

# POINT BLANK

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



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2014**  
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## **CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS**

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## **EXPLAINING THE '40% NO CHECK' MYTH**

Time after time during debates on background checks, including the efforts to expand them now underway in Nevada and Washington, the gun prohibition lobby has alleged that 40 percent of firearms transactions conducted in the United States do not involve a background check.

According to two newspapers, the *Washington Post* and more recently the *Reno Gazette-Journal*, that's not accurate. Indeed, the *Washington Post Fact Checker* gave the allegation a "Three Pinocchio" rating, placing its credibility somewhere in the neighborhood of Sasquatch reports.

The Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is deeply involved in the background check initiative battle in Washington, and is keeping a sharp eye on developments in Nevada because the effort there is very similar to what is happening in the Pacific Northwest. CCRKBA has long considered the claim about gun transactions to be bogus and both newspapers bear that out.

According to reports in both newspapers, the number came from a 1997 Institute of Justice report that was based on a survey, done at least 20 years ago, using some data from years prior to the time the Brady Law, requiring background checks, took effect. Damaging the 40-percent figure's veracity even more, the random telephone survey involved only 251 people, both newspapers reported.

Recently, when the Reno newspaper dug into the story behind the story, it found that the source for the 40 percent claim is a "fact" sheet distributed by anti-gun billionaire Michael Bloomberg's Mayors Against Illegal Guns (MAIG). Bloomberg has dumped more than \$1 million into the campaign to pass Initiative 594 in Washington through his Everytown for Gun Safety lobbying organization.

According to a story that appeared in the *Las Vegas Sun* in August, Bloomberg's Everytown group is also "bankrolling" the Nevada initiative effort. Many in the gun rights community believe that both the campaigns are being used as "test tube" cases to see what works and what doesn't, in preparation to push similar measures across the country.

The *Gazette-Journal* also found that claims by anti-gunners that background checks make police and women safer comes from a report done by Bloomberg's Mayors Against Illegal Guns that was not peer reviewed. The story added that the report "doesn't share the numbers used to reach its conclusions, and it treats correlation as causation, strongly implying that lower rates of violence against women and police was caused by handgun background checks without even attempting to deal with all of the factors that would make

# CCRKBA JOINS SAF IN OBSERVING 'CONSTITUTION DAY'

Constitution Day was recognized on Sept. 17, and the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arm acknowledged the event by calling on all Americans to protect their Second Amendment rights.

"For more than two centuries," noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, "the Second Amendment has protected this nation and its residents from foreign invasion and tyranny. It has empowered generations to defend their homes and families, and to defend freedom around the world."

There is a major threat to gun rights, which he spelled out bluntly.

"Elitist billionaires including Michael Bloomberg are currently

## MYTH CHALLENGED

the statistics less valid. One could just as easily come to the opposite conclusion by pointing to the surge in gun sales with a corresponding drop in murders of women over the past 20 years nationwide."

The Reno newspaper had another tidbit of information useful to gun rights advocates. "There has been a peer-reviewed study on this topic worth noting," the newspaper said. "A 2000 study published by the Journal of the American Medical Association examined data to see if the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act made a difference. The law was implemented in 1994 and instituted background checks and waiting periods for handgun sales. The study concluded that it was not associated with 'reductions in homicide rates or overall suicide rates'."

The newspaper also found that, "The source links given by

waging a war to erode our right to keep and bear arms," Gottlieb said. "By using their vast wealth to launch and support anti-gun-rights ballot measures, or to buy political influence or slick, deceptive advertising, the gun prohibition lobby is devoting enormous energy and financial resources to chip away at the cornerstone of our Bill of Rights.

"While gun banners have tried to relegate the right to keep and bear arms to a heavily-regulated government privilege," Gottlieb observed, "it is up to each of us to remember that the Second Amendment is equal to all the other individual rights delineated in the

*continued from page 1*

Nevadans for Background Checks (the group sponsoring the petition drive in Nevada) do not lead to any independent research on gun background checks, but lead solely back to statements by a gun-control advocacy group that are unsupported and ignore conflicting evidence."

More than one year ago, the *Washington Post* examination of this questionable statistic reached the same conclusion. It has been noted that the *Washington Post* is not friendly to Second Amendment activism, and that the newspaper's Fact Checker did his research in response to President Barack Obama's repeated use of the 40-percent figure.

