



GUN OWNERS of California

COURTS PLUS

By Sam Paredes, Executive Director

Could This Be the Beginning of the End for Gun Control in California?

Last Summer's phenomenal Bruen decision kicked the door open to overturning a host of anti-Second Amendment laws, and courts immediately began to rule in our favor – from one end of the nation to the other. We've seen some pretty remarkable victories since the Supreme Court (SCOTUS) ruled on the New York case, and finally, they are coming to California. GOC is pleased that all signs point to some very good news and are encouraged that this could be the "beginning of the end" for gun control in the Golden State. *Because of the constraints of press time, by the time you read this newsletter decisions might have already been announced. Be that as it may, this is what we know so far.*

When the following cases originally came to him, Federal District Judge of the Southern District of California, Roger T. Benitez, ruled that they, some of the biggest pillars of gun control in the Golden State, are unconstitutional and therefore null and void. Benitez took direct aim at California's ban on so-called assault weapons, so-called large capacity magazines, and the crazy ammunition background check program. Of course, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned Benitez on each of these cases but that was not the end. When SCOTUS decided NYSRPA v Bruen in favor of the Second Amendment, they also directed lower courts to reconsider all Second Amendment cases

using text, history and tradition as the standard of review for gun control cases. Why are we optimistic? Because that was the standard of review that Judge Benitez used when he originally found California's law unconstitutional.

All briefs and documents are on Judge Benitez's desk. We now await his decision.

But The Anti-Gunners Aren't Paying Attention

Even though this could be the proverbial death knell for gun control, anti 2A zealots like Governor Newsom, Attorney General Bonta, and Senator Portantino are still on a mission to forcefully push their agenda – even though they know they will ultimately be legally shut down. In their fervor to stiff arm the inevitable, they are on task and will push their defeat as far into the future as possible – filing appeal after appeal. What a gigantic waste of time – and money.

It seems, though, that a lot of states – and of course California, missed the memo on the Bruen decision. Still, they pushed through, even after the Supreme Court went so far as to vacate a number of anti-gun rulings, sending them back to the lower courts with clear instructions to use the Bruen criteria when it comes to assessing restrictions on firearms.

Why then would so many legislators waste the taxpayer's money and the court's time when they have been duly notified that failure awaits them?

It's because they don't give a damn.

Here in California, Reggie Jones-Sawyer, the former Chair of the Assembly Public Safety Committee gleefully said the quiet part out loud a few years ago. He did so in response to me; I had had the nerve to bring up the constitutionality of some legislation before the committee. With a wave of his hand, Jones Sawyer arrogantly dismissed the issue as if it were an annoying little fly, proclaiming ***"the Legislature sometimes ignores whether or not it's constitutional or not – we go ahead and make laws because we're California and we do it anyways..."***

A short time later he followed it up with a public call for the Second Amendment to be ***"updated."*** Updated? Let's be clear – the Constitution does not need to be updated. It needs to be respected. It needs to be observed. It needs to be strictly maintained.

The bottom line is that the Bruen decision was not vague. It was well-defined and instructive. The higher court clearly rebuffed the lower court's legal gobbledygook approach to the Second Amendment, instead directing them to adhere to the actual meaning of the words "shall not be infringed."

Even though it defies reason, GOC is not surprised in the least that Senator Anthony Portantino and his ilk still want to take another crack at the Constitution. While the Bruen case shut down the very same issues we are fighting here in California regarding where one can carry a concealed firearm, the Burbank Democrat is back at it with SB

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COURTS PLUS...CONT.

2. He clearly has the same attitude as Jones-Sawyer – the mistaken belief that California is “special” and therefore needn’t adhere to SCOTUS or the Constitution. What arrogance!

If they don’t want to look reality square in the face – fine. But GOC will not go quietly or gently into that good night – rather it is our goal to grind their dangerous Leftist policies into the ground.

THE 2023 LEGISLATURE:
AT IT AGAIN!

The Left’s rage at the NYSRPA v Bruen decision has fully landed in the 2023-24 Legislative Session, with the anti-gunners launching this year’s reckless assault on our rights. They are livid that the Court had the gall to interpret the Second Amendment as it was intended, and are determined to throw as many roadblocks in our path as possible. **GOC is ready for the battle, actively tracking the following bills and we strongly encourage keeping up-to-speed on our website for the most current information.**

AB 28 | Gabriel – D | OPPOSE

This is a basic redux of last year’s multiple attempts to place an excise tax on all firearms and ammunition sold in California.

AB 29 | Gabriel – D | WATCH

Requires the Department of Justice to develop and launch a secure Internet-based platform to allow a person who resides in California to voluntarily add their own name to the Do Not Sell List.

