



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

Volume 2018, Issue 4

AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

November 2018

Directors & Officers

Dave Kopp—President
Michael Gibbs—Vice President
Tom Woodrow—Secretary
Fred Dahnke—Treasurer
Drake Mitchell—Director
Ed Martinez—Director
Charles Heller—Media Relations

Available on the web (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

Contacting AzCDL



P.O. Box 86256
Tucson, AZ 85754



Info@AzCDL.org



(623) 242-9086

Inside this issue:

AZ #1 for Gun Owners	1
Election Consequences	2
AZ Legislation—Your role	3
AzCDL GRPC Award	4
AzCDL Foundation	4

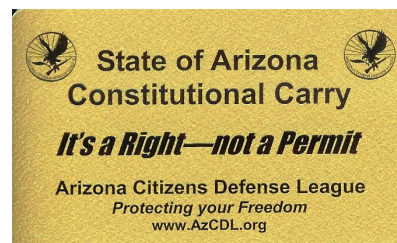
Arizona Rated Best State For Gun Owners—Again!

Thanks to AzCDL Arizona is rated as the #1 state for gun owners

For the SIXTH consecutive year [Guns and Ammo magazine](#) has rated Arizona as the #1 state for gun owners.

States were measured by the following criteria:

- Right To Carry.
- Access to modern sporting rifles (ARs, AKs, etc.).
- “Use of Force” laws (Castle Doctrine, Stand Your Ground, etc.)
- Treatment of NFA firearms.
- Miscellaneous issues such as constitutional protections, preemption, “red flag” laws, restrictions on gun or ammo purchases, magazine capacity, CCW reciprocity, availability of places to shoot, etc.



Arizona's consecutive six year #1 rating is primarily because of what AzCDL has [accomplished](#). Prior to AzCDL's involvement, no efforts were successful in changing the status quo in Arizona.

As a result, 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. Castle doctrine and “no duty to retreat” laws were weak.

AzCDL was created in 2005 by activists who were not satisfied with the status quo. Just 5 years later, in 2010, we achieved Constitutional Carry. CCW permits are now optional and the process to obtain a permit is more realistic. Arizona permits are recognized by almost three-quarters of the states. Arizona is also one of the few states that recognize all permits from all states – again thanks to AzCDL.

Because of AzCDL's efforts, you are now “innocent until proven guilty” when defending yourself. Firearms preemption has been strengthened. We were even successful in getting the Arizona Constitution changed to protect law-abiding citizens from law suits when they defend themselves. Visit our [Accomplishments](#) and [Why AzCDL](#) web pages to learn more about what AzCDL has accomplished.

We are proud that AzCDL's efforts, with the support of our members, have again garnered this high rating for Arizona from such 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 bear arms. With your [continued support](#) we can achieve that goal.

Can we count on you?

Impact Of Midterm Elections

The 2018 midterm elections significantly changed the political landscape at both the federal and state levels. Our rights are more at risk and we must be prepared to defend them.

The Arizona Legislature's shrinking pro-rights majority

The Arizona State Legislature has 30 Senators and 60 Representatives. The slim Republican majorities in each chamber were made even smaller with the midterm elections.

In the 2018 Arizona State Senate, Republicans held a 17-13 majority. When votes were along party lines, all it took were 2 Republican Senators to vote against a bill to create a 15-15 tie that would kill a bill. Unfortunately, there were three Republican Senators, Kate Brophy McGee, Frank Pratt and Bob Worsley, that consistently voted against bills restoring and protecting your right to keep and bear arms.

Bob Worsley did not run for a Legislative seat this year however, Frank Pratt and Kate Brophy McGee did run. Senator Pratt was reelected. As this was being written, shortly after the election, Kate Brophy McGee's race was too close to call. If she wins, the Senate will still have a 17-13 majority. If she loses, it will be a 16-14 majority.

Over in the Arizona State House of Representatives, the Republicans had a 35-25 majority in the 2018 session. As this was being written, that majority has shrunk to 31-29, with one race being very close. It's possible that the Republicans may pick up another seat.

Overall, we are seeing fewer legislators being elected that truly support your rights. Adding it all together, getting significant pro-rights firearms legislation passed during the 2019 legislative session will be a challenge.

Emboldened by their gains in the State Legislature, and with Democrats controlling the U.S. House of Representatives, we expect to see even more bills filed in the 2019 Arizona legislative session attempting to strip you of your fundamental rights. In past years, with your help, we have been [successful in defeating](#) those bills early in the session.

Can we count on you?

Governor Ducey wants to confiscate your firearms!

Governor Ducey, who was easily reelected, has a history of being unopposed of pro-rights firearms legislation. His staff has worked behind the scenes at the Legislature to prevent pro-rights firearms bills from getting to his desk.

During the final days of the 2017 session, in reaction to the Parkland school murders, Governor Ducey jumped on the gun grabbing bandwagon and persuaded the Republican controlled Senate to introduce, and pass, legislation calling for "emergency" firearms confiscations using low evidentiary standards with virtually no recourse or appeals, based on claims from family members or school officials.