But this is not just a problem in two states. This figure is used frequently by anti-gunners to justify of attempts to erode gun rights and place additional roadblocks in the way of law-abiding gunowners.

Bill of Rights. Those who would erase the Second Amendment have apparently not considered how easily it would be to erase the First or the Fourth or Fifth amendments, once the Second is gone.

"As citizens," he said, "we have an obligation to all those who have sacrificed their lives down through the years to defend the freedom that is protected by the Constitution. And what has made that possible? The Second Amendment. It is the one right that protects all the other rights, and it has set us apart from the rest of the nations of the world."



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

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# REPS. POE, BLACK PUSH 4473 CHANGE TO STOP PROFILING

When the *Washington Times* recently called attention to the Obama administration's "stepped-up" effort to garner more information about gun buyers, including race and ethnicity on Federal Form 4473s, two members of Congress were quick to react with legislation to protect privacy and prohibit this type of profiling.

Congresswoman Diane Black (R-TN) and Congressman Ted Poe (R-TX) have introduced the FIREARM (Freedom from Intrusive Regulatory Enforcement of Arbitrary Registration) Act. It is a very simple, two-page bill that prohibits the federal government from requiring disclosure of race or ethnicity when purchasing a firearm.

In a statement released by Black's office, she noted, "This requirement by the ATF is highly intrusive and unnecessary. Failing to adhere to

this requirement by not checking all of the correct boxes on the 4473 Form is considered an ATF violation that can be so severe as to result in the gun dealer being shut down for having incomplete purchaser forms. This is causing a headache for many firearms retailers and this commonsense legislation would simply stop the federal government from requiring businesses and consumers to comply with this 'race and ethnicity standard.'"

In the same press release, Rep. Poe added, "Washington bureaucrats have no business requiring citizens who are lawfully purchasing firearms to disclose their race or ethnicity. Under this rule, both gun dealers and purchasers face the threat of federal prosecution for not disclosing race or ethnicity on a form. This is an intrusive and unnecessary

requirement."

Both members of Congress can share the honors for introducing this legislation so quickly.

Earlier this year, both Black and Poe were quoted by Project Vote Smart on gun rights, and neither minced words about their positions on Second Amendment rights.

"The Constitutional Right to Bear Arms," said Rep. Poe, "as guaranteed in the Second Amendment, is as important as any other right in the Constitution. It is an individual right that must be protected from the continual attacks to weaken it."

"Our individual right to keep and bear arms is fundamental to America and a right guaranteed by our Constitution," Black observed. "I will always fight to protect our Second Amendment rights from those who would seek to weaken them."

# SHERIFFS SAY 'NO' TO GUN CONTROL

County sheriffs in states that have passed strict gun control laws over the past two years, primarily in an effort to "do something" – or at least make it appear so to then voters – are increasingly balking at enforcement of new statutes, according to several recently-published reports.

A project produced by News21 at the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communications at Arizona State University revealed that county lawmen see themselves as answering to the people, not the politicians. "Sheriffs in states like New York, Colorado and Maryland argue that some gun control laws defy the Second Amendment and

threaten rural culture, for which gun ownership is often an integral component," the report said.

These sheriffs are taking a stand.

The story quotes Wicomico County, Md., Sheriff Mike Lewis, who bluntly stated, "State police and highway patrol get their orders from the governor. I get my orders from the citizens in this county."

The report said that nearly all of the nation's 3,080 sheriffs are elected. That stands in stark contrast to city police chiefs, who are appointed. So, sheriffs answer to the people, not politicians.

Another career lawman, Sheriff Tony Desmond of Schoharie County,

N.Y., announced he would not enforce the SAFE Act, pushed into law by embattled Gov. Andrew Cuomo. One of his colleagues, Otsego County Sheriff Richard Devlin, reportedly has instructed his deputies not to confiscate firearms and to use their discretion.

"I'm not going to enforce a law I personally disagree with," Sheriff Devlin said.

The story also recalled how a majority of Colorado sheriffs last year joined in a lawsuit against the Centennial State's hastily-adopted gun control measures in 2013. The lawsuit was dismissed, but the sheriffs made their point.

