

THE Gun Owners

45 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1976-2021

GOA Mobilizing Gun Rights Activists to Defeat Biden's Anti-gun Agenda

by Erich Pratt

There's no way to sugarcoat it.

With Joe Biden in the White House, and Senator Chuck Schumer ruling the Senate, gun owners are in for a very rough two-to-four years.

The very survival of America as we know it is at stake, especially if Schumer & Co. succeed in eliminating the Senate filibuster — a procedure which effectively requires legislators to first garner 60 votes (out of 100) before they can move legislation.

In an apocalyptic environment where the filibuster has been eradicated, one can expect to see a Democrat Congress ramming through gun bans, gun owner registration and more. (See page 3 which details the highlights of Biden's anti-gun agenda.)

And to make sure that everything they do is ruled "legal," anti-gun Democrats have threatened to pack the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gun owners must understand: The reason we have been so successful in defeating gun control over the past decade is because of the Senate filibuster.

This is exactly what we did in 2013, when we worked with pro-gun Senators to filibuster Obama's gun control agenda.



West Virginia Senator Joe Manchin, pictured here with Pres. Joe Biden, may be the key vote to retaining the filibuster and stopping gun control from passing.

To this day, Obama still laments that his failure to pass gun control was the biggest frustration of his presidency.

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GOA-backed Constitutional Carry Becomes Law in Two States

by Erich Pratt

Gun Owners of America is applauding the Governors of Montana and Utah for signing Constitutional Carry bills into law this February.

GOA members in each state lobbied their state legislators on behalf of these bills — which, in each case, allows law-abiding citizens to carry firearms without first getting permission.

By signing permitless carry into law, Utah's Spencer Cox (R) and Montana's Greg Gianforte (R) bring the total number of Constitutional Carry states to 18.

In Montana, HB 102 closed loopholes which prevented permitless carry in a small portion of the state.

Montana previously denied permitless carry within "the official boundaries of a city or town" — or in about one percent of the state.

HB 102 closes this loophole by allowing Constitutional Carry throughout the entire state — and even dismantles several gun-free zones by sanctioning permitted carry in restaurants, bars and the state capitol.

This improvement in Montana was a

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GOA Mobilizing Gun Rights Activists to Defeat Biden's Anti-gun Agenda

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So understandably, anti-gun Democrats are threatening to nix the filibuster.

But this is where gun rights activists come in!

It is imperative that gun owners contact their Senators and urge them to STAND FOR THE FILIBUSTER!

It's a tough road ahead, but we have to hold all 50 Republican senators and pick up one Democrat. Republicans should stand for the filibuster, just for their own survival against the onslaught from the Left.

But snatching a Democrat from Schumer's clutches will be more difficult. The most likely possibility is Democrat Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia, who is considered a "moderate" and has promised to support the filibuster.

The radical Left has already started putting pressure on him — which led GOA to start a mailing campaign into his state.

Gun owners will be glad to hear that the results, so far, have been encouraging.

Grassroots Activism is Already Working!

Three days after GOA began a push in Manchin's state to save the filibuster, he went on Fox News and said that he would not back Schumer's efforts to eliminate the filibuster.

Rather, he stated that he would encourage Schumer to sit down with Minority Leader Mitch McConnell and "work in a bipartisan fashion [and] find some compromise" on whatever issue they were debating.

So far, the pressure is working, and the anti-gun Left is very frustrated.

Hence, we tell gun owners all the time that your activism makes a huge difference. Grassroots activism matters!

But our job is not done. We must work together to keep the pressure on Senators so that the filibuster will be preserved.

And we must make sure that the Senate doesn't pull any shenanigans by using a process known as "budget reconciliation" to bypass the 60-vote threshold in the Senate — thus allowing them to pass gun control with a mere majority.

This is going to be a very long political battle. And GOA will be relying on its grassroots activists to keep the heat on the Senate.

We welcome this struggle. And we are glad that our massive membership will be working alongside of us. ■

Michael Hammond contributed to this article.

GOA's Caliber Club: Reaching America's Newest Gun Owners

by Kailey Nieman

Last year, more than 8 million Americans became first time gun owners.

This is an exciting record, which brings about tremendous opportunities.

Many gun owners have wondered how GOA is attempting to influence these first-time buyers.

