**Election 2006**

**Primary Victories Lead to Races to Watch this November**

*by John Velleco*

Gun Owners of America plays two primary roles in the effort to protect and defend the Second Amendment.

GOA is well known for its no-compromise lobbying efforts. In Washington, D.C., and throughout state capitals across the country, GOA represents the views of millions of American gun owners to their elected officials.

Equally important, though less well known, is GOA’s work through its affiliated Political Action Committee.

For over 30 years, the Gun Owners of America - Political Victory Fund has been helping to elect pro-gun legislators across the nation who will fight to protect your gun rights.

Just as GOA accepts no compromise in its lobbying activities, it also supports only those candidates for elected office who likewise adhere strictly to the constitution.

Long before each election, GOA sends detailed questionnaires to thousands of candidates for a wide range of offices. The questionnaires seek to find out where the candidates stand on important gun issues likely to come up for a vote.

The questionnaire is only the first step. GOA researchers also monitor candidate debates, pour over news articles, and review testimony, statements and prior voting records related to the Second Amendment.

GOA-PVF does not buy votes; rather, it looks for *candidates whose votes cannot be bought* — people who stand firm on the 2nd Amendment no matter which way the political winds blow.

Gun owners can be heartened that many of these candidates have already won their primary elections. Here’s where we stand going in to the November 6th General Election.

**Michigan**

In Michigan’s 7th Congressional District, Tim Walberg defeated anti-gun incumbent Joe Schwarz.

Joe Schwarz does not believe the Second Amendment is an individual right; he opposed concealed carry in the state of Michigan; and, he voted in favor of mandatory trigger locks when he came to Washington, D.C.

Former state representative Tim Walberg has a long and consistent record of supporting gun rights without wavering.

Gun Owners of America’s Political Victory Fund was the only national pro-gun organization to support Walberg.

Incumbents are rarely defeated; over 90% are reelected, and most never face a serious challenge. This race was different, though, because concerned gun owners got involved and helped push Walberg over the top in this reliably Republican district.

**Idaho**

Gun Owners of America - Political Victory Fund was the only national gun rights group to endorse Bill Sali for Congress. Sali won a grueling 6-way primary with 25% of the vote.

For 12 years in the state house, Sali was more than just a reliable vote for conservatives — he is well known as a leader who is not afraid to take on the establishment. National Democrats have already made known their plans to smear Sali as “too extreme.”

**Minnesota**

Conservative firebrand Michelle Bachman emerged victorious in a Republican Party convention in mid-May, and will appear on the November ballot.

In her first run at political office in 2000, Bachman took out a 28-year incumbent liberal Republican legislator. She has not looked back since.

Probably no candidate in the country will be attacked as fiercely as Michelle Bachman for standing up to the liberal anti-gun establishment.

**Nebraska**

Pro-gun state senator Adrian Smith won the Republican primary for the seat being vacated by Tom Osborne. As the retiring representative earned only a “C” from GOA, and Smith is “A” rated, this is a nice improvement for gun owners.
2006 Candidate Rating Scorecard

Candidates who have established a voting record, either in the office for which they are running or in another elected office, are evaluated primarily on the basis of that voting record. However, sponsorship of pro or anti-gun legislation and other such factors can affect their grade.

If an incumbent or challenger has not established a voting record or demonstrated his or her position in some other way, that candidate is evaluated on the basis of his or her responses to the GOA 2006 Federal Candidate Questionnaire.

Every candidate, whether an incumbent or challenger, begins with an "A" and is then downgraded on the basis of each anti-gun position admitted to on the questionnaire or for each anti-gun vote.

A+: Pro-Gun Leader. Carries pro-gun bills, works with pro-gun groups and organizes against anti-gun legislation, speaks out for Second Amendment rights.

A & A-: Pro-Gun Voter. Philosophically sound. Always with pro-gun leadership but takes no leadership role.

B & B-: Pro-Gun compromiser. Generally leans our way but occasionally supports a particular anti-gun proposal.

C & C-: Leans Our Way occasionally. No philosophical commitment. Must be constantly pressured by the pro-gun movement or, if left alone, will vote against us.

D & D-: Leans Anti-Gun. Normally with the anti-gun movement, but strong pressure can sometimes move them into a non-vote (abstention) or an occasional pro-gun vote, if they believe voting against us could cause their defeat.

F: Anti-Gun Voter. A philosophically committed anti-gunner. Does not carry anti-gun bills but can always be counted on to vote against us.

F-: Anti-Gun Leader. Outspoken anti-gun advocate who carries or cosponsors anti-gun legislation, plots and plans with anti-gun organizations to take away our Second Amendment rights.

NR: The candidate refused to answer his or her questionnaire.

