



GUN OWNERS of California

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT GOC?

By Sam Paredes, Executive Director

As Executive Director, I receive dozens of invitations each year to speak about the Second Amendment (2A) to many different groups and organizations across our beautiful state. They include gun clubs, political clubs, and a variety of service organizations. I consider it a great privilege to share my perspectives on the Second Amendment and politics in general, and I've had the pleasure of meeting an awful lot of fascinating and earnest people from one end of California to the other. It goes without saying that members of the 2A community are the most authentic and generous folks around.

More often than not, I will get a question or two on **"what's different about Gun Owners of California"** or **"what's so special about GOC"** – or **"what separates you from the other guys?"**

The truth is, GOC is unique amongst all our friend and partner organizations in the 2A arena for a number of reasons – the first one being that we are the first and **oldest pro-gun political action committee in the country**. And yes – although many other 2A groups predate GOC's founding, it's important to note that **none of them operated politically**. When the California Legislature started earnestly down the gun control road in 1975 by introducing a bill to ban handguns, Senator H.L. Richardson wasted no time in setting up his own political action committee (PAC) to raise money specifically to defeat the

proposed handgun ban. It worked so well in California that Richardson took it national with Gun Owners of America. He was on the front lines in developing political fundraising via direct mail, and was so successful that the Leftist-controlled legislature changed campaign finance laws to prevent GOC from financing political campaigns. To make a long story short, that's when GOC morphed from a campaign financing PAC to a grassroots focused organization to directly rally pro-gun voters to vote for pro-2A candidates. That's what we have been doing ever since.

First and foremost, GOC has had a decades long reputation for being the only "no compromise" Second Amendment group out there – and our steadfast position has made a lot of politicians angry. Why? Because we hold their feet to the fire when they get squishy! No two ways about it. We believe that the Second Amendment is just fine the way it was originally written and it doesn't need to be amended, tweaked or watered down to please some weak-kneed politician. There are a lot of good groups out there, but our "no compromise" position is one distinction that GOC carries with great pride.

We also operate on a budget that is dwarfed by the other groups – **we are not part of the fancy-suit contingent**. We fly economy and respect every \$5 donation that we raise. We know full well that most of our members don't own beach houses on the coast or a cabin in Lake Tahoe – what we do know is that they are hard-working people and when they contribute to GOC's mission from their personal resources, we

respect every single dollar. To do otherwise would be the utmost in disrespect and if there's another thing we do, is respect our members.

We do an awful lot with what we have – we are honored to have been dubbed the amicus brief wrangler in our legal activities. **We are also extremely proud to be a fixture at the State Capitol** – I have spent many a long night there as session winds down – making sure members of the Legislature know where GOC stands and that we will report their votes directly to our membership. It's even to the point that Leftist members of the legislature groan when they see that I am about to testify on behalf of GOC. **They hate to be challenged with the truth, and no matter the ugliness and lies that are directed towards me personally, GOC will never cease speaking for what's right rather than what's politically expedient.**

In election season, **we vet candidates** and let our members know exactly who is with us – and who is not. This takes a lot of time and effort, and the GOC team works tirelessly to make sure we are at the tip of the spear in educating gun owners about the incredible importance of being armed and informed when it comes to marking ballots.

We've said it before and we'll say it again: it's not the size of the dog in the fight but rather the size of the fight in the dog. And GOC's fight has never wavered!

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WHY A HAWAII 2ND AMENDMENT CASE IMPACTS CALIFORNIA

Federal District Court Judge Lesli E. Kobayashi recently issued a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) in the case of Welford v Lopez, which would prevent the Hawaiian government from declaring most public places in the state as a “sensitive place.” Very similar to what is happening here in California, the Hawaiian legislature recently passed a bill that would have made it illegal for Hawaiians to carry concealed firearms in buildings or offices owned, leased, or used by State or County governments, restaurants or bars serving alcohol, beaches and parks, financial institutions, as well as adjacent parking areas. Carrying was also banned on private property unless the property owner made an affirmative declaration in writing, verbally, or by the posting of signs authorizing the carrying of guns. **Sound familiar?**

The issuance of a TRO can often signal that the plaintiffs have proven the merits of their case – and the probability of success – which would certainly be good news for the solid, 2A plaintiffs that have brought this issue before the court.

WHAT WAS THE RULING?

