

ISSUE 1068, NOV/DEC 2023

CALIFORNIA FIRING LINE

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CALIFORNIA RIFLE & PISTOL ASSOCIATION

RESPONSE TO LAWLESSNESS

CRIME DRIVES GUNS
FOR SELF-DEFENSE

FIRST AMENDMENT PROTECTING THE SECOND

BANNING GUN ADS
TO END GUN CULTURE

HUNTING IN THE CROSSHAIRS

WHO NEEDS HUNTERS ANYWAY?

REPORTS AND UPDATES

LITIGATION, LEGISLATION, LOCAL ACTION,
AND CRPA PROGRAMS

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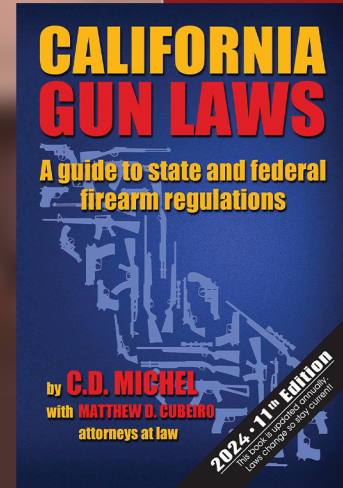
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ISSN 2689-0046 (print)
ISSN 2689-0062 (online)

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SUBSCRIPTION and CRPA MEMBERSHIP

INQUIRIES: *California Firing Line* is sent to all CRPA members as a membership benefit. The magazine may also be purchased at the subscription rate of \$35 per year or \$8.95 for a single copy. Inquire at contact@crpa.org or (714) 992-2772.

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES: Contact us at CFL@chipotlepublishing.com / (702) 565-0746.

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS: Articles and letters are welcome but should be germane to the topics of interest to the general readership of this publication. Submission of proposed articles and letters implies the right to edit and publish all or in part. Send article ideas, letters and editorial submissions to: CFL@chipotlepublishing.com.

For a copy of the writer's guidelines, email CFL@chipotlepublishing.com.

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POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *California Firing Line* c/o California Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc., 271 E. Imperial Highway, Suite #620, Fullerton, CA 92835 or email the CRPA at contact@crpa.org. Periodicals postage paid at Fullerton, CA and additional mailing offices.



California Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc.
271 E. Imperial Highway, Suite 620

Fullerton, CA 92835

(714) 992-2772

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The California Rifle & Pistol Association, Inc. (CRPA) is a nonprofit association governed by an independent Board of Directors. CRPA's mission is to promote civilian marksmanship and qualifying state championship competitions; educate the public about firearms and the right to keep and bear arms; protect the right to choose to own a gun to hunt, for sport and to defend yourself and your family; and promote the shooting sports.

CALIFORNIA FIRING LINE

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CALIFORNIA RIFLE & PISTOL ASSOCIATION

Issue 1068, Nov/Dec 2023

CaliforniaFiringLine.org

PUBLISHER Megan Vukodinovich, Chipotle Publishing, LLC

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Chuck Michel, CRPA President

SENIOR EDITOR Rob Curtis, Chipotle Publishing, LLC

GRAPHIC DESIGN Chipotle Publishing, LLC

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR Stefani Fong, Chipotle Publishing, LLC

ADVERTISING SALES Megan Vukodinovich & Jayne Wynes,
Chipotle Publishing, LLC

CONTRIBUTORS

Mike Barranco	Thomas E. Gift, MD	Guy Smith
Lloyd Billingsley	Steve Helsley	Craig Stowers
Sean Brady	Sarah Keller	Rick Travis
Chris Cheng	Donald Kilmer	Paul Trouette
Tiffany D. Cheuvront	David Kopel	Nick Villa
Jerry Clark	William McLaughlin	Ryan Watts
Matthew D. Cubeiro	Chuck Michel	Josh Wayner
Brian Fitzpatrick	Sam Paredes	Knox Williams
Alex Frank	Kevin Small	Doris Wise
Christina Gastelo	Tarryn Small	Robert B. Young, MD
Dan Gifford	Elizabeth Smith	

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

STAKES ARE HIGH AS HAWAII SEEKS *EN BANC* REVIEW OF GAME CHANGING 9TH CIRCUIT WIN FOR THE RIGHT TO KEEP AND BEAR ARMS IN 13 STATES, AND NATIONALLY

BY CHUCK MICHEL

CRPA PRESIDENT & GENERAL COUNSEL

On September 20th, the State of Hawaii filed a petition seeking *en banc* review of a 9th Circuit panel's ruling in *Teter v. Lopez*, 76 F.4th 938 (9th Cir. 2023).

While the *Teter* ruling was limited in scope, declaring Hawaii's ban on butterfly knives to be unconstitutional, the panel's correct application of the Supreme Court's test of constitutionality as laid out in *Bruen*, and the standards *Bruen* set for evaluating Second Amendment challenges to gun control laws, has implications that go well beyond butterfly knife cases and well beyond Hawaii.

States facing Second Amendment lawsuits challenging various gun laws have worked very hard to twist and misapply the *Bruen* standard, and some courts have gone along with the distortions of *Bruen* that states are advocating. The *Teter* case so far sets the record straight and is a critical win for our Second Amendment rights that Hawaii now seeks to reverse through *en banc* review. CRPA and the Second Amendment Law Center



(2ALC) lawyers are assisting the plaintiffs in the case and preparing briefs to oppose the state's request for *en banc* review, and will fight to preserve this ruling, which applies in California, beyond that if necessary.

The *Teter* decision confirmed that the Second Amendment applies *prima facie* to all instruments that constitute bearable arms, and that all laws that prohibit law-abiding citizens from acquiring arms are presumptively unconstitutional. More importantly, the decision laid out how analogical reasoning is to be applied consistent with *Bruen* in any Second Amendment challenge. The three-judge panel

unanimously rejected the argument that laws governing concealed carry of arms can justify modern possession bans because "how" a law addresses a societal concern is entirely different in a historical law regulating manner of carry compared to a modern law banning possession entirely.

If upheld, the approach will become the mandatory standard for evaluating Second Amendment challenges in any of the nine states and three territories that the 9th Circuit court covers. This is a colossal ruling that's very favorable for the right to keep and bear arms. Other Circuit Courts across the country will be hard-pressed to reject the standard. So, this case has national implications.

Hawaii's request for *en banc* review rages against the three-judge panel's ruling, even though the 3-0 ruling merely consisted of a proper elementary application of the Supreme Court's precedent. Every critical point the panel made was backed up with a direct pinpoint citation to the *Bruen* or *Heller* decision. Nonetheless, the state insists that only weapons commonly used for self-defense are protected by the Second Amendment, despite the Supreme Court saying all "lawful purposes" are protected. The state went so far as to complain that this



MEMBERS' VOICES

Getting Kids Outdoors

Dear CRPA

We greatly appreciated the CRPA Team and their continued help and support of the Compton Hunting & Fishing Club Foundation's Youth Enhancement Program (YEP). We had 350 kids registered at this year's Youth Expo with fun and educational activities for all ages. CRPA's team was a big part of our success from the original inception with Rick Travis at our side at the first event. This year Christina had an outstanding team of volunteers and Rick Roberts has always been willing to help every year.

This year, at our expo booth, we asked the kids if they had ever caught a fish or had ever been fishing.

We generated three pages of kids interested going ocean fishing during

the summer on a YEP fishing trip. In June we had 25 youth on a half-day boat, and I have attached a link to a video of the day's events. [see link below] This month we had 35 youth again on a half-day boat and will have two more trips for a total of four this year.

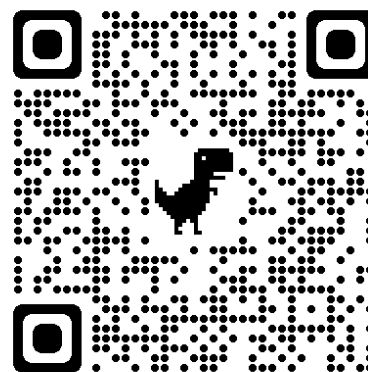
Then our hunter education booth at the expo asked the kids how many have a hunting license, and we generated a full page of names. And now will offer a hunter safety class in August... plus some hands-on training at So. Cal. Top Gun later this year.

Together we are developing the next generation of outdoorsmen.

**— Bill Saksa, Public Relations
Youth Enhancement Program
Compton Hunting & Fishing Club
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*CRPA is proud to support the efforts
of the CHFCE and similar organizations*

throughout California and to be a part of introducing youth to the outdoors and shooting sports. It's our heritage and our future. Thank you so much for your good work. We have a great and dedicated team at CRPA, and working together with teams like yours, we can continue to do great things. Readers can watch a video of all the fun by using the QR code below (or using this link: youtu.be/zZFg7VdmUb8.)



STATEMENT OF CRPA'S FINANCIAL PRACTICES

No other pro-2A association is more scrupulous about avoiding financial improprieties than CRPA and its sister, The CRPA Foundation. Donations and membership dues are closely monitored, budgeted, and reinvested into fighting for the rights of California gun owners. The CRPA has a Finance Committee that oversees bookkeeping and expenses, a fully informed Board of Directors, and accountants that scrutinize bookkeeping and expenses. CRPA also has a conflict of interest disclosure and review policy, a vendor fraud prevention policy, an expenses review and limitation policy and review process, and multiple other safeguards in place to make sure every donation is spent wisely and frugally. CRPA's volunteer President, Chuck Michel, is paid nothing for his many hours of work because he believes in the cause and donates all of that time. Any legal work for the CRPA or CRPA Foundation is done at significantly reduced, hourly, non-profit rates.

CRPA and the Second Amendment Law Center (2ALC) lawyers are assisting the plaintiffs in the case and preparing briefs to oppose the state's request for en banc review, and will fight to preserve this ruling, which applies in California, beyond that if necessary.

(PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, CONT.)

makes the 9th Circuit "the first circuit to strike down a ban on a particular category of weapon after *Bruen*" as if that is somehow objectionable. (*Heller*, of course, struck down such a ban on handguns.)

Hawaii warns that if the panel ruling is left intact, it will "govern challenges involving many highly dangerous weapons" like "assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, and more." The state concludes by desperately and hysterically suggesting that granting *en banc* review is a "matter of life and death."

Hawaii's petition will, by press time, have been circulated to all active 9th Circuit judges and any senior judge who has chosen to participate. The entire circuit court bench then may order the opposing party to respond to the petition and brief whether the court should rehear the case. During this time period, if an amicus is submitting a brief to support or oppose a petition for rehearing, it must file its brief along with any necessary motion no later than ten days after the petition or response of the party the amicus wishes to support is filed or due.

If most active judges vote in favor of rehearing or rehearing *en banc*, the Chief Judge shall enter an order for the case to be heard by an 11-judge *en banc* panel. If no majority is reached, the three-judge panel's winning ruling stands. Currently, there are 28 active judges on the circuit. The current ideological split is closely divided, with 15 Democratic appointees and 13 Republican appointees. So, well-done amicus briefs could help persuade one or two judges who are on the fence to vote against an *en banc* review, so CRPA and 2ALC are actively involved and will be for as long as it takes.

Chuck



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ALMOST THREE-QUARTERS OF GUN OWNERS CITE PERSONAL DEFENSE AS THE REASON THEY OWN FIREARMS

BY DAN ZIMMERMAN

Originally published by
TheTruthAboutGuns.com

Gun owners in the United States continue to cite protection far more than other factors, including hunting and sport shooting, as a major reason they own a gun.

And while a sizable majority of gun owners (71%) say they enjoy having a gun, an even larger share (81%) say they feel safer owning a gun.

A Pew Research Center survey, conducted June 5-11 among 5,115 members of the center's nationally representative American Trends Panel, finds:

72% of U.S. gun owners say protection is a major reason they own a gun. That far surpasses the shares of gun owners who cite other reasons. This view has changed only modestly since the center's major survey of attitudes toward gun ownership and gun policies in 2017. At that time, 67% of gun owners cited protection as a major reason they owned a firearm.

Nearly three-quarters of U.S. gun owners cite protection as a major reason they own a gun

% of gun owners saying each is a ___ why they own a gun

	Major reason	Minor reason	Not a reason
For protection	72	19	9
For hunting	32	20	49
For sport shooting	30	29	42
As part of a gun collection	15	26	58
For their job	7	8	85

Note: No answer responses are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

The demographics of gun ownership have changed little in recent years. Gun ownership is far more common among residents of rural areas (47%) than among people living in suburbs (30%) or urban areas (20%). Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (45%) are far more likely than Democrats and Democratic

leaners (20%) to report owning a gun

Few gun owners worry about having a gun in their home. Just 12% of gun owners say they worry about having guns in their home; 88% say they do not. Sizable majorities say owning a gun makes them feel safer and gives them a feeling of enjoyment. **CRPA**



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ATTACKS BY GUN CONTROL INDUSTRY ON FIREARM ADS TARGET THE NEXT GENERATION'S GUN RIGHTS

BY LARRY KEANE

*Originally published by
TheTruthAboutGuns.com*

California and Illinois laws that have banned advertising in those two states lawmakers consider to be targeted at minors doesn't have anything to do with increasing public safety. It doesn't have anything to do with fighting the criminal misuse of firearms. The laws are intended to do one thing—convince the next generation of Americans that the Second Amendment doesn't exist.

Lawmakers in those two states passed, and Govs. Gavin Newsom and J.B. Pritzker signed, laws that ban firearm-related advertising that could be attractive to or be considered to target children. NSSF has filed legal challenges to both laws in California and Illinois. Those laws violate not only the First Amendment-protected right of commercial speech, but also work to

eliminate the Second Amendment from the conversation with the next generation of gun owners and outdoorsmen and women.

