

Right to Keep and Bear Arms

“A man's rights rest in three boxes. The ballot box, jury box and the cartridge box.” – Frederick Douglass

“When government takes away citizens’ right to bear arms it becomes citizen’s duty to take away government’s right to govern.” George Washington

“The Second Amendment protects an individual right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia, and to use that arm for traditionally lawful purposes, such as self-defense within the house...” Justice Antonin Scalia

The First and Second Amendments are under attack. The whole political correctness movement is designed to stop free speech – pure and simple. I have written for years in this column about all the attempts of the gun control movement to abridge or outright negate the rights under the Second Amendment. The purpose of this column has been to educate our membership about the many attacks on this vital right that is founded in individual liberty and freedom. So the continued education...

In their own words

George Stephanopoulos (to Hillary Clinton) – “Do you believe the Supreme Court conclusion that the right to bear arms is a constitutional right?”

Hillary Clinton – “If it is a constitutional right, then it, like every other constitutional right, is subject to reasonable regulations. ABC News interview

“And here again, the Supreme Court is wrong on the Second Amendment. Am I am going to make that case every chance I get, so I will need your help on that.” Hillary Clinton speaking about the *Heller* case before a gun control town hall in NH.

“...there’s no difference between automatic semiautomatic guns. Both can kill 200+ people in a minute...” Piers Morgan commenting after the UCLA murder-suicide in June.

Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) is *“a dangerous law that prevents victims of gun violence from holding negligent manufacturers and dealers accountable for violence perpetrated with their guns.”* Hillary Clinton campaign website

“My mom is the only person running for president who not only constantly makes that connection (connection in terms of the next Supreme Court decision on gun control will be decisive) but also has a strong record on gun control and standing up to the NRA.” Chelsea Clinton commenting on Justice Scalia’s death

“We have just too many guns. On the streets, in our homes, in our neighborhoods.” Hillary Clinton

"I will use every single minute of every day, if I'm fortunate to be your president, looking for ways to save lives so we can change the gun culture." Hillary Clinton at a campaign stop in CT

"It's something that none of us want and we want to make it as strict as possible." Gov. Ralph Torres, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (U.S. Territory) commenting on a \$1,000 tax on all handguns

Deriding the right to carry as *"an article of faith"* that *"must be reined in"*. Hillary Clinton in 2014

"I really support everything President Obama said he would do through regulation on guns, but we're going to start the very first day and tackle the gun lobby." Hillary Clinton in a MSNBC town hall

"This is about our community's safety and responsible gun ownership. This system will better enable our law enforcement agencies to ensure the security of all Hawai'i residents and visitors to our islands," Hawaii Gov. David Ige when signing SB 2954 (ACT 108) into law, which instructs law enforcement agencies to begin enrolling firearms applicants and gun owners registering their firearms into the FBI's "Rap Back" system, a criminal-record monitoring service.

"Whatever the scope of the Second Amendment's protection may be," it "simply does not extend to carrying of concealed firearms in public by members of the general public." Judge William Fletcher, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals

The Political Conventions and the Second Amendment

Both major political parties have now concluded their conventions. Let's look at the party platforms and how they address the Second Amendment.

The Democratic Party platform calls for stricter gun control through numerous avenues, listed below verbatim:

- We will expand and strengthen background checks and close dangerous loopholes in our current laws;
- Repeal the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) to revoke the dangerous legal immunity protections gun makers and sellers now enjoy;
- Keep weapons of war—such as assault weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines (LCAM's)—off our streets;
- We will fight back against attempts to make it harder for the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to revoke federal licenses from law breaking gun dealers,
- Ensure guns do not fall into the hands of terrorists, intimate partner abusers, other violent criminals, and those with severe mental health issues;

- There is insufficient research on effective gun prevention policies, which is why the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention must have the resources it needs to study gun violence as a public health issue.

The Republican Party platform in support of Americans' Second Amendment rights is much longer, and goes into much greater detail:

- We uphold the right of individuals to keep and bear arms, a right which antedated the Constitution and was solemnly confirmed by the Second Amendment.
- We acknowledge, support, and defend the law-abiding citizen's God-given right of self-defense.
- We call for the protection of such fundamental individual rights recognized in the Supreme Court's decisions in District of Columbia v. Heller and McDonald v. Chicago affirming that right, and we recognize the individual responsibility to safely use and store firearms. This also includes the right to obtain and store ammunition without registration.
- We support the fundamental right to self-defense wherever a law-abiding citizen has a legal right to be, and we support federal legislation that would expand the exercise of that right by allowing those with state-issued carry permits to carry firearms in any state that issues such permits to its own residents. Gun ownership is responsible citizenship, enabling Americans to defend their homes and communities.
- We condemn frivolous lawsuits against gun manufacturers and oppose federal licensing or registration of law-abiding gun owners.
- We oppose legislation that is intended to restrict our Second Amendment rights by limiting the capacity of clips or magazines or otherwise restoring the ill-considered Clinton gun ban. (Justin Stakes and Larry Kean, National Shooting Sports Federation, 1 Aug 2016)

The gun control crowd will never relent. From the above quotes and the platform of the Democrat Party, the threats to the Second Amendment are real. In Nevada and Maine the gun banners are introducing legislation for universal background checks. The National Institute of Justice has stated that universal background checks are unenforceable with requiring complete gun registration. In California there is legislation that would require background checks for all ammunition purchases; require any seller of ammunition to have a state license; and ban possession of large capacity magazines.

If there is a terrorist act – the answer is gun control. If some incensed murderer kills a couple of people – the answer is gun control. If there is a mass shooting by someone who is clearly mentally ill – the answer is gun control. Why is it that when some bad guy kills, the knee jerk answer is to infringe or negate the rights of the millions of us who are law abiding?

NICS Denying Gun Rights

In October 2015 the FBI announced that were no longer processing NICS denial appeals. According to *USA Today* there is a backlog of 7,100 appeals as of Jan 16.

H.R. 4980, the Firearms Due Process Protection Act would force government to process and make a determination within 60 days. Congressman Tom Emmer, R-MN, is the sponsor. *The Gun Owners* (GOA), June 1, 2016.

Please educate yourself and your family and friends – and let your legislators know how you feel and vote in November.

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