



# Arizona Citizens Defense League

*Protecting Your Freedom*

Volume 2015, Issue 3

AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

August 2015

## Directors & Officers

Dave Kopp—President  
John Wentling—Vice President  
Tom Woodrow—Secretary  
Fred Dahnke—Treasurer  
Drake Mitchell—Director  
Cap Lund—Asst. Treasurer  
Charles Heller—Media Relations

## Available on the web ([www.AzCDL.org](http://www.AzCDL.org))

- AzCDL Goals & Successes
- Legislative Updates
- Court Cases
- Membership
- Newsletters
- Online Store
- Important Links

(and much more)

*Need help accessing the web site? Contact AzCDL at [webmaster@azcdl.org](mailto:webmaster@azcdl.org)*

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## Background Checks



### *Don't buy the Expanded Background Check lie.....*

Many of us, for work or hobbies such as advanced model rocketry or private pilots, must undergo a "background check." School teachers, health care workers, and even home cleaning workers must go through this process, and have become inured to the intrusion into our lives by government in the name of some supposed "security."

As a result, this leaves a flaw in our defense of the liberty interest in our rights. Speech, bearing arms, assembly, and security of our papers and persons, are all basic individual rights. (Read the Heller Decision about that here: [http://www.azcdl.org/USSC\\_DCvHeller.pdf](http://www.azcdl.org/USSC_DCvHeller.pdf).)

Law-abiding rational people have become desensitized to the phrase "background check," and what it represents. So if an issue comes before them on a ballot, they think, "Why not? I had to undergo one for \_\_\_\_\_. Why not one for a gun?" Here's why....

First, it converts a basic right to do with your lawfully owned property what you wish, into a government granted privilege. That alone should be reason enough, but there is far more harm in this topic than meets the eye. The idea of a background check between private parties residing in the same state, has nothing to do with stopping people who are prohibited from owning guns from getting them. It has everything to do with restricting the lawful possession of firearms.

The anti-freedom bigots, who are scared of your rights and do not respect them, know that the harder they make it for lawfully acting people to use and enjoy firearms, the less use of them there will be. It's the theory of elephant eating: one bite at a time. Let me show you how this presents itself with a couple of examples.

I'm a state certified CCW instructor and have been teaching Arizona's class for the permit since 1994. If Arizona passes a "Background Check" ballot measure like Washington State did last year, I would be forbidden to hand a firearm to a student in the classroom without undergoing a formal background check through an FFL licensee. Nor can they hand it back to me without doing the same.

For 16 years, I've hosted a local program called Swap Shop on the radio, where people call in and sell things. Among the things sold are guns. If a caller phones in a gun for sale, how are you going to enforce a "background check," before the transaction is completed? Do you trace his cell phone call and run a police officer to the location with siren and lights? Maybe, you just pass a law making it illegal to sell guns on the radio? I mean, if you're going to infringe on the Second Amendment, why not trample on the First Amendment?



Liberty  
Watch  
Radio.com

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# Join us at AzCDL's Tenth Annual Meeting in Tucson!

## Mark your calendars!

AzCDL members and their guests are invited to attend AzCDL's [Tenth Annual Meeting of Members](#) on

**Saturday, October 10, 2015**

This year's annual meeting will be held at the University Park Marriott, 880 E. Second Street, Tucson.



*As with all our annual meetings, the tasteful open carrying of holstered firearms is appreciated*

All luncheon attendees will be eligible for our door prize drawings.

This year's keynote speaker will be David Codrea. David has been writing professionally on the subject of the right to keep and bear arms since 1999. In 2011, he was named Journalist of the Year by the Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) for his groundbreaking work exposing the Fast and Furious ATF

gunwalking scandal. In 2014 he was named a Defender of Liberty by SAF.



## We are expecting a huge turnout!

Luncheon tickets are \$20 per person and are available at AzCDL's [online store](#).

Entrée selections this year are London Broil or herb grilled chicken. A vegetarian entrée will also be available.

Those preferring to pay by check may mail their payment to:

**AzCDL Membership**  
PO Box 86256  
Tucson, AZ 85754

When mailing your payment, please enclose a note with the number of tickets you are buying and the entrée selection for each person in your party.

For further information, please contact [treasurer@azcdl.org](mailto:treasurer@azcdl.org), or leave a **voice mail** message at (623) 242-9086.

## Silent Auction Donations Wanted!

For several years, we have conducted a silent auction in conjunction with our annual meeting of members. We are doing it again this year. Proceeds go to AzCDL and help offset the cost of the annual meeting.

If you have an item you would like to contribute to this year's silent auction, please contact [treasurer@azcdl.org](mailto:treasurer@azcdl.org).