These lawmakers believe that if they can erase imagery and advertising that shows youth learning safe and responsible firearm ownership and ethical hunting traditions, the next generation will never understand that the Second Amendment is their right to exercise when they become of legal age to purchase firearms on their own.

If the next generation of Americans don't learn about Second Amendment freedoms, they won't know. If they don't know, gun control politicians would have an easier avenue by which to eliminate the right altogether. It's a devious plan and one the firearm industry is fighting.

TARGET: YOUTH

California's and Illinois' laws are targeting advertising for youth-model firearms that parents could purchase to teach youths to safely and responsibly handle firearms. The rifle and shotguns

are simply the latest in a long series of youth-model firearms designed to fit younger marksmen learning to safely shoot.

Many of today's adult shooting sports enthusiasts will recall learning the fundamentals of shooting on youth-model firearms. This is nothing new. Manufacturers have been offering smaller caliber and smaller gauges for those learning responsible firearm handling for decades. None of that, however, changes how firearms are purchased.

Every firearm purchased at retail is only sold to adults over 18 and after signing the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Form 4473 that attests the purchaser is not a prohibited individual and is confirmed with the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).

Since firearms can't be purchased by youths, it negates the accusations that firearm manufacturers are targeting children with advertising. Instead, the bans on advertising eliminate depictions that firearm safety and hunting traditions can be passed down to the next generation of Americans who would value their rights and the hunting memories made with adults closely supervising them.

DISASTROUS EFFECTS

That's not hyperbole. USA Clay Target League suspended activities in California after the law banning advertising "attractive to minors" was signed there. That law carries a \$25,000 civil penalty for any and each instance of firearm-related marketing to persons under the age of 18.

"Some parents and students say this law could end up costing them their sport," Reason.com reported.

GROWING INTEREST

These laws are intended to squelch the conversation of youths learning

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SCAN ME



► **GUNS SAVE LIFE YOUTH KIDS NRA CAMP** The horror...the horror.... (IMAGE COURTESY GUNS SAVE LIFE)

safe and responsible firearm ownership and it's coming at a time when youth shooting sports are experiencing a renaissance of sorts. USA Clay Target League President John Nelson said that Minnesota's statewide clay shooting competition drew nearly 8,000 student competitors from 340 teams this year. When he started in 2009, there were 10 in the competition.

The Reload reported that it's not just a regional phenomenon. Nationwide, there are more than 1,500 teams and nearly 45,000 athletes, according to USA Clay Target Shooting's annual report. The Chicago Tribune reported in 2021, that Illinois had 55 teams. Arkansas' Game and Fish Commission recently announced the creation of its new Shooting Sports Division, elevating the shooting sports from a program

to a full-blown department within the agency that will have a concentration on growing the youth shooting sports.

The effort to erase responsible firearm ownership from the minds of youth is getting a boost from the federal government too. The Biden administration's Department of Education stripped funding for hunter education and archery programs after deliberately misinterpreting the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (BSCA). Congress is up in arms over that maneuver. U.S. senators and representatives from both parties are blasting the decision to defund classes that teach safe and responsible firearm ownership. So are governors and state attorneys general. NSSF supports HR 615, a resolution introduced by Rep. Glenn Grothman (R-Wis.) condemning the Biden admin-

istration's attack on schools that educate students on responsible firearm handling.

None of these legislative or policy attacks are designed to curb the criminal misuse of firearms. They only stop the ability for parents and guardians to pass along their passion for the shooting sports and value for their fundamental Second Amendment freedoms.

The anti-gun attacks were never designed to stop crime. They only stop the respect for safe and responsible firearm ownership and diminish Second Amendment rights to the point where the next generation won't know that their rights were taken from them. **CRPA**

Larry Keane is SVP for Government and Public Affairs, Assistant Secretary and General Counsel of the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

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LOCATIONS TO FOLLOW

NEWSOM WANTS TO **EXPORT** CALIFORNIA GUN CONTROL ACROSS AMERICA

OPINION BY MARK OLIVA

Originally published by Ammoland.com

Gun control politicians really are coming for America's guns. There's no denying it after California Governor Newsom made his proposal for a 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution official.

Newsom wants to export strict California gun control to the rest of America. He introduced a proposal for a Right to Safety – an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would strip Second Amendment rights from individuals and instead make the government the arbiter of which firearm “privileges” would be allowed. That’s a recipe for disaster. California is more than just the canary-in-the coal mine for what happens when gun control politicians run rampant on rights without proper checks against abuse of authority. The state is also a harbinger for what happens when law-abiding citizens are stripped of their ability to lawfully defend themselves and more protections are afforded to criminals than to their victims.

The proposal was introduced by California state Senator Aisha Wahab and



(SHUTTERSTOCK)

Assemblymember Reggie Jones-Sawyer as Senate Joint Resolution 7. The resolution “calls on the U.S. Congress to call a constitutional convention under Article V of the Constitution of the United States for the purpose of proposing a constitutional amendment.” The intent is to affirm that state and local governments can negate Second Amendment rights and write their own gun restrictions, creating a patchwork of varying gun control across the nation and impose a series of gun control restrictions that California already has in place which have proven impotent in stemming the tidal wave of crime.

CALIFORNIA CRIME

Just one day after dropping this brick on the feet of the American public, federal workers in San Francisco were instructed to work remotely due to rising crime. Traveling into the city has become so risky, that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a memo to employees stating, “In light of the conditions at the [Federal Building] we recommend employees ... maximize the use of telework for the foreseeable future,” according to a New York Post report. That office is in the Nancy Pelosi Federal Building in San Francisco, named for the Speaker Emerita. The building is also home to her district staff and U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) and Department of Transportation (DOT). It is unclear if the other departments issued similar warnings.

The “stay-away” memo reflects the worsening crisis of lawlessness in San Francisco and across California. The “City by the Bay” has descended in a “promised land of milk and fentanyl” as crime and drugs run unabated. Grocery and drug stores are shuttering over thefts and Gumps, a luxury retailer that’s been in San Francisco for 166 years, warned that this might be their last year because of a “litany of destructive San Francisco strategies...”

the retailer wrote to Newsom and San Francisco Mayor London Breed.

Newsom is unbothered by the downward spiral of the city where he was once mayor. He's focused on his gun control 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would codify national age-based gun bans by raising the minimum age to buy a firearm from 18 to 21. It would also mandate universal background checks, which are unworkable without a national firearm registry. That's prohibited by federal law. Newsom's proposed constitutional amendment would also implement a waiting period for all firearm purchases, immediately delaying the ability of law-abiding Americans to exercise their rights. It would also ban ownership of modern sporting rifles (MSRs), or as California's antigun politicians call them – "assault weapons."

Here's the kicker. Newsom honestly believes all this can be done "while leaving the Second Amendment intact."

That's dishonest – intellectually, politically, or viewing it through any other lens. What Newsom is proposing – and California lawmakers are now considering sending to the U.S. Congress – is nothing short of gutting the Second Amendment.

CALIFORNIA CONTROL

These are flagrant civil rights violations. Denying rights to adults under the age of 21 relegates firearm ownership to a privilege – granted and rescinded at a government's whim. The government would usurp the rights endowed by "our Creator" and assume that role. Newsom would codify a national age-based gun ban – downgrading the Second Amendment

to a second-class right. Free speech, free exercise of religion and free press would be preserved for adults at 18 but not the right to keep and bear arms. It is impossible for Newsom to claim that his proposal leaves the Second Amendment intact.

Newsom would also institute a federal government watchlist for every firearm owner in America – simply for exercising a civil liberty. Universal background checks won't work without a national firearm registry, which is prohibited under federal law. To follow a firearm from creation to destruction requires the owner of that firearm be listed on a searchable national database. That's also called a government watchlist. There would be no tolerance for watchlists of who attends a church, mosque, or synagogue. Yet, Newsom doesn't believe this requirement tramples rights.

The ATF and CA-DOJ haven't gone away. Neither have we.

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Newsom believes that anyone wanting to exercise their right to lawfully purchase a firearm should be required to wait – without defining what that wait time is. California currently has a 10-day mandatory waiting period, despite the fact that every gun buyer in that state passes the same background checks and fills out the same Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' (ATF) Form 4473 as a gun buyer in Virginia. Using the same First Amendment analogy, there would be no national appetite for telling Americans they must wait 10 days to “cool off” before making a redress against their government.

Newsom's proposed ban on MSRs – or so-called “assault weapons” isn't a ban in future sales. It's a ticket for the government to seize lawfully owned and possessed rifles. The text of the proposal is a “prohibition on the private possession” of these firearms. There are more than 24.4 million MSRs in circulation since 1990. They are the most-popular selling centerfire rifle in America. Newsom would institute not just a ban on selling these rifles but would necessitate a government seizure of them as well.

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

Critics say this isn't about actual gun control but political posturing. Call it gun control “peacocking” for when Newsom could potentially throw his name into the ring as a possible 2024 Democratic presidential nominee. That is, if President Joe Biden is unable to compete for re-election.

“Newsom right now is trying to appear to be a presidential as possible for either a 2024 or 2028 run at the White House,” said Washington-based candidate advisor Erica Taylor to the California Globe. “This amendment thing, it is pretty obvious to be a ploy. You put out a proposed amendment like this for attention. You don't put

out a press release on it after every little thing you do with it.”

Just over a year ago, Newsom “unexpectedly” dropped by The White House while President Biden was out of the country. He later told media he wouldn't challenge President Biden in 2024. However, his unplanned White House visit caught the attention of many as him measuring the drapes and envisioning himself occupying the Oval Office.

The notion of all the drama of a 28th Amendment being nothing more than

show might not be out of the question. After all, it is not much more than window dressing that would never garner national support. **CRPA**

ABOUT THE NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION

NSSF is the trade association for the firearm industry. Its mission is to promote, protect and preserve hunting and shooting sports. Formed in 1961, NSSF has a membership of thousands of manufacturers, distributors, firearm retailers, shooting ranges, sportsmen's organizations, and publishers nationwide. For more information,

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TOP 15 MURDER COUNTIES

Originally published by [GunFacts.info](https://www.gunfacts.info)

When 0.5% of the counties, with 8% of the people, account for 25% of the homicides, you must pay attention.

When those same counties, on average, have five times the murder rate than the average of all other counties, you must pay attention to details.

When those 15 counties are also known to be dominated by a single city with a reputation for gang violence, you must pay attention to why people in those cities are different than the rest of the country.

But what makes those 15 counties uniquely violent?

MAJOR TAKEAWAYS

■ 5% of counties with any homicides have 24.9% of the homicides, but only 8.4% of the population.

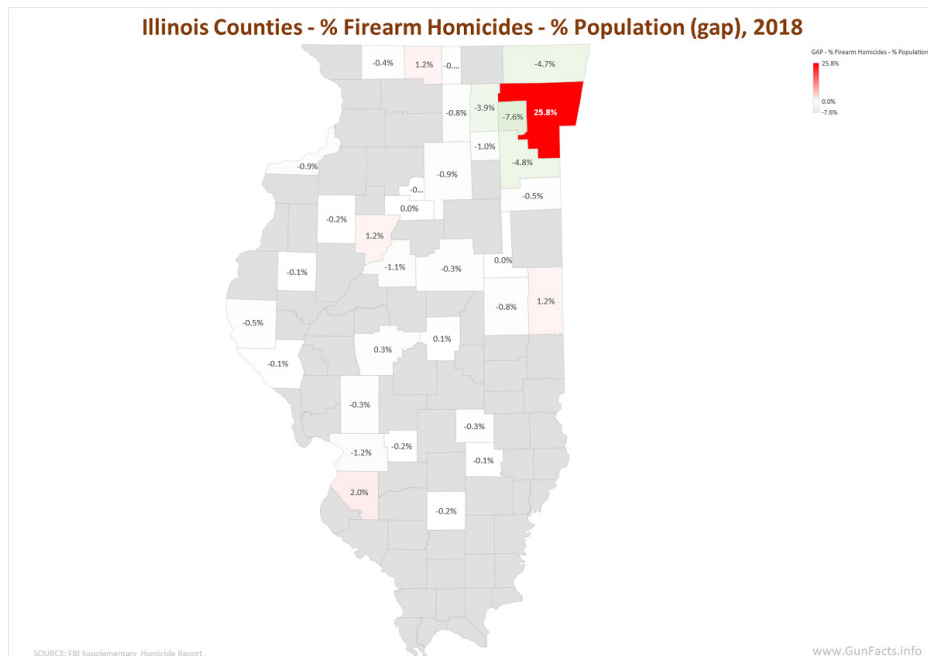
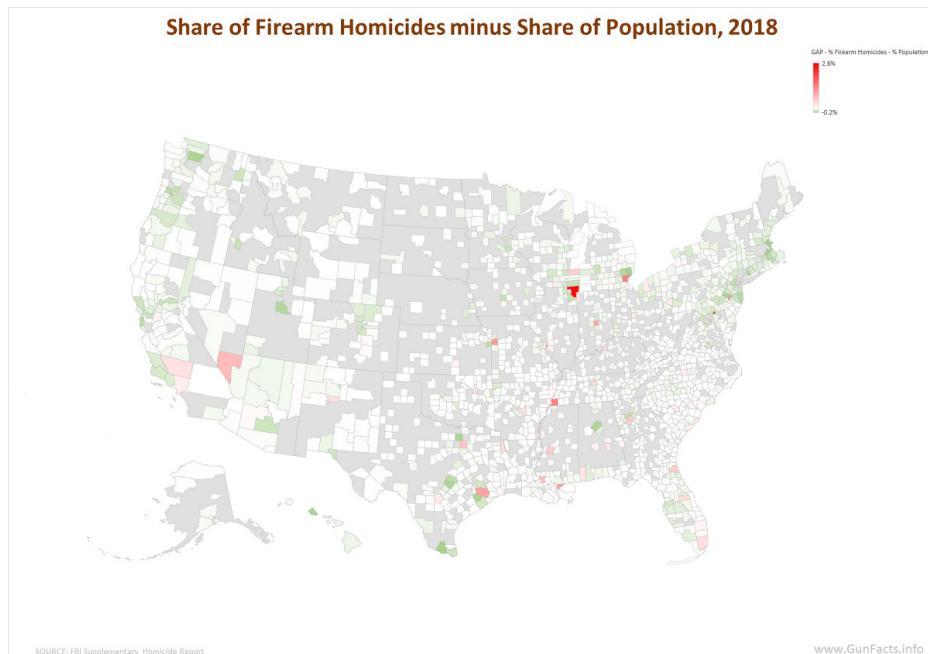
■ The states with these Hot 15 Counties have evenly distributed gun law scores ranging from A- to F by a gun control advocacy group.

