

POINT BLANK

**STRAIGHT TALK
ABOUT WHAT YOU
CAN DO TO
PRESERVE YOUR
RIGHT TO KEEP AND
BEAR ARMS**



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2009**
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CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS

(a non-profit corporation)

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TOUGH TIMES AHEAD, WE NEED YOUR HELP

This year will be extraordinarily difficult for all of us who believe in and work to protect the Second Amendment civil right of law-abiding Americans to keep and bear arms.

With the inauguration of Barack Obama as 44th President of the United States, firearm owners in America are faced with the most hostile Chief Executive in history.

Obama's selection of Eric Holder for Attorney General will put in charge of the U.S. Department of Justice and its administration of federal gun laws the most anti-gun rights Attorney General in the history of that department.

As if that were not enough cause for concern for America's 90 million law-abiding gun owners, Obama's incoming White House Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel, is a politician who during the administration of former President Bill Clinton was that administration's hard charger for infringement on gun rights.

As President, Barack Obama can also attack our gun rights without Congressional approval by making anti-gun appointments to the federal, appellate and Supreme Court. He can actively support the international gun banners at the United Nations. He can use the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives to increase regulation on the transfer of firearms and ammunition by law-abiding gun owners. With Hillary Clinton at the helm of the U.S. State Department, he can expand the funding IANSA (International Action Network on Small Arms and other international gun ban organizations).

President Obama can force huge changes and massive additional regulation that could restrict or even close access to federal lands for hunting through the Bureau of Land Management. The Environmental Protection Agency can impose immense restriction on outdoor shooting sports through imposition of noise level constraints. This agency can even force back-breaking regulation on indoor shooting ranges with additional air quality requirements. The Fish and Wildlife Agency can add more animals to the Endangered Species Act and effectively shut down many hunting and fishing opportunities. Even your right to have a gun at your workplace can be curtailed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

CCRKBA will be proactive and do everything we can to fight in the legislative and regulatory arena against restrictive gun proposals put forth by President Obama or members of his administration or his allies in Congress.

Please support CCRKBA in this battle for the right to keep and bear arms as generously as possible. Thank you.

AMERICAN GUN OWNERS JUSTIFIABLY UP IN ARMS

From the prospect of an incoming president and vice president with decidedly anti-gun-rights voting records, to a liberal West Coast mayor determined to ban firearms by "executive order" without benefit of city council or legislative review, American gun owners have good reason to doubt the sincerity of Liberal Democrats now in control of Congress and soon to control the Oval Office, who claim to support firearm civil rights.

Far too many red flags are being waved for gun owners to take a benign posture just six months after a landmark Supreme Court ruling confirmed what they had known all along; that the Second Amendment affirms and protects a fundamental civil right to keep and bear arms.

President-elect Barack Obama is on record supporting gun registration, permanent renewal of the ban on so-called "assault weapons," slapping an exorbitant increase on the federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition, and banning handguns outright. His vice president-elect, Delaware's Joe Biden, is a veteran gun control advocate who authored the original "assault weapons" legislation.

Recently, it was revealed that prospective Obama Administration employees were being asked this invasive question: "Do you or any members of your immediate family own a gun? If so, provide complete ownership and registration information. Has the registration ever lapsed? Please also describe how and by whom it is used and whether it has been the cause of any personal injuries or property damage."

Aside from demonstrating a serious ignorance of gun laws – only five

states require some form of registration, and only in New York City and in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties is there a renewal requirement – this question suggests that gun owners, or kin of gun owners, will face anti-gun discrimination in their job search. Call it guilt by association, either with firearms or with a relative who owns one.

If this is the kind of "change" we can expect under the Obama Administration, gun owners have reason to worry. American citizens flocked to gun shops after the election. Many of those people, ironically, were first-time gun buyers or gun owners who voted for the Chicago Democrat. Obama reinforced gun owner apprehension by appointing Rahm Emanuel – point man for the Clinton Administration on gun control issues – as his chief of staff. Eric Holder, his nominee for Attorney General, signed an amicus brief in support of the D.C. gun ban, while arguing that the Second Amendment does not protect an individual right to keep and bear arms, positions soundly rejected by the Supreme Court.

Both houses of Congress are controlled by Obama's Democratic Party, and leadership positions are occupied by devoted anti-gunners. As detailed in the recent book, *These Dogs Don't Hunt: The Democrats' War on Guns*, the party excels in pro-Second Amendment rhetoric, but labors to reduce that right to a highly regulated privilege.