## 2015 Gun Rights Policy Conference

**September 25, 26 & 27 Phoenix, AZ**

**FREE REGISTRATION. SPONSORED BY THE CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT FOUNDATION.**



## Ruger Pistol Raffle



### Get 'em before they're gone!

AzCDL is raffling off FOUR Ruger compact LC9S 9mm pistols. These pistols are a striker fired version of the LC9 with a shorter and lighter trigger pull.

Only 1,000 tickets will be sold. Each ticket represents FOUR chances to win. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased at gun shows and other events where AzCDL has a table. Tickets may also be purchased at AzCDL's [online store](#).

The drawing for these pistols will be held during AzCDL's [Annual Meeting](#) on Saturday, October 10, 2015.



Winners must comply with all federal, state, and local laws, and must pick up the firearms from a federally licensed (FFL) firearms dealer.

If a winner does not qualify for the possession of these firearms, their ticket is invalid and a new winner will be drawn.

*AzCDL is self-funded and fiercely independent. We are beholden to no political party. No outsiders, no sugar daddies, no corporate string pullers, no national organizations, and no New York billionaires. We do 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!*



## Arizona Rated Best State For Gun Owners—Again!



### GUNS&AMMO

**For the THIRD consecutive year Guns & Ammo magazine has rated Arizona as the #1 state for gun owners.**

States were measured on “gun rights” and friendliness to gun owners using the following criteria:

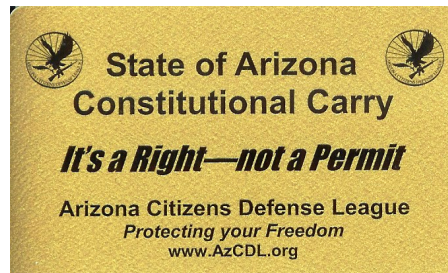
- Right to Carry
- Treatment of military style rifles (ARs, AKs, etc.).
- Treatment of Class 3/NFA firearms.
- Castle Doctrine/Stand Your Ground.
- Miscellaneous issues such as constitutional protections, restrictions on gun or ammo purchase, magazine capacity, CCW reciprocity, etc.

Arizona's three year #1 rating is largely due to AzCDL's [accomplishments](#).

AzCDL was created in 2005 by activists [not satisfied by the status quo](#). Arizona's CCW system was onerous and discouraged applications. Permits were only good for 4 years and required training, testing and additional fingerprinting to renew. Court cases narrowed the interpretation of open carry to a point where the only way to safely openly carry your firearm and avoid arrest was by having a CCW permit. In self-defense situations, the burden of proof was on YOU to prove your innocence – after you admitted to the “crime.” Firearms preemption was Balkanized. Cities like Tucson were able to ban firearms in their parks. Castle doctrine and “no duty to retreat” laws were weak.

Because of AzCDL's efforts, we now have Constitutional Carry in Arizona—CCW permits are optional. You are also “innocent until proven guilty” when defending yourself. Firearms preemption has been strengthened. Sheriffs can't drag their feet on NFA applications – Arizona has a “shall sign” statute.

We were even successful in getting the Arizona Constitution changed to protect law-abiding citizens from law suits when they defend themselves!



We are proud that AzCDL's efforts, with the support of our members, have again garnered this high rating for Arizona from a prestigious publication. However, from our perspective, there is a lot more that needs to be done to make Arizona truly a free state when it comes to honoring your constitutionally protected right to keep and bear arms. With your continued support we can achieve that goal.



## Nevada Recognizes Arizona CCW permits—Again!



**Nevada once again recognizes Arizona CCW permits.**

[Effective June 17, 2015 Nevada reinstated recognition of Arizona CCW permits.](#)

This came about from two bills, SB 175 and AB 488, passed by the Nevada legislature and signed into law by Nevada's Governor during the Nevada

2015 legislative session.

[SB 175](#) requires the Nevada Department of Public Safety to determine if states issuing CCW permits require training in addition to having an accessible database to determine CCW Permit validity. Arizona meets both requirements.

[AB 488](#) amended the law further to re-

move the Nevada Sheriffs and Chiefs Association from the permit recognition decision making process. Sole authority now rests with the Nevada DPS.

Per the new law, DPS will conduct their review annually, prior to July 1.

When [traveling to Nevada](#), make sure you understand and comply with Nevada CCW laws and regulations.



## AzCDL 2015 Director Election Results



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 co-founder and President, expired and he sought reelection. No other nominations were received.

Per AzCDL's bylaws, a balloting process is not required when any individual runs unopposed. As a result, Dave has been reelected to a 3 year term.

