



by Rick Travis
CRPA Programs Director

CRPA PROGRAMS REPORT

Recently I had both the honor and privilege to visit the home of our first President George Washington. Nestled beside the Potomac River lies his home, Mount Vernon, which was built back in 1758. Everything about the facility is amazing and touring the place was humbling. The man who lived there guided a group of colonies to the greatest nation and was dedicated to not only freedom but the preservation of it for future generations.

Washington was concerned that Americans would become lazy and thus might allow the enemy within the gates. This concern and his desire to handle problems before they got out of control was clear when he said, “Experience teaches us that it is much easier to prevent an enemy from posting themselves than it is to dislodge them after they have got possession.”

This year Californians face the most egregious set of anti-gun legislation in the form of proposed Assembly bills, Senate bills and the “Safety for All” proposition. After having many discussions with people from all over the state, at events ranging from gun shows to community meetings, political rallies to shooting events, and everything in between, it is clear

to me that there are some common misconceptions about our Second Amendment rights in California.

**MISCONCEPTION #1:
WE ARE OUTNUMBERED. FALSE!**

There are almost 25 million Californians eligible to vote as of May 2016 according to the state. Only 72% or roughly 18 million are actually registered to vote (that’s 7 million who are not registered!). Less than half of that number turn out for general elections which is roughly 9 million votes statewide. According to the Department of Justice, Business Insider and other groups, the number of gun owners range from 8 million on the low side to 18 million on the high side. Most agree that at least 1/3 of California households have one or more guns giving us a number of 13 million. That is 5 million more people than there are Democrats which account for 45% of the eligible electorate. This means that if we vote as a block there is nothing we cannot accomplish. *In other words, if we lose our rights it will be because we didn’t fight as one.*

MISCONCEPTION #2: MY VOTE AND/OR VOICE DOESN’T COUNT. FALSE!

This is pure nonsense. At the very least your vote

blocks an opposition vote. Elections are often won by persuading people not to vote with this erroneous message that they don’t count. Your vote has a tremendous impact at all levels. Your voice is just as powerful. You have significant influence on the people around you. Recently, I observed a group of people completely change their votes from a no to a yes on supporting the Second Amendment movement because one 85 year-old, non-gun owner made her opinion known. Others around her began to speak and, in the end, a room of over 50 people had reversed their opinion. *If you don’t speak out then nothing will ever change for the better.*

**MISCONCEPTION #3:
THE YOUNGER GENERATION DOESN’T CARE. FALSE!**

President Reagan stated, “Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.” That has never been truer in this state than right now. We all need to assume that anyone under the age of 30 has had a very poor education on the Constitution, history and politics. The younger generation need to be engaged with the truth about what a great leader can do and how to discern what good leadership looks like. *The sheer number of*

youth involved in this primary shows they want to be involved. Now we have to get involved in patiently re-educating them. The saddest question I have heard recently came from a group of college students, “What was it like to have a president you truly believed in?”

**MISCONCEPTION #4:
THERE IS NOTHING I CAN DO. FALSE!**

Every one of us can, should and must get engaged in this fight. Everyone can vote, but more importantly every one of us can get 5 other people to vote. Every one of us can pass information along; the key is not to do it just once but to make it a habit every day until Election Day. If you need motivation, then think of the men and women standing on the front lines 24/7 protecting you. Each of them voluntarily took an oath that is essentially a blank check payable with their life to secure the peace for you. You owe it to them to keep this country strong by being engaged in the American political process.

**MISCONCEPTION #5:
IT’S TOO LATE, I’M MOVING. FALSE!**

This is both cowardly and naive. Running away aids our enemies and emboldens them to take their ideas nationwide. Over the

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

past few years we have seen too many anti-gun ideas start here in California and, once passed, move across the country. As I stated above we have the people to win this fight if we can just get all of us engaged. *Lead by example and show you're willing to make a stand.* Lead your families, co-workers and friends to the ballot. Fight for the freedoms you believe in that your family originally came to the great country for.

MISCONCEPTION #6: I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE. FALSE!

I hear this all the time. I hear, “Oh did you know Mr. or Mrs. “X” gave some sum of money to take our rights away.” If every person who purchased a firearm and/or box of ammunition dropped a dollar in the donation jar to fight this fight we would collect millions and would have the resources to demolish the anti-gun movement.

MISCONCEPTION #7: THIS ISN'T MY FIGHT. FALSE!

This is the most irritating comment I hear in lines when we pass out flyers on pending legislation at gun shows and events. I look at these individuals and explain that if they don't take part in the fight, the very event they are enjoying will cease to exist. *Their apathy cannot be tolerated as it leads to a path of destruction.*

These seven misconceptions, if not eradicated, will make every program CRPA and other pro-Second Amendment organizations provide a thing of the past. The troubling part is that it will not be the result of the anti-gun movement winning, but the result of the pro-gun community surrendering. I close with the words of Abraham Lincoln.

“At what point then is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us, it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide.”

-Abraham Lincoln



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