PLEASE NOTE
Due to space limitations, only Republicans and Democrats are listed. Grades of third party candidates are posted on the GOA website: www.gunowners.org/voteb06.htm


Continued on page 3
Gun Owners of America's Political Victory Fund came to the aide of Randy Graf and helped him win the congressional primary in his Arizona district — even though his primary opponent was endorsed by retiring liberal Congressman Jim Kolbe.

**IOWA**
- 01 Braley (D) NR
- 01 Whalen (R) A
- 02 LEACH (R) D- Loebach (D) NR
- 03 BOSWELL (D) C- Lamberti (R) NR
- 04 LATHAM (R) A- Spencer (D) NR
- 05 KING (R) A+ Schulte (D) NR

**IDAHO**
- 01 Grant (D) NR
- 01 Sali (R) NR
- 02 SIMPSON (R) A
- 02 Hansen (D) NR

**ILLINOIS**
- 01 RUSH (D) F- Tabour (R) NR
- 02 JACKSON (D) F
- 03 LINPSIKI (D) NR
- 04 McWILSON (R) F- Blythe (D) B
- 05 WICIAL (R) D- Carter (D) D
- 06 DAVIS (D) F- Hutchinson (R) D
- 07 DAVIS (D) F- McSweeney (R) NR
- 09 CHASKOWSKY (D) F- Shannon (R) NR
- 10 KIRK (R) F- Scott (R) NR
- 11 WELLER (R) C- Pavich (D) NR
- 12 COSTELLO (D) B- Shannon (D) NR
- 13 RIGGERT (R) A- Bure (D) NR
- 14 HUSTERT (R) D- Laesch (D) NR
- 15 JOHNSON (R) A- Gill (D) NR
- 16 MANZULLO (R) A- Daniel (D) D
- 17 Hare (D) F- Auman (D) D
- 18 Zinga (R) A
- 19 LAVOY (R) F- Waterd (D) NR

**MISSOURI**
- 01 ALLEN (D) F
- 02 MICHAUD (R) B
- 03 CARNAHAN (D) F

Continued on page 6
The GOF brief points out that the BATFE has no grounds for objecting to Wyoming’s action. The state is at liberty to expunge a Wyoming criminal record, and that is explicit in the federal law as well as in the record of congressional intent.

Indeed, Wyoming will only partially expunge such convictions — just for purposes of getting a concealed carry firearms permit. If the individual is convicted of an additional violent crime, the domestic violence conviction would not have been expunged for that purpose. That means that the prior conviction could be used to enhance the penalty for some future conviction.

The victims group and the prosecutors in Wyoming supported Cases’ bill because they saw that it would promote their interest. With the Lautenberg measure as the only law, prosecutors and victims alike were often reluctant to press a domestic violence charge. They frequently felt that the punishment did not fit the crime, especially since many of these misdemeanors only involve shouting, pushing or shoving incidents.

Cases’ bill makes the punishment for a domestic violence misdemeanor much more appropriate for the offense. After a year of good behavior, the guilty party can petition for a concealed carry permit. So he does not face a lifetime of being disabled from protecting himself with a gun.

At the same time, he has a record which could hit him hard if he is convicted of a future violent crime. Moreover, he is subject to a hearing if the prosecutor or the victim has concerns about his violent behavior. The hearing could result in blocking the application for the permit.

One of the ironies of the BATFE lawsuit against Wyoming involves the former head of the bureau’s director, Carl Truscott. His name appears as the plaintiff in his official capacity when the suit was filed. Events have overtaken the lawsuit. Mr. Truscott has since resigned from the BATFE under a cloud of financial impropriety involving the use of taxpayers’ funds for his own use.

If you have never visited the GOA website, look at all the great stuff you’re missing...

- GOF's extensive Voter's Guide for the 2006 elections — including ratings for every single third-party candidate who returned a GOA federal survey
- Voting Records for all 435 Congressmen and 100 Senators
- Up-to-date alerts and bill analysis of current legislation — where are the threats and opportunities today?
- Informative Fact Sheets and Opinion Editorials, including the famous Gun Control Fact-Sheet containing tons of statistics and 154 footnotes
- Free, low-volume E-mail Alerts (when you sign up for these, your e-mail address is kept confidential and is never shared with third parties)
- Streaming Video of GOA spokesmen debating on TV
- Extensive Links section connecting to large numbers of firearms-related websites
- Webcasts of Larry Pratt’s weekly radio program, Live Fire
- Contact information for Congress, all 50 state legislatures, and a vast array of media outlets across the country

This and much, much more. It’s just a click away.

Go to http://www.gunowners.org and find out why the experts rely on Gun Owners of America for timely and accurate information affecting your gun rights.

Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA):
“The footage of gun confiscations on your [GOA] website was especially helpful during committee hearings in making the point that these egregious violations occurred. I showed the members of the [House] committee the video of out-of-state police confiscating weapons in the state. They watched it and couldn’t believe it.”

