



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

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AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

May 2012

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 - Court Cases
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Contacting AzCDL



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2012 Legislative Review



The 2012 Legislative session started on January 9th and ended on May 3rd. This session, we had a Legislature with Republican majorities in both chambers and an elected Republican Governor who signed Constitutional Carry into law in 2010 when she was an appointee running for office. On the surface, it looked positive for the passage of pro-rights legislation. Unfortunately what we encountered was a concerted effort, by some in the majority party, to prevent any significant pro-rights firearms legislation from reaching the Governor, and a veto of the one bill that broke through the legislative roadblocks.

Your safety not important per Governor's veto

Under current law, if a state agency or local government wants to ban firearms on "their" property (paid for by your taxes), all they need to do is slap up a meaningless "no firearms" sign without doing anything of value to ensure that no one can enter carrying a firearm. The end result is that only law-abiding citizens voluntarily disarm while armed criminals simply walk past the sign.



When they ban firearms, operators of these public properties are also required to provide storage lockers that are readily accessible upon entry and permit immediate retrieval on exit. Since there is no penalty for non-compliance, this requirement is largely ignored with the justification being the cost of the inexpensive lockers.

On April 17th, Governor Brewer vetoed HB 2729, AzCDL-requested legislation that would have required state agencies or local governments posting a "no firearms" sign to make sure the property was secure using law enforcement officers, or armed guards and metal detectors. There was also a provision in the law that allowed citizens to sue if there was a lack of compliance by the operator of the property.

When you filter through all the rationalizations in the Governor's veto letter, which include invoking U.S. Supreme Court Justice Scalia's comments on the Second Amendment in D.C. v Heller, it boils down to one theme; your personal safety is less important than the perceived sense of security that "no firearms" signs give to government bureaucrats.

Opponents of HB 2729 also whined about the cost factor, and raised the specter of "unfunded mandates." Those that believe that cardboard signs provide security don't have a security problem. In locations where security is a concern, like court houses, police stations, and the office of the Governor, the requirements of HB 2729 are already in place. For the rest, the only funds that need to be expended are for removing "no firearms" signs.

We are disappointed in the Governor's veto of HB 2729, however we are not deterred. This session, AzCDL members and supporters generated over 16,000 (Yes! Sixteen Thousand) emails to legislators and the Governor on proposed legislation. It was this pressure that moved HB 2729 through the House, stopped an attempt to bury it in the Senate Rules Committee, and pushed it through the Senate and onto the Governor's desk.

AzCDL started the 2012 legislative session with 5,000 members. By the end of the session, we had grown to over 6,000 members. By the time the 2013 legislative session begins we expect to have over 7,000 members. With your help, we expect to put many more bills on the Governor's desk that will further spotlight her feelings about your right to bear arms.

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2012 Legislative Review



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Capitol Shenanigans

While HB 2729 managed, with the pressure from thousands of activists, to get to the Governor's desk, other significant pro-rights firearms legislation was derailed by procedural maneuverings in the Republican controlled Legislature.

HB 2095, the AzCDL-requested bill that would have limited the restrictions that a Home Owners Association (HOA) can place on firearms. After being scheduled for an early committee hearing, HB 2095 was "held" by Representative Michelle Ugenti, Chairman of the House Government Committee, and never received a hearing.

HB 2719, the AzCDL-requested bill that would have declared that, for the purposes of Arizona law, the lawful possession of a firearm satisfies the federal school zone law. HB 2719 managed to pass out of the House but did not meet the session deadline for a review by the Senate Rules Committee, chaired by Senator Steve Pierce. This is the same committee that delayed HB 2729 until receiving over 6,000 of your emails.

SB 1077, the AzCDL-requested bill that would have specifically exempted the "lawful possession or discharge of a firearm while hunting, while target shooting, in self-defense or in defense of another," from the state lands trespass statute. After being scheduled for an early committee hearing, SB 1077 was "held" by Senator John Nelson, Chairman of the Senate Natural Resources and Transportation Committee, and never received a hearing.

SB 1474, the NRA-requested Campus Carry bill, passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and like HB 2719, it "disappeared" in Senator Pierce's Rules Committee without a hearing.

SB 1474 would have allowed CCW permit holders to carry discreetly on campus, but would have also allowed the school governing bodies to prohibit weapons inside "their" buildings as long as "temporary and secure" storage was provided.