■ A number of factors (including population density, teen-age poverty, and more) help explain their disparity.

IT IS A FAST FALL-OFF

Every year we see that homicides are geographically concentrated. In the year of this study, 2018¹, a mere 15 counties out of 3,124 accounted for just under 25% of all murders.

But some counties have no homicides, while others have lots of dead people. What we explore here includes:



■ Are some counties more deadly than their populations alone would predict?

■ What is different about those counties that might explain their murderous ways?

1. This was the most recent county-level distillation of the FBI's annual *Supplementary Homicide Report* available from NACJD

The answers are at times surprising, unsurprising, and a bit frustrating.

One reality is that counties with big metropolitan hubs (i.e., huge cities) tend to be at the top of the list. All but one of the “Hot 15” are classified as “Large Central Metro” counties, which means they are “counties in metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) of 1 million or more population that contain the entire population of the largest principal city of the MSA or are completely contained in the largest principal city of the MSA.”

Cook County, Illinois sits atop the Hot 15 counties for an excess of their share of homicides minus their share of the population (herein, we call this the “gap,” which expresses excess homicides over what population alone would predict). Looking at just the state of Illinois, we see Cook County – which includes Chicago – having nearly 73% of the of the state’s homicides but only 41% of the state’s population.

Cook County has a lot of people, so you expect more murders there.

When we look at the gap between their share of the state’s firearm murders and population, we see the disturbing reality. Most counties adjoining Cook have *negative* gaps (meaning their firearm homicide rate is lower than their population would predict) while Cook is amazingly high. Chicago bleeds into the rest of Cook County, but not beyond.

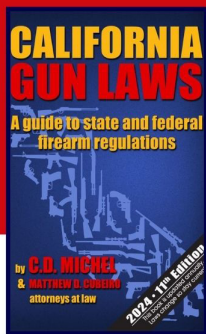
The same applies for Baltimore (though they are an independent city, not within the jurisdiction of a county), Philadelphia within Philadelphia County in Pennsylvania, Detroit within Wayne County Michigan... and on down the list. 15 big cities – from Chicago down to Dallas – have large core cities, outsized homicide issues, and 25% of America’s murders.

But it levels off pretty fast after that.

Looking at the homicides-population share gap rates, we see that soon after the Hot 15 counties, there is a profound leveling-off of the gap rate that carries through to most of the rest of the nation. One oddity in the data is that there are a few “large” population counties with low homicide rates, which causes a short plunge in the gap rate on the right side of the chart (here’s looking at you, Wake County, North Carolina and San Diego County, California.)

To make this a bit more vivid, let’s zoom in on the on the left side of that chart and look at the troublemakers. The degree of leveling is transparent. Between the top and bottom of the Hot 15 counties is a four-fold drop in the homicide-population gap. We blow past another 39 counties before seeing another four-fold drop, and after, that 94 counties until the next four-fold decrease.

In short, there is something specifically different about the Hot 15 that must explain why their share of homicides is far above both their share of the population and the gap nearly every other county in the country has.



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Why that is, is confounding.

CONFOUND THOSE VARIABLES!

In a perfect world we would have pristine data on all demographic, sociographic, and criminology variables that might possibly explain why Cook County, Illinois (1.7% of the country's population and 4.3% of its firearm homicides) is different from Jasper County, Texas (halfway down the list, 0.01% of the population and 0.01% of the gun homicides).

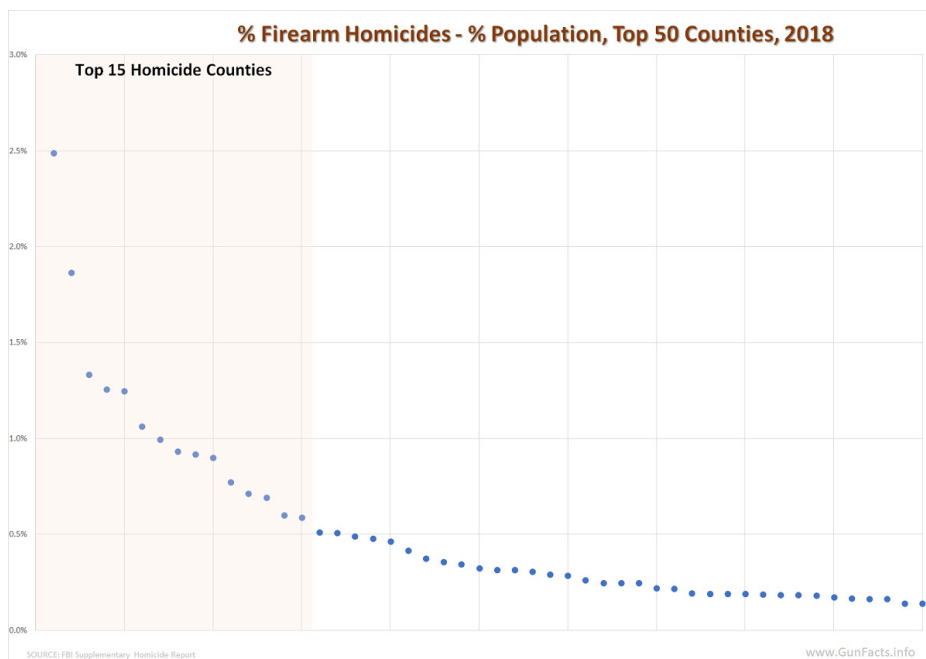
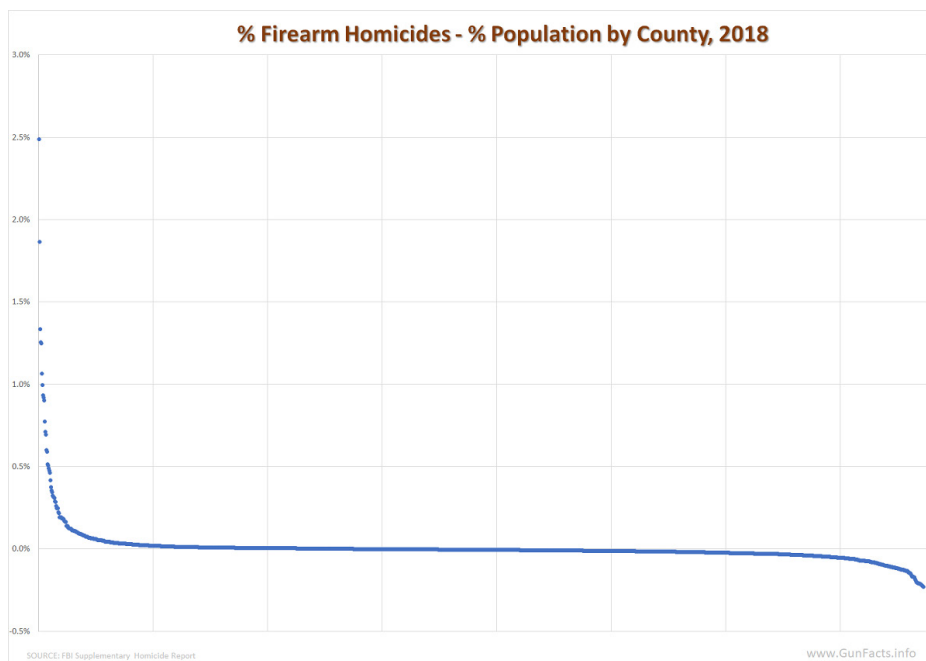
But we live in an imperfect world.

We pulled data from the Census Bureau, the CDC, and the FBI to gather 24 variables, mostly common (poverty, race, population density) and some not so common (number of police per 1,000 residents, single mother households). We also started a side project to estimate the number of street gang members in each county. In this analysis we looked first at ratios between the Hot 15 counties and all the others that reported any homicide at all (about half of the counties in the United States report no homicides in a typical year).

POLICE STAFFING

	HOT 15	ALL OTHERS	DIFFERENCE
POPULATION (AVERAGE)	2,116,839	174,703	12.1
DENSITY POP/SQ KM (AVERAGE)	2,447	156	15.7
OFFICERS/1K POPULATION (AVERAGE)	4.9	2.0	2.4
HOMICIDE CLEARANCE RATE	54%	68%	21%

The depth of policing in the Hot 15 is low given both population and population density. The Hot 15 counties have more than double the number of officers per capita of their population than the other counties² but their



population is 12 times higher, and their density is 15 times the average of the others. In short, they are under-policed by one half or one third depending on which variable you use.³

If all other factors (e.g., poverty, education, etc.) were the same (which they are not) then the Hot 15 would be savagely behind in terms of putting cops on the street for their population

2. FBI Crime Data Explorer, Police Staffing, duty officers

3. An outlier is New York County, New York which has about four times the number of cops, yet is still in the Hot 15 counties for the gap between gun homicides and the total population.

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alone. Since population density basically multiplies the availability of criminal opportunities per district, police staffing should be exponentially higher. Combined, the police shortage in the Hot 15 borders on astonishing.

And that was before the misguided “defund the police” movement.

CLEARING HOMICIDES – A POLICE STAFFING ISSUE?

“Clearances” are the criminology term for having resolution to an investigation of a crime. Typically, this is when a suspect is arrested.

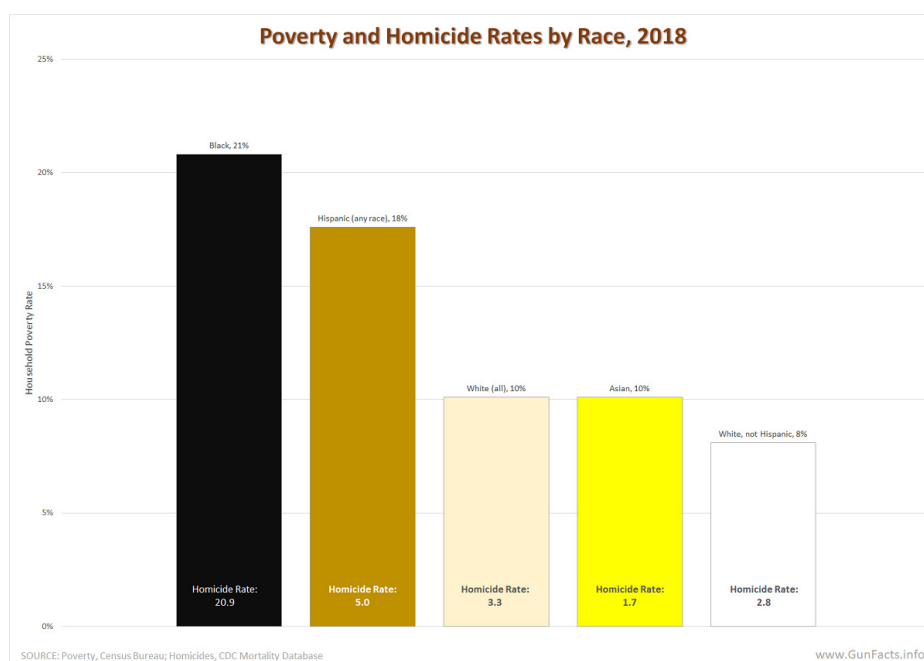
In the Hot 15 counties, 21% fewer murder cases are cleared than in the rest of the counties that have any murders at all. This is significant when paired with the fact that most street gang membership and activity occur in large central metro areas, and all but one of the Hot 15 are such. Uncaught gang bangers continue to bang. Some police agencies have publicly stated that a gang member who is being held on a murder charge is the lead suspect in 2-3 other homicides. Newish thinking in inner-city policing is to hunt the apex predators in gangs, the ones who commit most of the murders.

But this appears to not be the mindset in the Hot 15.

POVERTY

Before going too far, we’ll note that the Gun Facts project managed to break the Census Bureau’s data explorer tool. We attempted, in many ways, to export the combination of race and poverty rates for all counties and each attempt caused the Census website to reply “Something went wrong. Sorry, we’re having some issues trying to get the table you’re looking for.”

That said, we do see that the poverty rate for households with people under age 18 are 31% higher in the Hot 15 counties than all the others. Combined with the population data, we see a



pattern of more poor people packed tightly into key counties.

Covariates are increased rates of households that received food assistance (20% higher) and single-mother households with offspring under age 18 (30% higher). The latter comes in a bit later, as there is an ugly intersection of fatherless homes, homicides, and public policy.