Log on at http://www.gunowners.org and become a “keyboard lobbyist” today!
HIT THE RIGHT TARGET!
Give to Gun Owners Foundation

In many federal offices there are subtle (and sometimes not so subtle) pressures to give to the Combined Federal Campaign. Your boss may think his prestige depends upon getting everyone to kick in. The same thing happens in all too many corporations during the United Way fund-raising drive.

You may have wanted to give but couldn’t find a group that wasn’t attacking your rights, let alone defending them, on the list of participating organizations. But that has all changed!

Federal employees now are able to designate Gun Owners Foundation (GOF) as the recipient of their gifts to the Combined Federal Campaign. Use Agency Number 1054 for Gun Owners Foundation when you make your Combined Federal Campaign pledge or donation. Your gifts will go toward helping our legal assistance program protect the Second Amendment rights of Americans across the nation.

Also, if you work for a company that participates in the United Way, you too, may be able to designate your gift be to Gun Owners Foundation. Many local United Way Campaigns allow Gun Owners Foundation to participate through their Donor Choice Programs. Some, however, do not. Check with your local United Way Agency. You will not only be helping people and protecting your rights, but you will also get a tax deduction.

Of course, anyone can always make a tax-deductible donation at any time to Gun Owners Foundation by sending the contribution directly to 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield, VA 22151.

One additional note. If you are employed by a corporation or organization which has a Matching Gift Program, please keep GOF in mind when making your donation.

Thank you very much.
The Gun Owners is published by Gun Owners of America, Inc. 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield, VA 22151 (703) 321-8585

October 20, 2006 • The Gun Owners Page 6

**Ratings**

*Continued from page 3*

- **NEW MEXICO**
  - 01 WILSON (R) NR
  - 02 PEARCE (R) NR
  - 03 UDALL (D) NR
- **NEVADA**
  - 01 BERKLEY (D) NR
  - 02 DERBY (D) NR
  - 03 KING (D) NR
  - 04 MCCARTHY (D) NR
- **NEW YORK**
  - 01 BISHOP (D) NR
  - 02 ISRAEL (D) NR
  - 03 PORTER (R) NR
  - 04 McCARthy (F) NR
- **OHIO**
  - 01 ALTMIRE (D) NR
  - 02 ERIKSON (R) NR
  - 03 FELDKAMP (R) NR
  - 04 GENTGES (D) NR
- **OREGON**
  - 01 CANTOR (R) NR
  - 02 CULBERSON (R) NR
  - 03 GREEN (D) NR
  - 04 GREEN (D) NR
- **OREGON**
  - 01 WU (D) NR
  - 02 WALLACE (D) NR
  - 03 BLUMENAUER (D) NR
  - 04 NUNN (D) NR
  - 05 HOOLEY (D) NR
  - 06 HILLARD (D) NR
  - 07 GERLACH (R) NR
  - 08 BRADBURY (R) NR
  - 09 GREEN (D) NR
  - 10 MCCAUlL (R) NR
  - 11 CONAWAY (D) NR
  - 12 GRANGER (C) NR
  - 13 THORNBERY (B) NR
  - 14 PAUL (R) NR
  - 15 RINER (F) NR
  - 16 RENDON (D) NR
  - 17 ENGEL (D) NR
  - 18 SERRANO (D) NR
  - 19 RANGEL (D) NR
  - 20 MEALON (R) NR
  - 21 McNUTTY (D) NR
  - 22 HINCHERY (D) NR
  - 23 MCHUGH (D) NR

*GOA-PVE’s greatest victory occurred in August when Tim Walberg knocked off a sitting, anti-gun incumbent in the Michigan primary.*

Gun Owners of America’s Political Victory Fund was the only national pro-gun organization to support Walberg in the primary and is working hard to push him over the top in November.
Election 2006
Continued from page 1

Colorado
In Colorado’s 5th Congressional District, pro-gun champion Doug Lamborn eked out a narrow victory. Doug’s pro-active legislative record as a state senator is truly impressive.

In twelve years in office, Doug Lamborn carried pro-gun bills or amendments virtually every year on issues such as his recent stand-your-ground bill (which includes greater protection for law-abiding citizens acting in self-defense on their own property, at their businesses and in their vehicles) and Vermont-style carry (allowing law-abiding citizens to carry concealed firearms without the government’s often onerous restrictions).

As a Congressman, Doug Lamborn will continue his steadfast support of the Second Amendment.

Arizona
In a race to fill the seat of retiring anti-gun Rep. Jim Kolbe (R), former state representative Randy Graf held off two moderate challengers to proceed to the general election.

National Republicans got involved in this race in support of one of the moderates, arguing that Graf is “too conservative” to win the general.

