



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

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AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

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Dave Kopp—President
John Wentling—Vice President
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Contacting AzCDL



P.O. Box 86256
Tucson, AZ 85754



Info@AzCDL.org



(623) 242-9086

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Legislative Session Underway



The 2017 Legislative session convened on Monday, January 9. This year we have a Governor who has been unsupportive of past pro-rights firearm bills. While there is a solid Republican majority in the House this year, there is a slim Republican majority in the Senate. As a result, it will be more challenging for good bills to pass. Over 1,000 bills were filed this session. The following are key bills that impact your Right to Keep and Bear Arms (RKBA). You can view the status of all the bills we are monitoring this session at AzCDL's [Bill Tracking Page](#).

Blocking Arizona Gun Owner Registration

With the election of a Republican President and Republican majorities in the federal House and Senate, the anti-rights groups are redoubling their efforts at the state level where they have a greater chance for success. In the November election they were successful in persuading Nevada voters to pass a Bloomberg backed ballot initiative mandating "universal background checks" on all private firearm transfers. A similar Bloomberg backed ballot measure passed in the state of Washington in 2014. Bloomberg has vowed to do the same in Arizona and has legislators willing to help.

HB 2150 and **HCR 2009** were filed this session by Representative Randy Friesse (LD 9). HCR 2009 is a proposed ballot measure identical to HB 2150. These bills would make the private transfer of a firearm a Class 5 felony unless both the transferor and transferee are screened via a federal NICS background check. "Transfer" is loosely defined and would include temporarily loaning a firearm to a friend.

Our top priority is to prevent Bloomberg from succeeding in Arizona. With your support, we are confident we can stop HB 2150 and HCR 2009 from progressing this session.

We are also supporting bills that would block gun owner registration efforts in Arizona.

SB 1122 would prohibit the search of any federal or state database as a requirement for transferring personal property. It would also prohibit requiring a third party to be involved in the transfer. This law would apply to firearm transfers.

HCR 2029 and SCR 1013 are identical proposed constitutional amendments that would require ballot measure petitions to have a specific percentage of signatures from each legislative district in Arizona. Currently the percentages are based on the state population, regardless of location. Passage of either of these amendments would lessen the likelihood of large population centers overriding the desire of voters in less populated areas.

HB 2216 would make it unlawful to require a person to use or be subject to "electronic firearm technology" which means systems, databases, etc. that store and track information about gun owners and their firearms.

HB 2118 would establish an interstate compact prohibiting member states from enacting firearm transfer requirements that are more restrictive than existing federal law, which places very few limitations on private party transfers. This bill is identical to legislation vetoed by Governor

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2016 Legislation

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Ducey in 2016. Unless the Governor signals that he is willing to abandon his position on this legislation, we do not see it advancing in the Legislature.

More Good Bills

HB 2117 would strengthen the right to keep and bear arms of state militia members.

HB 2287 would change the language regarding the culpable mental state required to prove a person unlawfully discharged a firearm. Under current law if you discharge your firearm within one mile of an occupied structure it is considered *criminal negligence* and a Class 6 felony. Because of conflicting statutory definitions of a firearm, this could apply to air guns.

The proposed law would require proof that you *knowingly or recklessly* discharged your firearm and reduce the distance from an occupied structure to a quarter mile. In more practical terms, there's a big difference between "accidentally" putting a hole in your dresser versus standing in your driveway launching off rounds on New Year's Eve. The former is unintentional. The latter is deliberate and reckless.

HB 2318 would require a *conviction* of a crime before a concealed weapon permit can be revoked.

HB 2409 is an AzCDL-requested bill that would strengthen the requirements for an injunction for harassment. Current law pretty much allows someone to file an harassment complaint against you simply because you own a firearm.

HB 2464 is a "Second Amendment Protection Act." It would forbid state or local enforcement of future federal firearms laws, rules, orders, regulations, etc.

SB 1159 is AzCDL-requested "gun free zone liability" legislation. If a property is not posted as a gun free zone the owner of the property would not be liable in a civil action for damages resulting from another person using a weapon.

SB 1210 is an expansion and clarification of the law passed last year that penalizes political subdivisions (counties, cities, towns, etc.) for violating state preemption laws. This is the law that was used to stop Tucson from destroying seized firearms and is currently the subject of a state Supreme Court case.

SB 1243 is the AzCDL-requested legislation that would exempt CCW permit holders from being disarmed in state and local government buildings that do not screen everyone entering for weapons. After an almost identical version of this bill was filed last year, the Governor's office overtly indicated acceptance to the language but covertly worked behind the scenes to persuade Republican Senators to kill the bill during a final floor vote.

SB 1344 would remove the authority of political subdivisions to regulate firearms possession of independent contractors working for them.

