



Arizona Citizens Defense League

Protecting Your Freedom

Volume 2020, Issue 4

AzCDL's Membership Newsletter

November 2020

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Inside this issue:

2020 Election	1 & 2
Front Sight Training 2020	2
AZ Legislative Process	3
First on the List	4

Elections Have Consequences

At the Crossroads

In the November 2020 election, the Democrats retained control of the U.S. House, the U.S. Senate may be flipping to Democrat control and, as this was being written, the Presidential election results are being contested. Barring successful challenges to balloting and voting irregularities, Joe Biden appears to be our next President. As a candidate, Biden [pledged serious attacks](#) on our Right to Keep and Bear Arms (RKBA).

However, assuming Biden becomes President, that doesn't mean it's "game over" in Arizona

Protecting Arizona

While we may get a Biden/Harris Administration that will further limit what firearms you will be "allowed" to possess and place more barriers on how to acquire them, it's the *Arizona Legislature* that determines where and how you may carry a firearm in Arizona under the right to bear arms defined in [Article 2, Section 26](#) of the Arizona Constitution. Thanks largely to AzCDL's activism at the state legislature, the following is a short list of what's been [accomplished](#) in Arizona:

- Constitutional Carry—The right to carry a firearm openly or concealed without first seeking written government permission via a "permit."
- Constitutional protection against victims being sued by their attackers in self-defense situations.
- Statutory presumption that a victim acted reasonably when using physical or deadly force.
- Strong castle doctrine and "stand your ground" laws.
- Strong state preemption of firearm and knife laws.
- Statutory justification for the defensive display of a firearm.
- Strengthened justification for the use of force.
- A prohibition on confiscation of firearms during an emergency.

A more extensive list can be found at the AzCDL website's [Accomplishments page](#).

The future of your right to bear arms in Arizona will be determined by how hard you are willing to fight for that right in the 2021 State Legislative Session that begins in January.

Arizona Legislative Challenges

In the Arizona Legislature, Republicans hold majorities in the House and Senate. However, with the November election, those majorities have shrunk to a single vote in each chamber. While these razor thin Republican majorities diminish the prospects of pro-RKBA legislation surviving the legislative process, they also diminish the chances of anti-RKBA legislation succeeding—but only if you are engaged in the political process.

In the 2020 session the Democrats introduced over [two dozen bills](#) to curtail your rights. All

(Continued on page 2)

Challenges Ahead

(Continued from page 1)

were defeated early in the session. With the outcome of the recent election, we're expecting an even greater effort from the Democrats in 2021. This will likely include "assault weapon" bans; magazine capacity restrictions; background checks on private transfers; draconian storage requirements; "red flag" firearms confiscations, and a whole lot more.

Winning at the Legislature

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 buys 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 messages 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 2020, AzCDL is expected to have over 18,000 members. And, we

have close to 60,000 subscribers to our email list. That's a very loud collective voice. There isn't any piece of bad legislation we should not be able to stop, 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

<https://azcdl.org/subscribe-to-alerts>

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



Team AzCDL Returns to Front Sight



was a fun time.

Old friendships were renewed and new ones cemented at our traditional steak dinner on Saturday evening – a satisfying bit of relaxation (and air-conditioned relief), filling the private dining area with happy, hungry AzCDLers of all ages and skill levels.

Make your plans now for next year's 'class trip', we plan on going back to our traditional mid-April class, when the weather is fit for humans to be outside. Looking forward to seeing us fill an entire class – and taking home more top prizes!

Despite an interminable 5 month delay, triple-digit Nevada desert days and a revised training schedule that tested conditioning and ammo stocks, Team AzCDL not only finished this year's 4-day Defensive Handgun class, we full-out mastered it.

With AzCDL members numbering half the class, the top shooter in the man-to-man and all three Distinguished Graduates were AzCDL members. Be proud of yourselves, that was a notable accomplishment.

With a mix of Front Sight 'veterans' and first-timers, the tireless (and patient) instruction and coaching of Rangemaster Gerry Cope, Instructors Scott Braun and Frank Molthen and Line Coach Eric Beames turned new and minimally experienced shooters into competent, safe pistol handlers and polished the skills of the more experienced.

Whatever the skill levels of individuals coming into the course or leaving, there was overwhelming agreement that it was not only a productive experience, it

Duke Schechter
AzCDL Director



Your role in Arizona's legislative process

The next Arizona legislative session will officially get underway on Monday, January 11, 2021.

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. More co-sponsors demonstrates more support for the bill.

