



## GUN OWNERS of California

# THE SECOND AMENDMENT WINS BIG IN LANDMARK DECISION BY SCOTUS!

*Justice Clarence Thomas declares: The Constitutional right to bear arms in public for self-defense is not "a second-class right, subject to an entirely different body of rules than the other Bill of Rights guarantee."*

**In 2021, Gun Owners of California, Gun Owners of America and Gun Owners Foundation submitted *amicus curiae* briefs to the Supreme Court of the United States, asking the court to strike down the unconstitutional and arbitrary nature of "may issue" concealed carry weapons permit schemes like those in place in New York City (and California). We also asked the court to address the fact that lower courts have ignored rulings by SCOTUS to refrain from using "judicially created two-step balancing tests" when addressing Second Amendment challenges. We asked the court to clarify and direct lower courts that the only judicial test that applies to the Second Amendment requires one step: does the issue in question violate the 2A based on the text, history, and tradition of the meaning of the words at the founding. That's it.**

### WE GOT IT ALL!

This is a huge victory for our individual

rights of self-defense, both inside the home AND in public.

Gun Owners of America released the following statement in which GOC concurs completely:

"Today (June 24, 2022, Justice Clarence Thomas' birthday), Gun Owners of America (GOA) and Gun Owners Foundation (GOF) (and Gun Owners of California) join their members and Second Amendment advocates across the nation in celebration of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn the restrictive and unconstitutional "may-issue" laws that were on the books in nine anti-gun states.

The Supreme Court's ruling in *New York State Rifle and Pistol Association, Inc. v. Bruen* overturned the onerous statutes that allowed government entities to review and routinely deny — at their discretion — applicants who applied for a concealed carry permit. New York's law was specifically challenged in the case, but the Supreme Court's ruling will apply to the other eight states that still maintain "may-issue" laws. In addition to New York, the states include: California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Rhode Island. The Court has held that "New York's proper-cause requirement violates the Fourteenth Amendment by preventing law-abiding citizens with ordinary self-defense needs from exercising their Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms in public for self-defense."

**In his opinion for the 6-3 majority, Justice Thomas wrote in part:**

***"We too agree, and now hold, consistent with *Heller* and *McDonald*, that the Second and Fourteenth Amendments protect an individual's right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home."***

As you can imagine, radical progressives such as California Governor Gavin Newsom had a very negative reaction to this ruling. He immediately tweeted that this is ***"A dark day in America... (t)his is a dangerous decision from a court hell bent on pushing a radical ideological agenda and infringing on the rights of states to protect our citizens from being gunned down in our streets, schools, and churches. Shameful!"***

Thankfully, the rights of *We the People* come before the rights of the state.

GOC worked extraordinarily hard to achieve this outcome. **It is now incumbent on us to press forward.** We will be challenging any new efforts by the Governor and the Attorney General to circumvent the ruling from the Supreme Court. In fact, for every crack they see in the decision to inject more gun control, Justice Thomas set a standard that the anti-Second Amendment policy makers cannot meet. Also, based on the decision, GOC is working with its partners to press all the lawsuits that are presently making their way in the lower courts. We will also be working together to file new lawsuits challenging the unconstitutional gun control laws currently on the books in California that have yet to be legally challenged.

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## PENDING SUPREME COURT CASE...CONT.

Although GOC and our pro-2A partners and colleagues are confident of victory, **it cannot and will not happen unless we continue to do the work necessary to achieve those victories.** Now more than ever is the time to support Gun Owners of California so that we can continue the fight to restore and then protect the Second Amendment, one step at a time. Thank you for supporting Gun Owners of California.

## AMPING UP THE LEGISLATIVE SHENANIGANS

As both the Assembly and the Senate barrel towards the end of their 2021-22 Legislative Session, the anti-gun majority is doing everything they can to cram as much bad stuff through as possible. Session adjourns the end of August so until that time, they will be working overtime to undermine our rights. Bills are being amended morning, noon and night so we are keeping a close watch on last minute gut-and-amends (see below for some examples).

*Given the seismic Supreme Court ruling on NYSRPA v Bruen, we knew there is a good possibility that some of the bills would shift their focus as legislators attempt to maneuver around the decision. In fact, **SB 918 (Portantino/D)** was amended immediately in response to the ruling; the bill now puts the most onerous restrictions imaginable on CCW holders. The limitations are extraordinary, from prohibiting carrying a firearm anywhere alcohol is sold, to public transit (plus many more areas) to requiring 2 day courses for licensure and charging application fees upwards of \$200. Clearly – Portantino wants to stick it to the law abiding while making a nasty swipe at the Supreme Court. The good news is, the ruling was clearly written and we will have tons of opportunities to have these ludicrous mandates stricken down. **Unfortunately***

**– it will take time and money but make no mistake - it will happen.**

At press time, the following bills were still moving through the process.