Texas
In Texas’ 17th District, Iraq war veteran Van Taylor is taking on anti-gun incumbent Chet Edwards.

Van is an energetic candidate and firearms enthusiast who has raised over $1.5 million to oust the GOA “D” rated incumbent, who has been in Congress for 16 years.

New York
State Senator Raymond Meier is in a heated two-way battle to fill the seat of retiring moderate Republican Sherwood Boehlert in New York’s 24th District.

Though Meier is seeking to keep the seat in Republican control, gun owners care less about “R” and “D” than they do about “A” and “F,” which are Meier’s and Boehlert’s gun ratings, respectively.

Ohio
In Ohio’s 4th Congressional District, pro-gun state senator James Jordan won a primary for an open U.S. House seat. In his two terms in the senate, Jordan has proven himself to be a strong voice for the right to keep and bear arms.

The current representative is “C” rated by GOA, making Jordan’s victory an upgrade for gun owners’ rights.

Ohio Governor
In Ohio, stalwart pro-gunner Ken Blackwell won the Republican nomination for Governor. This November, Blackwell faces a grueling battle against a moderate Democrat.

Gun Owners of America - Political Victory Fund endorsed and supported Blackwell in his primary win and is ramping up its efforts in this highly competitive general election.

Don’t Forget to Vote!
This rating issue is offered to all GOA supporters and friends of the Second Amendment as a guide to help gun owners make informed decisions this November. But it is only useful if gun owners head to the polls. Please be sure to vote, and encourage pro-gun family and friends to do the same.
Gun Owners Foundation helping to Dump a Federal Gun Ban

by Larry Pratt

Federal legislators have long thought they were in charge of the nation’s local cop shops. Just look at their campaigns. Opposing candidates trade charges that the other is soft on crime or is not compassionate enough toward criminals. They both assume, usually without even thinking, that the U.S. Congress grants constitutional authority to enact criminal legislation at the federal level.

Do the feds have such authority? I have not been able to find that in the Constitution. Neither could the founders. For example, James Madison, one of the chief architects of our Republic, argued that there was original federal jurisdiction for crime laws only in the areas of postal fraud, counterfeiting, piracy and treason.

Lautenberg gun ban disarms people for pushing-shoving cases

Unhappily, that has not kept both parties in Congress from enacting criminal laws for which they have no grant of power from We the People. One such example was an anti-gun law that was snuck into the federal code by Sen. Frank Lautenberg in 1996. With no debate, a vote on a 2,000-page appropriations bill provided Lautenberg’s vehicle for him to amend. Most members of Congress had absolutely no idea the measure was in the bill.

Shortly after that, GOA heard from a state police cadet. He was unceremoniously canned from the academy. Why? He had a Lautenberg disability. Namely, years before, he had been convicted of a domestic violence misdemeanor. In his case, it was a shouting match with his father that had been resolved when his dad called the cops. Once they had taken him in, they insisted that he had to proceed to trial. Rather than go through that, both father and son wanted to call it quits, and so dad paid the small fine and off they went. That was all there was to it — until Lautenberg.

The state police admitted the young man to their academy because he had passed a background check. Until the 1996 Lautenberg ex post facto law, federal statutes never prohibited gun ownership for those with minor domestic infractions — however long ago those misdemeanors occurred (another unconstitutional feature of this law). Tyranny occurs when officials change the rules and penalize previously legal behavior — such as the Lautenberg law does.

Enter Wyoming Senator Cale Case. He has a constituent who in 2003 was unable to get a hunting license because he flunked the background check which showed a domestic violence misdemeanor conviction. No hunting with guns for him!

After a lot of planning and consulting with the state attorney general, prosecutors, the public and a group representing domestic violence victims, Case got his bill passed by the legislature unanimously. To cut to the chase, his constituent now has his hunting license because he can legally own a gun in Wyoming.

Wyoming law neuters Lautenberg gun ban

Case’s measure works this way. An individual with a Wyoming domestic violence misdemeanor conviction may apply for a concealed carry firearms permit in Wyoming. If there be no other disqualifications that would prohibit the applicant from owning a gun, the prosecutor and the victim are both notified of the application. If neither of them have any objection, the concealed carry firearms permit is issued.

The federal Brady Law (Lautenberg was an expansion of that law) says that a background check is not required for a gun purchaser if the buyer has a concealed carry permit issued during the last five years. Voila! In Wyoming, the individual who had been disabled by federal law is now enabled to own a gun and hunt and carry a concealed firearm.

Of course, the anti-gun Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) is trying to keep the Wyoming statute from being enforced. The BATFE has taken the state of Wyoming to court and the matter is now in the U.S. District Court for the state of Wyoming.

GOF working to repeal federal gun control in Wyoming

Gun Owners Foundation (GOF) is right there beside the Wyoming attorney general — the state official responsible for defending the law.

Continued on page 4