The good news is that we're doing it through GOA's Caliber Club, which is an outreach program designed to communicate directly with today's new gun buyers.

GOA is working with the "frontline" workers of the gun industry — gun stores and ranges — to reach every gun buyer.

We are providing them with informational material about the Second Amendment and giving them the tools needed to get politically active to protect and defend their new purchase.

We are in several states already, and our goal is to be active in all 50 states by the year's end.

If you own or know of a gun store or range that would like to participate in our Caliber Club program, please visit gunowners.org/caliberclub. ■



"Cancel Culture" Takes Down GOA-Sponsored Show

by Erich Pratt

The media censors don't like TV shows that feature gun ownership in a positive light, especially in the African American community.

Gun Owners of America was sponsoring a show entitled *Guns Out TV* that was running in the DC Metropolitan area.

But after the third episode which featured black men shooting and enjoying their AR-15s, the Sinclair Broadcast Group cancelled any future episodes from airing.

According to John Crump of *Ammoland*: "The broadcaster was concerned because an episode showed the host firing an AK-47. The last episode that aired was about myths surrounding AR-15s."

Shermichael Singleton, who is one of the show's hosts, said:

We tried to reach new gun owners [and] showcase a different side of firearms. We were tired of the negative stereotype about black men with guns and set out on a mission to change that narrative.

The good news is: *Guns Out TV* has been picked up by RecoilTV and can be viewed at: gunowners.me/gunsoutonrecoil.

GOA wants to thank its industry partner, Big Daddy Unlimited, not only for sponsoring RecoilTV, but for adding *Guns Out TV* to its lineup. ■



Guns Out TV Hosts, John Keys and Shermichael Singleton.

Biden’s Vicious Agenda for Gun Owners

by John Velleco

On Valentine’s Day, Joe Biden sent gun owners a nasty gram. He told freedom lovers that he’s coming for your guns.

A February 14th statement from the Biden White House called on Congress to extend background checks to “all” gun sales in the country — by definition, including between friends or even family members.

Such universal tracking of firearm transfers creates the paper trail necessary for a firearm registry, which in turn sets the stage for the gun confiscation explicitly endorsed during the 2020 Democratic presidential primaries.

Remember when Robert “Beto” O’Rourke shouted “Hell, yes, we’re going to take your AR-15, your AK-47” — and the entire Democrat audience erupted in applause? Subsequently, Biden promised that Beto would “take care of the gun problem with me” once Biden was president.

Universal registration is a key ingredient that sets the table for confiscating the firearms that the radical Left doesn’t want you to possess.

Second, Biden’s Valentine Day statement called for banning so-called “assault weapons,” though this is an artificial category essentially denoting “scary-looking.”

In fact, that’s exactly the point: In 1988, gun ban activist Josh Sugarman told other gun control groups:

The weapons’ menacing looks, coupled with the public’s confusion over fully automatic machine guns



While on the campaign trail, Joe Biden promised to make Beto O’Rourke the nation’s “gun czar.”

versus semi-automatic assault weapons — anything that looks like a machine gun is assumed to be a machine gun — can only increase the chance of public support for restrictions on these weapons.

During the campaign, Biden promised that you could only keep your magazines and “assault weapons” if you register them as NFA weapons. Of course, this would only apply for gun owners who can afford it, as *each firearm or magazine* will require a *separate* \$200 tax stamp.

Finally, Biden’s Valentines Day statement called for holding gun manufacturers legally liable for the tiny fraction of firearm owners who do evil or even insane things with the Constitutionally-protected products those companies produce.

This is a transparent attempt to bankrupt the entire firearms industry, throw-

ing it to the trial lawyer wolves.

Tracking family members’ transfers of firearms? Banning scary guns — that just happen to make up perhaps 50% of current firearm sales? Bankrupting the gun industry? That’s a heck of a Valentine.

Keep in mind, this list is far from exhaustive of what Joe Biden has promised he will do. Readers can view his entire gun control agenda on his campaign website at joebiden.com/gunsafety.

During the next four years, Gun Owners of America will defend your right to keep and bear arms through our lobbying efforts in Washington, D.C. and our legal efforts in the courts.

But gun owners will also need to stay active and remain informed. So please stay tuned for further updates. ■

Aidan Johnston also contributed to this article.