Poverty is not an excuse for crime, especially homicides. But cultures and cultural attitudes about violence develop within environments. We reviewed a sociological survey of three such neighborhoods which noted that the level of trust therein is low to nonexistent (about 26% felt they could trust their neighbors, but only 9% trusted the police). “I’m always on point because you just gotta be.” Other literature notes that in poor, urban neighborhoods “everybody will rip you off.” Poverty can motivate someone into criminal activity for profit; and where it goes unchecked (by police [see above], elders (absent fathers), etc.) it can feed upon itself. Street gangs, a magnet for young males who have a tendency to violent behavior anyway, provide opportunities for

“profitable” criminal activity.

Start with poverty, abandon sufficient professional policing, feed new members to gangs... the cycle begins and continues until the mechanics changes the culture.

Where this gets intersectional, is between poverty and...

RACE

At the Gun Facts project, we detest talking about race. We firmly believe there is no genetic predisposition to criminality.

But statistically, there is a correlation.

The Hot 15 counties have larger shares of blacks and Hispanics (3.2 and 1.8-fold) over the rest of the counties. Homicide rates for those groups are appreciably higher, though not proportionate. Were the Census Bureau’s data exploration tool more bulletproof, we might be more precise by reporting specific rates of poverty for each race in each county. Should they fix their tool, we’ll update this report.

Key here is that poverty and minorities are a significantly larger presence in the Hot 15 than the average for all other counties. As such, this combi-



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nation – especially when paired with understaffed police departments – leaves streets exposed to larger groups of economically “desperate” people.

STREET GANGS

There is an explainable but frustratingly incomplete set of data on where gangs exist, and how many gang members there likely are.

Know that:

■ They are primarily in metropolitan areas.

■ They are primarily staffed by young males (which are also the people most often shot dead in America).

■ They are outspokenly violent, willing to kill over trivial reasons.

But there is no precise county-level street gang membership data. Local law enforcement makes public statements from time to time, but they are guesses. Some agencies report “known” gang members (typically ones who have been arrested and confess their association) but these numbers are a fraction of the total membership. And since criminals rarely answer surveys, there is no way to directly measure.

The closest was the National Youth Gang Survey of 2012 (slightly outdated) which surveyed 2,500 of the nation’s 36,489 law enforcement agencies. Even if we had access to this data (which is locked away and not generally available), the picture would be incomplete.

URBANIZATION	TOTAL GANG %	YOUTH GANG %
LARGE CENTRAL METRO	1.0%	5.6%
LARGE FRINGE METRO	0.4%	2.5%
MEDIUM METRO	0.4%	4.3%
SMALL METRO	1.3%	1.3%

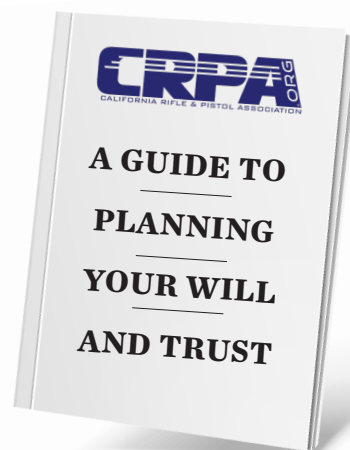
Gun Facts has started a street gang prediction model, but as of this report, the number of data points is too small to accurately guess the number of gang members in any given county. That said, the data shows large and small metro regions have higher gang activity,

especially “youth gangs” which is a synonym for “street gangs.”

But a correlation of sorts does exist. Excess homicides (gap) has twice the correlation with their share of gang age people (ages 14 to 24) for the Hot 15 counties than all the others. Stated more simply, when a major metropolitan area has a higher percentage of gang age people, the degree of excess homicides rises. This is not proof of gang activity, but it is a mighty interest-

ing indirect indicator.

All but one of the Hot 15 counties are large central metro areas and for blacks, gang-age youths are present at a 50% higher rate than other counties. Contrarywise, Hispanics youths are about 20% fewer in the Hot 15, which may contribute to their lower homicide rate. Stated differently, black youth are more frequent in the Hot 15 counties, are thus more exposed to gang activity, and thus commit more gang-related



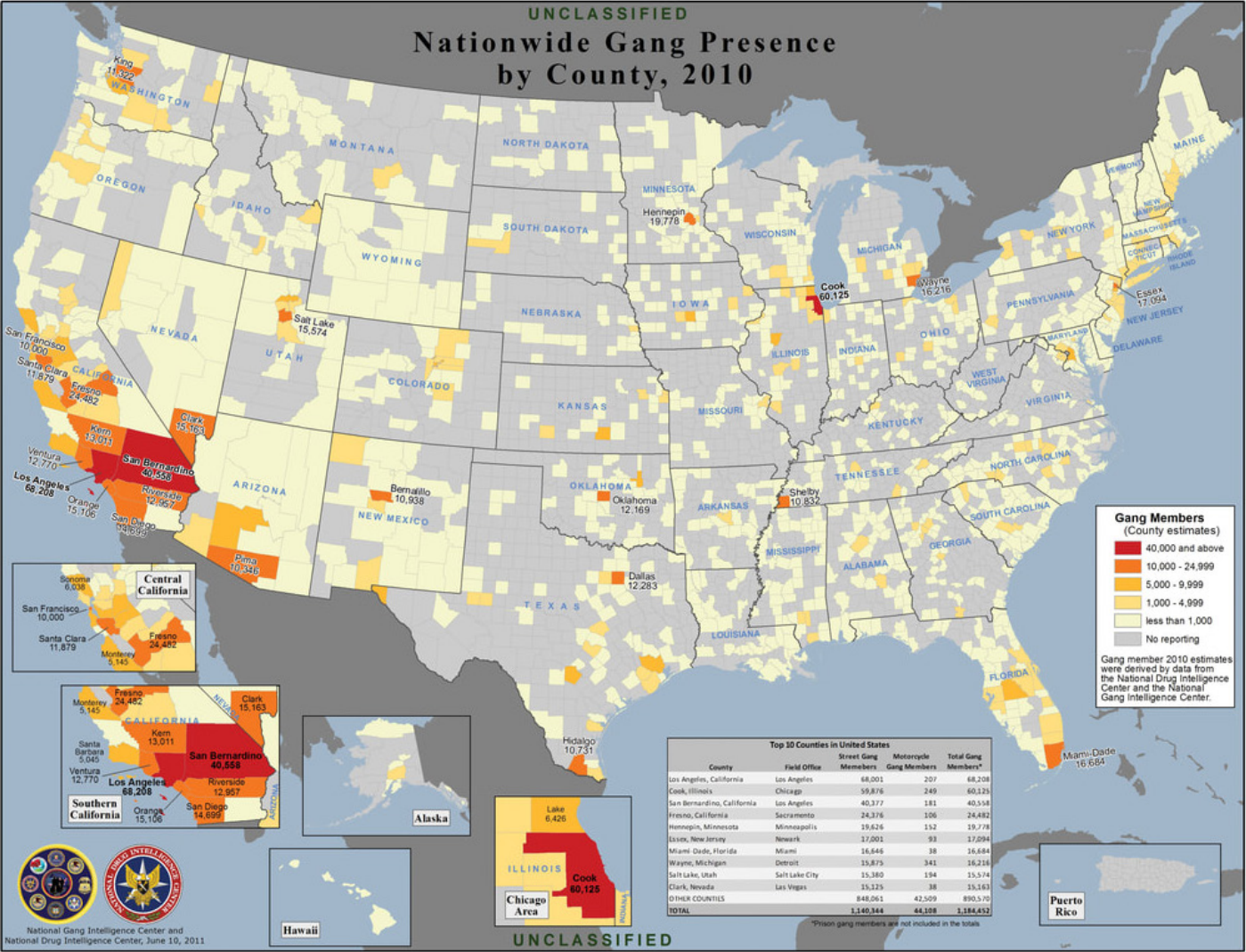
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or nexus gun homicides that Hispanic youths.

For now, we can't say anything more definitive about gangs. In previous Gun Facts research (derived indirectly from the locked-up National Youth Gang Survey data), we concluded that street gangs are likely the source of 85% of gun homicides. A strong, but alas, incomplete indicator for the Hot 15.

MULTIPLE VARIABLES

When we look at the variables that are strongly associated with the Hot 15 we see divergence between the Hot 15 and all the other counties on a few key variables.

MAJOR LEAGUE WARNING:

With only 15 counties in the first half of this analysis, we have too few data points for any statistical analysis to be considered “robust.” Take everything below with a saltshaker.

For the numbers nuts (everyone else can skip ahead): We did a multivariate regression on the key 11 remaining variables against the “gap” rate (share of gun homicides minus share of population) where there was a significant gap between the Hot 15 counties and all the others. We ran separate regressions for the Hot 15 and then for the rest. Divergence between the two is what we explore.

The BIG take-away is that for the

selected variables, the correlation (Multiple R²) is a huge 0.97, and even the adjusted R² is 0.56 (a score of 1.0 means perfect correlation). Without the homicide clearance variable, the score drops to 0.87. In short, policing and the ability of local agencies to find, charge and prosecute murders contributes to more murders and thus the larger gap between a county's share of murders and their share of population.

Disturbingly, the concentration of black *youths* is highly correlated within the Hot 15 counties, but not for blacks of all ages in the Hot 15, or for either total black population or black youth population elsewhere. The R2 regres-



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CRPA's membership is comprised of a diverse cross-section of the general public including believers in the right to choose to own a gun to defend yourself and your family, competitive and recreational shooters, hunters, conservationists, gun safety experts, youth, women, police, prosecutors and defense attorneys, judges, firearm history and technology experts, coaches and trainers, families and loving parents.

CRPA works tirelessly and relentlessly to defend the civil and constitutional rights of individuals to choose to responsibly own and use firearms. Every dollar that CRPA receives from its members and donors stays and works in California to support your hunting and Second Amendment rights and the fight back against politicians, elitists and bureaucrats who would deprive individuals of those rights.

Through its Sacramento and local legal and political advocates, CRPA works in the state capital, in regulatory agencies and in city halls throughout California to promote laws that protect these rights and to oppose laws that infringe on these rights.

Through its legal team, CRPA fights in the courts to challenge unconstitutional and illegal gun bans and ill-conceived gun control laws and provides guidance to California gun owners regarding their legal rights and responsibilities.

CRPA works to preserve the traditional and historic role of the individual citizen to hunt and to conserve and preserve California's natural resources.

CRPA promotes the recreational shooting sports and hosts hundreds of "fun shoots" annually.

CRPA provides safety, education and skills training and makes gun safety information available.

CRPA organizes and sanctions competitive shooting matches for both adult and junior shooters, including Olympic training programs and state championships. CRPA sanctions state championship matches in many shooting disciplines. CRPA is proud to state that many CRPA competitors are among the best in the world.

sion was 0.64 in the Hot 15 (but due to the limited sample size, the p values were high). Indeed, the only other race that shows correlation in the Hot 15 counties are Asians, *and they present a negative correlation.*

Past that, households receiving cash assistance had a moderate correlation (0.25 with a moderately stronger p value). Single-mother households were not correlated, though other researchers had concluded just the opposite when measured against all counties.

Oddly, despite other predictors, total population did mildly correlate with the homicide-population gap (0.13), but population density did not.

Policing (actually, the lack thereof) did contribute, but with one really weird gotcha. New York County is in the Hot 15 but has a "badged officer" headcount more than six times that of all the other hot counties. This one datapoint skews the correlation measure of police staffing levels having an effect on gun homicide. Removing this one county and changing its staffing level to the average of all the other Hot 15 counties changes the correlation measure from 0.01 to 0.12. Given that this is a huge outlier, we are going with the later measurement.

An important note is that of all the important variables we tested, none were significant in not-hot counties. Things that made a difference in 15 counties counted for nothing elsewhere.

Sadly, all this leaves out...

LOCAL CULTURE, LOCAL POLITICS

Culture tends to go bottom-up. In environments where bad culture is not controlled, it thrives.

