



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

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AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

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Elections Have Consequences

A New Beginning

After the 1787 Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin was asked what type of government was created. His reply was "A republic, if you can keep it." Two hundred and twenty nine years later, and after eight years of the Obama regime, we came perilously close to witnessing the demise of our Republic. We are hopeful that, with the election of Donald J. Trump as President, the American Republic will once again be, to quote Ronald Reagan, "a shining city upon a hill whose beacon light guides freedom-loving people everywhere."

Donald Trump ran on a pro-Second Amendment platform. His election provides an historic opportunity to restore and establish a pro-rights Supreme Court majority, and to protect the Second Amendment, when he fills the vacancy left with the passing of Justice Antonin Scalia. With the advanced age and poor health of a number of the remaining justices, it is likely that he will fill more than one vacancy while in office, setting the tone of the court for decades to come.

Additionally, the election of Republican majorities in the House and Senate provides excellent opportunities to reverse the damage done during the Obama regime and advance a pro-Second Amendment legislative agenda. But, it won't happen automatically. Republicans have repeatedly shown us they are more than willing to sacrifice our rights in exchange for little more than an invitation to an "A" list cocktail party. We must hold them accountable and be ready to remind our Senators, Representatives and the newly elected President who they work for.

State Battles Intensify

Just because things are starting to look rosy in Washington, D.C., does not mean our rights are no longer at risk here at home. The perceived buttressing of our right to keep and bear arms at the federal level means the attack from *those who want to disarm us* will shift back to the state level with increased intensity. It is already happening.

After the passage of a Bloomberg funded "[universal background check](#)" ballot measure in the state of Washington in 2014, Bloomberg front groups Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demanding Action bragged they would take the fight to Nevada, Maine and *Arizona*. They made good on their promise. On November 8, Nevada voters narrowly passed a Bloomberg funded "universal background check" ballot measure. In Maine, voters narrowly rejected a similar ballot measure. We're next.

Arizona Targeted

Emboldened by his success in Nevada and near success in Maine, we expect Bloomberg to almost exclusively focus on Arizona. Thanks to AzCDL's efforts, Arizona has been recognized as the "Best State for Gun Owners" by Guns & Ammo magazine for the last three consecutive years. For the gun grabbers, Arizona is the crown jewel.

Bloomberg's Everytown for Gun Safety established itself in Arizona in 2013. In 2015 they were successful in quashing pro-rights legislation that would have made it more difficult to pass Bloomberg's ballot measure. We expect even more attacks in the coming legislative sessions culminating with a "universal background check" ballot measure in 2018.

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Challenges Ahead

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The Constitutional Loophole

Like Washington and Nevada, Arizona's Constitution has an "initiative petition" provision that allows for any subject to be placed on the ballot for popular vote. This provision bypasses the legislative process. This is not something that can be overridden by federal legislation or even the U.S. Constitution.

All that's needed to get this type of measure on the ballot is a required number of petition signatures based on a percentage of the "qualified electors" in the state. In 2016 that number was a little over 150,000. Short work for a billionaire.

In Arizona, unlike other states, once passed, these ballot measures *cannot be overturned by the Legislature*.

The Purple State of Arizona

Don't believe the "it won't happen here" myth. Arizona is no longer a conservative leaning "red" state. Polling data told the Clinton campaign that Arizona had become a "purple" state and voters here would help her win the White House. The voting tally for President was close enough in Arizona that it took several days to officially call it for Donald Trump. These are the same voters who, in a couple of years, could determine whether or not you have a right to transfer your private property without government interference. All that's needed is a tiny majority of those voting thinking that it's a good idea. That's how it happened in Nevada where their ballot measure passed by a margin of less than *one half* of 1%.

Defeating Bloomberg

In Washington, Bloomberg and his allies spent over \$10 Million on the passage of the "universal background check" ballot measure that passed by a 5% margin. In Nevada, almost \$20 Million was spent on the passage of Bloomberg's ballot measure. It passed by less than a 1% margin. In Maine, nearly \$6 Million was spent for the passage of their ballot measure. It failed to pass by a 4% margin.

That's good news and bad news for Arizona. The bad news is that Bloomberg is going to take the lessons he learned from Nevada and Maine and will proba-

bly spend way more than \$20 Million to ensure passage of gun owner registration, disguised as "universal background checks," here in Arizona. The good news is that we know that Bloomberg can be defeated and we can also learn from what happened in Nevada and Maine.

The 2018 mid-term elections are when we expect to see a Bloomberg funded ballot measure filed. We need to be ready for him. There are enough gun owners and their family members to defeat Bloomberg. Our challenge is to get them educated, engaged and voting. Can we count on your help?