AB 92 | Connolly – D | OPPOSE

Greatly restricts who can buy body armor; unfairly impacts firearm instruc-

tors, CCW trainers and parents who purchase safety backpacks for children.

AB 97 | Rodriguez – D | OPPOSE

Makes the possession of an “unserialized” firearm a felony.

AB 301 | Bauer-Kahan – D | OPPOSE

This bill is very similar to AB 92 regarding body armor.

AB 303 | Davies – R | SUPPORT

Mandates that DOJ provide complete information to local agencies when they investigate persons on the APPS file.

AB 725 | Lowenthal – D | OPPOSE

Expands the current requirement to report lost or stolen guns to law enforcement to include “precursor parts” and frames and receivers even though they are already defined as firearms.

AB 758 | Dixon – D | WATCH

Adds an additional sentencing enhancement for persons who possess a gun without serialization while committing certain criminal offenses.

AB 1047 | Maienschein – D | WATCH

Requires DOJ to develop a secure internet-based platform to allow people to add their own name to a registry advising friends/family members of attempts to purchase a gun during the 10-day waiting period.

AB 1089 | Gipson – D | OPPOSE

Expands the prohibition of the sale/purchase/possession of a three dimensional printer by anyone other than a state-licensed firearm manufacturer.

AB 1133 | Shiavo – D | OPPOSE

Mandates that DOJ create a state-approved standardized curriculum for training applicants applying for a CCW.

SB 2 | Portantino – D | OPPOSE

This is a basic reintroduction of last year’s SB 918, which declares the majority of the state a “sensitive place” thus

prohibiting concealed carry.

SB 241 | Min – D | OPPOSE

Requires a licensed firearms dealer and any employees that handle firearms to annually complete further training and be tested for certification.

SB 368 | Portantino – D | OPPOSE

Mandates that a transfer of a firearm – in order to prevent suicide – to be restricted to a licensed dealer.

SB 377 | Skinner – D | OPPOSE

Removes exemptions for law enforcement from the 10-day waiting period and the purchase of off-roster guns.

***This is not a comprehensive list; other proposals regarding CCW licenses, “gun violence”, criminal procedures and assault weapons have been introduced that are “spot” (placeholder) bills that have yet to be amended with substantive language. We are monitoring them closely and will add them to our priority bills as necessary.

ANNOUNCING
PROJECT PROTECT

Did you know that GOC was instrumental in killing SB 918 last year – the bill that would have made it virtually impossible to carry a concealed weapon outside of your own home? Well, we were. GOC’s Executive Director Sam Paredes was at the Capitol lobbying hard and was key in the early morning hours making sure the bill was good and dead – even with the Attorney General strutting around on the Floor of the Assembly. Of course, the anti-gunners are trying it again

(SB 2) – read more in our Legislative Update.

This victory – even though short term – has opened a new door of opportunities for GOC and our members.

CCW instructors are a vital slice of the 2A pie - and the thousands of new CCW students who have recently come into the gun-owning fold are an untapped resource. What we have learned is that finding qualified CCW training is tough - we spent weeks trying to track down lists of County-approved instructors in the state and the outcome was downright dismal. Many counties don't even have a way to access information about who **they** have approved. What's more, the lists are often incomplete and out-of-date. It's apparent California needs an improved database of who teaches CCW classes and how to find them.

This sparked an idea and GOC began working on what we are calling **Project Protect**.

We want to collaborate with concealed carry instructors throughout California and essentially make it easier for people to locate trainers in their area. We have begun compiling information on the services instructors provide and are in the process of creating a solid database. But, we need your help in filling in the gaps. If you are interested in joining the Project Protect Team and have details about your (or someone else's) business, head over to **gunownersca.com/goc-project-protect** or click on our home page's **Resources** tab to learn what we hope to offer both instructors (includes a fillable form) and prospective students.

With the hundreds of thousands of new gun owners in the state – and so many that are looking to concealed carry, GOC is eager to partner and network with such a vital part of the 2A community.



SHOT SHOW 2023: HUGE SUCCESS FOR GUN OWNERS!

Gun Owners of California was pleased to join our partner organization Gun Owners of America at the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show (SHOT Show) in Las Vegas in January. We had the spectacular opportunity to personally connect with our mutual partners and influencers – at one location, no less. The atmosphere was positively electric as over 52,000 people packed the enormous venue; the GOA/GOF/GOC booth buzzed with non-stop activity, as it was visited by industry professionals eager to join our efforts in tackling **NO COMPROMISE** initiatives across the country.

