As this election comes down the home stretch, all eyes are on the race for the presidency.

And with President Obama slightly ahead in polls in crucial swing states, it is possible that the nation may be sliding into the unthinkable for American gun owners — another four years of an Obama administration.

A second term for Obama means he will be unencumbered with thoughts about reelection. His political appointees are already radical gun haters. His future picks will be even worse.

Unconstitutional executive actions, such as illegally requiring gun dealers along southwest border states to report multiple long gun sales, will increase.

And Obama, along with Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, has already called on the UN to move a new Small Arms Treaty. So while we shudder at the prospect of four more years of Obama, we have to be prepared for that possible outcome.

And that’s why the elections for the U.S. Senate are more important this year than ever.

An Obama reelection that is coupled with anti-gun Majority Leader Harry Reid retaining control of the Senate would be a disaster for the country. A switch in just four seats, however, will strip the gavel from Reid’s hand.

The race for control of the Senate hinges on the outcome in a handful of states currently held by anti-gun Democrats.

As gun owners prepare to head for the polls, it is important to have accurate information on where the candidates stand on the right to keep and bear arms, particularly in these key states:

- In Florida, Rep. Connie Mack (R), an “A” rated candidate supported by GOA, is running to take on F-rated Democrat incumbent Sen. Bill Nelson;
- Montana’s Democrat Sen. Jon Tester, who claims to be pro-gun but voted for all of Obama’s radical judicial and executive nominees, is facing a tough challenge by strong gun rights supporter Rep. Denny Rehberg;
- Ohio State Treasurer Josh Mandel, another “A” rated challenger, is mounting a vigorous challenge to F-rated incumbent Democrat Sen. Sherrod Brown;
- Pro-gun Nebraska state senator Deb Fischer will take on anti-gun former U.S. Senator Bob Kerry (D) in the seat being vacated by Sen. Bill Nelson;
- North Dakota Rep. Rick Berg (R), “A” rated by GOA, is taking on Democrat Attorney General Heidi Heitkamp for the seat of retiring Sen. Kent Conrad; and,
- In the Virginia battle of former governors, Republican George Allen is taking on Obama-ally Tim Kaine.

The key to stopping the radical Obama agenda is to elect as many Sec-

Continued on page 4
2012 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 2012 Federal Candidate Questionnaire.

Every candidate, whether an incumbent or challenger, begins with an “A” and is then downgraded on the basis of his or her 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 2012 Federal Candidate Questionnaire.

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. This is usually a sign that the candidate is hiding anti-gun views.

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/2012

United States House of Representatives

ALABAMA
01 Bonner (R) A
02 Ford (D) NR
03 Harris (D) NR
04 Aderholt (R) A
05 Brooks (R) A
06 Bachus (R) A
07 Chamberlain (R) A
01 Cissna (D) D
02 Ford (D) NR
06 Jette (D) NR
07 Chamberlain (R) A
08 Franks (R) A
19 Lofgren (D) F-
20 Farr (D) NR
18 Crawford (R) A
19 Griffin (R) A
22 Griffin (R) A
10 DeG ette (D) F-
04 Him es (D) F-
21 Hernandez (D) NR
20 Farr (D) NR
16 Cook (R) A
04 Cotton (R) A
A+:

ARIZONA
01 Kirkpatrick (D) C
02 Barber (D) NR
03 Grijalva (D) F-
04 Gosar (R) A+
05 Grijalva (D) F-
06 Jette (D) NR
07 Fister (R) NR
08 Frank (D) F-
09 Parker (R) A
10 McSally (R) NR
11 Gosar (R) A+
12 McSally (R) NR
13 Lee (D) A
14 Sinema (D) F
15 Denham (R)
16 Costa (R)
17 Honda (D)
18 Crenshaw (R)
19 Lofgren (D)
20 Frelinghuysen (R)
21 Royle (R)
20 Farr (D) NR
22 Royle (R)
23 Crenshaw (R)
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27 Crenshaw (R)
A:

