



## GUN OWNERS of California

### LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS FOR THE YEAR

By Sam Paredes, Executive Director

Two years ago, Governor Newsom bragged that he had signed 15 new anti-gun bills into law. After that juggernaut of bad bills, we knew the legislature would have to dig deep to come up with more bad stuff. And so they did.

**A few weeks into the 2021-22 Legislative Session, over 20 bills had been introduced that impacted the 2nd Amendment in one way or another.** But, if there has been a silver lining in the days of COVID 19, it might be how the ridiculous mess at the Capitol played out. As we experienced in 2020, COVID was a significant factor in how the Legislature conducted business.

GOC relies heavily on personal interaction with members of the Legislature – it's imperative that we meet face to face and have straightforward discussions on the realities of anti-gun bills and their impact on law abiding citizens. Too many legislators are increasingly insulated from having open, genuine conversations with the public, so being banned from the Capitol made the normal, challenging process of lobbying even more difficult. Everything was tougher - as we've reported, hearings were cumbersome, testimony was delayed, we were disconnected from our remote testimony time and again - overall, it was a mess. Could this have impacted the number of bills getting through the process? Maybe – whatever the reason, we are glad (relatively

speaking) that only 2 (plus a sneaker) of the bills we had been tracking ultimately made it to the Governor's desk. What's more, both bills were significantly narrowed from their original content, which is good news for gun owners.

**SB 264 – Min (D)** This bill originally prohibited gun shows (the sale of firearms, ammo or pre-cursor parts) on any state or county property. It was then amended to county properties, and finally, was amended to only ban shows in Orange County. Although the most recent language is limiting, it remains an unfortunate attempt to needlessly cripple gun shows who have operated in the state practically without incident for over 50 years.

**SB 715 – Portantino (D)** This bill began as a convoluted mess and it ended up as one – although less so than when first introduced. Last minute amendments created new requirements for a hunting license exception for adults age 18-21 when purchasing a long gun and the loaning provisions to minors. The bill is chock-full of "specified exemptions" which will reasonably make the law difficult to navigate. Rest assured that GOC will follow how this new statute will be administered by the Department of Justice.

**AB 1223 – Levine (D)** Bay Area Assemblyman Marc Levine tried once again to implement an excise tax on both firearms and ammunition. As the bill did not garner the necessary votes for passage, it is dead for this year, but due to some fancy legislative footwork by the author, the bill was amended with an "urgency clause" which permits the bill to be heard past normal deadlines. This

is good news for this year, and we will be ready when 2022 rolls around.

The Legislature is well known for slipping language into bills in the final moments of session and this year was no exception. "Trailer bills" are funding vehicles for the state budget, and last-minute changes to **AB 173** "clarify" the process of disclosure of specified (confidential) information to the California Firearm Violence Research Center at UC Davis by the Department of Justice (DOJ) for "research or statistical activities." This same bad policy failed in the form of AB 1237 (Ting-D), but legislative leaders snuck the language into a budget item, thereby circumventing public input. Now, the DOJ may, at its discretion, disclose specified (confidential) information, to other non-profit "bona fide" research institutions that are accredited by the United State Department of Education.

By granting DOJ the authority to cherry pick to whom they provide data is prejudicial and undermines the entire concept of "research." Privacy concerns are a significant issue as well, given that much of the data in question contains confidential information. While the law correctly prohibits an agency from disclosing any personal details that would link information back to the individual to whom it pertains, there are exceptions, such as what DOJ can legally share with UC Davis regarding firearm-related violence. This is troubling in and of itself; privacy boundaries are already stretched thin.

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## SCOTUS VICTORY...CONT.

All in all, 3 bad bills are much better than 15. Rest assured we will be ready to go once the Assembly and Senate return in January for the second half of the 2021-22 legislative session.

## BIG COURT NEWS: NEW YORK STATE RIFLE &amp; PISTOL ASSOCIATION V BRUEN

*This Is The One We've Been Waiting For!*

On November 3, 2021, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) will be hearing arguments on this very important 2nd Amendment case.

Why is this case important to us in California? Because it challenges the constitutionality of the City of New York's concealed carry weapons permit system, which could set precedent for the rest of the nation.