Upcoming Legislative Challenges

As a result of the 2016 election, Republicans still maintain small majorities in both chambers in the Arizona Legislature. However, we saw fewer pro-rights stalwarts, more "moderates" and several complete unknowns getting elected.

We also have a governor whose staff, in prior sessions, has worked behind the scenes to prevent pro-rights gun bills from getting to the Governor's desk.

Winning at the Legislature

AzCDL's strategy has always been, and continues to be, getting strong pro-rights bills through the Legislature and to the Governor where his approval or veto is on the record for all to see. We are not interested in pushing watered down, virtually meaningless bills, that we know the Governor will sign, simply so we can declare a "win."

Getting good bills passed and stopping bad bills from progressing is going to be more challenging in the coming sessions, but not impossible. You are the key.

Your AzCDL membership donations buy you two very powerful tools for protecting your rights. The first is full time lobbyists working at the Legislature. They testify at hearings and work behind the scenes promoting pro-rights bills and calling attention to bad bills.

The second and equally important tool is AzCDL's [Legislative Action Center](#). This is the same system used by several national organizations for contacting Congress and the White House.

Activism Required!

AzCDL's [Legislative Action Center](#) is where you get to personally demand that Arizona legislators and the Governor protect your rights. Nothing gets a politician's attention more than receiving several thousand constituent emails demanding their support on legislation. And, we make it easy for you with pre-written message that take less than a minute of your time to send.

In 2010, with the help of AzCDL, Arizona succeeded in passing Constitutional Carry, strengthened firearms preemption, and became the first state to pass knife preemption. Our membership was slightly over 3,000 members.

By the end of this year, AzCDL is expected to have over 14,000 members. And, we have over 25,000 subscribers to our email list. That's a very loud collective voice. There isn't any piece of good legislation we should not be able to get passed, but only if everyone gets involved.

Our Legislative Action Center is only good when it's used. Your active involvement and support are vital if you want to see a continuation of the restoration and preservation of your right to keep and bear arms in Arizona. Without your support, AzCDL's influence on the legislature is weakened. If you are not involved, or believe the "other guy" will do it for you, we lose the battle.

If you are not receiving our legislative alerts, now is the time to [sign up](#) at

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

If you have subscribed to our list and are not receiving our emails, please contact Fred at treasurer@azcdl.org.

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER USE TO DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS?



PROVE IT. GET ACTIVE.

Your role in Arizona's legislative process

The next Arizona legislative session will officially get underway on Monday, January 11, 2017.

The following is a synopsis of the Arizona legislative process, along with some insight into the legislative rules and procedures that can help or hinder a bill's progress. During this process there are several opportunities for you to make a difference.

It starts with the Constitution.....

Article IV, Part I, Section I of the Arizona Constitution states that "the people reserve the power to propose laws..."

Every session, AzCDL brings proposed changes to the law to legislators. If the sponsor is willing, the proposed bill gets officially "introduced" and assigned a number. Finding the right sponsor is important. We've seen great bills go nowhere because they were sponsored by someone the Leadership disliked.

Once a bill is filed, AzCDL's lobbyists work with legislators in both chambers (House and Senate) getting co-sponsors. The greater the number of co-sponsors, the greater the likelihood the bill will succeed.

Once a bill is introduced and numbered in the originating chamber it goes through a couple of perfunctory "reads" by the full chamber then the Leadership of that chamber assigns it to a committee.

Session deadlines are set for bills to progress. If a bill does not get timely assigned to a committee it dies. Over a thousand bills are filed each session. The majority political party controls the process and the flow of legislation. Guess what would happen to firearms bills if pro-rights legislators were not in the majority?

The committee assignment of a bill can facilitate or impede its progress. When a bill is not assigned to the usual committee, or it is assigned to multiple committees, it can be an indicator of the Leadership's lack of support for the bill.

Bills must pass out of their assigned committees in order to progress. Once assigned to a committee, the committee chair determines if a bill will ever get a hearing.

Bills not heard in their assigned commit-



tees by the session deadline do not advance.

As you can see, much of the progress of a bill to this point is based on the whim of each chamber's Leadership and committee chairs. These are also opportunities where collectively we can help the Leadership "remember" to assign a bill to a committee, or a committee chair to "remember" to schedule a bill for a hearing.

Committee hearings present an opportunity for bills to be amended. Those opposing a bill may try to add weakening amendments that distort or dilute the original intent. Proponents may offer amendments to broaden support for the bill.

Once a bill has survived the committee process, it is scheduled for a "Committee of the Whole" (COW) hearing, where all the legislators in the chamber can debate the merits of the bill and offer amendments. This is an important point in the process where we all need to contact our elected Representatives and Senators.