In her order, Clinton appointee Judge Kobayashi leaned on the Bruen test of evaluating whether gun control laws violate the text, history and tradition of the Second Amendment going back to 1791. There are no historical analogs that justified the declaration of *sensitive places*, and as such, were therefore unconstitutional. She did say, however, that if a government parking area was used exclusively by government workers and not available to the public, those could be considered sensitive areas – but that’s it. **Also, in her ruling, Judge Kobayashi quoted the amicus brief submitted by Gun Owners**

of California pointing out that concealed weapons carry permit holders are amongst the most lawful citizens in all of society. This is very clear evidence that our work submitting amicus briefs is crucial in defense of the Second Amendment and to our continued success.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

There is a very high likelihood that the State of Hawaii will appeal this ruling to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals to have this decision overturned. That being said, though, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the 9th Circuit to continue to defy the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS), especially when even left-leaning Obama appointed judges are ruling in favor of the Second Amendment thanks to Bruen. If the 9th Circuit agrees with Judge Kobayashi that *sensitive places* are unconstitutional, that would apply to all states within the jurisdiction of the 9th Circuit including California.

KISSING COUSINS?

We’ve called the Hawaii bill (SB 1230) nothing more than a kissing cousin of California’s SB 2 regarding sensitive places. If the author – anti-gun zealot Senator Anthony Portantino – had much common sense, he would have held off and waited until the courts had completed the process of ruling on the constitutionality of this issue. Of course, Senator Portantino could have just dropped his bill altogether given that it is so clearly unconstitutional, but we never held out hope for that. Instead, cramming SB 2 through the legislative process and having it sent to Governor Newsom’s desk for signature will only serve to waste taxpayer dollars.

GOC IS READY!

Gun Owners of California is prepared to challenge SB 2 in a lawsuit even before the ink from the Governor’s signature has dried. And, as Judge Kobayashi has declared, we have a very high likelihood of success in overturning SB 2 as we do in Hawaii’s SB 1230.

THE LEGISLATURE: THE GAVEL SLAMS DOWN

The gavel has officially signaled the end of the first half of the 2023/24 Legislative Session and we can report the full damage the Left has done to our gun rights. The following bills were passed by both the Senate and the Assembly and have been sent to Governor Newsom’s desk for his signature – or veto. Of course, the likelihood of any veto from Newsom is slim – but we have notified his office of our strong opposition, which you can read on our **“GOC Speaks”** dropdown under the Legislation tab on our website. It’s been brutal; believe it or not, we began the year tracking almost 50 bills and we are left with a pared down, albeit awful list. This doesn’t mean we will stop running interference between the responsible, lawful gun owners and the tyrants who are intent on robbing us of our rights.

AB 28 | Gabriel (D)

Creates expansive, new excise tax on both firearms/ammunition sold in California.

AB 574 | Jones-Sawyer (D)

Mandates gun buyers confirm/check possession of all owned firearms on DROS form.

AB 725 | Lowenthal (D)

Redefines a firearm to include frames, receivers and precursor parts for the purposes of reporting lost or stolen guns.

AB 1089 | Gipson (D)

Prohibits the sale, purchase or possession of a CNC milling machine that has the primary or intended purchase of manufacturing firearms.

AB 1406 | McCarty (D)

Permits DOJ to delay delivery of a firearm for 30 additional days.

AB 1420 | Berman (D)

Grants DOJ more authority to inspect and assess fines on gun dealers.

AB 1483 | Valencia

Expands 30-prohibition on the purchase of firearms to include precursor parts.

AB 1587 | Ting (D)

Mandates retailers to assign a special "code" indicating gun purchases.

AB 1598 | Berman (D)

Requires DOJ to update safety test form with "risks" of owning a gun.

SB 2 | Portantino (D)

Massively restricts the ability of CCW holders to carry in most areas of the state by establishing "sensitive places" criteria. ****LAWSUIT FILED.**

SB 368 | Portantino (D)

Mandates that temporary transfers of a firearm for storage to prevent a potential suicide to be limited to that of a licensed dealer.

SB 452 | Blakespear (D)

Prohibits a licensed firearms dealer from selling, offering for sale a semiautomatic pistol unless it has been verified as microstamping-enabled.

NEW MATH AND NEWSOM'S "IMPOSSIBLE SCHEME"

Post COVID, Governor Newsom began searching for a fresh plan to garner national interest. After all, he needed to snag some attention for a potential presidential run, so he decided the best way to get eyeballs on him is to ban the most popular firearm in the entire nation by adding an amendment to the United States Constitution.