The Bad Bills

Despite Arizona's reputation as being favorable to the right to keep and bear arms, there is never a shortage of proposed legislation aimed at punishing lawful firearm ownership. Here are the highlights from this year's batch.

HB 2148 would establish a "public safety and violence prevention study" committee. It specifically calls for a committee member representing a group that advocates "*gun* violence prevention" which is leftist-speak for disarming law-abiding citizens.

HB 2149 would require the confiscation of your firearms if a "mental health injunction" was filed against you at the request of a family member or peace officer. One of the indicators for being mentally ill is purchasing a firearm in the last six months.

HB 2402 would add an indicator to a person's driver license if they become a prohibited firearms possessor. See HB 2149.

HB 2427 would make it a Class 1 misdemeanor for not locking your firearms away.

HB 2475 would repeal the Arizona Gun Safety Program that allows high schools to teach the safe use of firearms and bows.

SB 1182 would require special permits to kill Bobcats, the Canada Lynx, Jaguars, Mountain Lions and Ocelots.

SB 1195 would require those on *probation* for any domestic violence violation to surrender their firearms.

SB 1487 would eliminate the Game and Fish recommendation board. This would set the stage for the appointment of political ideologues determined to end hunting and fishing in Arizona.

SB 1504 Would nullify "no duty to retreat" in the statutes justifying the use of deadly force.

Whether a bill lives or dies is largely up to us as citizen advocates. If our legislators don't hear from us good bills will fail and bad bills will pass. It is up to us, as activists, to advocate for legislation restoring and protecting our rights and demand that bad bills are stopped.

WHICH WOULD YOU RATHER USE TO DEFEND YOUR RIGHTS?



PROVE IT. GET ACTIVE.



Your AzCDL membership pays for professional lobbying at the Capitol. Our official representatives monitor legislation, get good bills introduced, testify at hearings, promote bills we support and call attention to bills we oppose.

However, the effectiveness of our lobbying efforts at the Capitol is dependent on you contacting committee members and legislators, letting them know that as a voting constituent you are watching what they are doing, expecting them to vote for bills you support and against bills you don't support.

You rely on us to get good bills introduced, tracked and championed at the Capitol, but we need you to hammer the message home.

Lounge Chair Activism

From the comfort of your home or office, you can make your voice heard at the Legislature using two very powerful tools.

RTS

The first of these is the [Request to Speak](#) (RTS) system provided by the Legislature.

Note: Using the "Request to Speak" system does not require you to "speak."

The original RTS system was a paper system set up in the last century to let committee chairs know when a person requested to testify at a committee hearing.

When the system was automated a feature was added to allow users to log-in via the Internet and voice their opinion on a bill scheduled to be debated at a committee hearing. This information is provided to all the committee members.

The RTS system is the ideal way to contact committee members prior to a committee hearing. Once your RTS account has been set up, it only takes a few mouse clicks to "vote" and comment on a bill.

AzCDL Membership Benefits

RTS accounts can only be set up using an official RTS terminal at either the Capitol in Phoenix or the State offices in Tucson. If you are an AzCDL member in good standing, we will be happy to assist you in creating an RTS account.

Helping Us Help You

For more information about using RTS, contact Fred at treasurer@azcdl.org.

AzCDL's Legislative Action Center

Once a bill passes out of committee, it is normally scheduled for a Committee of the Whole (COW) hearing where all the legislators in the chamber (House or Senate) can debate the merits of the bill and offer amendments. After passing out of a COW hearing, a bill must survive a formal "Third Read" vote before it can leave the chamber.

The COW hearing and Third Read present ideal times for you to contact your legislators to tell them you want them to vote for pro-rights bills and against bad bills.

We have an "app" for that. It's our Legislative Action Center.

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

As key bills are scheduled for COW hearings and floor votes, we prepare emails targeted to your Senator or Representatives. All that's left is for you to do is send your personalized email.

You can send your message as is or add your comments. All it takes is a few mouse clicks to make your voice heard.

Activism Works!

We cannot overemphasize the impact of contacting your legislators. When they are inundated with constituent emails, it gets their attention and can affect how they vote.

Historically, support for pro-rights legislation comes from Republicans. This year, Republicans have a thin 17 to 13 majority in the Senate. For a bill to pass, it must have support of the majority of the 30 Senators. That equates to 16 votes. If just 2 of the Republican Senators vote against a bill, or are not present for the vote, it cannot pass.

The sad reality is that there are Republican Senators unwilling to support your right to keep and bear arms unless they hear from you. It's up to all of us to remind all our Senators (and Representatives) that we are watching and expect them to support bills we want passed.



We Snooze—We Lose

Arizona became a state in 1912 with a Constitution that says our right to bear arms "shall not be impaired." Over 100 years later, we find ourselves fighting to restore that right after a century of apathy has allowed much of it to be legislated away. Don't believe it? What do you think would happen if you open carried your pistol and ignored the "no guns" sign at your local MVD office, or when you vote, or pick up your kid from school, or when you visit the local steak house?