The original question presented to the court was *"whether the 2nd Amendment allows the government to prohibit ordinary law-abiding citizens from carrying handguns outside the home," but, the Supreme Court, in granting Certiorari (agreeing to hear the case), limited the question to "whether the State's denial of petitioners' applications for concealed-carry licenses for self-defense violated the 2nd Amendment."*

By narrowing the question from a broad question or complaint to one that focuses on specific laws, regulations and practices, **GOC believes that the high court aims to address not only the laws of New York City but also similar laws, regulations and practices of anti-gun cities and states in the US.**

In essence, a pro-constitution ruling would establish the United States - as a whole - as "shall issue." At that point,

GOC, with Gun Owners of America would be free to pursue Constitutional Carry (concealed or open carry without the need to obtain permission from the government) as our founding fathers envisioned. With the recent addition of Texas, there are now 21 Constitutional Carry states in the Union.

Indeed, this alone would be a massive victory for the 2nd Amendment, but GOC and others have asked SCOTUS to additionally issue a specific ruling to bar lower courts from using **any** artificially created judicial "balancing tests" to decide whether a law violates the right to keep and bear arms.

The lower courts have for over a decade thumbed their collective noses at the warning from SCOTUS by continuing to apply these tests in order to squirm and wriggle around the 2nd Amendment. Their intent was to distort the Constitution to meet their interpretations of what the 2nd Amendment should be and avoid what it *really* means...*shall not be infringed!*

Specifically, GOC has asked the court to direct lower courts to confine their decisions using only the *text, history and tradition* of the meaning of the words at the founding of our nation to rule on Second Amendment related cases.

We will soon learn whether the court is bold enough to hand down such a ruling in the Spring of 2022.

## SAN JOSE: RUNNING ROUGH SHOD OVER THE 2A

The City of San Jose is notable as a center of innovation, as the cultural, financial, and political center of the Silicon Valley.

But it's also notable for "thinking badly outside the box" and that's exactly what they've done when it comes to the 2nd Amendment. City leaders casually

stepped over the Constitutional rights of its citizens in June, treating the 2nd Amendment as an outdated piece of paper. **The mayor and his leftist colleagues took quick advantage of a local shooting and pushed ordinances to mandate all San Jose gun owners carry firearm liability insurance, pay additional fees to the City and to videotape all firearm purchases.**

Nine proposals were introduced in response to the VTA shooting in May 2021, five which are aimed squarely at punishing legal gun owners instead of identifying the underlying causes of violence in San Jose. Three of the proposals are duplicates of existing felony laws, and at least five run afoul of the Constitution. They are under review by the city attorney and are likely to be voted upon by the full Council in the coming weeks.

In their joint memorandum, the five councilmembers admit that, **"none of these proposals will magically prevent all horrific mass shootings."**

GOC has been following these developments since they began. GOC's Executive Director Sam Paredes recently said **"There are so many things wrong with what's happening in San Jose that it's tough to know where to begin. Can residents expect a door-to-door check from city inspectors asking about guns in the home? This sounds more like pre-World War II Poland than the United States."**

The privacy implications are enormous, as one of the proposals thoroughly ignores concerns about the mandate for the camera to be on 24-7. As such, the cameras will record ALL sales, whether firearms or ammunition related or not. *Who will have access to the videos? Must they be kept in a secure area? What precautions must be taken to make certain the videos cannot be made public - or hacked?* Given that the ordinance requires the parking lot to be continuous-

ly monitored, **what else - and who else** will be recorded? *How will customers of neighboring businesses be impacted - as they will not be aware they are being videotaped?*

**And to add salt into an unconstitutional wound, the City Manager is required to make recordings available to law enforcement without a warrant, court order or subpoena. This is a clear violation of the 4th Amendment.**

**Can residents of San Jose expect a door-to-door check from city inspectors asking about guns in the home?**

California's preemption law prohibits local authorities from passing gun control ordinances and regulations, reserving that subject matter to the state, and preventing a disparate patchwork of laws throughout California. San Jose is not only running rough shod over the Constitution, but state law as well.

*"Requiring someone to carry liability insurance for participating in a Constitutionally guaranteed right such as the 2nd Amendment is no different than steamrolling the 1st Amendment by mandating the media carry such insurance,"* said Paredes. *"And, to expect lawful San Jose gun owners to pay a fee - to be held financially responsible to cover the damages caused by criminals is absolutely shameful."*

➔ **GOC** is working a newly formed 501(c)(4), the Silicon Valley Public Accountability Foundation (SVPAF), which serves as a public watchdog on issues of significance to the region. The Foundation is deeply concerned with the Constitutional violations of the new anti-gun ordinances and are in the process of mobilizing local citizens to oppose these issues. For additional information on how you could be in-

involved locally, go to their website at <http://www.svpaf.com>.

## AND THE RECALL RESULTS ARE IN

Even though the recall of Governor Newsom ultimately wasn't successful, GOC gets an absolute perverse sense of joy that **we made the Left spend upwards of \$80 million dollars on the Newsom "rescue" efforts.** That's \$80 million that they won't be able to use to finance other anti-gun candidates.