We are calling it **Newsom's Impossible Scheme.**

Many have labeled his maneuver as unhinged – some of his friends on the Left have even been critical. **But seriously suggesting – via a new amendment – that the rest of the US follow California's lead in reducing gun violence is**

kind of like asking a pacifist to lead the military.

There is some good news here – even though Newsom is raising money like crazy promoting this thing, it has literally no chance of succeeding – the conditions are simply too high. He's using some funky math if he thinks he can get the required two-thirds of the states to even approve a draft of an amendment at an Article V Convention of the States, let alone the ¾ approval of the states that is required in order for it to be ratified. **That's a tall hill to climb given that most states aren't in the mood for more gun control. In fact, they are moving in the other direction - currently, 27 (and soon to be 28) have instituted constitutional carry, and 24 have signed on to amicus briefs challenging "assault weapons bans" – which is a pretty clear indication that the gun-control crowd is being shut down in a lot of places.**

No matter how many times he attempts to deflect the facts, he can't escape that he leads the state with the most gun laws and mass shootings. Nor can he escape the fact that his policies of releasing violent criminals onto our streets leave responsible, lawful citizens increasingly vulnerable. He doesn't give a rat's you-know-what about protecting the people from criminal gun violence. If he did, he would lock the bad guys up and throw away the key instead of targeting the good guys.

This latest run on our freedom led GOC's Executive Director to comment that **"Barack Obama has long been considered the greatest gun salesman of all time and evidently, our governor wants to snatch that title from him. We wish him well!"**



GOC JOINS WITH LIVEFIRE!

GOC is always looking for ways to further serve our members, and we are pleased to announce an exciting new partnership with LiveFire, a social media platform that offers firearms training from the industry's most highly respected instructors – plus a number of performance tracking tools tailor made to empower gun owners at every experience level.

And there are some terrific benefits of joining through GOC – the LiveFire community is a great place to share training experiences with others, and the app (available on iPhone and Android), has three key and easy to use features:

- The first allows GOC to have its own social media platform and private group, without the aggravating censorship so prevalent on other platforms
- The second feature of LiveFire is the ability to train with professionals. Finding high quality, trustworthy and up-to-date training isn't easy. LiveFire takes all of the guesswork out by matching members with proven training, painstakingly developed by industry experts.
- The third feature of LiveFire is the ability to track performance.

The private GOC social media platform and group on LiveFire is 100% free to GOC members. To celebrate this partnership, LiveFire is offering an exclusive 20% discount on your first year of LiveFire Premium – use promocode CGO2023 on the app or the QR code below to claim your discount through the private GOC portal.



**52 GUNS IN 52 WEEKS
RAFFLE TICKETS ON SALE NOW!**



Start 2024 off with a BANG and get your 52 Guns Raffle tickets! For just \$50, snag your chance to win - **EVERY WEEK for a YEAR we raffle off a brand new gun** and the odds are terrific since we only sell 1500. They make perfect holiday gifts, so call the office today at **(916) 984-1400** to get your ticket (or tickets!) before they are gone (state law prohibits us from selling them online).



GOC EVENTS IN YOUR AREA!

The year has all but disappeared and our last event of 2023 is right around the corner! Hurry and snag your tickets for the quickly approaching **Vacaville Crab Feed**, October 28, 2023, at the Ulatis Community Center, 1000 Ulatis Drive, Vacaville. You won't want to miss the scrumptious crab and tri-tip dinner, or the chance to win some amazing guns – we'll have raffles! Games! A high-energy auction! GOC's events are an excellent way to hob-nob with fellow 2A advocates and have a great time, all while helping to support GOC's efforts to protect our Second Amendment rights. You can use this QR code to order tickets or give us a call at 916-984-1400.



And, we're already gearing up for next year! Mark your calendar for 2024's GOC fundraising events: **The Great Gun Giveaway at Camanche on April 20th; the Sacramento Crab Feed on May 3rd; and the Oroville Dinner on**

June 14th.

The great news is that we are forming committees in other areas – El Dorado County, Riverside County and the Central Valley are all in the mix, so if you want to join a team in these areas or work towards helping with an event where you live, please give us a call – we'll do our best to get that party started!

In the interest of public safety... at a time where laws are being passed to hurt public safety, organizations such as Gun Owners of California who fight for the 2nd Amendment right of all law abiding citizens are of the utmost importance.

**- El Dorado County Sheriff
Jeff Leikauf**

**GUN OWNERS
of California**

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

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