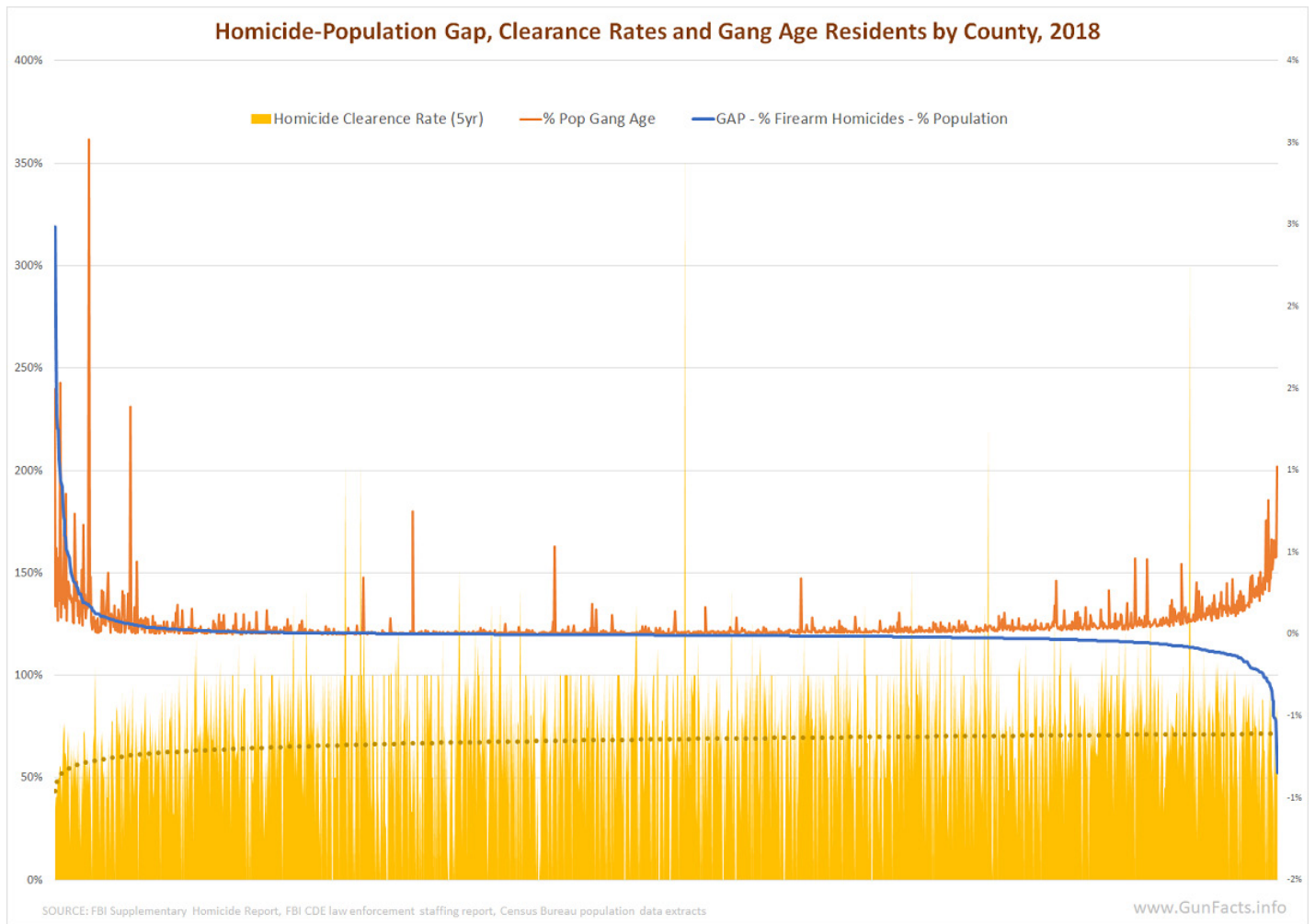
There is no means to measure how local attitudes and political priorities affect gun crime. Likewise, given how political law enforcement appointments can be in some places, police chief talking points are often reduced to mere echoes of elected officials.

Here is a comparison.

■ **Chicago police chief after a bloody weekend:** "Our heart goes out to the families. We just need to do better. Try a little harder."

■ **Brevard County sheriff after killing suspect, to ambushed officers:** "Evil can never be dead enough."

Culture derives from communities. In places and times before modern police forces, communities defined how law was enforced (and it was imperfectly



practiced, especially in the South). But it reflected cultural attitudes about crime.

In the early twentieth century, communities insisted on a strong police presence – a cop on every corner. Any mayor who did not “keep the streets clean, keep the streets safe” became unemployed.

In the modern era, some localities have notions about crime tolerance that appears shaped by political ideology (“defund the police”) or the abandonment of government responsibility (“society is to blame”).

Therein may be two impossible-to-measure variables: current political unwillingness to control crime via developing large and professional police departments, and long-term

effects by a succession of politicians who are content with crime as long as it is confined to poor, minority race neighborhoods.

	POLICE/1K DENSITY	POP DENSITY
HOT 15: AVERAGE W/O NY	2.0	1,820
NOT HOT: AVERAGE OTHER LCM	1.4	1,889

Let’s ponder this. In the Hot 15 counties, sans the New York outlier, the average number of cops per their population density (density divided by 1,000 to make easy numbers) is 2.0. For all not-hot counties that are also Large Central Metro (LCM) areas, the rate is 1.4. These counties are thus achieving lower gun homicide rates with fewer police both per capita and per capita/density.

This means something outside of

common demographic variables is at play. Chicago, Baltimore, Detroit, and DC fit one perception. Baton Rouge, New Orleans fits another. Dallas is different than Houston despite being in the same state, but they hold #1 and #2 slots in terms of population for Texas.

Nowhere does this present itself more vividly than at the intersection of policing and gangs.

This somewhat complex chart shows that counties with insufficient policing in terms of clearing (arresting) murder suspects and a higher potential gang population have a higher gap (the Hot 15 on the left side). Contrarywise, counties that have sufficient police and clear homicide cases have a lower (often

negative) homicide-population gaps despite having many potential youth gang members (and, yes, there are other variables, but none as statistically clear as this).

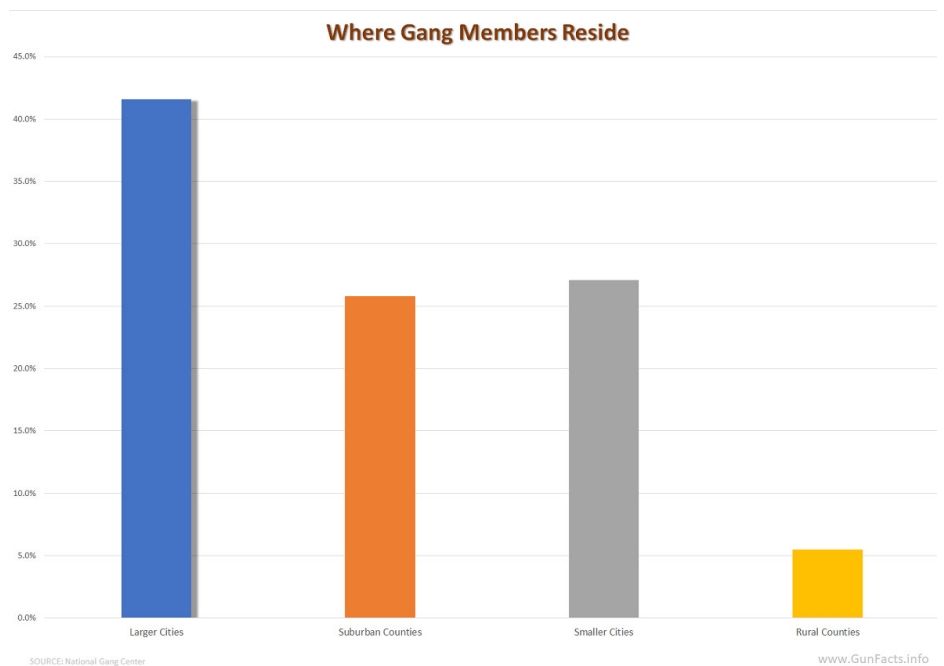
DATA, HYGIENE, METHODOLOGIES, AND OTHER DISASTERS

Despite having some of the most robust crime data collection processes in the world, American crime data is occasionally messy.

In preparing this review, we have to suffer our share of outrageous fortunes.

FBI'S SUPPLEMENTARY HOMICIDE RECORDS

The core data comes from the FBI's Supplementary Homicide Records (SHR), which details many things about murder, from the age, sex and race of



perpetrators and victims.

Except for Florida and the Dakotas.

Participation in filing SHR data is completely voluntary, and Florida

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perpetually opts out. Fortunately, they annually post their version of SHR online and after a couple of hours' work, we managed to normalize their data with the FBI's and include Florida in this report. We did not do that for the Dakotas since they have comparatively small populations (North Dakota's most populous county has less than 1% the number of people in Los Angeles). Likewise, they lack major metropolitan areas, which years of data and

research (as well as this study) show are violent turf.

DEARTH OF GANG DOPE

No, not the narcotic type. Raw data.

We won't belabor this (again). The National Gang Center confirms that most gang members are found in the major metropolitan areas, but that is not granular enough for robust analysis.

We can opine with a casual ob-

servation. We are attempting to construct a gang membership rate predictive model by gathering local law enforcement estimates of the number of gangs in their counties. To date, we have 50 such reports – about 1.6% of all counties, spanning four urbanization measures and four regions. Too little data across too many model points.

That said, we see that large central metro counties have gang participation rates 2.8 times larger than either large fringe metro areas or medium metro areas. All but one of the Hot 15 counties are of the large central caste.

VARIABLES THAT MATTER

Officers per 1K Pop	!
Homicide Clearance Rate	!
Pop Density (per sqkm)	!
% Less than HS	–
% HS Diploma	–
% AS degree or Some College	–
% Bachelor's or More	–
% People in Poverty	–
% Ages 0-17 in Poverty	!
Median Household Income	–
Unemployment Rate	–
% White	–
% White Youths	–
% Black	!
% Black Youths	!
% Hispanic	!
% Hispanic Youths	!
% Indian/Alaska Native	–
% Asian	–
% Pacific Islander	–
% Two or More	–
% Households Receiving Cash Assist or Food Stamps	!

Police presence linked to population density and homicide clearance rates are a key measure.

The other variables stand alone.

CRPA



DOCTORS FOR RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERSHIP

DOCTORS CONFRONTING ANTI-GUN BIAS IN MEDICINE BECAUSE FIREARMS ARE NOT A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

DRGO supports physicians, health professionals and others in the safe civilian use of firearms.



DRGO educates health professionals and the public on the real science on firearm matters.

Guns in responsible hands save lives by stopping violent crime and do not increase suicides.

DRGO members write and do media appearances, testify at legislatures & provide policy and amicus briefs for major 2A court cases. Our experts advocate for critical needs such as suppressors for hearing protection.



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DoctorsForResponsibleGunOwnership

WOMEN, GUNS, AND SELF- DEFENSE

BY TIFFANY D. CHEUVRONT

We have all heard the statistics about gun violence against

women. Either by a spouse or the random act of a stranger. Violence against women in any form is a horrible crime and should be dealt with harshly it does not matter what tool the perpetrator uses. What is usually left out of the flashes on the news, or from the “official reports” posted on gun control groups’ websites is the number of women who successfully defend themselves and their families with firearms.

Women are one of the fastest-growing groups of firearm owners. According to a Gallup poll, in

2016, 15 percent of women reported owning a firearm. In 2023, more than 22 percent of women reported themselves as gun owners. Much of this rise in female gun ownership can be attributed to the growing prevalence of women-friendly self-defense classes... classes whose popularity is being driven by a rise in violent crime – women just do not feel safe any longer. Politicians are not creating a world where women and their families are safe. In fact, in California, they are creating a world where criminals get away with crime with just a slap on the wrist. No real penalties mean no accountability. In fact, some assaults that women experience are only misdemeanors in California, leaving women to ask, “how can I

protect myself and those I love?”

Many women are turning to training like CRPA’s situational awareness classes or basic pistol classes to help them get more comfortable with the new reality that they are gun owners with the task and purpose of defending themselves and others.

In just one week, reports recently showed women defending themselves 13 times. And these are just the reported incidents. A report from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs states that “Handguns are an effective form of self-defense for women.” Other studies out of Florida State University suggest that women use guns defensively hundreds of thousands of times each year.

■ A woman in Wake County, North Carolina, shot and killed a man who tried to enter her vehicle in a parking lot after a road rage incident.

■ In Salem, Indiana, a wife intervened to stop an attack on her husband when their daughter’s ex-boyfriend drove into the yard and put a gun to the husband’s head.

■ A report from Tucson, Arizona, where a registered sex offender tried to enter a woman’s home. This after she yelled for him to stop and leave, he kept coming. The woman was home alone. She shot him, and he died leaving the home.

■ A woman in Pennsylvania shot and wounded the estranged father of her children who assaulted her and violated a protective order to stay away from her.

■ In Mississippi, a woman grabbed her handgun when a group of masked thugs tried to carjack her husband and son right outside her home.

None of these incidents would have turned out well for the women without their ability to defend themselves. There is no police depart-



(SHUTTERTOCK)

ment in the country that could have protected these women. It was up to them to survive, as it is for thousands of women across the country each year.

The anti-gun crowd wants to keep these facts as covered up as possible. In 2022, the Center for Disease Control, which puts out statistics on health-related issues in the U.S. was accused of scrubbing its website, which originally showed 2.5 million defensive gun users in the U.S. after being pressured by gun control activists to remove the information. Then, after removing the information from the website, they tried to attack a legitimate study that also stated the

obvious—women are using firearms far more than anyone thought in defense of themselves and others.

Gun control groups will continue to ignore the fact that women are taking responsibility for their safety. Amy Swearer with the Heritage Foundation noted, “Can we take a minute to appreciate how many women have protected themselves and others with firearms in the last two or so weeks? It’s basically a highlight reel of just how important the right to keep and bear arms is for us, too.”

Ms. Swearer is right. It is time for those trying to suppress defensive gun use or to create their own narrative, to be truthful about the

statistics. Who knows, maybe if they encourage women to be empowered to take care of themselves and others, they could save a lot more lives and minimize the headlines where another woman was a victim who did not have to be. **CRPA**

Tiffany D. Cheuvront leads the local ordinance project for Michel & Associates, P.C. With over 19 years’ experience in the non-profit and regulatory fields, she practices civil rights litigation and corporate governance law (five of those years working specifically in Second Amendment and CA policy). Tiffany has written and provided testimony on issues at the local, state and federal levels of government.



POLITICS IS DOWNSTREAM OF CULTURE: LET'S LOOK AT SINGLE-PARENT HOMES AND HOMICIDE RATES

BY KONSTADINOS MOROS

Here's a fun fact using data published recently in an article at [stacker.com](https://stacker.com/listing-states-with-the-most-single-parent-households) listing states with the most single-parent households.

As always, correlation is not causation. That said, not one

state of the ten ranked lowest for single-parent households has a homicide rate above the national average. However, all of the top ten highest states for single-parent households have homicide rates above the national average...except for Alaska.

I used 2021 CDC data on overall homicide rates by state.