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Gun Owners of America



◀ Two More States Enact GOA-Backed Constitutional Carry

In February, two new states joined the Constitutional Carry Club. Utah enacted its law first. And then a week later, Montana's pro-gun Governor Greg Gianforte — pictured here with GOA's Tim Macy (right) — signed a bill which not only recognized Constitutional Carry but also removed some of the gun-free zones in the state. There are now 18 permitless carry states, but this year may bring more additions to the club. So stay tuned!



GOA Challenging the WA state gun ban ▶

In the Washington Supreme Court, GOA and its foundation (GOF) are challenging the infamous I-1639 that labels most semi-autos as "assault rifles," along with several other restrictions. In GOA's superior court challenge, the judge ruled in agreement with gun owners that the law was enacted in an unconstitutional fashion, yet stated that there's nothing he could do about that and let the law stand. So now GOA and its Foundation are appealing to the Washington Supreme Court. Pictured here is GOA's Erich Pratt with the case's lead plaintiff, Kerry Stone of We the Female.



▲ Congress Has a New 2A Champion

Freshman Representative Lauren Boebert (R-CO) wasted no time in challenging House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on the right to keep and bear arms. When Speaker Pelosi wanted to ban Members from carrying firearms on the House floor, Boebert took on the gun-hating Pelosi. For more information on Boebert's heroics, see Episode 2 of the *Minute Man Moment*: gunowners.me/MMM2 (case sensitive). Boebert has also cosponsored pro-gun legislation like Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity (HR 38) and is well-known for her open carry restaurant before her Congressional run. She's pictured here with GOA Senior Vice President Erich Pratt.

▲ Beating the Odds and Bloomberg's Billions

One of the top candidates on anti-gun Michael Bloomberg's hit list in 2020 was the winner of the North Carolina Lieutenant Governor's race. The gun-hating billionaire spent 8 million dollars to keep the vocally pro-gun Mark Robinson out of office — but failed miserably. Robinson's election shows the immense power of grassroots activists — as GOA staff and members worked hard to turn out gun owners to the polls — beating Bloomberg's millions. This race also shows what so-called "average" people can do within politics. Three years ago, Robinson was a furniture worker who decided to make a stand for his rights, and now he's the Lt. Governor of the Tar Heel State. Robinson is picture here with GOA's Director of Communications Jordan Stein.

America on the Frontlines



◀ Organizing Pro-Gun Activists in the Lone Star State

Texas Director Rachel Malone has been busy organizing GOA activists from nearly all of Texas' 150 state House Districts and 31 state Senate Districts. Their mission is to push GOA's priority legislation, including Constitutional Carry and Second Amendment Sanctuary bills. In January, Rachel held a Texas G.O.L.D. event — or Gun Owners Lobby Day — where gun owners from all over the state took part. Here, Rachel is pictured in Ft. Worth, Texas, speaking to some of GOA's key activists.

Battling to Remove Gun-Free Zones in the Sunshine State ▶

As any concealed carrier knows, gun-free zones are simply target-rich environments to evildoers. That's why GOA's Florida Director Luis Valdes is seeking to repeal so-called "off limits places" in religious institutions in the Sunshine State. Valdes is pictured here, testifying in support of this legislation.

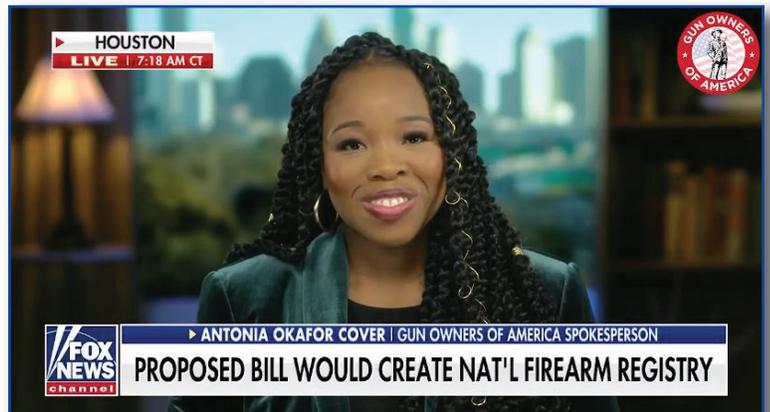


◀ GOA Advancing Constitutional Carry and Sanctuary Bills

In several states, Gun Owners of America is working with pro-gun legislators to get both Constitutional Carry and sanctuary bills enacted. The latter legislation — known also as a Second Amendment Protection Act — forbids state actors from enforcing any new federal gun control laws. Both of these bills are a high priority in the Keystone State, where GOA's Pennsylvania Director, Dr. Val Finnell, is pushing legislators to cosponsor and then get these bills passed. Dr. Finnell is pictured here speaking to gun rights activists at a rally held at the Tommy Gun Warehouse in Greeley, PA.