# ANTI-GUNNERS FACE 'GUNS WELCOME' BUSINESS BACKLASH

The anti-gun Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, a group funded by billionaire Michael Bloomberg, was bragging about their "victory" in getting Panera Bread to ask customers not to carry guns in their shops, but at the same time, according to *Breitbart*, some 57,000 businesses across the country have posted "Guns Welcome" signs in their windows.

It's a slap in the face to gun prohibitionists who have browbeaten chains as such as Target, Chipotle, Chili's and Panera to promote a "gun-free zone" atmosphere.

## FLA. EDITORIAL SAYS LET 'DOCS V. GLOCKS' LAW STAND

Anti-gun Florida physicians are appealing their loss before a three-judge panel of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in their effort to stop the state from enforcing the so-called "Docs v. Glock's" law that prohibits doctors from inquiring about firearms kept in the home.

Doctors are being supported by the American Civil Liberties Union.

The law was signed in 2011 by Gov. Rick Scott.

In an editorial about the case and the appeal, the Lakeland Ledger sided with patient privacy about guns in their homes.

"Under the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution," the newspaper said, "people have a right to bear arms. Responsible adults know how to use their weapons and understand why they should keep locks on them to protect their children.

"Doctors have no right to ask whether adults in a home own guns," the editorial continued. "What

*The Washington Times* reported that a TBoonz Steakhouse in Augusta, Ga., posted its premises off limits this past spring, and was immediately inundated with complaints from Second Amendment-savvy customers. The "no guns" sign came down fast and TBoonz did an about-face on its Facebook page.

The anti-gun Moms group has targeted various businesses in a campaign that essentially seeks to use these establishments as commercial surrogates for its anti-gun agenda.

But *The Washington Times* and *Breitbart* coverage revealed a different

attitude on the parts of some businessmen. One report said smaller restaurants have been telling patrons that their guns are welcome. It apparently has the ancillary benefit of discouraging would-be armed robbers, while telling customers that their Second Amendment rights are supported.

Ironically, about the time that the Moms were trying to bully Kroger stores, which didn't work, a couple of high-profile attacks at or near a Kroger store in two different states, literally worked to the benefit of gun rights supporters. One case saw an armed citizen fatally shoot a would-be robber at an ATM machine near a Kroger store in Indianapolis, and a savage mob beating of two people outside of a Kroger in Memphis.

Some gun rights activists were posting on various internet forums that "Panera is Toast" because of its request, but others said the store didn't outright ban guns, they just asked people not to bring them. That is similar to what Starbucks did a year ago. A lot of people simply carry concealed and continue to patronize the popular coffee shops.

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# MISSOURI VETO OVERRIDE PROTECTS GUN OWNERS

Missouri state lawmakers overrode a veto by Democrat Gov. Jay Nixon to enact legislation that makes it possible for teachers to carry guns on public school campuses, a concept that has been supported by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms.

Under the measure, local governments also cannot ban the open carry of firearms, which amounts to a major win for open carry activists.

According to the *St. Louis Post Dispatch* and *Kansas City Star*, there was opposition from some Democrats,

including Senate Minority Leader Jolie Justus. She told the *Star* that, “adding guns, even to law abiding citizens, for them to openly brandish them in the city will not help us reduce gun violence.”

The Kansas City Council voted unanimously back on July 31 to ban open carry, the *Star* reported.

Another tenet of the measure that sparked some controversy is that it lowers the age to obtain a concealed carry permit from 21 to 19. Among the debates over this provision was the argument that 19-year-olds are not mature enough to carry

firearms for personal protection. That was countered by others who noted that 19-year-olds are considered mature enough to serve in the military, carry automatic weapons, wear uniforms and be put in harm’s way, and also to enter into contracts and vote.

The legislation provides for a training program for any teachers or administrators who choose to carry firearms on school property.

This was not a partisan issue, either. The final Senate vote was 23-8 and in the House, it was 117-39, according to the *St. Louis* newspaper.

## CITIZEN ACTION PROJECT

In many states the 2014 mid-term election is already underway. There has been a major shift over the past decade to absentee, or mail-in, balloting. Traditionally a concession to business travelers, mail-in balloting rules have been relaxed to allow most citizens to vote absentee. In many states, ballots go into the mail as early as mid-October. And a handful of states now require 100 percent mail-in balloting.