CALIFORNIA
01 LaMalfa (R) A
02 Huffman (D) F
03 Garamendi (D) F-
04 McClintock (R)
05 Solis (D) F-
06 Matsui (D) F-
07 Begay (D) A
08 Cook (R) A
19 Lofgren (D) F-
20 Farr (D) NR
01 Cissna (D) D
03 Garamendi (D) F-
44 Hahn (D) F-
04 Cotton (R) A
05 Cottrell (R) F-
47 Panetta (D) F-
05 Lam born (R) A
08 Cook (R) A
21 Hernandez (D) NR
22 Lee (D) NR
23 McCarthy (R) A
24 Camps (D) F-
25 McKeon (R) B
26 Brownley (D) F
27 Chu (D) F-
28 Wesson (R) NR
29 Cardenas (D) NR
30 Berman (D) F-
31 Dutton (R) F-
32 Miller, D (R) A
33 Waxman (D) F-
34 Becerra (D) F-
35 Baca (D) D
36 McLeod (D) C
37 Bass (D) F-
38 Jones (D) F-
39 Chen (D) NR
40 Roybal-Allard (D) F-
41 Takano (D) F
42 Baldetti (R) A
43 Flores (D) F-
44 Hahn (D) F-
A:

COLORADO
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02 Goff (D) C
40 Roby (R) A
A:

CONNECTICUT
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42 Bailey (D) N R
43 Burns (D) F-
44 Curtain (D) F
45 Campbell (R) A
46 Hayden (R) NR
47 DeLong (R) NR
48 Rutherford (R) A
49 Isa (R) A+
50 Hunter (R)
51 Crimmings (R)
52 Blumenthal (D) F-
53 Davis (D) F-
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**Ratings**

Continued on page 2

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Republican Congressman Jim Jordan, meeting here with GOA's Erich Pratt, has been a consistent supporter of gun rights during his tenure.

11 Bentivolio (R) A
12 Dingell (D) D
13 Kucharz (R) A
14 Hauler (R) C
15 Ross (R) D

**续页**

The Gun Owners is published by Gun Owners of America, Inc. 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield, VA 22151 (703) 321-8585
The amendment supporters as possible in the Senate. Thanks to its constitutional duty of “Advice and Consent,” the Senate has the power to slam the brakes on a president’s agenda.

Unless we elect Senators who are willing to stand against anti-gun judicial nominees with lifetime appointments — and, frankly, we could see bad nominees being appointed by either presidential candidate — gun rights in America will take a beating in the courts for decades to come.

**Primary Victories**

GOA has already made several key endorsements. Throughout the summer and fall, we have been contacting and mobilizing gun owners in states that have contested primaries.

For example, gun owners enjoyed two huge victories in Republican primaries for U.S. Senate in Indiana and Texas.

Gun Owners of America Political Victory Fund supported Richard Mourdock in his successful race against incumbent Richard Lugar, the most anti-gun Republican in the Senate.

And GOA-PVF supported Ted Cruz in a primary and runoff election against David Dewhurst. Cruz is expected to win handily in November, while the Mourdock general election race is hotly contested.

GOA is also involved in dozens of House races, none more important than two primaries on the last day of July.

On that sweltering Tuesday, Rep. Paul Broun (R-GA), cruised to victory over his primary challenger. Rep. Broun is not only the Chairman of the House Second Amendment Task Force, but he is also a Life Member of GOA and the sponsor of a bill to protect Constitutional Carry against federal usurpation.

Montana Democrat Sen. Jon Tester (left), who claims to be pro-gun but voted for all of Obama’s radical judicial and executive nominees, is facing a tough challenge by strong gun rights supporter Rep. Denny Rehberg.

That same day, former Rep. Steve Stockman (R) won a fierce primary runoff in the brand new 36th District in Texas. Longtime GOA members will recall that Steve Stockman led the charge to force a vote in the House repealing the Clinton gun ban, and that he authored legislation to repeal the Brady law.

The next Congress will be markedly more pro-gun because of these two victories.

**Voting Tool: GOA Candidate Rating**

As the election season quickly draws to a close, GOA is reaching out to the gun rights community with the 2012 Congressional Candidate Rating Guide. GOA’s rating is an important tool for gun owners, and is compiled using objective standards. While incumbents are scored based on their voting records, we researched the records of many candidates who held other elected office.