HR 127 is Not the Threat You Think It Is ▶

Many gun owners have panicked over one of the most anti-gun bills ever introduced into Congress. While HR 127 does contain many draconian measures — such as psychological evaluation of gun owners and a gun registry — its chances of passing while the filibuster remains in existence are minimal. Antonia Okafor Cover, who is a spokesperson for GOA, is pictured here discussing HR 127 on Fox News.



Rep. Greene Introduces GOA-Endorsed Bill to Defang the ATF

by John Crump

Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene has introduced the Second Amendment Preservation Act which is a bill that would prevent federal funds from being used to enforce any gun control — including any measure, law, regulation, or guidance from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF) issued after November 1, 2020.

The bill has won praise from Gun Owners of America, which endorsed the pro-gun Greene during her campaign. Rep. Greene is a gun owner and a staunch supporter of the right to bear arms.

After the Presidential election, the Biden transition team contacted the ATF to see what their top priorities will be for the new administration.

Acting ATF Director Regina Lombardo and Acting Assistant Director Marvin Richardson responded that their top priorities were pistol braces and unserialized firearms. As soon as it appeared that Biden won the election, the ATF started tackling their biggest concerns.

The ATF raided Polymer80 and started showing up at firearms dealers that sold unfinished frames. They radically changed what they considered firearms after the Biden victory. According to the agency, a kit with a jig and a frame was enough to consider it a gun. The ATF believed anyone selling the kits was selling unregistered firearms. Biden's win emboldened the ATF.



GOA-endorsed Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene holds an AR-15 rifle in a campaign ad.

Then right before Christmas, the ATF submitted a letter to the National Registry, which would make almost every pistol brace on the market into a stock.

They were about to turn millions of Americans into felons overnight.

Only because of the massive public outcry and enraged Congress members did the ATF pull their letter. No one believes that the ATF will stop trying to change the definition of pistol braces and unfinished frames.

What Rep. Greene's bill will do is stop the ATF in their tracks. Without funding, they will not be able to enforce

changes to long-held definitions of devices as they did with bump stocks to make *de facto* gun laws.

Rep. Greene believes only Congress can make laws, and the law enforcement agency has overstepped its bounds.

The bill will face a tough road through Congress, but Rep. Greene vows to keep pushing for pro-gun bills. ■

John Crump is the Virginia Director for GOA and an author for Ammoland. A version of this article first appeared in that publication in February.

An advertisement for Gun Owners of America member benefits. It features a central image of a Minuteman soldier in a blue uniform, holding a rifle. The background is split into red and blue sections. Two white keys are positioned on either side of the Minuteman, pointing towards the center. The text reads: "Unlock Your Member Benefits! gunowners.org/benefits".

An advertisement for "The Minute Man Moment". It features the title "The MINUTE MAN Moment" in a stylized font. Below the title, it says "A weekly show designed to keep GOA members ready to mobilize on a moment's notice." and "GUNOWNERS.ORG/MMM".

GOA Files SCOTUS Brief in Case Involving 2A & 4A Rights

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only after being promised by the police that they would not take his guns.

That was a lie, as the officers seized his handgun during the short time between when he left the house and when he returned from the hospital.

The police also lied to his wife, telling her that her husband had consented to the handgun being seized. Lastly, after hearing there was another gun in the house, the police searched their house and seized that handgun as well.

As the First Circuit explained in their decision approving police actions, “deception is a well-established and acceptable tool of law enforcement.”

“If the government can break into your house, search it, and then seize your property, your gun rights are put at extreme risk.”

There was no violence, no threats of violence, no threats of suicide, no history of mental illness, no prior criminal record — nothing to justify the police action.

But to uphold the search and seizure, the First Circuit extended the “Community Caretaking Exception” from vehicles to homes.