Hollywood, the tech industry and elitist progressives from DC came out in big fashion for Newsom - but the grassroots put together an incredible effort - with far less money and political muscle. Believe us when we say that there are some terrific residuals. We must not forget this! We built more infrastructure and volunteers than California has seen in decades. And they aren't going away. People were finally angry enough with hypocritical and dictatorial mandates that they were willing to step out from their comfort zones into the grassroots limelight. It is entirely possible that victories on the local level may be more possible because of the recall effort. Rather than being discouraged - we are greatly encouraged. We are not going to quit the war just because we lost a battle.

It's always right to fight for freedom and liberty - it's never a lost cause to do so.

## GOC'S EVENT UPDATE: ADAPTING, IMPROVISING AND OVERCOMING

Since the onset of COVID, GOC has had to do some pretty fancy footwork when it comes to raising money to battle the anti-gun crowd here in California. Our dinners have always been a big draw - and each one has brought in a major portion of the funds that sustain the

work we do throughout the year. But, while we were forced to **cancel all indoor events in 2020**, we were able to schedule an amazing 2-day Sporting Clay Shoot this Spring. The air literally sizzled with excitement at finally being able to spend time with a bunch of like-minded people - we had some terrific shooting, some great food and as always, awesome prizes.

Our options for indoor events have obviously been more limited - our Sacramento Crab Feed brings in more than 500 people each year, but that was off the table for 2021 with the current restrictions. HOWEVER, we were able to pull off an outstanding dinner in rural Lincoln this summer - we rented an old Farm Bureau barn and the place rocked with a high-energy auction and raffle, plus mountains of crab, tri-tip and yes - tons of guns. It was spectacular.

For those of you who are eager to attend one of our fantastic events, we are hoping to bring you news soon of what we have planned for the future. Stay tuned - and THANK YOU FOR STAYING VIGILANT WITH US - **the bottom line is that our work on behalf of the 2nd Amendment has NOT - nor will it stop because of COVID!** Our plates are more full than ever before, especially with the emboldened anti-gun politicians at both the state and federal level. Our resolve to boldly fight against each unconstitutional challenge is as strong as when GOC began over 40 years ago.



**TRAINING AND SAFETY – IT’S OUR RESPONSIBILITY**

In 2021 alone, to the great distress of the anti-gun left and the mainstream media, there are **already over 3 million new gun owners in the United States.** Gun ownership continues to skyrocket everywhere - here in California and in every other state in the nation.

With such an influx of new people realizing they are their own first line of defense, it’s also exceedingly important that they learn the basics of firearm use and care, and GOC is encouraged that so many new gun owners are signing up for firearms training in record numbers. This is a good thing. Unfortunately, demand is outstripping the availability of classes and instructors – the number of people who want training in California alone is staggering.

Everyone’s heard the joke these days that “there’s an app for that...” – and surprisingly enough, there is an app for firearms training. Recently, Gun Owners of California was contacted by LifeFire, a company that provides high quality teaching from elite instructors that covers everything from the basics to advanced training in both

self-defense and competition. The on-line app is available through the app store or by visiting their website at [www.teamlivefire.com](http://www.teamlivefire.com).

GOC is proud to partner with LifeFire – being well-trained in the use of a firearm and all safety protocols is imperative to being appropriately “**Armed and Informed.**” This is an affordable subscription training service that provides instruction by world class professionals such as Mike Seeklander of AmericanWarriorSociety.com and Shooting-Performance.com, and Ernest Langdon of LandonTactical.com. The training includes extensive live fire drills, dry fire drills and tools to document your progress. For those who are looking for more accessible, approachable and affordable professional firearms training, we highly recommend taking a good a look at LiveFire.

GOC has long believed that nothing replaces training in the presence of an experienced instructor, but the realities of the world have made us look for alternatives and LiveFire is an option that offers guided training from leading firearms instructors. Is this a unique and different approach? Yes. But GOC believes it is certainly worth the time to check out LiveFire.

**52 GUN RAFFLE TICKETS ARE ON SALE!**

**\$50 PER TICKET AND ONLY 1500 TICKETS SOLD**

**CALL (916) 984-1400 TODAY TO ORDER YOUR TICKETS BEFORE THEY ARE SOLD OUT!**

YES! I want Gun Owners of California, Inc. to continue fighting for our 2nd Amendment rights. I understand the minimum donation of \$35.00 entitles me to full membership benefits.

\$100    \$75    \$50    \$35    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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[www.gunownersca.com](http://www.gunownersca.com)

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