As with HB 2729, there was a lot of wailing about unfunded mandates and the cost of providing storage lockers. It's very unnerving to learn that the administrators of Arizona's colleges and universities, despite horrific evidence to the contrary, believe that a cardboard sign can prevent attacks on students, but armed law-abiding adults cannot.



"Dang. Now what do we do?"

Good News!

A number of hunting related bills passed easily in the Legislature and were signed by the Governor. These legislative changes become effective on August 2, 2012 (90 days after the adjournment of the Legislature).

HB 2457, which allows the possession of an otherwise "prohibited" weapon (i.e., for self-defense) while hunting, was signed by the Governor on April 10th.

HB 2639, the Game and Fish Omnibus Act, was signed by the Governor on April 17th.

HB 2640, which prohibits the Game and Fish Commission from limiting magazine capacity on any authorized firearm regulated by the Commission, was signed by the Governor on March 21st.

HB 2728, which allows the use of sound suppressors when hunting, was signed by the Governor on March 29th.

Better News!

SB 1241, the AzCDL-requested bill which removes local control over the disposition of forfeited weapons, was signed by the Governor on April 4th.

This bill was a follow-up to 2010 legislation that required forfeited firearms to be sold to authorized dealers and not be scrapped. Unfortunately, there was a provision that allowed local jurisdictions to determine the disposition of forfeited firearms they acquired. Sadly, this resulted in the loss of revenue to many police departments, short of cash because of ideology based decisions.

With the passage of SB 1241, forfeited firearms, unless there is a legal prohibition, must be either sold or exchanged for guns, ammo or other law enforcement goodies.

Remember in November

Despite a supposedly pro-rights majority in the Legislature and a pro-rights Governor, we encountered stiff opposition to significant efforts to restore your right to bear arms at the Capitol this year.

The primaries are in August. If principled individuals are elected that respect your rights, we can expect greater gains next year.

We urge you to get involved, study the candidates and not vote for someone simply for their party affiliation.

AzCDL has a tool to help candidates "see the light" - our Political Action Committee (PAC).

AzCDL's PAC is a force-multiplier for your individual campaign donation. No matter the size of your donation, when combined with hundreds or thousands of others, it will make a difference!

AzCDL's PAC is limited to supporting or opposing candidates for statewide office. Arizona laws prohibit the use of PAC monies for Federal offices or any local (county, city, town, etc.) elections.

All donations are welcome!

<http://www.azcdlpac.com>

(Or call 928-685-4219)

Join us at AzCDL's 2012 Annual Meeting in Phoenix!

Mark your calendars! You are invited to AzCDL's annual meeting on:

Saturday, October 6, 2012

This year's annual meeting will be held at the Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 West Dunlap Avenue in Phoenix.

We are expecting a huge turnout.



As more information becomes available we will notify our membership along with posting it on our website at:

http://www.azcdl.org/html/annual_mtg.html

See you there!



AzCDL's 2012 Director Election



To promote continuity in leadership, the terms of office for AzCDL's directors are staggered. This year, the director position held by Dave Kopp, AzCDL's President, is due to expire.

While Dave is seeking reelection, the nomination process is open to all members. All nominations will appear on the ballot. If there is only one nominee for the vacancy there will not be a balloting process.

If you are a Life member interested in running for this position on the AzCDL Board of Directors, you may nominate yourself or be nominated by any other member.

If you are going to nominate someone else, you must provide a personal verification from the nominee, including the nominee's signature and membership number, indicating they want to be on the ballot. Candidate biographies and/or statements are welcomed. Send all nomination requests to:

AzCDL Membership
P.O. Box 86256
Tucson, AZ 85754-6256

You may also email nominations to: treasurer@AzCDL.org. A readable, scanned image of the nominee's personal verification document attached to an email may be considered acceptable if, in the sole judgment of AzCDL's

Board of Directors, it can be verified as authentic.

All nominations must be received by AzCDL by June 30, 2012. Any nomination received after June 30, 2012 will not be placed on the ballot.

If you include a candidate biography and/or a statement of why they/you should be elected, it must be limited to a single 8.5" x 11" page using standard margins and line spacing, and a font size equivalent to Arial 10. Any legitimate candidate statement timely received will be made available to members during the balloting process.

