

CALIFORNIA GUN OWNERS: TANGLED UP IN BLUE

by C.D. Michel

NRA SMACKS DOWN CRITICS & SAVES AMERICA

On November 8th, 2016, rural voters across the country decided that they will no longer accept the status quo in Washington, D.C., and voted to elect a man who, for all his flaws, has promised a new path for our nation. More specifically, voters chose a president who is committed to working with the NRA to defend your right to choose a firearm for sport or to defend yourself.

Because of this tremendous victory, Supreme Court Justices will be appointed who appreciate and respect the constitutional right to keep and bear arms. The legacy of Justice Antoine Scalia will live on. The ruling in the *Heller* and *McDonald* cases will be respected. The Second Amendment will not be further gutted by the “progressive” Supreme Court justices or lower court judges that Hillary Clinton would have appointed. Gun owners won’t be bussed to the social re-education camps after all.

Make no mistake. The NRA, your NRA, did this. NRA got out the rural votes that made the difference in this election. And not just the presidential election. NRA’s focused efforts were a big reason that pro-gun legislators now control both the House and Senate. So for all its mostly ill-informed critics, the NRA delivered big time. The NRA saved America. No less. No BS. That is what the NRA has done for you lately. Whatever criticisms folks may have had, today you need to thank the NRA. Appreciate what your NRA did for you. Join. Donate. Thank God.

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Meanwhile in California, California voters approved Proposition 63. Are we disappointed? Of course. Surprised? No. We were outspent 4 – 1. Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom raised a lot of money from his entertainment and techie elitist sugar daddies, and spent the bulk of the \$4.25 million he raised just to collect the signatures he needed to get Prop 63 on the ballot. And Newsom and his anti-gun-owner cronies are very good spin-meisters. So for gun owners in California, we are still facing an uninformed and easily fooled electorate, and far too many politically unengaged gun owners.

As a result of Prop 63 and, significantly, seven new bills that mostly duplicate Prop 63’s main components that were signed by Governor Brown in July (making the Prop 63 vote largely redundant and irrelevant), new gun-owner-control laws will do the following:

- Reporting mandate of lost and stolen guns: **July 1, 2017**
- “Large” capacity magazine possession ban: **July 1, 2017**
- Illegal ammunition transfers: **Effective immediately**
- Ammunition sales process (deadline for completion of regulations): **January 1, 2018**
- Ammunition vendor licensing requirement and ban on internet sales: **January 1, 2018**
- Limitations on ammunition displays: **Effective date is unknown**
- Registration of ammunition sales: **January 1, 2019**
- Ammunition purchase permits: **January 1, 2019**
- Local regulation of ammunition – not preempted: **Effective immediately**
- Confiscation of firearms from prohibited persons: **January 1, 2018**

THE COALITION FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES PAC

So how did NRA and CRPA fight Prop 63? California’s strict campaign finance laws limit the amount of annual political campaign contributions that can be made directly by non-profit groups like CRPA, NRA, GOC, CWA, NWTf and others. Exceeding that \$50,000 campaign contribution limit would have risked exposure of the private information of our members. No way. So to fund the campaign against Proposition 63, CRPA formed the *Coalition for Civil Liberties* (CCL), a political action committee (PAC). Forming a PAC allowed all of the Coalition’s partners to work together to raise money from their members by urging them to contribute directly to the CCL-PAC. Those CCL-PAC funds were then used to oppose Prop 63. Those CCL-PAC partners include:

- National Rifle Association
- CalGuns Shooting Sports Association
- California Rifle & Pistol Association
- Congress of Racial Equality
- FFLGuard
- Gun Owners of California
- California Waterfowl Association
- Jews Can Shoot
- Law Enforcement Alliance of America
- NRA Members’ Councils
- Pink Pistols
- San Francisco Veteran Police Officers Association
- Women Against Gun Control
- National Wild Turkey Federation

Thanks to the efforts of the coalition partners, all of the major law enforcement associations were educated about Prop 63, and joined us in opposing Prop 63. This was an unprecedented show of support for civilian gun owners from California law enforcement groups. Those police groups include:

- California State Sheriff’s Association
- California Correctional Peace Officers Association
- California Police Chiefs Association
- California Fish & Game Warden’s Association

- California Reserve Peace Officers Association
- Peace Officers Research Association of California
- San Francisco Veteran Police Officers Association
- Association of Deputy District Attorneys for Los Angeles County
- Western State Sheriff’s Association
- Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs
- Law Enforcement Alliance of America
- Law Enforcement Action Network

As California’s campaign finance laws require, most of CRPA and NRA’s fundraising was done indirectly, by NRA and CRPA asking members to donate directly to the CCL-PAC. You delivered, and we thank you! CCL-PAC created its own donor base during the 15-month battle to defeat Proposition 63, and raised and spent over \$1 million. If the legislature hadn’t passed seven bills that essentially duplicate Prop 63’s provisions, we could have raised a lot more and there would have been a lot more money put into the No on 63 campaign. Thanks to those who did donate, CCL-PAC was able to produce and air numerous commercials on radio and social media, and our diverse spokespeople appeared on many radio and television programs. CCL-PAC ran a targeted social media campaign blitz, and did so much more. But we were still dwarfed by the big money dumped in by Hollywood and Silicon Valley elites.

GAVIN, KAMALA, AND KEVIN; SEE YOU IN COURT

CRPA and NRA are already preparing legal challenges to the unconstitutional laws that were passed last session by the legislative process and again through Prop 63. The NRA/CRPA legal team is going on the offensive and moving ahead with multiple legal challenges to the recent onslaught of anti-Second Amendment bills, initiatives and ordinances that have passed in California. And eventually, one of those cases will be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. A pro-RKBA court, thanks to the NRA and President Trump. It’s not a sure thing, but it is a new ball game.

SUPPORT THE NEW CRPA PAC

Using the infrastructure we created during the fight against Proposition 63, CRPA and our coalition partners have started a new campaign to keep anti-gun-owner politicians out of office and to keep politicians like Gavin Newsom from becoming Governor. The campaign to stop him from becoming Governor, and from achieving his lofty political goals beyond that, has already begun. The Coalition for Civil Liberties PAC has been reorganized, and the CCL-PAC will now focus on influencing upcoming elections and fighting against anti-2A politicians.

Stand with CRPA and NRA as we move forward on all the fronts in the ongoing battle to preserve the right to keep and bear arms in California. We are more determined than ever to keep up the fight.

Civil rights attorney C.D. “Chuck” Michel is President & General Counsel for CRPA. He is a former prosecutor and currently runs the law firm Michel & Associates, PC in Long Beach. The firm’s clients include the NRA and CRPA, as well as firearm manufacturers, distributors, retailers and owners.