The expiration dates for all AzCDL directors' terms of office are as follows:

2016—John Wentling & Drake Mitchell  
2017—Fred Dahnke & Tom Woodrow  
2018—Dave Kopp

Pursuant to AzCDL's bylaws, following the election of directors, the Board appointed the following officers to one years terms:

Dave Kopp—Chairperson of the Board  
Dave Kopp—AzCDL President  
John Wentling—Vice President  
Tom Woodrow—Secretary  
Fred Dahnke—Treasurer  
Cap Lund—Assistant Treasurer  
Charles Heller—Media Coordinator





# Gun Owner Registration Coming To Arizona?

If you believe that Gun Owner Registration could never happen in Arizona, we have some beach front property in Tucson you might be interested in.

Here are the facts.....

With little likelihood of anti-rights firearms legislation passing at the federal level anytime soon, the attack on our rights and freedoms has shifted to the state level, and is led by former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg through his various AstroTurf subsidiaries. Their primary focus is on states, *like Arizona*, that have a constitutional mechanism that allows petition gathering to get measures on the ballot, bypassing the legislative process.

## Bait and Switch

Their strategy is simple but effective. Spend millions on ballot measures that require all firearm transfers (i.e., any exchange, retail and *private*), to undergo a "background check", with that information saved in state databases.

The stated purpose of these measures is to prevent criminals from acquiring firearms. In reality, these laws have virtually no impact on criminal behavior.

***The real, but unspoken, reason for these laws is to identify law-abiding gun owners (You!).***

As we are seeing in states like New York and California that have gun owner registration requirements, the next steps are criminalizing ownership of an ever-expanding list of firearms, then confiscation.

## Bloomberg Conquers Washington

In 2014, Bloomberg's anti-rights cartel scored a victory in the State of Washington, where a Bloomberg funded gun owner registration ballot measure, I-594, passed easily. All *private* firearms transactions and exchanges in the state must now undergo a "background check," with that information stored in state databases. "Transfer" under the new law is so broadly defined that letting a friend examine your gun can be a criminal act.

Bloomberg and his billionaire buddies poured over \$10 Million into the passage



of I-594. Think they won't do the same in Arizona? Guess again.

## Oregon Follows Washington

After being rammed through the legislature at top speed, on May 11, 2015, Oregon's governor signed SB 941, a universal gun owner registration bill, into law. *Private* firearms transfers are now illegal unless completed through an FFL. "Transfer" is broadly defined to include loaning a firearm to a friend.

It is being reported that state databases are being set up to identify the transferor (seller) as well as the transferee (buyer) in private firearms transfers.

## Nevada Under Attack

Bloomberg's minions have met the qualifications to put a gun owner registration scheme on the 2016 ballot. Unless Nevada firearms owners heed the call to action we will most likely see a repeat of what happened in Washington.

## Obama Joins Bloomberg

In addition to Bloomberg spending millions to disarm you, President Obama's well organized and heavily funded "Organizing for Action" (OFA) is also pushing real hard to take your guns away at the state level.

In his letter dated June 28, 2015, President Obama stated, "*Because of organizers like you, states like Washington and Oregon have introduced successful restrictions on gun purchases, like common-sense background checks.*"

## The Crown Jewel is Arizona

Arizona has Constitutional Carry and has three times been declared, by Guns and Ammo magazine, as the best state for gun owners. We are "the" target for anti-rights zealots.

In a press release dated November 5, 2014, Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety, crowing about their success in Washington, stated "*Everytown is taking the fight for background checks to Nevada next – where signatures are being gathered for a 2016 ballot initiative – and to Arizona and Maine after that, among other states.*"

Still believe it won't happen in Arizona?

As long as Arizona's Constitutional guidelines are met, any issue can be put to popular vote via an "initiative petition." Once the required number of signatures are obtained, *it cannot be prevented from appearing on a ballot for popular vote. Once passed, it cannot be overturned by the Legislature.*

There will be an "expanded background check" ballot measure in Arizona, very likely in 2016. Whether it passes or not, is up to Arizona's gun owners.

## Silence = Acceptance

If you are not willing to fight to defeat Bloomberg's and Obama's efforts to register you and your firearms, then for all practical purposes you support what they are doing.

This battle for our fundamental freedoms has a very large price tag. We need the support of gun owners statewide to prevent what happened in Washington from happening in Arizona.

If you are not an AzCDL member, now is the time to join. If you are a member, your continued support and activism is deeply appreciated. Your membership donations fund the battles ahead. Just as important is your activism in contacting your legislators in the coming legislative sessions.

## Get Angry—Get Involved!