GOA also sent surveys out to all candidates. Several refused to respond — usually a troubling sign. Look with suspicion on candidates with an NR rating (Not Rated), and ask them why they did not respond to the GOA survey.

It is becoming increasingly unpopular to be anti-Second Amendment, so many candidates will simply ignore the issue and hope no one notices.

By now you’ve heard it over and over again that this is the most important election in our lifetimes. That statement is not far from the truth this year.

If ever there was a time for the Second Amendment community to stand up and be counted, it is now. So please use this voter guide, share it with your friends, and let’s work for a pro-gun majority in the House and Senate to slow down the march to civilian disarmament. □
How Obama Toys with the Second Amendment — And what a “Lame Duck” President would mean for gun owners

by John Velleco

As sporting goods stores prepare for the upcoming holiday season, many are laying out two strategies based on the outcome of the presidential election. If Obama wins, gun sales are expected to soar.

Gun owners, and prospective gun owners, fear the worst: that a “lame duck” Obama will wage an all out war on the Second Amendment.

But President Obama is also weaving a counter storyline, one that plays the gun issue shrewdly — despite the fact that he’s, arguably, the most anti-gun president in history.

An incident early in the Obama administration suggested how the gun issue would be handled under the new regime. Recently confirmed Attorney General Eric Holder told reporters in a February 2009 interview that President Obama would like to reinstitute the ban on the sale of assault weapons.

The reaction from the White House? In the book, Kill or Capture, Daniel Klaidman writes that the famously foul-mouthed Emanuel was furious:

He slammed his desk and cursed the attorney general. Holder was only repeating a position Obama had expressed during the campaign, but that was before the White House needed the backing of pro-gun Democrats from red states for their domestic agenda. The chief of staff sent word to Justice that Holder needed to ‘shut the f___ up’ on guns.

Obama was determined not to pursue an overtly anti-gun agenda. To the contrary, gun owners will this year hear accounts of how Obama is the most pro-gun candidate on the ballot.

After all, he says, he signed a repeal of the gun ban in national parks and a loosening of gun restrictions on Amtrak trains (notwithstanding that these were relatively modest amendments attached to what Obama considered to be huge “must pass” legislation.)

We Won’t Get Fooled Again (Will We?)

The Obama 2012 campaign strategy is not new, but a carry-over from his first run for president. In 2008, Obama outperformed expectations in many rural areas, and knowing how he did it will shed light on how he’s presently campaigning.

After the 2008 election, Obama outlined to a NY Times reporter his strategy to win over the pro-gun vote.

Number one, he said, was simply to show up. Obama went right to the people who were most skeptical.

For instance, he opened more than 50 offices in Virginia alone, a state Al Gore and John Kerry all but ignored except when flying through Reagan National Airport in the previous two presidential elections.

Number two was to address the gun issue head on. As Obama told one rural Virginia crowd:

I believe in the Second Amendment. I believe in the people’s lawful right to bear arms. I will not take your shotgun away. I will not take your rifle away. I won’t take your handgun away. So if you want to find an excuse not to vote for me, don’t use that one! It just ain’t true.

The final key for Obama in pulling off the rural strategy was to get popular Democrats — dubbed “validators” — to vouch for his “conservative” bona fides.

On that same stage in Virginia, for example, stood Rick Boucher, a longtime moderately pro-gun Democrat congressman.

A similar scenario played out in other states where Obama was not expected to be competitive.

No one pretended that Obama was going to become the candidate of choice for rural gun owners, but he only needed to cut into that vote a few points and add it to the reliably Democratic votes of many unions, urban areas, minorities and new, young voters in order to win erstwhile solid Republican states.

Gun Owners Beware!

Obama merely needs to hold onto enough of the conservative Democrat vote in the rural areas in a few swing states to help push him over the top.

This is why — in a remarkable show of restraint considering that this is a President who once indicated support for a total ban on handguns — Obama had a somewhat measured response to the Arizona and Colorado shootings.

And that is why he will tell crowds, as he said in a July 2012 speech in New Orleans following the Aurora shooting, that: “I, like most Americans, believe that the Second Amendment guarantees an individual the right to bear arms.”

Nevertheless, Obama nominated Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan — neither of whom believes in the individual right to own firearms — to the Supreme Court.