**AB 311 – Ward/D**– Prohibits the sale of firearm precursor parts at the Del Mar Fairgrounds property – even though firearms and ammunition are already banned.

**AB 1227 – Levine/D** – Levine’s trying this one again that would put an excise tax on all firearm and ammunition sales.

**AB 1594 – Ting/D** – As amended, this bill allows individuals to pursue legal action in California courts against what the author alleges are “reckless, irresponsible and negligent gun manufacturers, importers and dealers.”

**AB 1621 – Gipson/D** – Redefines a firearm precursor part as any forging, casting, printing, extrusion, machined body or similar article that has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily be completed, assembled or converted to be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm.

**AB 1769 – Bennett/D** – Adds the Ventura County Fairgrounds to the list of county properties to ban gun shows.

**AB 2156 – Wicks/D** – Decreases the manufacturing threshold requiring a license to manufacture guns in California from 50 or more firearms in a calendar year to 4 or more firearms in a calendar year.

**AB 2552 – McCarty/D** – Establishes a host of new rules for gun shows, from required certifications, notices and prohibitions of selling so-called “unfinished” firearms.

**SB 505 – Skinner/D – GUT and AMEND:** Previously a bill by another author on wage withholdings, the bill now makes a person who owns a fire-

arm strictly civilly liable for each incidence of property damage, bodily injury, or death resulting from the use of their firearm.

**SB 906 – Portantino/D** – This bill originally required that parents disclose to their local school district whether they have guns and how they are stored; it has since been amended to only mandate notification of proper gun storage.

**SB 915 – Min/D** – Bans gun shows on all state properties.

**SB 1327 – Hertzberg/D** – Permits a private right of action for individuals to sue gun manufacturers.

**SB 1384 – Min/D** – Mandates firearm dealer training and comprehensive video surveillance of premises.

## DOJ DISASTER: IT’S A LEAK – NOT A “BREACH”

On June 28, 2022, it was reported that California gun owners have been put at risk by the Attorney General’s office after a new “dashboard” disclosed the personal data of every CCW holder in the state. But when all the facts were ultimately discovered, the bad became downright diabolical.

Most recent revelations revealed that in addition to data on all CCW holders and applicants for the past 10 years, the Assault Weapon Registry was also made public as was the entire Dealer Record of Sale database (that’s everyone who has purchased or sold any firearm in California), individuals with Firearm Safety Certificates, and those who are on the Gun Violence Restraining Order list.

In response, Gun Owners of California Executive Director Sam Paredes said **“Attorney General Rob Bonta is either grossly negligent, completely incompetent or criminally liable. If this is his**

**idea of increasing public trust, we're screwed. For endangering the lives of 100s of thousands of law-abiding Californians, Bonta should resign."**

The California State Sheriffs' Association stated *"It is infuriating that people who have been complying with the law have been put at risk by this breach,"* CSSA President and Butte County Sheriff Kory Honea said in a prepared statement. *"California's sheriffs are very concerned about this data breach and the risk it poses to California's CCW permit holders."*

Sheriff Honea is right; CCW holders are among the most law-abiding subsection of people in the entire country. According to California's Department of Justice, the leak impacted applications from 2011 to 2021 and included "names, date of birth, gender, race, driver's license number, addresses, and criminal history."

Let's be clear: this was not a breach; it was a leak. No bad actor broke into the DOJ system to access the information. The DOJ, either through incompetence or with malicious intent leaked the data. This violation of trust has far-reaching consequences as it impacts people who have firearms in their home and those who don't. It's like a neon sign advertising "there's guns here to steal" and the flip side is "this home is unarmed and vulnerable." Hundreds of thousands of Californians have been put in harm's way in the very place where they should feel the most safe-their homes.

On June 29, Bonta issued a press release in which he updated the depth of the data leak. The statement was tantamount to a "gee I'm sorry" or a "my bad" confession. The AG is offering access to software that affected individuals can use to protect from identity theft. That's it. In essence, Bonta offered a Band-Aid to cover a bullet wound. It's important to note that judges, prosecutors and reserve law enforcement officers are among those whose private identifying

information has been made public; such high-profile people have every reason to protect their addresses from vindictive criminals. We must not, however, ignore that there are thousands of vulnerable individuals who have now been potentially exposed to their abusers. Regardless of whether someone is high profile or not, everyone has the same right of privacy and must be equally protected under the law. The DOJ data leak was a massive breakdown in the public trust that could have very real life or death implications.

GOC is in the process of determining what legal avenues can be pursued.

