

## Right to Keep and Bear Arms

### In their own words

*“The first problem is to slow down the increasing number of handguns being produced and sold in this country. The second is to get handguns registered. And the final problem is to make the possession of all handguns and all handgun ammunition – except for the military, policemen, licensed security guards, licensed sporting clubs, and licensed gun collectors – totally illegal.”*  
Nelson “Pete” Shields, Brady Campaign, in a 1976 *New Yorker* article

*“They should not tell everything they’re going to do. Like if you’re going to take people’s guns away, wait until you get elected — then take the guns away. Don’t tell them ahead of time.”*  
Noted gun expert, Joy Behar of “The View”

*“...Assault weapons’ menacing looks, coupled with the public’s confusion over fully-automatic machine guns 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 of these weapons...”* Josh Sugarman, Exec Dir, Violence Policy Center

*“..the Second Amendment doesn’t protect a magazine with a hundred clips in it,”...“Why should we allow people to have military-style weapons including pistols with 9mm bullets and can hold 10 or more rounds?”* 2020 Democrat candidate Joe Biden

### What 2020 Means to The Right to Bear Arms

As you’ve seen in this column The Second Amendment is right in the middle of the 2020 campaign. I don’t believe that it is arguable that the anti-gun rights movement is alive and well in the Democrat Party. By their own admission they are the party of big government. And the essence of big government is that citizens are incapable of making their own decisions and therefore the big government must make all the most important decisions in life.

The U.S. Constitution codified life, liberty and pursuit of happiness in the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights was written as a warning to an intrusive government – Hands Off! Hands off of these rights that are exclusive to the American people.

The proponents of big government have been attacking the Bill of Rights for decades and they have been remarkably successful. But the one right that allows the citizenry to hold the government accountable, the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, has frustrated the big government party. Sure they have made many attempts beginning with the National Firearms Act of 1934 and its successor the Gun Control Act of 1968. The only thing that has kept the big government party in check is you and me, and the millions and millions of gun owners of America. We’ve also had the support of one political party and since America has a two-party system we are at a stalemate.

But that stalemate could change with one election. And it’s not just the election for who sits in the White House, it’s also who controls the houses of Congress.

If there is one thing that unifies every Democrat presidential candidate it is American's can be trusted to own or use guns. Go to their campaign websites or simply search the web by entering "the candidates name + gun control." The Democrat Party is totally unified that the U.S. Constitution needs to be ratified to eliminate the Second Amendment.

The leading Democrat presidential candidate is for VP Joe Biden. Here are some highlights of his gun control proposals:

- Reauthorize the assault weapons ban
- We need DNA-activated smart gun technology on every weapon
- "it is absolutely mindless that we don't have elimination of assault-type weapons and magazines that can have, hold multiple bullets in them"
- Supports bans of "high capacity magazines" that hold more than 10 rounds
- Supports "prohibiting military-style firearms designed to fire rapidly"
- "...the Second Amendment doesn't protect a magazine with a hundred clips in it,"... "Why should we allow people to have military-style weapons including pistols with 9mm bullets and can hold 10 or more rounds?"
- Supports repealing the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (which protects gun manufacturers from frivolous lawsuit)
- Supports "mandatory buy-backs" of AR15-style weapons
- Supports national gun licensing

While Biden is the leading candidate, all the other candidates have similar positions. As if the Democrats didn't have enough candidates, a new candidate has entered the race, former New York city Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"Arguably the country's top gun control advocate, Michael Bloomberg, has announced that he is running as a Democrat candidate for president. He had a closed door event in Colorado where he outlined his gun control agenda. "I promise you I will never back down from this fight," he said. "That's the kind of president this country needs and you deserve."

"Among the highlights, Bloomberg's plan would:

- Reinstate the federal ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.
- Require every gun buyer to obtain a permit before making a purchase.
- Require point-of-sale background checks on all gun purchases while closing the gun show loophole.
- Institute a new age limit of 21 for those wishing to buy handguns, semi-automatic rifles and shotguns.
- Require a mandatory 48-hour waiting period for all gun purchases.
- Institute a federal "red flag" law to deny permits to "troubled people who pose a danger to themselves or others."

— Institute a temporary ban on gun possession for those convicted of assault or other violent misdemeanors.

— Ban all guns in K-12 schools, colleges, and universities, except for law enforcement.

— Reverse the law that gives gun makers and gun dealers immunity from lawsuits.

— Create the position of White House gun coordinator “to mobilize the public to fight gun violence and launch an inter-agency hub to fight gun violence.”

<https://www.libertyheadlines.com/bloombergs-gun-grab-plans/>

I earlier made the point that control of the two houses of Congress is also very important. Case in point, H.R. 5132.

**H.R. 5132** (“To require the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to issue an advisory about how homegrown violent extremists and other perpetrators of domestic terrorism procure firearms and firearm accessories, and for other purposes.”)