The section in the middle labeled

"total" are the overall U.S. figures.

The process in play here goes something like this:

Government: Pass a welfare program and policies that encourage single-parent households.

Government: Prosecute a ridiculous "war on drugs" that lands a huge number of fathers in prison, creating even more single-parent households.

State ↓	→ Deaths ↑↓	↔ Population ↑↓	← Crude Rate Per 100,000 ↑↓
New Hampshire (33)	15	1,388,992	Unreliable
Vermont (50)	10	645,570	Unreliable
Wyoming (56)	16	578,803	Unreliable
Maine (23)	20	1,372,247	1.5
Idaho (16)	41	1,900,923	2.2
Massachusetts (25)	160	6,984,723	2.3
Hawaii (15)	39	1,441,553	2.7
Utah (49)	91	3,337,975	2.7
Iowa (19)	94	3,193,079	2.9
North Dakota (38)	24	774,948	3.1
Nebraska (31)	70	1,963,692	3.6
Rhode Island (44)	40	1,095,610	3.7
Minnesota (27)	232	5,707,390	4.1
Montana (30)	46	1,104,271	4.2
New Jersey (34)	409	9,267,130	4.4
Connecticut (09)	160	3,605,597	4.4
Washington (53)	346	7,738,692	4.5
New York (36)	918	19,835,913	4.6
Oregon (41)	204	4,246,155	4.8
South Dakota (46)	45	895,376	5.0
Wisconsin (55)	348	5,895,908	5.9
Kansas (20)	180	2,934,582	6.1
Colorado (08)	368	5,812,069	6.3
California (06)	2,495	39,237,836	6.4
West Virginia (54)	114	1,782,959	6.4
Alaska (02)	49	732,673	6.7
Florida (12)	1,468	21,781,128	6.7
Virginia (51)	606	8,642,274	7.0
Arizona (04)	562	7,276,316	7.7
Total	26,031	331,893,745	7.8
Texas (48)	2,391	29,527,941	8.1
Michigan (26)	822	10,050,811	8.2
Nevada (32)	264	3,143,991	8.4
Pennsylvania (42)	1,101	12,964,056	8.5
Oklahoma (40)	342	3,986,639	8.6
Ohio (39)	1,020	11,780,017	8.7
Kentucky (21)	408	4,509,394	9.0
Indiana (18)	624	6,805,985	9.2
North Carolina (37)	991	10,551,162	9.4
Delaware (10)	103	1,003,384	10.3
Arkansas (05)	335	3,025,891	11.1
Georgia (13)	1,206	10,799,566	11.2
Maryland (24)	709	6,165,129	11.5
Missouri (29)	716	6,168,187	11.6
Tennessee (47)	810	6,975,218	11.6

Result: Crime unsurprisingly rises in the places most affected by the government's misguided policies.

Government: "You'll need to give up your guns so we can make the country safer."

Remember this the next time a

politician announces that we have to **do something** about "gun violence"... and then calls for enacting still more failed gun control laws. **CRPA**

Konstadinos Moros is an Associate Attorney with Michel & Associates, a law firm in Long

Beach that regularly represents the California Rifle & Pistol Association (CRPA) in its litigation efforts to restore the Second Amendment in California. You can find him on his Twitter handle @MorosKostas.



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LITIGATION REPORT

THE BIG QUESTION OF CARRY RECIPROCITY

BY KONSTADINOS MOROS

A number of cases continue to move through the federal courts at all levels in the post-*Bruen* era, and the Supreme Court will soon be hearing its latest Second Amendment case with *United States v. Rahimi*.

But one of the most interesting questions left open by *Bruen* is the right to carry in other states. If a state refuses to honor out-of-state permits, and also does not provide a process for nonresidents to get permits, does that mean the right to carry ends at state lines? This issue, sometimes known as “reciprocity”, will likely be a major question going forward in the Second Amendment field.

A state court ruling in Massachusetts has been the first to weigh in. In *Commonwealth v. Donnell*, a resident of New Hampshire, Dean Donnell, was charged with carrying a firearm in Massachusetts. Mr. Donnell was not otherwise barred from owning

The Court also correctly noted that no other right is treated this way: “[t]his Court can think of no other constitutional right which a person loses simply by traveling beyond his home state’s border into another state continuing to exercise that right and instantaneously becomes a felon subject to mandatory minimum sentence and incarceration.”

or carrying firearms, and his conduct would have been legal in his home state. The Court explained that Massachusetts failed to show any historical laws analogous to disparate treatment of non-residents as it pertains to the Second Amendment right. The Court also correctly noted that no other right is treated this way: “[t]his Court can think of no other constitutional right which a person loses simply by traveling beyond his home state’s border into another state continuing to exercise that right and instantaneously becomes a felon subject to mandatory

minimum sentence and incarceration.” Moreover, it wasn’t enough that Massachusetts had a process to issue non-resident CCW permits, because the non-resident version of the CCW permit was only valid for one year (as opposed to five years for a Massachusetts resident), violating equal protection. The Court concluded:

“An individual only loses a constitutional right if he commits an offense or is or has been engaged in certain behavior that is covered by 18 USC section 922. He doesn’t lose that right simply by traveling into an adjoining state whose

statute mandate that residents of that state obtain a license prior to exercising their constitutional right. To hold otherwise would inexplicably treat Second Amendment rights differently than other individually held rights.”

Yet, for as bad as Massachusetts’s system is, at least it provides some

pathway for non-residents to get CCW permits. California does not even do that much. CRPA will continue to monitor developments on this question, and may eventually file its own case on the matter. **CRPA**

Konstadinos Moros is an Associate Attorney

with Michel & Associates, a law firm in Long Beach that regularly represents the California Rifle & Pistol Association (CRPA) in its litigation efforts to restore the Second Amendment in California. You can find him on his Twitter handle @MorosKostas.



LITIGATION REPORT

SECOND AMENDMENT LITIGATION REPORT

This report provides an overview of just some of the efforts being taken to protect the rights of California gun owners. Although litigation plays an extremely important role in the fight for the right to keep and bear arms, there are many other tremendous and equally important endeavors throughout California and across the nation.

Protecting the Second Amendment requires an enormous amount of resources and involvement in all levels of California’s government, including all 58 counties, all 482 municipalities, and all state and local agencies tasked with enforcing the myriad of complex and ever-expanding gun laws.

The digital version of this report, complete with links to relevant documents and additional information, can be found on CRPA’s web page at www.crpa.org

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT’S NEXT
California Rifle & Pistol Association v. City of Glendale	<i>Does a Glendale ordinance that bans all firearm possession on numerous city-owned areas violate Bruen?</i>	United States District Court Central District of California	Plaintiffs moved for a preliminary injunction. The court denied it without prejudice and ordered the parties to confer and develop specificity over which areas under the ordinance are at issue.	The matter will likely be settled, with the parties having reached an agreement in principle that awaits approval by the City Council.
Linton v. Bonta	<i>Does California’s firearm rights restoration regime violate the Second Amendment?</i>	United States District Court Northern District of California	The case is being litigated in the district court under the new <i>Bruen</i> standard. Plaintiffs have moved for summary judgment.	The court is evaluating the motion for summary judgment and will likely rule sometime in the summer/fall.
Chavez v. Bonta (formerly Jones v. Bonta)	<i>Does California’s under-21 firearm prohibition violate the Second Amendment?</i>	United States District Court Southern District of California	On September 7, 2022, the 9th Circuit remanded the case to district court. Plaintiffs moved for preliminary injunction, or alternatively, summary judgment in Jan. 2023.	The court will evaluate the motion under the new <i>Bruen</i> standard and likely rule sometime in the summer/fall.

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
Chavez v. Bonta (formerly Jones v. Bonta)	<i>Does California's under-21 firearm prohibition violate the Second Amendment?</i>	United States District Court Southern District of California	On September 7, 2022, the 9th Circuit remanded the case to district court. Plaintiffs moved for preliminary injunction, or alternatively, summary judgment in Jan. 2023.	The court will evaluate the motion under the new <i>Bruen</i> standard and likely rule sometime in the summer/fall.
Miller v. Bonta	<i>Does California's assault weapons prohibition violate the Second Amendment?</i>	United States District Court Southern District of California	Judge Benitez is reviewing the parties' supplemental briefing on <i>Bruen's</i> impact on the case.	Judge Benitez will likely rule sometime in the summer or fall.
Renna v. Bonta	<i>Does California's Unsafe Handgun Act (the Roster) violate the Second Amendment?</i>	United States District Court Southern District of California	Plaintiffs have moved to preliminarily enjoin the entire UHA, and alternatively moved for summary judgment. The court granted plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction on March 31, 2023.	Appellate briefs have been filed, and the 9th Circuit oral arguments are in August.
Barba v. Bonta	<i>Does California's Unsafe Handgun Act (the Roster) violate the Second Amendment?</i>	California Court of Appeal, 4th District	The plaintiffs partially won their motion for preliminary injunction in the state trial court and the state appealed.	Briefing is underway and oral argument will likely happen later this summer.
Doe v. Bonta	<i>Does a California law that allows firearm purchaser information to be disclosed to third parties violate privacy laws and the Second Amendment?</i>	United States District Court Southern District of California 9th Circuit	Plaintiffs lost in the trial court but have appealed to the 9th Circuit	Appeal is underway.
Junior Sports Magazines v. Bonta	<i>Does California's new law prohibiting the marketing of firearms products to youth violate various constitutional principles, including the 1st Amendment?</i>	United States District Court Central District of California 9th Circuit	Plaintiffs appealed the loss of their motion for summary judgment to the 9th Circuit.	9th Circuit oral arguments occurred in June, now the parties await a ruling.

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
Wallingford v. Bonta	<i>Is California law's allowance that a restraining order based on "harassment", without any finding that the person subject to that order has engaged in any act of violence or even made a threat of such against the restraining order applicant, constitutional?</i>	United States District Court Central District of California 9th Circuit	Plaintiffs appealed the court's grant of the State's motion to dismiss.	Awaiting a 9th Circuit ruling since last summer.
B&L Productions v. Newsom	<i>Does the ban on gun shows at the Del Mar Fairgrounds violate the First and Fourteenth Amendments?</i>	United States District Court Southern District of California 9th Circuit	Plaintiffs appealed but have moved to stay the appeal pending the result of a similar case in the Central District.	Appeal pending.

HAWAII CASES

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
Wolford v. Lopez	<i>Does Hawaii's post-Bruen permit issuance program violate Bruen, particularly by making nearly everywhere in the state a "sensitive place" where carry is forbidden?</i>	United States District Court District of Hawaii	Motion for Preliminary Injunction filed.	Awaiting ruling on preliminary injunction, after which appeals are likely to commence regardless of who prevails.
Teter v. Lopez	<i>Is Hawaii's ban on butterfly knives constitutional?</i>	United States District Court District of Hawaii 9th Circuit	9th Circuit rules that Hawaii statute banning butterfly knives, or balisongs, was inconsistent with the nation's historical tradition of regulating weapons, and thus violated the Second Amendment.	Hawaii may petition the 9th circuit for en banc review of the 3-0 panel ruling.

WASHINGTON CASES

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
Mitchell v. Atkins	<i>Does Washington's under-21 firearm ban violate the Second Amendment?</i>	United States District Court Western District of Washington	The 9th Circuit vacated and remanded to the district court in Dec. 2022. The court ordered a five-day bench trial for Mar. 2023.	The case will be tried under the <i>Bruen</i> standard and likely appealed to the 9th Circuit.
Hartford v. Ferguson	<i>Does Washington State's assault weapons ban violate the Second Amendment?</i>	United States District Court Western District of Washington	Plaintiffs filed their complaint in April 2023. Judge denied preliminary injunction.	Appeal Pending.

NEW YORK CASES

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
Antonyuk v. Hochul (a number of similar cases also filed and being heard jointly on appeal)	<i>Does New York State's post-Bruen permit issuance program violate Bruen?</i>	United States District Court Northern District of New York	The Judge ruled mostly in plaintiffs' favor. The case is now on appeal.	The 2nd Circuit heard oral arguments and a ruling is expected in the coming months. If the district court ruling is reversed, Supreme Court review is likely because Justices Alito and Thomas already indicated interest in this case.

RHODE ISLAND CASES

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
Ocean State Tactical v. Rhode Island	<i>Does Rhode Island's large capacity magazine prohibition violate the Second Amendment?</i>	United States District Court District of Rhode Island 1st Circuit Court of Appeal	Plaintiffs appealed the loss of their preliminary injunction motion in Dec. 2022.	The appeal is underway in the 1st Circuit.

NEW JERSEY CASES

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
Koons v. Platkin	<i>Does New Jersey's post-Bruen permit issuance program violate Bruen, particularly by making nearly everywhere in the state a "sensitive place" where carry is forbidden?</i>	United States District Court District of New Jersey	The Judge ruled mostly in plaintiffs' favor. The case is now on appeal.	Appeal pending.
Association of New Jersey Rifle & Pistol Clubs v. Grewal	<i>Does New Jersey's ban on large capacity magazines violate the Second Amendment?</i>	United States District Court District of New Jersey	Remanded for further proceedings due to <i>Bruen</i> .	The lower will court will apply <i>Bruen</i> to the issue.

MARYLAND CASES

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
Bianchi v. Frosh	<i>Does Maryland's assault weapons ban violate the Second Amendment?</i>	4th Circuit Court of Appeal	Oral argument was in Dec. 2022.	The court will rule sometime later this year.
Maryland Shall Issue v. Montgomery County	<i>Does Montgomery County's post-Bruen permit issuance program violate Bruen, particularly by making nearly everywhere in the State a "sensitive place" where carry is forbidden?</i>	United States District Court District of Maryland	Court denied motion for preliminary injunction.	Appeal pending.