### WORKING WITH – AND AGAINST THE MEDIA

**Dogs bark, snakes wiggle, jackasses bray, vultures vomit and radical leftists lie. It's in their nature to do so.**

GOC's founder, the late Senator H.L. Richardson was spot on when he first said this years ago in his book on Confrontational Politics, and he's still right today – even more so! As the country shifts precipitously – and swiftly – to the left, how the progressives operate is more clear than ever before, and they are ably aided and abetted by a willing media. Without question, mainstream media hostility makes it tough for those of us working to defend and uphold the Second Amendment. **Rather than run away from the antagonism of the press, however, GOC believes it is absolutely crucial that we engage.** Make no mistake - we aren't naive as to who and what they are – the vast majority are shills for the anti-gun Left and will misrepresent facts and lie without batting an eye – it's "in their nature to do so."

It may be challenging, but it is possible to get some good points across to the media. GOC's Executive Director Sam Paredes has been able to inject a unique

perspective to the stormy debate on guns, and because of that, a lot of reporters have him on speed dial. **"When you are tastefully provocative with the press, you make their jobs more fun – more interesting,"** Paredes says.

Once the NYSRPA v Bruen decision was announced, GOC's phones were ringing off the hook as the media was eager to get a statement on the ruling. Sam Paredes was interviewed by CNN, KNX LA, FOX LA, KCRA, AP, and Telemundo – just to name a few.

Without question, the media follows controversy so it makes sense that they look for comment in the aftermath of a tragedy. Unfortunately, in the past few months, they have come calling more times than we prefer. Regardless of the situation at hand – whether giving perspective on a bill before the Legislature, a recent court ruling or an unfolding tragedy, GOC will continue speaking the truth, in California and beyond our borders.

### WHO IS SICK OF BAD NEWS? WE ARE!

That's why we have a lot of great news to share - **EVENT UPDATES!**

As reported in our First Quarter Newsletter, after a LONG hiatus due to COVID shutdowns, the GOC fundraising events are BACK and we can happily attest that each one was virtually SOLD OUT.

The **Great Gun Giveaway** at Camanche Hills Hunting Preserve in Lone was a spectacular day full of challenging (but fun) sporting clays shooting – not only was the competition high-octane, but the prizes were terrific too. And believe it or not – plans are already under way for next year, where we can promise it will be even bigger and better!

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**SICK OF BAD NEWS? ...CONT.**

The **Sacramento Crab Feed** – which has been our banner fundraising event each year – came roaring back with an enthusiastic overflow crowd. The 600 2A folks who gathered at the Citrus Heights Community Center literally sizzled with energy and it was exactly what everyone needed – being with like-minded people who love the 2nd Amendment and the good ‘ol USA was a terrific shot in the arm. Not only that, but the crab was positively epic.

And it was incredible to meet face-to-face with our dedicated and fired-up supporters in the north state - our **event in Oroville** after a “postponement” of over two years was also a huge success. As always, the games were a whole lot of fun, the gun prizes were extraordinary, and there’s no question that the food was over the top. What’s better than fun, games, guns and some quality prime rib for a terrific Friday night?

And, as we move into the remainder of 2022, we are super pleased to announce that we have secured the **Jelly Belly Factory** as the site of our Fairfield/Vacaville fundraising dinner. No two ways about it – this is an amazing ven-

ue. Join us on **SEPTEMBER 30, 2022** as we celebrate the 2nd Amendment and raise money for our right to defend our homes and families. For more information, go to [www.gunownersca.com](http://www.gunownersca.com) and click on the GOC “Store” tab for more details.

**YES – IT’S AN ELECTION YEAR**

GOC firmly believes the Constitution and the Bill of Rights are priceless documents and are as valid today as when they were drafted. Thus, we are dedicated to vigorously defending the 2nd Amendment, and have been actively engaged in the political process for over 40 years.

With regard to the recent Primary Election in June, there certainly were some surprises but there was also one significant disappointment. The Senate Republican leadership made a huge strategic error when they decided against endorsing a Republican in the 4th Senate District. This has consistently been represented by a pro-gun legislator and spans from Truckee in the north, through the Central Valley and down to Inyo County.

The field of candidates was crowded, but in order to influence the election

and make sure that the “weakest” Democrat would face the top vote getting Republican, the Senate Republican leadership dumped \$50,000 on behalf of one of the Democrat candidates, which resulted in driving votes to both Democrats – which not always, but generally speaking vote the anti-gun party line.

The 6 pro-gun Republican candidates ended up splitting the vote. The result? Two Democrats will be facing each other in November to represent this “pro-gun” district for the next 4 years. This was a major lapse in judgment by the Senate Republican Leadership thus making it almost impossible to win enough races to break the supermajority in the Senate.

Although GOC will be active in at least 7 Senate Races, we know that concentrating on Assembly races will give us our best chance of affecting what happens in Sacramento. There are several opportunities where we have a change to make progress.

GOC will be making every effort to acquire ratings for all these candidates to give voters an informed view on how they stand on the Second Amendment. Our next newsletter will include complete information on all these races.

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.

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

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