ward (D)

This bill is a clear attempt to cripple gun shows as it would prohibit a vendor at a gun show or event from possessing, displaying, offering to sell, selling, or transferring any firearm precursor parts.

A.B.804 | SUPPORT

Free hunting days | Dahle (R)

This bill requires, rather than authorizes, the Director of Fish and Wildlife to establish 2 free hunting days per year – as prescribed in statute (one in the fall and one in the spring).

A.B.1223 | OPPOSE

Firearms and ammunition: excise tax | Levine (D)

This is another attempt to impose an excise tax of \$25 per new firearm sold in CA, plus a “yet to be determined” amount on the sale of ammunition. It is unconstitutional to tax the exercising of an enumerated right.

A.B.1237 | OPPOSE

Access to firearm info/research institutions | Ting (D)

This bill would rename the center for research into firearm-related violence to the “California Firearm Violence Research Center” at UC Davis. Permits DOJ to cherry pick who can have access to gun violence data for research. This is inherently biased.

A.B.1478 | OPPOSE

Unsafe handguns – microstamping | Chiu (D)

This bill is a “clean up” of Chiu’s microstamping mandate of 2020. GOC opposes this bill because the only way to fix a bad bill is to repeal it.

A.B.1509 | OPPOSE

Enhancements: firearms | Lee (D)

This bill shows the gross insincerity of the gun control promoters regarding “gun violence” as it drastically reduces penalties imposed on the perpetrators of gun violence to a virtual slap on the wrist. This is outrageous.

S.B.264 | OPPOSE

Firearms: state or county property | Min (D)

Plain and simple, this bill is yet another move to ban gun shows at fairgrounds – whether state or county owned. The courts have ruled such action is a violation of 1st Amendment right to assembly and the expression of free speech.

S.B.448 | SUPPORT

CA Emergency Services Act/emergency powers/limits | Melendez (R)

This bill would enact the Emergency Power Limitation Act, and require an emergency order to be narrowly tailored and limited to serve a compelling public health or safety purpose. It would prohibit a state agency from issuing an emergency order that infringes on an express constitutional right – such as the 2nd Amendment.

S.B.715 | OPPOSE

Criminal law and firearm transfers | Portantino (D)

This bill is a redux of SB 914 (2020); it is a convoluted effort that pertains to issues of 1) firearm transfers, 2) eligible youth purchases 3) the validity of hunting licenses and much more.

We are also **“WATCHING”** a number of bills (you are able to view on our website) and are monitoring any amendments that may change our position. Stay armed – and informed!

SPONSOR HIGHLIGHTS: INDUSTRY PARTNERS

GOC is beyond thankful for the businesses that go above and beyond to defend the 2nd Amendment. We consider each one an Industry Partner and hope to establish more valued partnerships with any organization that is ready and willing to jump into the fight. With each relationship, we work together to support one another, whether it’s through

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INDUSTRY PARTNERS...CONT.

social media and email marketing or other forms of communication. **We want to serve as a resource to businesses whose livelihoods depend on the preservation of the 2nd Amendment.** Here are just a few of the Industry Partners we are excited and privileged to work with:

Kali Key
<https://kalikey.com>

The Lodge Winery
<https://thelodgewinery.com>
 USE CODE "GOC" to donate part of your order to the 2A!

Precision Holsters
<https://precisionholsters.com>

Wagon Wheel Market | Oroville
<https://wagonwheelmarket.com>

Shooter's Pro Shop | Roseville
<https://spsroseville.com>

Guns, Fishing & Other Stuff | Vacaville
<https://gunsfishing.com>

Thorsdsen Customs
<https://www.thordsencustoms.com>

LAUNCHING! GOC Field Agents

We are excited to announce that we are rebuilding our GOC Distributors Program! We currently have friends and volunteers throughout the state that distribute our newsletters to local gun stores, ranges, and businesses in their area. We can not thank our distributors enough for being the feet on the ground and for helping us spread the word from a grassroots position.

We would like to increase our team of distributors, and better equip our **"field agents"** (get it?) with upgraded materials, merchandise, and resources for businesses, patrons, and gun owners. And the best part is, each agent can choose how best they would like to participate. Some of our team members attend gun shows, while others focus on their immediate network of friends and family.

If you are ready and willing to physically jump into the fight and join our **GOC Field Agent Team**, send an email to **julie@gunownersca.com** and we will equip you with everything you need to connect with fellow 2A supporting businesses and friends!

**52 GUN RAFFLE:
 SOLD OUT IN RECORD TIME!**

We are proud to announce that we are **SOLD OUT** of our 52 Gun Raffle tickets and it's all because of your dedication and support! The 52 Gun fundraiser is our biggest raffle of the year, and given the uncertainty of events and banquets, we couldn't be more grateful for the support our raffle received. If you were able to get in on the raffle, we wish you the best of luck!

We still have our "United" Hoodies (& T-shirts) available on our website! They are a great way to let the radical left know that even in California, we stand UNITED in our defense of the 2nd Amendment! Order yours today and support your right to keep and bear arms.

Stay tuned for more t-shirts and promotions throughout the year!



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 \$ _____

Please print:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Please charge the above amount to my Visa or MasterCard:

One Time Only Quarterly Monthly

Card No.: _____ CVV# _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

*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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