TEXAS CASES

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
United States v. Rahimi	<i>Whether the federal firearms prohibition that applies to an individual subject to a domestic violence restraining order is constitutional.</i>	United States District Court Northern District of Texas 5th Circuit Court of Appeal	Plaintiffs won in the trial court and the appeals court, and the case has been appealed to the Supreme Court.	The Supreme Court has granted review and will take up the case in its next term.
Garland v. Cargill	<i>Did the ATF have the authority to label a bump stock a machine gun?</i>	United States District Court Western District of Texas 5th Circuit United States Supreme Court	Petition for certiorari is pending in the United States Supreme Court	The Supreme Court is considering whether to review the case.
Mock v. Garland	<i>Federal lawsuit challenging the ATF's pistol brace rule.</i>	United States District Court Northern District of Texas 5th Circuit	Plaintiffs prevailed at the district court level, now pending before the fifth circuit.	Oral arguments occurred on June 29, 2023. Appeal pending.
VanDerStok v. Garland	<i>Federal lawsuit challenging the ATF's "frame or receiver" rule.</i>	United States District Court Northern District of Texas 5th Circuit	Plaintiffs prevailed at the district court level, now pending before the fifth circuit.	Oral arguments occurred on June 29, 2023. Appeal pending.
United States v. Connelly	<i>Is the federal law that prohibits marijuana users from having firearms constitutional?</i>	United States District Court Western District of Texas 5th Circuit Court of Appeal	The trial court struck down the law and the plaintiffs have appealed to the 5th Circuit.	The appeal is underway in the 5th Circuit.

PENNSYLVANIA CASES

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
Range v. Garland	<i>Does a nonviolent misdemeanor offense from over two decades ago mean someone can permanently lose 2nd Amendment rights?</i>	United States District Court Eastern District of Pennsylvania	The 3rd Circuit, sitting en banc, ruled in plaintiff's favor and explained that "despite his false statement conviction, he remains among "the people" protected by the 2nd Amendment."	Unclear if federal government will appeal to the Supreme Court.

OREGON CASES

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
Oregon Firearms Federation, Inc. v. Brown (and related cases)	<i>Does Oregon's large capacity magazine prohibition violate the Second Amendment?</i>	United States District Court District of Oregon 9th Circuit Court of Appeal	Plaintiffs appealed the loss of their preliminary injunction motion in Dec. 2022.	Appeal pending.

WEST VIRGINIA CASES

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
United States v. Price	<i>Is the federal law that requires serialization of firearms constitutional?</i>	United States District Court District of West Virginia 4th Circuit Court of Appeals	The trial court struck down the law and the plaintiffs have appealed to the 4th Circuit.	The appeal is underway in the 4th Circuit.

OKLAHOMA CASES

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
United States v. Harrison	<i>Is the federal law that prohibits marijuana users from having firearms constitutional?</i>	United States District Court District of Oklahoma 10th Circuit Court of Appeal	The trial court struck down the law and the plaintiffs have appealed to the 10th Circuit.	The appeal is underway in the 10th Circuit.

MISSISSIPPI CASES

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
United States v. Daniels	<i>Is the federal law that prohibits marijuana users from having firearms constitutional?</i>	United States District Court for the Southern District of Mississippi 5th Circuit Court of Appeal	After losing in the district court, Plaintiffs appealed to the Fifth Circuit, which reversed and ruled in favor of the Plaintiffs that the prohibition on firearm ownership merely for using marijuana is unconstitutional.	The federal government will likely appeal to the Supreme Court.

ILLINOIS CASES

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
Federal Firearms Licensees of Illinois v. Jay Robert Pritzker (consolidated with Barnett v. Raoul and a number of other cases dealing with state and local assault weapon bans in Illinois)	<i>Is Illinois' assault weapons ban constitutional under Bruen?</i>	United States District Court District of Illinois	The court granted plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction on April 28, 2023.	The case is on appeal to the 7th Circuit court of appeal.

DELAWARE CASES

CASE NAME	ISSUE	COURT	STATUS	WHAT'S NEXT
Delaware State Sportsmen's Association, et al. v. Delaware Department of Safety and Homeland Security, et al.	<i>Does Delaware's assault weapons ban violate the Second Amendment?</i> <i>Does Delaware's large capacity magazine ban violate the Second Amendment?</i>	United States District Court District of Delaware	In late March 2023, the district court denied plaintiffs' motion for preliminary injunction. Plaintiffs appealed to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals.	The action in the district court is stayed pending resolution of the appeal to the Third Circuit.

LOCAL ADVOCACY

GOD AND GUNS: CHURCHES STAND READY TO PROTECT

BY TIFFANY D. CHEUVRONT

Ever wonder what you would do if you were sitting in a religious service and a gunman walked

in? Would you be protected? Would you have a place to hide? How aware are you and the other members of your church when everyone has their head bowed and eyes closed in prayer? Unfortunately, churches have in the past become one of the most common targets for mentally deranged people wanting to kill and destroy. A helpless flock, however, is changing as more and more churches take the safety of their members into their own hands.

Even as politicians like Gavin Newsom seek to stop you from protecting yourself at your house of worship, a new study shows that more than half of all protestant pastors are rely on

armed congregants for security during their services.

Approximately 81% of churches, or four out of five pastors, said they have at least one security measure to prevent potential attacks on their churches and 54% say they have armed congregation members on Sundays. This does not include the number of synagogues and other houses of worship who also defend their people.

The study done by Lifeway Research noted that “churches are not immune to violence, disputes, domestic agreements, vandalism, and burglary... real security risks exist whether a congregation wants to acknowledge them or not.” Religious buildings are places that welcome all kinds of members and people in the community. Many times, they are people who are unknown to the congregation, but they are welcomed warmly. This is the nature of most houses of worship. But this can be an open door for trouble

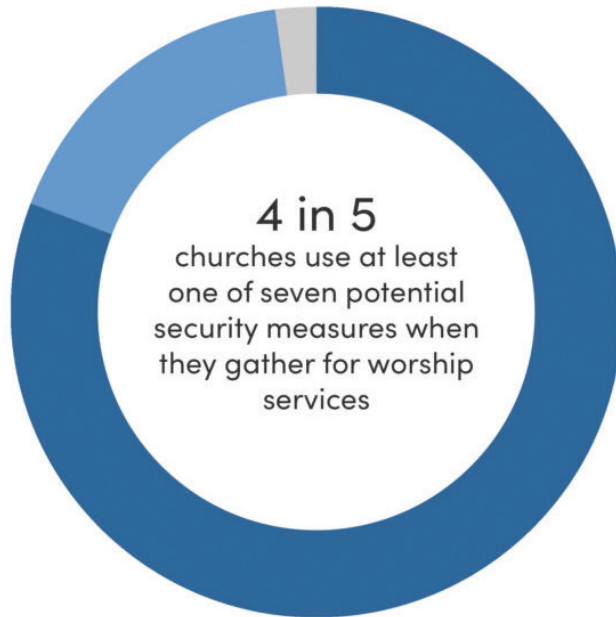
too, when someone seeks to do harm.

What are churches doing to protect those in their facilities? Staff and pastors are at many houses of faith daily through the week and there are groups that meet at night and on the weekends in addition to regular Sunday gatherings. Some churches are more passive and just know that some members in the congregation carry on their own, but this could go wrong if an incident occurs, and the police have no idea who is a good guy and who is a bad guy. Some houses of worship have set up security teams which are people with experience and knowledge (former police, military, firearms trainers, etc.) who keep an eye out around the campus while people are there. Many churchgoers do not even know security teams are around unless they are needed. Others hire off-duty police officers on Sundays to offer more security.

CRPA wants to help these religious faith communities maintain a safe environment for anyone who comes to their campus. Several years ago, CRPA brought in a group called the “SheepDogs”. These people are trained in security measures that help churches organize their safety plans and what works best for them. Sheep-Dog seminars were wildly successful across the state, and many houses of

Most churches have at least some security measures in place for worship services

Among U.S. Protestant pastors



Notes: 81% say they use at least one of the seven potential security measures included in this study, 17% say "none of these," and 2% say not sure.

Lifeway **research**

faith benefitted from the informative evening seminars. Because of this and because of multiple requests to bring back the program, CRPA is proud to announce that we will have SheepDog Seminars back for a week-long tour at the beginning of 2024! (Make sure to check the CRPA.org events calendar for more information).

We must distinguish between the defensive use of firearms as our God-given rights and those who would use firearms to harm others. CRPA and SheepDog will stand to protect the flock while encouraging those charged with the protection of others to create that plan before something happens.

Don't forget to check the CRPA calendar of events at www.CRPA.org for more information. **CRPA**

Tiffany D. Cheuvront leads the local ordinance project for Michel & Associates, P.C. With over 19 years' experience in the non-profit and regulatory fields, she practices civil rights litigation and corporate governance law (five of those years working specifically in Second Amendment and CA policy). Tiffany has written and provided testimony on issues at the local, state and federal levels of government.



LOCAL ADVOCACY REPORT

BY TIFFANY D. CHEUVRONT

The **Local Advocacy Project** actively monitors all of California's 58 counties and 482 municipalities to support or oppose any proposed ordinance, law, or policy likely to impact Second Amendment rights. Local efforts include developing and working with a network of professionals, citizens, local government officials and law enforcement professionals to effectively oppose local threats to California gun owners. These efforts also serve as the foundation for litigation efforts against municipalities that enact anti-gun-owner legislation.

JURISDICTION & ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	LOP RESPONSE	STATUS
CALIFORNIA GUN SHOWS	In 2022 the state legislature passed a law that relates to all gun shows and bans the sale of firearms, ammunition, and "ghost guns" on all state property. This essentially ended gun shows across the state.	CRPA and SAF joined together with other individual plaintiffs to first fight this in San Diego and Orange County and later added the state legislation to the ongoing litigation.	Two cases are currently running in the California Southern District and the California Central District. You can follow these cases here: https://michellawyers.com/b-l-productions-v-newsom-min-bill/ https://michellawyers.com/b-l-productions-v-newsom/

JURISDICTION & ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	LOP RESPONSE	STATUS
STATEWIDE PUBLIC RECORD REQUESTS	CRPA regularly seeks and obtains public records in connection with any anti-gun efforts in California. Such efforts include proposed anti-gun ordinances, gun buyback programs and other anti-gun regulatory enforcement issues.	Responses to these requests often yield valuable results, such as which members of a local government entity are working with anti-gun groups, sources of funding and other important information.	Ongoing. CRPA attorneys monitor and review thousands of pages of public records requests each month. *Public Records Requests have been submitted for the DOJ leak of gun owner information. Due to an ongoing investigation and their attorneys holding all information until the investigation is complete, the DOJ is currently not responding.
CITY OF SAN JOSE	The Mayor for the City of San Jose wants to push mandatory insurance for all gun owners in the City as a way of paying for criminal violence that occurs in his city.	CRPA sent a letter previously on this same issue when the Mayor tried to make this a priority for the city in 2019. The Mayor has once again resurrected this issue and is trying to get mandatory insurance for gun owners or a mandatory fee to the City passed. The staff have been directed to come back with ordinance language in September. There is no new news on this issue as of the drafting of this alert.	CRPA has submitted public record requests and is preparing a lawsuit for filing should the city pass this ordinance. San Jose passed the ordinance even though there were 4 hours of testimony from the public against it. CRPA is preparing to sue as soon as the matter is ripe for the courts to consider. January 1, 2023 the City implemented the mandatory gun insurance provision of the ordinance. Stay tuned for more information on litigation. The Judge has upheld San Jose's Gun Insurance Ordinance in a non-CRPA case. We are waiting to see if those plaintiffs will appeal.
CRPA COALITION WORK	The CRPA has been working with other groups across the state for years to influence and advance pro-2A work in the state. We believe in leveraging our combined strength to get things done.	Coalitions are built from other non-profit groups with similar missions coming together. We work with local chapter leaders, elected officials and legislative teams to push, support, and protect the Second Amendment.	Watch for joint letters from coalition groups to fight harmful legislation in the state and for work with other groups during this election cycle. To sign up for the Range Coalition, send an email to ranges@crpa.org . Want to host a state competition at your range in 2023? CRPA staff can help. Email Brian at bkerz@crpa.org
CULVER CITY	Culver City is being harassed by a local gun control group who wants them to ban gun shops in the city.	The City Council considered an urgency moratorium to stop gun shops from continuing operations in a location that has been a gun store for decades. An urgency moratorium requires a showing of immediate danger to the health and safety of the community.	CRPA attorneys submitted a letter warning the city of the constitutional violations they are about to commit if they continue in this course. The city staff report seems to warn of the legal liability the city may incur if they prohibit gun stores in the city. More information will be coming from future City Council meetings where CRPA will have a presence.
CITY LOS GATOS	CCW policy passed by the city this summer prohibits carry in broad areas of the city and infringes on constitutional rights.	CRPA attorneys sent a letter to the city warning them of pending litigation if they continue towards implementation on September 1, 2023.	WIN! The city has postponed the implementation date of the ordinance and is "taking it seriously." The city was attempting to make the policy in line with both <i>Bruen</i> and SB 2, which is expected to pass the legislature and be signed by the governor. CRPA will continue to monitor this situation.