With pro-rights firearms bills, COW hearings usually means a lot of grandstanding, wailing and hand wringing by anti-rights legislators about the evils of "allowing" ordinary citizens the ability to exercise their Constitutionally guaranteed right to keep and bear arms. In short, they prefer disarmed subjects, not armed citizens.

After passing out of the COW, a bill must survive a final formal vote (Third Read) before it can leave the chamber. If a bill makes it this far, it's only half the battle.

Once a bill passes out of the originating chamber (e.g., House), it is sent over to the other chamber (e.g., Senate) where the entire process plays out again, along with more opportunities for you to affect

the outcome.

Bills surviving unchanged through both chambers are sent to the Governor. However, if for example, a House bill is amended by the Senate, there is a reconciliation process followed by further votes before the bill can be sent to the Governor.

As we mentioned, pressure from you can help the Leadership "remember" to assign a bill to a committee; for a committee chair to "remember" to schedule a bill for a hearing; for committee members to realize that there is tremendous grassroots support for a bill; and for your legislators and the Governor to understand that you want them to support a bill.

AzCDL lobbyists work at the Capitol to monitor legislation, testify at hearings, promote bills we support and call attention to bills we oppose. However it is your participation, contacting committee members and legislators, that has the biggest impact on the fate of proposed legislation.

AzCDL believes law-abiding citizens have to right to carry a firearm, openly or discreetly, wherever they have a right to be. That means, regardless of what our anti-rights opponents are going to propose, not only do we want to defeat their bad bills, we want to see more good bills filed and become law that promote our firearms freedoms.

In order to do this, we need your support as an *activist*, not just a member. This coming session, not only are we pushing bills to further restore your right to keep and bear arms, we are fighting to derail what has happened in Washington, Oregon, and Nevada, what almost happened in Maine, and what will be attempted in Arizona—gun owner registration via "universal background checks."

As the session progresses, we will be asking you to use our Legislative Action Center to send targeted, pre-written emails to legislators and the Governor. All it takes are a few mouse clicks to make a difference.

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

AzCDL will soon have over 14,000 members. That can make for one very loud voice at the Capitol—but only if everyone reading this commits to getting involved.

Can we count on you?

Annual Meeting Audio Recordings Available



We thank everyone who attended AzCDL's Eleventh Annual Meeting of Members. You made it a huge success!

The event sold out, with reservations from over 500 AzCDL members and their guests filling the Sheraton Crescent's ballroom, making it necessary this year to station the silent auction and vendor tables in the foyer adjacent to the dining room.

Because almost everyone was armed (a condition we insist on in our contracts with any hotel that hosts our meetings) it was probably the safest place to be in the entire state of Arizona.

Special thanks go to our small army of dedicated volunteers who managed everything from registration to the silent auction and everything in between. We could not have done this without you.

We also thank all who donated the over 100 items to our silent auction. Your generosity bought in much needed additional donations that greatly helped offset our costs for the meeting.

For those not able to attend, Charles Heller, AzCDL's media maven and our annual meeting Master of Ceremonies, recorded the event.

The following audio recordings are available at our [website](#) (scroll to bottom of [page](#)) for those who missed the meeting, or would like to hear them again.

- Opening ceremony and comments by Dave Kopp, AzCDL President
- Keynote speaker David Kopel.
- Don Turner, President of the Nevada Firearms Coalition, on the Nevada "universal background checks" Bloomberg ballot measure. (*The "5 M For Success" article that Don refers to in his speech is also [available](#) on our website.*)
- Ed Martinez - 2016 Volunteer of the Year.

- Arizona State Representative Jay Lawrence (LD 23). (*Accepting the AzCDL award for Legislator of the Year on behalf of Senator John Kavanagh*).
- Arizona State Representative Bob Thorpe (LD 6).
- Arizona State Representative Kelly Townsend (LD 16).
- Tom Sheets, Southwest Veterans Chamber of Commerce.
- Alan Korwin.
- "Open Mic" membership comments.



Glock Model 43 Pistol Raffle

Get 'em before they're gone!

AzCDL is raffling off FIVE Glock [Model 43](#) Pistols. These are Glock's single stack, sub-compact, 9mm pistols.

Only 999 tickets will be sold. Each ticket represents FIVE 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 on Sunday, May 14, 2017.



Winners must comply with all federal, state, and local laws, and must pick up

their firearm from a federally licensed (FFL) firearms dealer.

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

AzCDL is self-funded and fiercely independent. We are not beholden to any national organizations, political parties, sugar daddies, corporate string pullers or New York billionaires. Raffles are our fundraisers. Help support AzCDL—buy raffle tickets.