6,000 Members! Woo Hoo!

Congratulations to all our dedicated and hard working volunteers!

On Sunday, April 22, 2012, AzCDL volunteers recruited our 6,000th member.

It's been less than 6 months since we recruited our 5,000th member, and nine months before that we recruited our 4,000th member.

AzCDL was formed in 2005 by a handful of activists eager to end the status quo. By the end of 2005, we grew from 4 to 42 members. By the end of 2006, we had 252 members. In 2008, we recruited our 1,000th member.



Almost 5 years after AzCDL was created, with several legislative victories behind us, and with the help of over 3,000 members, history was made with the passage of Constitutional Carry, which restored the right of the law-abiding to carry openly or discreetly without first begging for government permission.

We have doubled our membership since Constitutional Carry was passed. Think about what can be done to "protect your freedom" with the over 7,000 members we expect to have at the beginning of the next legislative session.

AzCDL's Legislative Action Center—Use it!

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing"

For several years, AzCDL has been using the "CapWiz" services of CQ Roll Call to create our Legislative Action Center.

If you have received an AzCDL alert that takes you to a link where a letter has been prepared for you to send to a legislator or the Governor, you are using our Legislative Action Center.

You can access AzCDL's Action Center from our website, or visit it directly at:

<http://capwiz.com/azcdl/home/>

This is the same tool used by several, if not all, national pro-rights firearms organizations like the NRA's Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA) and Gun Owners of America (GOA) for contacting Congress and the White House.

AzCDL's version of CapWiz also allows you to contact Arizona officials, as well as those at the federal level.

As with our other email lists, new AzCDL members are automatically subscribed to our Legislative Action Center alerts.

Beginning with the 2013, legislative related alerts will be sent exclusively from our Legislative Action Center.

If you are an AzCDL member and are not receiving email alerts from our Legislative Action Center, send an email to Fred (treasurer@azcdl.org) and we will add you as a subscriber.

You may also subscribe directly at <http://capwiz.com/azcdl/mlm/signup/>

In addition to allowing you to find and contact your legislators and the Governor, you can also use AzCDL's Legislative Action Center to email state officials and agencies and even send letters to media outlets!

This is an incredibly powerful tool and we urge you to use it.

The biggest benefit to AzCDL is the ability to enable our members (you!) to quickly send an email to legislators on key bills at critical junctures with the least amount of effort.

When you see an AzCDL Action Alert, don't wait for the "other guy" to protect your liberty. Act on it! It only takes a few seconds to make an enormous difference.

We set everything up for you. Typically a couple of mouse clicks is all that's necessary for you to express your opin-

ion using our pre-written letter. You can also edit what's there, or add your own words. It's that easy.

The CapWiz tool also allows us to observe the impact our alerts and your activism have at the Capitol. This legislative session, over 16,000 messages were sent from AzCDL's Legislative Action Center. Over 7,000 were sent to the members of the Senate Rules Committee to move HB 2719.

While impressive, it's only a fraction of what could have been sent. When you joined AzCDL, you chose to get involved. It's time to take your involvement to the next level.

Make a difference!
Use AzCDL's Legislative Action Center

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER USE TO DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS?



PROVE IT. GET ACTIVE.



Win an AK-47!

AzCDL is raffling off 3 (Yes, Three!) Kalishnikov rifles.

These are fixed stock, semi-auto versions of the Romanian AK-47, in the WASR configuration. They are chambered for 7.62X39 and come with two standard capacity 30 round magazines.

Tickets are \$10 each.

Each raffle ticket represents **THREE** chances to win!

Only 750 tickets have been printed.

Win a Kalishnikov!

The 3 winning tickets will be drawn on August 25, 2012 at the gun show that weekend in Tucson.



Winners do not have to be present to win. However, winners must comply with all federal, state, and local laws,

and must pick up the firearm from a federally licensed firearm dealer.

Tickets can be purchased at upcoming gun shows and other events where you find AzCDL volunteers. You can also purchase tickets online at AzCDL's store:

http://www.azcdl.org/html/online_store.html

AzCDL does not flood your mailbox or email in-box with "the sky is falling, send money" messages like many other organizations. Raffles are our fundraisers.

Help support AzCDL, buy raffle tickets!