This brings us around to Mayor Greg Nickels of Seattle. He has promised to ban even legally carried guns from city (make that public) property, by executive order. Nickels was advised by the state Attorney General

that he lacks the authority under Washington's model pre-emption law to enact a handgun ban, but he has vowed to do it anyway.

Gun owners see this as imperial arrogance, and suspect that if Nickels can ignore his own state's preemption statute, then Congress and a Democrat president might just presume to ignore the Constitution. It may be obtained now at a discount at www.amazon.com.



POINT BLANK

"Straight talk about what you can do to
preserve your right to keep and bear arms."

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GUN GRABBER NOMINATED FOR U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

The announced nomination of Eric H. Holder, Jr. for the post of Attorney General of the United States sends an "alarming signal" to law-abiding American firearm owners about how the Barack Obama administration will view the individual Second Amendment civil right to keep and bear arms, CCRKBA said.

"Eric Holder signed an *amicus* brief in the *District of Columbia v. Heller* case that supported the District of Columbia's handgun ban," said CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb, "and also argued that the Second Amendment does not protect an individual right. Holder has supported national handgun owner licensing and mandatory trigger locks. As Deputy Attorney General under Attorney General Janet Reno during the administration of former President Bill Clinton, he

lobbied Congress to pass legislation that would have curtailed gun shows.

"This is not the record of a man who will come into office as the nation's top law enforcement officer with the rights and concerns of gun owners in mind."

Gottlieb said that Holder's nomination, like the appointment of anti-gun Congressman Rahm Emanuel of Illinois as White House Chief of Staff, tells American gun owners that Obama's campaign claims supporting the Second Amendment were "empty rhetoric."

"America's 90 million gun owners have ample reason to be pessimistic about how their civil rights will fare under the Obama Administration," Gottlieb said. "Mr. Obama will have a Congress with an anti-gun Democrat

majority leadership to push his gun control agenda. Gun owners have not forgotten Mr. Obama's opposition to concealed carry rights or his support for a ban on handgun ownership when he was running for the Illinois State Senate.

"Barack Obama vigorously portrayed himself on the campaign trail as a man who supports gun ownership, but now that he has won the election, he is surrounding himself with people who are avowed gun prohibitionists. What better indication of what to expect from Barack Obama as President than the people he is selecting to run his administration? This isn't a roster of devoted public servants. It's a rogue's gallery of extremists who have labored to erase the Second Amendment from the Bill of Rights."

CCW LAWS NO THREAT TO COPS

Another bogus argument of gun control extremists—that sensible concealed carry laws create an increased threat to police officers—has been refuted by statistics from the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund and published by *USA Today*.

The number of officer fatalities due to gunfire is the lowest in 50 years, noted Alan Gottlieb, chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms. The report said that this year, 41 officers have died from gunshot wounds, down 40 percent from the 68 who died by gunfire in 2007. Yet the number of concealed carry permits issued by the states has risen, dramatically in the past 12 months.

"Better training and equipment

have contributed to this decline," Gottlieb stated, "but it must be noted for the record that growing numbers of legally-armed citizens have not resulted in more police slayings. That has been one of the many lame arguments offered by gun control fanatics over the past few years when they fought against expanded concealed carry rights.

"The death of one police officer is a tragedy," he continued, "but common sense right-to-carry statutes have no relation to the criminal slayings of police officers, and anti-gun rights extremists know it."

The National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund reports that more officers have died in traffic-related incidents than in shootings,

same as last year, Gottlieb noted.

"There are, today, more legally-armed citizens than ever before," he commented, "and more privately-owned firearms than ten or even five years ago. More Americans own semiautomatic sport-utility rifles, growing numbers of women own guns for personal protection and more citizens are involved in shooting sports.

"None of these law-abiding citizens pose any threat to public safety, and especially to the safety of our local police," Gottlieb concluded. "We expect the new Congress, and state legislatures around the country, to keep this in perspective as the gun ban lobby mounts new attacks on firearm civil rights in 2009."

CCRKBA HITS MAYOR ON GUN CONTROL PLAN

Always alert to what gun grabbers do to undermine or eliminate the individual Second Amendment right of law abiding citizens to keep and bear arms at various levels of government, CCRKBA actively resists such attempts.

As an example of this, CCRKBA recently declared that a draft statement issued in mid-November, 2008, by Mayor Greg Nickels of Seattle, Washington outlining his scheme to ignore Washington State statute and state legislative authority over firearms regulation amounts to a slap in the face against more than 250,000 Washington State residents.