On the plus side, mail-in balloting theoretically allows for a greater voter participation, as travel plans or bad weather on election day might have prevented or discouraged voting by some citizens in the past.

The downside of mail-in balloting, coupled with “motor voter” registration (registration of new voters at drivers license offices where they are precluded from asking for proof of citizenship), is the door is open far wider to potential voter fraud.

To many, the mid-term elections aren’t “big” elections. We don’t elect a president, we don’t elect most state governors. So why is this election important?

Even the pundits and prognosticators aren’t sure how this election will turn out. The assumption is that the Republicans will hold the House, and MAY pick up the Senate. Or may not. It’s really too close to call. The Republicans are trying to tar all Democrats with the Obama brush. Meanwhile, the Democrats are screaming about a “Republican war on women” and blaming all Congressional obstructionism on the GOP.

It’s all going to hinge on turnout. Whichever side gets its base out in big numbers, and sways some votes in the middle, will win. And it’s in close elections like this that voter fraud can have a major impact. A few thousand, even a few hundred votes, either way, can shift the political landscape.

From now until Election Day, we need to encourage all gun owners, their family members, co-workers and friends to GET OUT THE VOTE. Whether by mail-in ballot or a trip to the polling place on Election Day, it is CRITICAL that we retain a pro-gun majority in the House of Representatives and possibly put a pro-gun majority into the Senate.

If you live in a mail-in ballot state, or if you choose to get a mail-in ballot, fill it out and return it as soon as possible. Don’t take a chance on it falling through a crack somewhere. Every single vote counts. Those who do not vote have no right to complain about the election or how it turns out.

**GET OUT AND VOTE. IT’S YOUR RIGHT. IT’S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.**

# MARYLAND SHERIFF STANDS FIRM ON FIREARMS RIGHTS

Despite the juggernaut passage of increasingly restrictive gun laws in Maryland, at least one county sheriff there has taken a stand that has been getting a fair amount of attention, thanks to a YouTube video in which this lawman makes it clear he will not allow his citizens to be stripped of their right to bear arms.

Wicomico County Sheriff Mike Lewis was quoted by *USA Today* and the *Delmarva Daily News*, noting, "As long as I'm the sheriff in this county, I will not allow the federal government to come in here and strip my citizens of their right to bear arms. I can tell you this, if they attempt to do that, it would be an all-out civil war, no question about it."

That statement came from a video that has gone viral, and Sheriff Lewis' remarks are like a breath of fresh air for beleaguered Maryland gun owners.

The sheriff also appeared in another video, from WRDE, a Delaware television station, in which he blasted Maryland's Firearms

Safety Act of 2013. That statute was passed in response to the December 2012 Sandy Hook tragedy, which did not even happen in Maryland.

"Who am I to tell them what they should or should not protect their families with?" Lewis asked, according to the newspaper. "Who am I to tell them they shouldn't have a magazine with 30 rounds behind the door when some thug is trying to break into their home? ... If you start coming into people's homes to disarm them solely because you believe they don't have a Second Amendment right to bear arms, you better stand by. It will be, without a doubt, a civil war."

Predictably, Sheriff Lewis has received hundreds of supporting messages.

Lewis opposed the law, which has been upheld by a federal judge. He testified against the measure, telling a Senate committee that the law would "do nothing to reduce, suppress or stem the flow of gun crimes on the streets." At the time he said the legislation was a "feel good" effort.

The controversial interview in which Sheriff Lewis emerged as a stalwart defender of the Second Amendment was reportedly part of a Carnegie-Knight News 21 project called "Gun Wars: The Struggle Over Rights and Regulation in America." It's a program conducted by the Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Arizona State University.

Sheriff Lewis has even been praised by other law enforcement professionals, including one retired Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy who was shot while on duty, the newspaper said.

He insisted in the News 21 interview that he is not in favor of letting criminals have access to firearms, but that stripping law-abiding citizens of their Second Amendment rights is not the answer to violent crime.

The sheriff's remarks have been widely circulated on social media, including Facebook, where the increasing exposure has garnered lots of fans.

