



# Arizona Citizens Defense League

*Protecting Your Freedom*

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AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

May 2017

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- AzCDL Goals & Successes
- Legislative Updates
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- Newsletters
- Online Store
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## 2017 Legislative Review



The 2017 Legislative session began on January 8 and ended on May 10. For bills that the Governor signed, the general effective date is August 9. Thanks to AzCDL members and activists sending over fifty thousand emails to legislators and the Governor via AzCDL's Legislative Action Center, we managed to stop over a dozen anti-rights bills and get the following pro-rights bills signed by the Governor. You can view the status of all the bills AzCDL monitored at our website's [Bill Tracking](#) page.

### Pro-rights Legislation Passed

**HB 2216** (Rep. Paul Boyer, R-LD20) codifies the act of unlawfully requiring a person to use or subject themselves to electronic firearm tracking technology, a component of "smart gun" technology that limits the operation of a firearm as well as tracking its location and logging its use.

**SB 1122** (Sen. Gail Griffin, R-LD14) prohibits a city, town, county, or the state from requiring the search of any federal or state database as a requirement for transferring personal property, such as your firearm. Passage of this law should help impede efforts we expect to see requiring "universal background checks" on private firearm transfers in Arizona.

**SB 1344** (Sen. John Kavanagh, R-LD23), the AzCDL-requested bill that clarifies that state and local governments cannot regulate the possession of weapons by employees or contractors in or on their privately owned property or vehicles. This bill grew out of over-zealous local governments believing they can control all aspects of an employee's or independent contractor's private life.

### Ballot Measure Reforms

The Constitution of Arizona, along with several other states, contains a provision influenced by the "Progressive" (i.e., Socialist) movement of the early 20th Century. This provision allows for changes in state law, or even the Constitution itself, via a "citizens initiative" ballot measure that bypasses the legislative process. All that's required to put an issue on the ballot are petition signatures from a small percentage of registered voters. Unlike other states, once a citizen initiative ballot measure is passed in Arizona it can never be overturned by the Legislature.

Anti-rights billionaire and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, through his Astro-Turf subsidiaries, has been exploiting this weakness in state constitutions to further his agenda. In 2014 he successfully used the ballot measure process to achieve gun owner registration via "universal background checks" in the state of Washington. In 2015, the leftist controlled Oregon legislature accommodated Bloomberg by passing similar laws. In 2016, a Bloomberg backed ballot measure passed in Nevada. Since 2014, Bloomberg's Moms Demand Action and Everytown for Gun Safety have had Arizona in their crosshairs. We expect to see a Bloomberg backed ballot measure calling for "[universal background checks](#)" in Arizona in 2018.

This year the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, two laws that restored integrity to Arizona's petition gathering process for ballot measures.

**HB 2244** requires *strict compliance* to the ballot referendum constitutional and statutory requirements.

**HB 2404** prohibits payment to petition "circulators" based on the number of signatures collected  
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# 2016 Legislative Session Review



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and invalidates signatures collected by a paid circulator who fails to register with the Secretary of State. There are also new provisions for challenging a ballot measure and legislative review.

Apparently this new law is so threatening to those who want to take your rights away that a [ballot petition](#) has already been filed to overturn the provisions of HB 2404 in 2018.

## Subterfuge

In April, former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords and her husband [visited Arizona](#) bragging about a war chest of \$15 Million their organization, Americans for Responsible Solutions, was willing to spend on legislators who support their anti-rights agenda. Coincidentally, just days later the *Republican* Leadership in both chambers blocked the passage of two important pro-rights bills.

**HB 2287** would have amended "Shannon's Law" that was passed 17 years ago after the tragic death of a teenager killed by celebratory gunfire. The stated purpose of the law was to punish those who recklessly fired their guns in the air without considering the consequences of their actions.

Unfortunately the requirement for a conviction under Shannon's Law is the low standard of "criminal negligence" which allows prosecutors to categorize virtually every firearms discharge as a Class 6 felony unless specifically exempted by the statute itself. This includes accidental or negligent discharges, as well as simply shooting at a target in the desert on the wrong side of the "city limits." HB 2287 would have changed the requirement to "intentionally, knowingly or recklessly" discharging a firearm, in keeping with the original intent of the law.

HB 2287 passed out of the House, followed by a "Do Pass" recommendation from the Senate Government committee. Almost immediately after Americans for Responsible Solutions made their offer, *Republican* Senate President Steve Yarbrough [publically declared](#) that "The Senate is not going to consider" HB

2287. At the end of the legislative session it was still sitting in the Senate Rules Committee.

Over in the House, SB 1159 suffered a similar fate. After passing out of the Senate, followed by a "Do Pass" recommendation from the House Judiciary and Public Safety committee, the *Republican House Leadership* bottled up SB 1159 in the House Rules Committee for the remainder of the session.

**SB 1159** would have protected property owners from liability if they respected people's fundamental right of self-defense. Under current law, property owners who prevent people from lawfully exercising their right to keep and bear arms face possible lawsuits for their dangerous and potentially negligent attempt to deny a person's civil rights, should they become a victim of an attack. SB 1159 would have protected property owners who did not ban weapons from being held liable for other people misusing firearms on their property.

## Bad Bills Stopped

Despite Arizona's reputation as being favorable to your right to keep and bear arms, there is never a shortage of proposed legislation aimed at punishing lawful firearm ownership. The following are bills we were able to prevent from becoming the law in Arizona this year.

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

**HB 2149** would have required 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 was purchasing a firearm in the last six months.

**HB 2150** would have made the private transfer of a firearm a Class 5 felony unless both the transferor and the transferee were screened via a federal NICS background check. "Transfer" was loosely defined and could have

included having a friend store your firearm while you were out of town.