CCRKBA noted that Nickels has launched an attack on law-abiding gun owners who live in Seattle or visit there by forging ahead with a plan to ban all firearms, including those legally carried by law-abiding citizens. CCRKBA pointed out that Mayor Nickels "is doing this in defiance of an opinion by Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna that such a ban would be illegal under Washington State's model preemption statute."

CCRKBA encourages Washington State residents and citizens from across the United States who regularly visit Seattle to submit comments on the Nickels plan to the city on its website: www.seattle.gov/firearmsrule. Citizens also may e-mail Mayor Nickels directly at seattle.gov/mayor/citizen_response.htm, or phone the Mayor's office at (206) 684-4000.

Earlier, CCRKBA Chairman Alan M. Gottlieb stated that, "Even a cursory glance at the document released by Mayor Nickels shows that he has chosen to arrogantly ignore the State

Attorney General's opinion. State statute clearly limits municipal authority, and the Nickels plan suggests he is attempting to be a little too clever in trying an end-run around the law.

"If Nickels pushes ahead with this scheme, there will be two kinds of criminals in Seattle, thugs and those who win elections. Both seem to believe it's just fine to ignore the law by playing the system."

The proposed administrative rule would prohibit the possession of firearms on most city property. According to Mayor Nickels' office, the proposed rule would not apply to city streets and public sidewalks except when they are being used for non-transportation purposes such as special events. However, the proposed rule would apply to sidewalks and other walkways located within city parks.

The proposed rule would not apply to motor vehicle parking garages and parking lots, city property leased and occupied for residential purposes, city-owned property that is located outside the State of Washington, and the Roger Dahl Rifle Training Range.

"State law allows private property owners to prohibit the presence of firearms on their property," argues the office of Mayor Nickels. "As a property owner, the city has rules at Seattle Center and most city facilities such as City Hall prohibiting firearms unless a person has a concealed weapons permit. Organizations that lease Key Arena also have the ability to prohibit firearms in the facility. In addition to other prohibitions, state law prevents firearms at schools, jails and courthouses."

Under Mayor Nickels' plan, the City of Seattle is "implementing a

firearms policy which is applicable to permits, leases or other contractual agreements for use of city property. Under its policy, the city would lease, rent or permit the use of city property only to those parties that prohibit all persons, except law enforcement officers, from possessing firearms on leased premises. The city would also require sponsors of major events to take reasonable steps to prevent the possession of firearms during the event, such as providing signage, visual inspections, safe storage for lawful firearms, etc. The city would also permit departments to add gun free terms to most leases and agreements."

Gottlieb said that, "The outrage here is that the mayor is grossly overreacting to a single event, and trying to push his personal anti-gun agenda by administrative rule, rather than submit this proposal to the city council. We believe such a rule is unenforceable and that it intentionally violates not only the letter of the law, but the spirit and intent of the law as passed by the State Legislature more than 20 years ago.

"Legally-armed Washington State residents, whether they live in Seattle or just visit there, have just as much right to be on public property as any other citizen. Mayor Nickels cannot simply issue what amounts to an imperial edict that not only ignores the state preemption statute, but essentially strips these citizens of their state constitutional right to self-defense in places where they have a legal right to be, and the courts have already affirmed this."

BATFE SEEKING TO REDUCE PAPERWORK

In a supposed effort to reduce the annual number of violations of federal firearms law, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) says it has come up with a way to eliminate many of these violations before they happen.

BATFE conducts about 11,000 inspections per year, according to Henri E. Cauvin of *The Washington Post*.

In the course of these inspections, BATFE apparently finds thousands of violations of federal firearms law each year, often for very minor problems.

"Instead of filling out the required ATF paperwork by hand," reports the newspaper, "gun buyers and dealers will now be able to complete what officials say is a fail safe electronic version of the document, known as

Form 4473."

BATFE Acting Director Michael J. Sullivan announced the change during a speech at a gun shop in Upper Marlboro, Maryland, the Maryland Small Arms Range. He said the new option would cut down on illegible answers and incomplete answers, the most common causes of violations.

Sullivan said that such simple human errors account for about 60 percent of the violations cited annually by the BATFE, and finding a way to reduce them has been a priority for BATFE and the firearms industry, reported the *Post*.

"Officials," stated the newspaper article, "emphasized that the use of the new software is voluntary and that the data entered on the form are not being used to create any sort of

government database of gun ownership.

"But Sullivan said he hopes that dealers and their customers will embrace the new electronic form, which dealers can download from the ATF's web site at www.atf.gov/applications/e4473/.

Sullivan said that, "I think many people will see it as a very useful tool."