Jennifer Wexton, D-VA, seeks creative ways to combat gun violence. She is the sponsor of H.R. 5132. Wexton says she “wants banks and credit card companies to flag purchases that could signal a person is preparing to carry out a mass shooting.” “An effective program would have to track credit card purchases of guns and ammunition as well as equipment such as body armor and night-vision goggles across multiple retailers.” <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5132/text>

Let the implications of this bill set in. Rep. Wexton wants to “flag” you if you buy a gun or ammunition. She wants the federal government to coerce banks and credit card companies into giving up your name if you buy something she doesn’t approve of. To Rep. Wexton the mere purchase of guns or ammunition “could signal a person is preparing to carry out a mass shooting.” This is insanity, but it is exactly the mindset of those in the big government party. This bill creates the crime – then all that is need is **The Thought Police**.

*“If we pass this bill today, we’re going to invert the standard and say you are guilty until proven innocent. Under this bill, you are guilty without doing anything wrong simply because someone thinks you might do something wrong.”* Rep. Jim Jordan (R-OH)

### **March for Our Lives**

A new gun control group has reared its ugly head. This group was founded after the shooting in Parkland FL. The group has issued a “peace plan.” Let’s look at a few of the proposals in the “peace plan.”

- “reexamine the *District of Columbia v. Heller* interpretation of the Second Amendment contesting that “the right of the people” does not mean “the right of the people” anymore
- Demands that “the next generation of federal judges champion gun violence prevention”

- Demands that Americans seeking to obtain a firearms would be “obligated to go through a multi-step approval process” that would be “overseen by a law enforcement agency
- Gun owners would be required to register themselves and their guns with the federal government
- Bars standard capacity magazines and AR-15 type weapons, adds waiting periods and limits the number of weapons per month
- Imposition of hefty purchase taxes and licensing fees
- Confiscation of banned weapons to “reduce the estimated 265-393 million firearms in circulation by at least 30 percent”

Cited in part from “*The Details of the Gun-Control Mater Plan*” by Charles C.M. Cooke in the November issue of *America’s 1st Freedom*

### **Anti-Gun Group Grades Retailers On Carry Policies, Political Donations**

Posted at 11:00 am on December 5, 2019 by Cam Edwards

The group “Guns Down”, which advocates for “safer communities with fewer guns” is out with a report card on America’s retailers and their policies on carrying firearms in their stores. Gun owners will be happy to know that most of the companies surveyed received a failing grade from the anti-gun organization because they don’t ban lawfully carried firearms from their stores. From CNN:

Just three companies — Kroger, Old Navy, and Walmart — received As. Sixteen of them received Fs.

The project is meant to push retailers to “lean into gun reform,” said Igor Volsky, founder and executive director of advocacy group Guns Down America, which headed the project. The group also wanted to give retailers a clear path to improving their “grade” and getting involved in the movement.

The “report card” didn’t just grade companies on their policies, however. As Newsweek reported, corporations were also dinged for donating money to politicians that support the Second Amendment as well.

Some companies such as Kohl’s and 7-Eleven failed the test for not having any in-store gun policies and for not publicly demanding action on gun reform. However, both companies received marks for not donating money to any major Congressional recipients of NRA dollars.

While companies such as McDonald’s and Chick-Fil-A were marked up for following local laws with regards to carrying guns in store, neither have called for a change in gun laws and McDonald’s were found to have donated \$64,000 to congressman who have also received money from the NRA.

Two companies received the lowest mark possible, having scored zero in all three categories. Lowe’s received an F grade for not only having no in-store gun policy and for not calling for gun reform, but also for giving \$163,000 in political donations to NRA recipients in Congress.

Home Depot also has no store policy, not demanded gun reform and has donated \$469,500 to Congressional recipients of NRA dollars.

In other words, this isn't about safety, it's about shame. Igor Volsky and his merry band of gun-banners are hoping to apply public pressure to these companies in an attempt to get them to not only ban guns from their stores, but to direct any campaign donations to anti-gun candidates as well.

Ironically, Walmart, which stopped selling most ammunition and firearms recently, gets an A for their efforts, even though they haven't banned the carrying of firearms in their stores (though the company has requested that customers do not open carry in stores). What really seems to matter to the gun control group issuing this "report card" isn't the actual policy of the companies in question, but how much virtue-signaling they're willing to engage in to receive the accolades of anti-gun activists.

I think I'll have lunch at F-rated Chick Fil-A today, or maybe take the family out to F-rated Applebees for dinner tonight. I also need to run by F-rated Lowe's to pick up a couple of things for the farm, though I might visit the F-rated Home Depot instead if we had one in Farmville. I appreciate the efforts of Volsky and Guns Down to let us know which companies have (so far, anyway) resisted the urge to kowtow to gun control groups. It makes it a little easier for me to decide where I want to spend my money. I haven't quit shopping at Walmart entirely, but I definitely prefer to shop at stores that aren't using their profits to target my constitutional rights.

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