**HB 2277** would have entered Arizona into an interstate compact where member states' electors would be required to vote for the Presidential candidate with the greatest popular vote. If this law was in effect nationwide in 2016, Hillary Clinton would be our president today.

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

**HB 2427** would have made it a Class 1 misdemeanor for not locking your firearms away.

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

**HCR 2009**, a ballot measure identical to HB 2150.

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

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

**SB 1487** would have eliminated 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 have nullified "no duty to retreat" in the statutes justifying the use of deadly force.

## A New Beginning

AzCDL never rests! The 2017 legislative session may be over but we are already working on new bills for 2018. You can help us by simply renewing your membership timely. Not a member? Join today!

<http://azcdl.org/html/membership.html>

## Trump Sleep



With the election of Donald Trump as President, we are witnessing gun owners stumbling around in "Trump Sleep," a delusional state of mind where they believe that because we now have a Republican President all threats to their right to keep and bear arms have been eliminated, forever.

The 2016 election of a Republican President, coupled with Republican majorities in both chambers of Congress, only gives us a brief reprieve from attacks on our right to keep and bear arms at the *Federal* level.

Those that want to disarm you are also very much aware that they are unlikely to succeed at the federal level, so they are redoubling their efforts to disarm you where you live, and counting on you to be in "Trump Sleep."

We have already seen the success of former congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords through her Americans for Responsible Solutions. In April, she and

her husband blew into Arizona waiving \$15 Million around to any politician who would kowtow to their anti-rights agenda. Magically, a couple of days later, the *Republican* legislative leadership quashed two important pro-rights firearms bills.

And, we have billionaire Bloomberg, promising to do to Arizona what he accomplished in Washington and Nevada—"universal background checks" via a ballot measure.

### Think it won't happen in Arizona?

Article 2, Section 26 of the Arizona Constitution says that our right to bear arms "**shall not be impaired**" but Arizona's gun owners have been quietly surrendering that right for decades.

If it's "never going to happen in Arizona..."

*Why was a law passed in 1994 that said if your clothing was going to cover your firearm you must undergo training,*

*testing, fingerprinting and a background check before receiving a "permit" to carry discreetly?*

*Why was a law passed in 1997 that said you were guilty until you prove your innocence in a self-defense situation?*

*Why can't you enter a state or local government building or a polling place without disarming?*

*Why are schools victim disarmament zones?*

*Why do you think your fellow citizens won't vote for a "universal background check" ballot measure?*

Don't surrender to "Trump Sleep." The battle is here at home. We must be ready for it. With your help we can defeat those who want to disarm you. If you are an AzCDL member, don't forget to renew your membership. Not a member? We invite you to join.

<http://azcdl.org/html/membership.html>

# Introducing the AzCDL Foundation

On April 19, 2017, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) approved the application for the newly minted AzCDL Foundation as a tax exempt "charity" under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## Why the AzCDL Foundation?

AzCDL spent the last 12 years, with the support of our members, restoring and protecting the right to keep and bear arms in Arizona through legislative lobbying. Thanks to our efforts more Arizonans are exercising their right to bear arms than ever before.

After a court decision in 1990 that ruled that "concealed" carry was not protected under the state constitution, Arizona passed a concealed weapons (CCW) law in 1994. This new law required 16 hours of training, along with testing, fingerprinting and a background check for a 4 year "permit" to allow your clothing to cover your firearm.

*When AzCDL formed in 2005 only about 70,000 CCW permits had been issued.*

Through our lobbying efforts at the Legislature, we succeeded in restoring the right of law-abiding adults to carry openly or discreetly without seeking government permission in 2010. The CCW permit still exist but is now optional.

Additionally, we were able to achieve

significant reforms in the CCW permit process. The result has been a dramatic increase in permit issuance, despite no longer being required.

*As of May 1, 2017, Arizona issued 314,046 CCW permits.*

Because of several other legislative reforms we've initiated or supported there are fewer restrictions on where and when you may carry a firearm.

And, thanks to AzCDL's success at the Legislature, Arizona has earned the reputation for being the friendliest state for gun owners.

If we are going to continue to be successful at the Legislature it is important to show that Arizona has the most *responsible* gun owners in America. That is the mission of the Foundation.

## AzCDL Foundation Goals

The AzCDL Foundation has three goals:

*1. Promote firearms safety, training, practice, and skill at arms.*

Firearms ownership has been growing at a phenomenal pace. When it comes to competency with a firearm many new shooters "don't know what they don't know." The Foundation's goal is to make them aware of the need and

availability of training.

*2. Facilitate access to firearms training opportunities.*

We want the Foundation to become "the" resource for linking students to training and vice versa. We also hope to be in a position to assist students and instructors financially.

*3. Raise awareness of the constitutional and legal aspects of firearms possession, safety and use.*

Firearms education includes understanding our right to keep and bear arms and what we need to do to protect that right.

## Please Support the AzCDL Foundation

The AzCDL Foundation is a separate, self-funding entity from AzCDL. Your donations will help it achieve its goals.

As a 501(c)(3) organization, donations made to the AzCDL Foundation are tax deductible.

Temporarily, donations to the Foundation can be made through a dedicated page at AzCDL's website.

<http://azcdl.org/html/foundation.html>

Thank you for your support!



## AzCDL's 2017 Director Election



To promote continuity in leadership, the terms of office for [AzCDL's directors](#) are staggered. This year, the director positions held by Fred Dahnke, AzCDL's Treasurer, and Tom Woodrow, are due to expire.

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

If you are a Life member interested in running for either of these positions 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.

Mail all nomination requests to:

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

You may also email nominations to [treasurer@AzCDL.org](mailto: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 midnight, Saturday, July 1, 2017. Any nomination received after July 1, 2017 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.