The General Counsel of the National Shooting Sports Foundation, Lawrence G. Keane, for instance, was among those who apparently approved of the change. "He applauded the ATF," reported the *Post*, "saying the new form would reduce the number of innocent mistakes made in completing the transaction forms."

CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

The 111th Congress is sworn in for its two year term early this month. Speaker of the House of Representatives will continue to be Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) and Senate Majority Leader will continue to be Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV). The Judiciary Committees will continue to be headed by Rep. John Conyers (D-MI), House Judiciary, and Sen. Patrick Leahy, Senate Judiciary.

Despite their majority control of both houses of Congress, and their control now of the White House, the Democrats should they pursue too liberal an agenda on guns, risk an electoral backlash. This is the where grassroots lobbying plays a major role in influencing legislation.

Gun owners need to write, e-mail and call their elected officials. Tell them you are concerned that a number of elected officials will attempt to exploit the current political set up in Washington, D.C. to further their gun control agenda. Politely remind them that gun control is a failed policy that does not reduce crime. In many cases it encourages it by disarming law-abiding citizens.

A simple one page letter carries a lot of weight. Ask your Congressman and Senator to keep you informed of pending gun control legislation. Then follow up with an occasional telephone call to their offices.

Following is the postal address for your elected legislative officials, the U.S. Capitol switchboard telephone number, and the Internet link to the House and Senate web pages, where you can find your federal legislators and send them a direct e-mail.

Rep. _____, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. - <http://www.house.gov> and Sen. _____, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. - <http://www.senate.gov>. The Capitol switchboard may be reached at (202) 224-3121.

U.S. SEN. JIM DeMINT GUN RIGHTS DEFENDER

U.S. Senator Jim DeMint of South Carolina has been named CCRKBA Gun Rights Defender of the Month for January.

Sen. DeMint is Chairman of the Senate Steering Committee, a group of conservative Senators which works to oppose restrictive firearms legislation and to promote legislation favorable to the individual Second Amendment right.

In nominating Jim for the Award, John M. Snyder, CCRKBA Public Affairs Director, said that, "this Senator, over the years, has demonstrated an ability to articulate the issues relative to preservation of our gun rights and the fallacies of gun control. He also has shown the capability to think strategically on these issues within the legislative context, and to formulate positions designed to develop maximum Senate support for the preservation of our rights.

He has played a key role in Senate battles over the individual right to keep and bear arms over the past several years. We expect him to play a crucial role in this regard in the months and years ahead. He is most deserving of this Award."

In mid-November, 2008, when reports surfaced that President-elect Barack Obama was requiring Administration job applicants to state on a questionnaire whether or not they or members of their family own firearms, Sen. DeMint delivered an immediate critical response.

"I am deeply disturbed that President-elect Obama is asking job applicants whether they or members of their family own firearms," said Sen. DeMint, "and they should not be discriminated against.

"The questionnaire already seeks

information about illegal activity so there is no reason to ask this question unless the Obama Administration plans to use it to discriminate based on lawful activity. For this reason, I will seek to enact legislation to prohibit this type of discrimination."

Sen. DeMint's office in Greenville, South Carolina pointed out that number 59, which appears on the Obama employment "Questionnaire," reads: "(59) Do you or any members of your immediate family own a gun? If so, provide complete ownership and registration information. Has the registration ever lapsed? Please also describe how and by whom it is used and whether it has been the cause of any personal injuries or property damage."

When the Supreme Court nullified a District of Columbia ban on private handgun possession as unconstitutional and declared that the Second Amendment protected an individual right to keep and bear arms, Sen. DeMint reacted with great approval.

"The decision is a major victory for the constitutional right and freedom of all Americans to bear arms," declared Sen. DeMint. "Today's Second Amendment decision is an example of the Court fulfilling its constitutional duty to uphold the law instead of legislating from the bench.

"For too long; liberal activists and anti-gun rights politicians have attacked the individual right of every American to own firearms. Today, the Supreme Court removed any doubt that the Constitution guarantees our right to keep and bear arms, and protects those rights from liberal politicians. From self-defense to hunting, our country's proud tradition of gun ownership should be preserved and

celebrated."

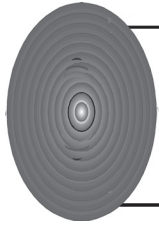
In 2007, Sen. DeMint voted to prohibit foreign and United Nations aid that restricts United States gun ownership by voting for an amendment to the U.S. Department of State International Aid bill which amendment prohibited the use of funds by international organizations, agencies and entities, including the United Nations, that require the registration of, or taxes guns owned by citizens of the United States.