It was just a little over 5 years ago that if your shirt covered your firearm you were breaking the law unless you first begged for government permission via a "permit," despite what the Arizona Constitution said about "shall not be impaired." AzCDL changed that with the passage of Constitutional Carry.



The status quo is unacceptable. We can further restore and protect our Constitutional rights—but only with your help.

When you receive an Action Alert from AzCDL—*take action*. Don't expect the "other guy" to do it for you. We've done the heavy lifting at the Capitol, but your emails to legislators and RTS votes are what really determines the fate of any bill. Not getting our email alerts? Subscribe here.

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



Each One Reach One Campaign



Thanks to our hard working volunteers AzCDL has grown to over fourteen thousand members in less that twelve years. We're proud of our growth but with millions of gun owners in Arizona, we're barely scratching the surface of what our potential membership could be.

A major lesson we've learned over the years is that membership matters a lot. The larger our membership the more clout we have at the Capitol. The more constituent contacts our members generate, the more legislators and the Governor listen.

After all our successes, which include the passage of Constitutional Carry, we still encounter gun owners that are not only unaware of AzCDL, they aren't even aware of the positive changes to Arizona's gun laws we've accomplished over the years—including Constitutional Carry. That's not acceptable.

We need to broaden our outreach. With rare exceptions, most of you joined AzCDL at a gun show. As popular as gun shows and similar events are in Arizona, not all gun owners attend gun shows.

JOIN UP WITH AzCDL!

Arizona Citizens Defense League

Keeping Arizona the most gun-friendly state

Want to DO something about your right to arms? We get lawmakers to draft good bills. We push good laws and fight bad ones. You'll be informed up-to-the-minute. Come to our annual open-carry banquet. Join thousands of fellow gun owners in our fight for freedom. Get our free email alerts: **Go to our website—if you're serious about your guns.**

AzCDL.org — Ask anyone.

How has AzCDL helped protect your rights?

Constitutional Carry: no permission slips required
Defensive Display: protection against prosecution
Frivolous Lawsuit Ban: protection after self defense
Burden of Proof: legal presumption of innocence
Castle Doctrine: safety for home and for vehicles
"Emergency" Gun Confiscations: banned by law
Parking Lot Storage: now honored at workplaces

THE JOB'S NOT DONE. DO YOUR PART AND JOIN US.
 Want to "do" something? Join the most vigorous, unyielding defender of your gun rights in Arizona.

AzCDL.org — Ask anyone.

Think about your own family members, shooting buddies, co-workers, or your friends in general.

How many of them know about AzCDL?

How many of them have you told about AzCDL?

How many have you encouraged to join AzCDL?

Each One Reach One

Here's your chance to spread the word and help AzCDL grow and become even more influential.

We have prepared "Recruiter Kits" that you can use to tell your family and friends about AzCDL and encourage them to join.

Each kit contains 10 of the wallet cards shown in the center column of this article. Also included are 3 tri-fold brochures that provide some history about AzCDL and list our accomplishments, along with 3 membership application cards and return envelopes.

If everyone reading this recruits just one new member we could literally double in size. If you would like to help AzCDL grow in membership and influence, our Recruiter Kits are available at our [online store](#) for only \$1 each to cover postage and handling.



14,000 Members! Woo Hoo!



Congratulations to all our dedicated and hard working volunteers!

Near the end of January at a new gun show in Quartzsite, our volunteers recruited our 14,000th member.

We've come a long way in twelve years. AzCDL was formed in 2005 when seven activists decided to [do something](#) about the loss of the right to keep and bear arms in Arizona. Our first meeting was in March. By June AzCDL was officially formed. Four of the original founders became AzCDL's first directors. That same year we experienced our first success at the legislature.

Five years later, in 2010, among many other [accomplishments](#), we were successful in achieving *Constitutional Carry* in Arizona. The right to carry openly or discreetly without begging for government permission was restored.



Because of our success, Arizona has become the "brass ring" for gun grabbers. Not only do we have Constitutional Carry, but Guns and Ammo magazine has three times in a row declared Arizona as the number one state for gun owners.

We are now the main target of Bloomberg's campaign to achieve [universal gun owner registration](#).

We can win the coming fight, but only with your involvement and activism.

AzCDL is fiercely independent. We are not affiliated with, nor do we receive any money from, any national organizations. No sugar daddies. No New York billionaires. Memberships and Individual donations are our only source of income.

If you are not a member, we urge you to [join AzCDL](#). The more members we have committed to making a difference, the greater AzCDL's impact at the legislature. By working together and making our voices heard, not only can we show the bad guys that they don't stand a chance in Arizona, we can push through legislation that further restores and protects our rights.