It is in the executive actions apart from Congress that we can get a better picture of where Obama stands on gun rights. What does Obama really think of the Second Amendment?

Look to his picks of Sotomayor, Kagan, and a host of fervently anti-gun lower level federal judges who now enjoy lifetime appointments. The next president may well choose one or two new Supreme Court justices.

Look not only at Eric Holder, but also State Department top legal advisor Harold Koh, who supports a worldwide gun control agenda. Look to regulatory czar Cass Sunstein, who would ban all hunting. It may be hard to imagine, but Obama picks in a second term could be even further to the left.

Continued on page 8
The Gun Owners is published by Gun Owners of America, Inc. 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 102, Springfield, VA 22151 (703) 321-8585
## United States Senate

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### 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 10842** for Gun Owners Foundation when you make your Combined Federal Campaign pledge or donation. Your gifts will go toward helping our legal assistance program to 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 that 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.
GOA Fighting to Bolster the Supreme Court’s *Heller* Decision

by Larry Pratt

Gun Owners of America and its foundation are in the middle of a seminal fight in the courts — a fight which could determine whether the federal courts will be of any use in protecting our Second Amendment rights for the foreseeable future.

That fight will determine whether the Founders — or the liberal nut cases who govern the People’s Republic of Maryland — will dictate the scope of the Second Amendment.

First, a little background.

As you remember, the Supreme Court’s decisions in *DC v. Heller* and *McDonald v. Chicago* recognized that the Second Amendment was an individual right — and that it was a right that applied to the states.

Unfortunately, on page 54 of the *Heller* decision — which struck down the DC gun ban — the majority opinion suggested that it might uphold some unconstitutional anti-gun laws, in spite of the Second Amendment’s absolute ban on such restrictions.

In effect, the court invited federal courts to apply a “balancing test” to the Second Amendment. And, since that time, the federal courts have upheld a large portion of the unconstitutional gun bans challenged by gun owners.

This is where the Maryland case comes in.

The ironically dubbed “Free State” is, in fact, one of the least free jurisdictions in the country.

On guns, you have to have a permit to carry one. That permit can be denied if you don’t show a “good and substantial purpose.” And whether you have a “good and substantial purpose” is a subjective decision that can be deter-

 mined in virtually any way Maryland’s anti-gun fruittakes choose to interpret it.

How does Maryland reconcile that with the Second Amendment?

The answer is that it doesn’t. Its 46-page brief quotes the Second Amendment at the outset and spends the remaining 45 pages talking about something else.

Says Maryland, the Second Amendment is essentially identical to the 1689 English Bill of Rights.

Wrong! The Second Amendment codifies a God-given right which comes from — well, ah — God.

If, as Maryland contends, our Second Amendment rights are no broader than English rights, this means government can seize all of our guns and outlaw gun ownership across the board.

Says Maryland, “a majority of nineteenth-century courts had upheld the constitutionality of complete prohibitions on the carry of concealed weapons.”

If Maryland prevails on this proposition, the *Heller* case is worthless — and your God-given right to defend yourself, your family, and your friends is essentially meaningless.

This is why the Gun Owners Foundation has filed a brief on your behalf on appeal before the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond.

Know that what happens in this case before the Fourth Circuit and, if necessary, before the Supreme Court, could determine whether the *Heller* decision has any meaning — or is just a useless pile of platitudes.

Mike Hammond contributed to this article.

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**Obama Toys with Second Amendment**

*Continued from page 5*

Look to how this administration circumvented Congress to impose restrictions on gun dealers in border states supposedly to help stem the violence along the U.S.-Mexico border (all the while denying its role in arming violent Mexican drug cartels with thousands of firearms through Fast and Furious).

Consider Obama’s support for a massive UN Arms Trade Treaty, which could negatively impact tens of millions of U.S. gun owners. Although no treaty was agreed to after a month long meeting this summer, Obama is pushing to restart negotiations.

Despite Obama’s claim of not being a threat to the Second Amendment, market predictions tell a different story. If large sporting goods companies can be used as an indicator, a second term Obama — unencumbered by having to run for reelection — will be gun owners’ worst nightmare.