In 2005, Sen. DeMint voted for a bill to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages, injunctive or other relief resulting from the misuse of their products by others. When enacted into law, this legislation became known as the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act.

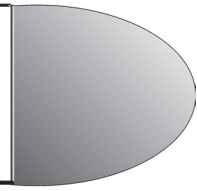
In 2003, as a member at the time of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman DeMint voted for an earlier version of the legislation. He also cosponsored a bill to prohibit appropriated funds from being used by any U.S. official to promote any action by the UN which advocates the taxation of firearms or any other abrogation of rights under the Second Amendment to the Constitution.

In 1999, DeMint voted to pass a bill which requires anyone who purchases a gun at a gun show to go through an instant background check which must be completed within 24 hours rather than 72 hours.

Sen. DeMint and his wife, Debbie, reside in Greenville, South Carolina and are the proud parents of four married children and also are doting first-time grandparents.



QUICK SHOTS



"It hasn't been this good for quite a while" wrote Sarah Brady following the election to public office of a number of anti-gun politicians last November. Brady, Chair of the anti-gun Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, wrote to supporters and prospective supporters that, "I don't want to lose any time getting the new Congress and the White House to move our life-saving agenda forward. I want our newly elected officials to hit the ground running as much as you do. We need the new Congress to close the gun show loophole, enact a comprehensive assault weapons ban, and stop illegal gun trafficking."



In Nashville, Tennessee, John Lewis, a 69-year-old Air Force veteran, shot alleged burglar Jerry Watson in the leg with his .357 pistol, thus stopping the burglary. "You got to be able to protect yourself," said Lewis, according to NewsChannel5.com. "I mean I'm not going to sit here and let somebody rob me over and over and over again." On a recent Sunday at around 10:30 at night, Lewis, whose home was broken into four times last year, heard a crash in his home. He said the person making the crash "started kicking on the door. He made more noise that anybody I've ever dreamed of trying to break into a house." Lewis saw a man carrying a flashlight and a pickax. Lewis said the pistol he was carrying "went off. I had it cocked. It had a hair trigger and I touched it and it went off."



The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), through the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has announced the final amended version of its changes to rules on the carrying of firearms in national parks and wildlife refuges. This is supposed to restore the rights of law-abiding firearm owners who wish to transport and carry guns for lawful purposes on most DOI lands, and will make federal law consistent with the state law in which these public lands are located. The new regulations are supposed to allow right-to-carry permit holders to exercise their gun rights on national park and wildlife refuges in those states that recognize such permits.



In Washington, D.C. last month, the D.C. Council voted unanimously to give preliminary approval to legislation that would require gun owners to renew their registrations every three years and to notify police annually whether they still own guns. The legislation also would require firearms owners to take a safety course and undergo a background check every six years, reported *The Washington Post*. The Fire Arms Registration Amendment is an attempt to comply with last summer's U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *District of Columbia v. Heller* overturning the city's 32-year handgun ban. It is supposed to build on temporary legislation passed last September which among other things banned

magazines capable of accepting more than 10 rounds of ammunition. Alan Gura, who was the attorney of record for the plaintiffs challenging the D.C. handgun ban in the *Heller* case, said requiring repeated registration will bring the city more legal problems. "None of this is going to reduce crime, but it is going to increase litigation. While I have not studied the bill, requiring people to register and re-register every year is harassment."



In Green Pond, South Carolina, a man who was at home one Monday morning last November when someone tried to break into his residence apparently shot the burglar, authorities said. Colleton County deputies arrived at the home and learned that the homeowner had fired his gun at someone coming in the window but found no suspects on the property. They later got a call from a woman nearby who said her 15-year-old grandson had been shot. The boy was taken to Colleton County Regional Medical Center, treated and taken to jail. He and a 16-year-old boy and an adult were all charged with second-degree burglary, reported the *Charleston Post and Courier*.



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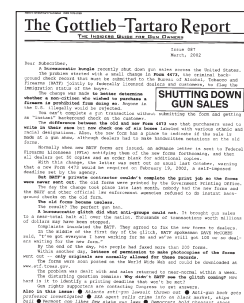
The Journal of Firearms and Public Policy:

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The Gottlieb-Tartaro Report:

Here's a monthly newsletter that gives you inside gun-rights information from the desks of active principals in the battle for the right to keep and bear arms. The GOTTLIEB-TARTARO REPORT is headed by Alan M. Gottlieb – chairman of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms – and Joseph P. Tartaro – editor of Gun Week and president of the Second Amendment Foundation. This monthly newsletter is full of inside gun rights news straight from the desks of the experts. Not available on newsstands. Regular subscription \$60 per year.

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