Thanks to AzCDL's intervention, and the over 37,000 emails generated by AzCDL members and supporters, the bill was rewritten to the point where it became unpalatable to those who want to disarm you. It failed to garner support in the House before the session ended.

Since then, the Governor has repeatedly stated that he wants to have his [initial proposal](#) reintroduced during the 2019 legislative session. With your help we will defeat it—again.

The National Situation

Permit Reciprocity ? ❌

Hearing Protection Act ? ❌

NICS Expansion ? ✔

Bumpstock Ban ? ✔

Russian Ammo Import Ban ? ➡ SOON



Despite having Republican majorities in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives for the last two years, virtually no effort was made to pass bills that were filed to deregulate sound suppressors and create national CCW permit reciprocity.

However, the Republican controlled Congress did pass the "Fix NICS Act of 2017," a bill that greatly expands data about you that is fed into NICS, as part of the Omnibus Appropriations Act, which the President signed into law.



Additionally, President Trump directed the Justice Department to draft a bureaucratic "rule" to regulate add-on devices like "bump stocks" as machine gun components. While many may think it's no big deal, such a ruling has the potential to make semiautomatic rifles like your AR illegal, and you a felon for possessing it.

Even though the Democrats now have a thin majority in the U.S. House of Representatives, we expect a raft of bills to be filed restricting or outright eliminating your fundamental right to keep and bear arms. While there have been gains in the Republican controlled Senate, it remains to be seen if they have the integrity to protect your rights, or if the President is unwilling use your Second Amendment rights as a negotiating tool to achieve his legislative agenda on things like greater border security or expanded tax cuts.

Though AzCDL's primary focus is on Arizona State legislation, we will keep an eye on national legislation.

Your role in Arizona's legislative process

The next Arizona legislative session will officially get underway on Monday, January 14, 2019.

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 did not favor.

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.

If you are not engaged in the political process then don't whine when you are politically processed.

Bills not heard in their assigned committees 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 mean 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 again fighting to derail a trend that has happened in several states; "red flag" emergency firearms confiscations using low evidentiary standards with virtually no recourse or appeals, based on biased claims from family members or school officials.

As the legislative session progresses, we will be asking you to use our [Legislative Action Center](http://legislativeactioncenter.org) to send targeted, pre-written emails to legislators and the Governor. All it takes are a few mouse clicks to make a difference.

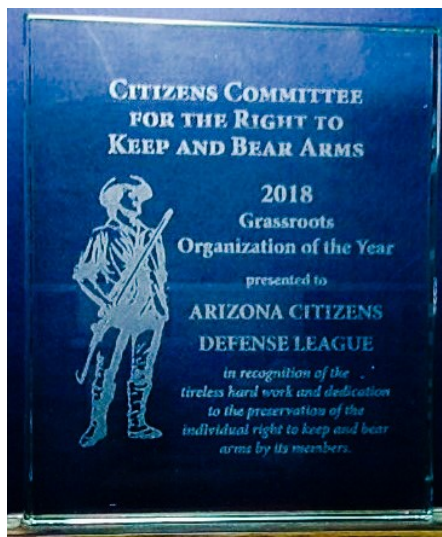
<http://cqrcengage.com/azcdl/home>

AzCDL has over 15,000 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?

AzCDL Awarded—Again!

At the September 2018 Gun Rights Policy Conference (GRPC), sponsored by the Citizens Committee For The Right to Keep And Bear Arms (CCRKBA), AzCDL was recognized as the “Grassroots Organization of the Year.” The plaque reads “In recognition of the tire-



less hard work and dedication to the preservation of the Individual right to keep and bear arms by its members.”

This award is the latest in a series of GRPC awards that AzCDL has received. In 2006, one year after we were formed, AzCDL received our first “Grassroots Organization Of The Year”

award. We received our second “Grassroots Organization Of the Year” award in 2010 after the passage of Constitutional Carry in Arizona. Additionally, AzCDL received GRPC’s “Grassroots Activist of the Year” awards in 2008 and 2015.



Make a donation—Get a tax deduction!

In 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.

AzCDL spent the last 13 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.

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 November 4, 2018, Arizona issued 337,773 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.

The AzCDL Foundation has the following goals:

1. *Promote firearms safety, training, practice, and skill at arms.*
2. *Facilitate access to firearms training opportunities.*
3. *Raise awareness of the constitutional and legal aspects of firearms possession, safety and use.*

You can support the AzCDL Foundation through your tax deductible donations

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, in contrast to donations to AzCDL which are not tax deductible.

Donations to the Foundation can be made directly at:
<http://azcdlfdoundation.org>

Shop online? Amazon.com will make donations to the AzCDL Foundation based on your purchases. Simply go to <https://smile.amazon.com/> and designate the AzCDL Foundation as your preferred charity.

Thank you for your support!