By the way, where is the “Community Caretaking Exception” in the Fourth Amendment? Look for yourself, as the Fourth Amendment reads:

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue,

but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

You’re right, there is no “Community Caretaking Exception” to be found in the Fourth Amendment. It doesn’t say that the right does not apply if the police are there to help you, rather than to investigate you. But “the right of the people to be secure in their ... houses” is there — as clear as can be.

GOA case seeks to prevent warrantless searches to seize firearms

The GOA/GOF *amicus* brief in *Caniglia* explains how for decades the U.S. Supreme Court has undermined the “property basis of the Fourth Amendment.”

In this case, they invoke the so-called “Community Caretaking Exception.” A search for the scope of that doctrine is impossible to conduct, as the term has no independent meaning. It is elastic, and can be used to cover whatever the courts want it to mean.

But Americans must not be fooled into thinking that these courts are interpreting the Constitution. No, rather, these courts take away our rights by basing their decisions on earlier Supreme Court cases, and call it constitutional law.

Think about the consequence of losing this case. It would mean yet another erosion of the ancient English notion that “a man’s home is his castle” which undergirded the Fourth Amendment.

It would allow police to conduct warrantless searches of your home and seizures of your firearms on the flimsiest of excuses.

All the police would need to say was that they were there for your own good — not to investigate a crime, and they could take away the means by which you protect your own home.

To guard against such judicial undermining of our Constitutional Rights, Americans must fully understand and not be fooled by the legal-sounding gimmicks used by “lawyers wearing black robes on the government payroll.” ■

GOA-backed Constitutional Carry Becomes Law in Two States

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long time coming. The previous, anti-gun Governor Steve Bullock kept vetoing legislation to expand permitless carry to the entire state.

But with Gianforte, gun owners now have a true Second Amendment champion sitting at the governor’s desk.

In addition to Montana and Utah, the other 16 Constitutional Carry states are Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia and Wyoming. ■

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GOA Files SCOTUS Brief in Case Involving 2A & 4A Rights

by John Velleco

At Gun Owners of America and our Foundation, our main focus has always been the Second Amendment, but we have filed literally dozens of briefs

defending Fourth Amendment rights as well.

The reason is obvious. If the government can break into your house, search it, and then seize your property, your gun rights are put at extreme risk.

One of the legal gimmicks invented by judges to empower the police to violate your Fourth Amendment rights is called the “Community Caretaking Exception.” This rule was created 48 years ago by the Supreme Court in a decision called *Cady v. Dombrowski*, 413 U.S. 433 (1973).

In that case, after an accident, the police arranged for a car to be towed from a public street to protect the public when the driver was comatose.

Since the driver was an off-duty police officer required to have his handgun with him, and the handgun was not found with him in the car, the police searched for it in the trunk to prevent it from being stolen.

In the trunk the police found evidence of a crime committed by the comatose police officer. The Supreme Court upheld the warrantless search of the trunk and seizure of the evidence in it.

The rule of the *Cady* case has become known as the “Community Caretaking Exception,” because the police were not investigating a crime at the time they found evidence of the crime, but rather were seeking to protect the public from a gun being stolen from a car that they had

ordered towed.

The car was not in a police lot, but the police had exercised custody and control over the car. The driver was in no shape to move his car, and the police’s control of the car might justify its warrantless search for the gun.

But once the camel’s nose is under the tent, it is usually hard to keep the rest of the camel out.

Courts are undermining Second and Fourth Amendment Rights

In the *Caniglia v. Strom* case, U.S. Supreme Court No. 20-157, the Supreme Court will decide whether the police can use the *Cady* case to justify a warrantless search of a home for guns, and seizure of guns, ammunition, and magazines, because one of the owners of the house might be upset.

GOA has submitted an *amicus* brief in this case, and it will be argued in March, and decided most likely in June.

The facts of the *Caniglia* case are important. Mr. Caniglia grew weary of arguing with his wife, and

in a grand gesture took an unloaded handgun, put it down on a table, and said something like — “shoot me now and get it over with.”

There are lots of other facts in the case, but basically the wife stayed elsewhere for the night, could not reach her husband by phone in the morning, and called the police for a “wellness check.”

The two police officers disagreed as to whether Mr. Caniglia was still upset that morning, but he was convinced to go to the hospital to get checked out. He agreed to go

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