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-

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

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 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 to send targeted, pre-written emails to legislators and the Governor. All it takes are a few mouse clicks to make a difference.

AzCDL has almost 18,000 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?

First on the List

“Hi! My name is Dave, and I’m a pro-freedom activist.”

Sound familiar? It should. You’ve probably said something like that many times. Why? If you’re reading this, chances are you belong to that select group of people who understand something that very few folks do these days. And that is, quite simply, that our freedom is under attack. Serious attack, from a whole host of enemies. So we, all of us, have become activists in the fight for freedom.

But what makes someone an activist? I’m not talking about how Mr. Webster sees it. I mean how we see it, deep down in our bones. What is that quality that really makes someone an activist?

I write letters, make phone calls, and send emails and lobby my legislators. Lots of them. All the time. By now I’d bet most of them have a separate correspondence file all for me. I’d lay dollars to doughnuts that most of them are sick of hearing my name. But does that make me an activist?

Nope.

I get involved. Really involved. I devote lots of time to various pro-freedom causes. In my case, it mostly goes to the Arizona Citizens Defense League as it’s President and primary lobbyist. I attend rallies. I march in protest. I sign petitions. I volunteer to help. I go to meetings. So does that make me an activist?

Nope.

Let me step aside for a moment and ask a question. How many of you folks who are out there reading this have ever had the following happen to you?

You’re involved, you’re volunteering, and you’re out there on the front lines for the cause. You’re trying your hardest to convince someone else to join AzCDL, sign that petition, attend that meeting, or march in that protest. And they say, “I’d love to, really, but I don’t want my name on a list.”

So you say, “Ah. You don’t want your name on a list. I see.” And you smile, and move on to the next person.

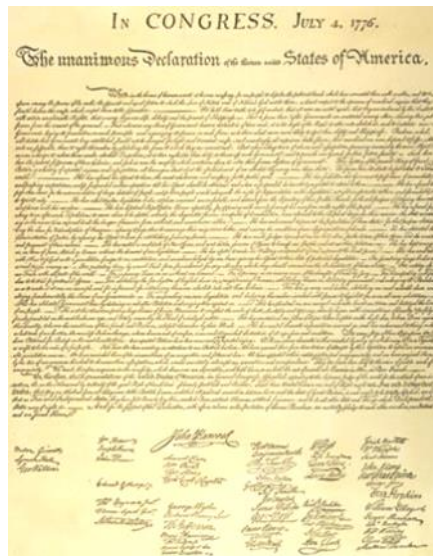
But do you really see? I mean really, they don’t want their name on a list? And just what planet have these people been living on, if their names aren’t on any list yet?

Were you born in a hospital? Guess what? Your name is on a list. Do you have a Social Security number? It’s on another list. How about a Driver’s License? Yep, you guessed it, another list. Do you vote? Another list. Got a telephone? Another list. Checking account? Another list. Credit cards? Another list.

And the list of lists you’re already on gets bigger and bigger every day.

And that brings me back to my original point. What makes someone an activist? For me, it’s one simple thing. I want to be on the list!

Yep, you heard me right. I want to be on the list! Right at the top. In big, bold, 40 point type. So that whatever freedom stealing, control freak is monitoring the list can see my name without having to put on his reading glasses. Just like John Hancock’s signature on the Declaration of Independence.



Do you think when old Johnny did that, that he didn’t know what it meant? Do you think for one second that he never realized it would put him square in the sights of the most powerful ruler in the world? And did he hesitate for even one second? Nope. Why? Because old Johnny was an activist.

I want them to know my name. I want them to know where I live, what I do, who I associate with, and why.

I want them to know that this particular pain in the butt will never stop being one. I want them to know that I’m out

there, watching, whenever one of their minions is getting ready to introduce some new rule or regulation that will tear another hole in the Bill of Rights.

I want them to know that I’m going to be the first in line to expose their little schemes. And maybe most of all, I want them to know, deep down in their bones, that they can only push so far before I push back!

I don’t want them to ever forget who I am, what I stand for, and the lengths that I will go to in order to preserve the freedoms that we were born with, and possess merely because we’re human beings.

So what makes me an activist? Simple. The desire to stay in the sights of the powerful, so that those who won’t do so can sleep well at night, knowing that the knock on the door won’t come.

“Hi! My name is Dave, and I’m a pro-freedom activist. Make sure you put that down right at the top of your list!”

Dave Kopp
President and co-founder
Arizona Citizens Defense League