## CLEVELAND 'BUY BACK' PARTLY THWARTED BY ACTIVISTS

In a move reminiscent of the gun buyback-turned-firearms buyer's bonanza in Seattle two years ago, a buyback event in Cleveland, Ohio recently saw Second Amendment activists buying about 100 firearms from people who came to give them to police.

According to the Guns.com report, about 100 guns were purchased with cash by activists who did not want to see them destroyed. According to WOIO News, 270 guns were

turned in, of which the majority were handguns.

The buyback was supported by the Cleveland Police Foundation, ArcelorMittal, the Cleveland Gladiators, Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department, Cleveland Police Patrolman's Association and private businesses.

But local activists "saved" many valuable firearms including a Colt Model 1911 and M1 Garand dating back to WWII, a Dan Wesson .357

Magnum revolver and a Ruger Blackhawk. Supporting the effort were members of two gun rights groups, Ohio Carry and OhioCCW.org.

This sort of intervention by gun owners has occurred at other events over the years, but only in recent times has there been any organized effort. Some fine collectible guns, and other firearms with certain historical significance or value have been salvaged during these enterprises.



# QUICK SHOTS

This fall's U.S. Senate race in Kansas could have gun rights as a key issue because the Second Amendment came up as a topic in the first debate between the two candidates running for the seat, incumbent Republican Pat Roberts and independent challenger Greg Orman.

According to the Associated Press, Orman indicated his support for "reasonable" restrictions on gun sales, largely in the area of background checks at gun shows, but then noted he himself is a gun owner and supports the Second Amendment.

Sen. Roberts then, reports the AP, challenged his opponent, and said he wouldn't "mess with" people's gun rights. To that end, Roberts pointed out he has the support of state gun rights activists.

A California mayor is at odds with the anti-gun Mayors Against Illegal Guns over their use of his name in a letter to state lawmakers expressing support for an anti-gun bill.

According to the *Ridgecrest Daily Independent*, the city's mayor, Dan Clark, was listed in a letter to lawmakers from MAIG, a copy of which was linked to a story on the bill in the *Los Angeles Times*, but the mayor told the newspaper he never signed the letter and in fact is no longer associated with the anti-gun organization.

Clark told the newspaper that he had been part of MAIG in the past, but decided to leave the organization. He added that if his name was in that letter, it was there "illegally."

A Detroit, MI, man is being credited with saving the life of a neighbor thanks to his decision to use his gun.

According to WJBK-TV, the man looked out his window Sept. 10 and spotted a pit bull mauling the youngster, who was riding his bike. Two other neighbors attempted to get the dog off the boy with non-lethal means, but when that didn't work, in stepped the hero, who fired a shot into the dog's back leg, reported the TV station.

From our "only cops should have guns file" comes this story about a cop on the Honolulu police force who is in hot water after his gun accidentally misfired inside a restroom inside a Target store, according to KHON-TV while the officer was not on duty. Target, as you may know, made news earlier this year after it asked its customers to not bring their guns into the stores while shopping.

According to the TV station, the bullet hit a wall and did not injure anyone. The officer is still on duty, and the head of the police union told the TV station he doesn't believe the cop should be disciplined for the incident.

A gun owner's lawsuit against a Georgia school district may have exposed conflicts in two new pro-gun laws in the state.

According to *Neighbor Newspapers*, the gun owner, has sued

the Fulton County school system, seeking to force clarification of the two laws, HB 826 and HB 60. HB 60 is the law that was signed that expanded overall gun rights in the state, while HB 826 dealt with allowing concealed-carry holders the ability to carry their guns while on school property.

*Neighbor Newspapers* reports that the suit is intended to address whether the provisions of HB 60 that require gun owners to leave their guns while on school campuses conflict with language in the other law.

The Raleigh, NC, *News Observer* reported that North Carolina received almost \$20 million in revenue from a federal excise tax on firearms and ammo, which, according to the newspaper, was more than three times the amount received just seven years ago. This extra revenue is helping the state's wildlife department.

According to the *News Observer*, among the many projects that this money has helped support include hunter education, wildlife research, and improvements to state wildlife areas such as new parking lots and roads.

A Mississippi public official caused a stir recently after suggesting on social media that people should arm themselves. But who that official was may surprise you. It wasn't a law enforcement officer, rather a county coroner.