The GOC Team had back-to-back meetings with our friends from such notable companies as Springfield Armory, Ruger, Dillon Precision, Foxtrot Mike, Glock, Century Arms/Canik, Fort Scott Ammunition, Palmetto State Armory, Cool Fire Trainer, Adams Arms, Barrett, Keltec, Right to Bear, Meggar and Payne-Mason Cigars – and this is **not** a comprehensive list. **The great news is that the support for our efforts is far-reaching and greatly encouraging.**

In addition to a host of media interviews, GOC also touched base with notable 2A influencers from Guns and Gadgets, the Armed Scholar, Gun Guy TV, Gun Stuff TV and Guns Out – and one of our all-time favorite 2A champions, talk show host Dana Loesch.

One of the week's highlights was when Henry Repeating Arms, the leading lever action rifle manufacturer and one of the top-five, long gun manufacturers in the United States stopped by our booth to announce a formal partnership. GOC Executive Director and GOA Board Member Sam Paredes was on hand with GOA's Senior Vice President Erich Pratt to receive a \$25,000 check. Thank you, Henry Repeating Arms for your commitment to our **No Compromise** agenda!

GOC EVENTS – RARING TO GO!

From the hub of Sacramento and the vast Central Valley to the Bay Area, Gun Owners of California's fundraising events are BACK in full swing and we are raring to GO! And if last year's first post-pandemic dinners were any indication, ya'll better get your tickets fast, because we pretty much sold out. This year, we have new events and they are hugely important because this is how we raise the essential dollars we need to keep us smack in the middle of the fight. These are the only events in the entire state that raise money for protecting your Second Amendment rights through direct political action in the Capitol, in the Courts and in the elections...100%!

So, if you've never been to a GOC dinner, trap shoot or crab feed, it's time to jump in. This is where the action is, and you don't want to miss out on great food plus high energy auctions, raffles and games.

No annoying political speeches – but you **will** hear about the politicians who want to take your guns away **and** those who are working hard to protect your rights.

No boring, rubber chicken dinners – but there **will** be select prime rib, tender tri-tip or fresh crab from the cold waters of Alaska.

No lame games and raffles – but there **will** be cool games and **guns!** We've had folks win guns ranging from AR 15 rifles, Italian-made over/under shotguns to 1911 handguns. Whether it's "Lock Stock and Bottle" or a game of "Gunopoly", participants are never disappointed.

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GOC EVENTS...CONT.

Every event's theme is dynamic. It's a chance to spend some money on more than just a "good cause" – these are your rights we are defending. Gun Owners is celebrating over 45 years of "no compromise", so whether you want to buy a ticket, a table or volunteer your time, it's time to get informed – and get involved.

Check out what's coming up...**AND DON'T MISS OUT!**

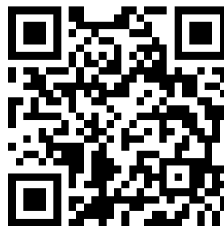
GREAT GUN GIVEAWAY: Saturday, April 22 at Camanche Hills Hunting Preserve in Lone. This is our annual sporting clay shoot and comes complete with dinner, an auction, raffle, games and awards. This is a chance to show off your skills or simply have a great time hobnobbing with a like-minded, friendly crowd!

SACRAMENTO CRAB FEED AND TRIP DINNER: Friday, May 5 at the Citrus Heights Community Center. What better way to spend Cinco de Mayo than with a crowd that loves the Second Amendment – while feasting on the best crab in town? Last year, we had

over 600 in attendance and tickets go super fast. Huge games. Huge prizes. Huge guns.

OROVILLE BANQUET: Friday, June 16 at the Southside Oroville Community Center. The food is off the charts at this one and as usual – there will be great games and a lot of great guns!

We have other events in the hopper as well – in **San Jose and Vacaville**, so stay tuned! And, if you are interested in getting a dinner committee started in your area, we would love to hear from you. Remember, the greater our reach is, the more we can do in defense of the Second Amendment. For more information about each event, go to our website at www.gunownersca.com and click on the **STORE** tab. All events are managed by our Program Director Ann Fitch and our invaluable team of statewide volunteers. Contact Ann at ann@gunownersca.com to get involved.



CHECK OUT THESE TERRIFIC 2A PODCASTS

One of the great things we get to do at GOC is partner with some spectacular individuals who happen to host equally spectacular podcasts – two of our favorites are **Gun Guy TV with Joel Persinger**, and **Guns and Gadgets with Jared Yanis**.

Both Joel and Jared are great 2A advocates and allies of GOC – they have recommended giving us a follow – and we wholeheartedly recommend you follow them back – you can find them on YouTube.



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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*Gun Owners of California
Membership Benefits*

- Regular newsletters informing members of pending legislation and issues affecting gun rights.
- Information alerts through our website, email.
- Voting records of all California Legislators.
- Access to all Legislators through our website.

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