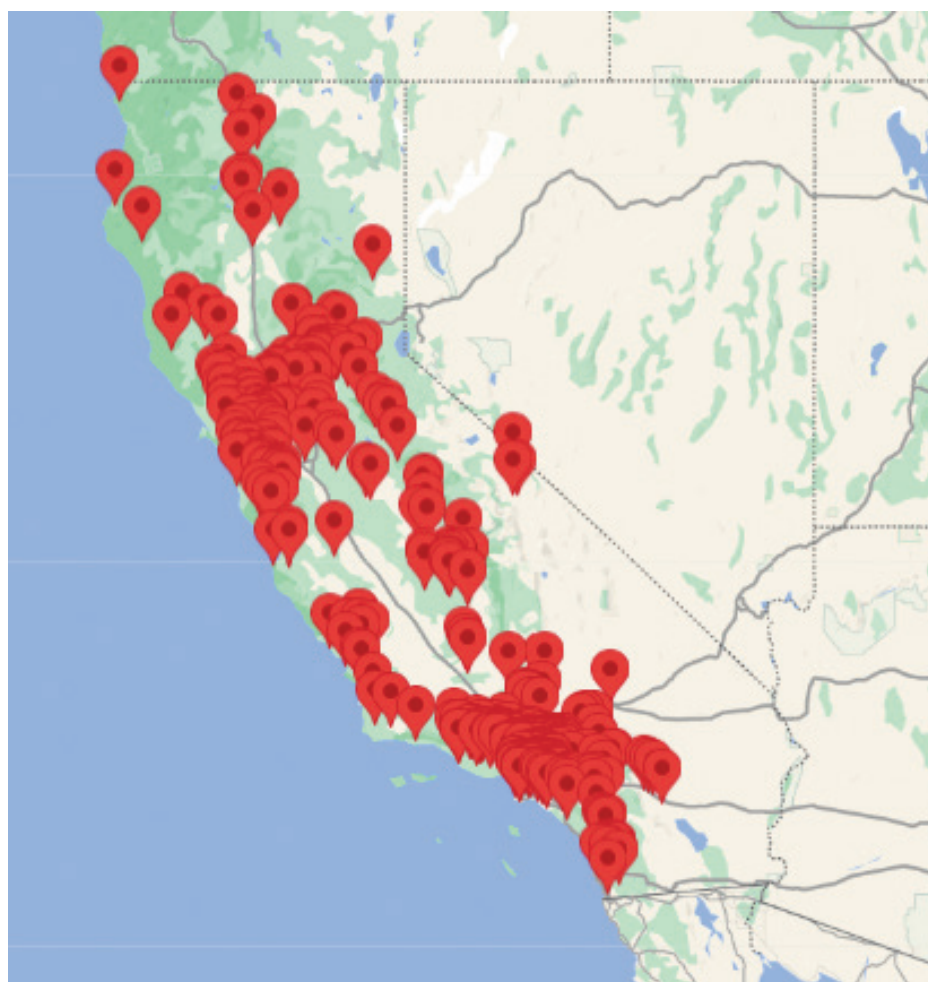
JURISDICTION & ISSUE	DESCRIPTION	LOP RESPONSE	STATUS
SHASTA COUNTY	CRPA and the local CRPA chapter members began attempts about two years ago to get a Second Amendment Sanctuary County Resolution passed.	The resolution was denied two years ago, and we were told that the resolution would NEVER happen. The CRPA Chapter members helped with a recall election to get the right people on the board and in July of this year, were able to garner support for the Resolution.	Shasta County now has recognized the Second Amendment, its ability to support laws in line with the Second Amendment, and that they will not use local resources to enforce unconstitutional laws. This is a HUGE WIN for our CRPA local chapter. It took dedication and commitment. We are so proud of our local groups for making a difference in their communities.
CCW ISSUANCE ISSUES	CRPA has had many members reach out with concerns that their local jurisdiction is not issuing CCW's	When the <i>Bruen</i> decision came down, CRPA immediately sent letters to all of the jurisdictions in California explaining what the law is under that new standard.	CRPA sent final notice letters to those jurisdictions that continue to refuse to issue CCWs and we are prepared to file legal actions should they not follow the law. More information at crpa.org/ccw-issues-in-california It looks like San Francisco is starting to issue CCW permits. Los Angeles County now has a new online system with Permitium. This should make the process quicker, but CRPA is monitoring. Alameda County is now starting to issue CCW licenses and is beginning to follow the ruling in <i>Bruen</i> thanks to pressure from CRPA attorneys. Los Angeles County is still dragging their feet in issuing and CRPA has sent a final demand letter.
GHOST GUN BANS	Gun Control groups are busy pushing to try to get local jurisdictions to pass restrictions on the possession, sale, transfer, or manufacturing of "ghost guns" including precursor parts.	San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco have all passed the same basic ordinance in the last few weeks. The problem with these ordinances is that they address areas of concern that are controlled by the state AND there is no clear definition of what a precursor part is at the moment- these cities just made every piece of metal illegal to own and created criminals out of citizens with lawful products overnight.	CRPA is currently fighting in the courts on this issue. Please follow CRPA news for more information. You can follow the CRPA case here: michellawyers.com/rupp-v-becerra/
DOJ ISSUES	It has come to our attention that there may be businesses and individuals that are having great difficulty getting their COE renewal from DOJ. We also are investigating the DOJ Data Leak of CCW personal information to the public that occurred in June 2022.	Not having a valid certificate of eligibility (COE) prevents firearms business owners from operating and completing purchases and individuals from receiving and handling ammunition for many programs. We are hearing reports that the DOJ is taking months to return approved COE applications.	If you are having trouble with your COE approval or renewal, please send us a message at contact@crpa.org so we can see if we can assist you. For more information on the DOJ Leak of personal and private information please visit crpa.org/ca-doj-dox-gate/ CRPA has been informed that a member was successful in bringing his small claims case against the DOJ as we instructed on the CRPA website. The CRPA member received a judgment against DOJ in the amount of \$5,000 in damages for emotional distress. If you filed a similar small claims case, please let CRPA know the outcome. We would love to see multiple individual cases proceed. Send information to contact@crpa.org .
CALL FOR PLAINTIFFS	If you are a CRPA member, we need you!	When local ordinance issues do not go well, we have to fight for your rights in court. We need members just like you who are negatively affected by these unconstitutional laws to step up as named plaintiffs in the legal actions that may follow.	If you are interested in serving as a plaintiff in any of our upcoming litigation, please contact us at potentialplaintiffs@michellawyers.com . We need you now more than ever!

CRPA PROGRAMS UPDATE

SPOTLIGHT: LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY WITH CRPA MADE EASY!

Well, it's time to bring them up again..... the legislature. If you feel like the legislative offseason here in California is just too short, the majority of states in our union would agree with you! While states like California, New York, and Illinois (you might see more than one pattern here) virtually have year-round legislative sessions, the majority of states meet to create laws for 3-6 months out of the year. Its often expressed in CRPA messaging that extra advocacy is needed in this state and understanding this trend in typically anti-Second Amendment legislatures, its not difficult to discern why. It is reasons like these, combined with the political climate that they create, that CRPA is continuously looking for tools to be as efficient and effective as possible in the efforts that we bring.

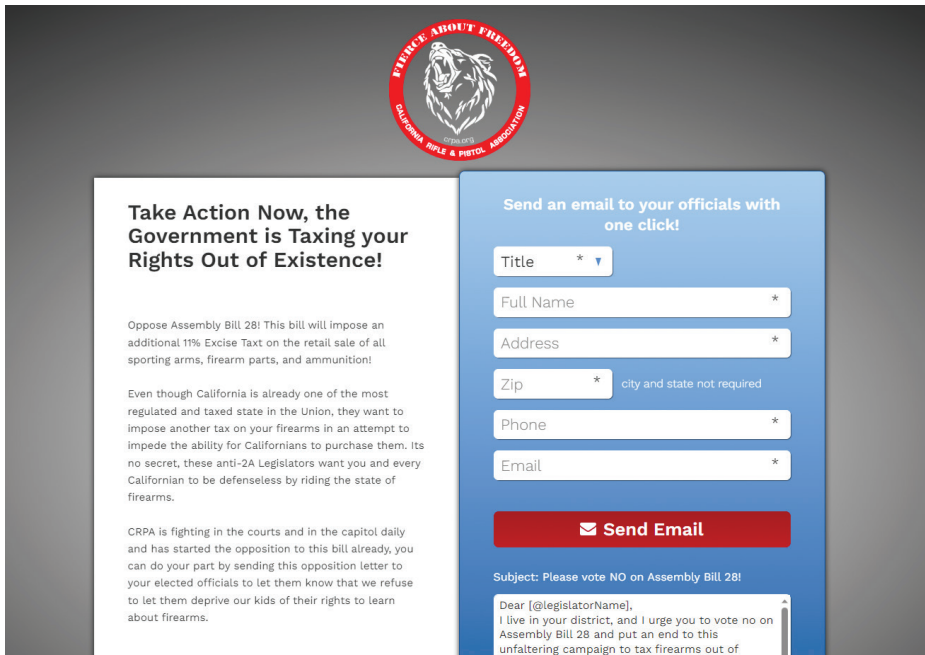
Insert One Click Politics! You can't really get more efficient than sending an opposition letter to both your state senator, and your state assemblymember by simply entering your zip code and pressing



send. In case you missed the emails in August, this is what CRPA was able to bring to the 2A fight toward the end of the 2023 legislative ses-

sion and will certainly be bringing for the entirety of its fight in 2024.

As we would typically see a swath of 30 or so anti-2A bills in Califor-



Take Action Now, the Government is Taxing your Rights Out of Existence!

Oppose Assembly Bill 28! This bill will impose an additional 11% Excise Tax on the retail sale of all sporting arms, firearm parts, and ammunition!

Even though California is already one of the most regulated and taxed state in the Union, they want to impose another tax on your firearms in an attempt to impede the ability for Californians to purchase them. Its no secret, these anti-2A Legislators want you and every Californian to be defenseless by riding the state of firearms.

CRPA is fighting in the courts and in the capitol daily and has started the opposition to this bill already, you can do your part by sending this opposition letter to your elected officials to let them know that we refuse to let them deprive our kids of their rights to learn about firearms.

Send an email to your officials with one click!

Title * ▾

Full Name *

Address *

Zip * city and state not required

Phone *

Email *

Send Email

Subject: Please vote NO on Assembly Bill 28!

Dear [legislatorName],
I live in your district, and I urge you to vote no on Assembly Bill 28 and put an end to this unfaltering campaign to tax firearms out of

citizens and their right to keep and bear arms. If there is one thing that you can count on, it's that CRPA is going to continue to do the work. The lawsuits will continue, the legislative advocacy will continue, as will the programs and the tools to help enhance those programs. If there is one thing that we learned in the 2023 legislative session, it is that the ideologs are much more concerned with their ideas than they are concerned with reality, and the truth. Now, with the click of a button, you will be able to effectively communicate with those elected officials to remind them that they represent those with differing ideas, and they might need to reconsider putting forth these oppressive bills if they wish to get re-elected. **CRPA**

nia, the 2023 legislative session saw over 100! On the back of the *Bruen* decision giving credence to the firearms community's under-

standing of the Second Amendment, the California Legislature doubled down in its efforts to further erect barriers between California

SEE ALL OF CRPA'S PROGRAMS [AT CRPA.ORG](https://crpa.org)

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

SHOOTING PROGRAMS

2A LITIGATION PROGRAM

REGULATORY WATCH PROGRAM

RANGES & RETAILERS PROTECTION PROGRAMS

BUSINESS AFFILIATE PROGRAM

WOMEN'S PROGRAM

HUNTING & CONSERVATION

VOLUNTEERS & GRASSROOTS

FIREARM SAFETY PROGRAMS

LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVE

CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS

HISTORICAL ARMS COLLECTING & EXHIBITIONS

LOCAL ADVOCACY & CRPA CHAPTERS

PUBLICATIONS

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

ELECTION YEAR POLITICS ARE IN FULL SWING

The 2023 Legislative session came to a close with several key bills

that will move into major courtroom battles in the weeks and months to come. At

the beginning of the session, California's progressive legislative majority attempted over 100 bills designed to decimate your Second Amendment rights. The California Rifle & Pistol Association went on offense that stopped many bills from becoming reality.

Timing is everything in fighting those who would see our constitutional rights dismantled. This article is to bring you up to date as we move into the 2024 year. We will examine the 2023 year, what to expect

in 2024 and the elections.

The close of the 2023 session saw the following bills move to the Governor's desk for signing:



**BY RICK
TRAVIS**
LEGISLATIVE
DIRECTOR

AB 28 | GABRIEL (D)

Creates expansive, new excise tax on both firearms/ammunition sold in California. – Passed both houses in 2 hours! Umberg/Hurtado.

AB 574 | JONES-SAWYER (D)

Mandates gun buyers confirm/check the possession of all owned firearms on DROS

form.

AB 725 | LOWENTHAL (D)

Redefines a firearm to include frames, receivers, and precursor parts for the purposes of reporting lost or stolen guns.

AB 1089 | GIPSON (D)

Prohibits the sale, purchase, or possession of a CNC milling machine that has the primary or intended purchase of manufacturing firearms.

AB 1406 | MCCARTY (D)

Permits DOJ to delay delivery of a firearm for 30 additional days.

AB 1420 | BERMAN (D)

Grants DOJ more authority to inspect and assess fines on gun dealers.

AB 1483 | VALENCIA

Expands 30-day prohibition on the purchase of firearms to include precursor parts.

AB 1587 | TING (D)

Mandates retailers to assign a special "code" indicating gun purchases.

AB 1598 | BERMAN (D)

Requires DOJ to update safety test form with "risks" of owning a gun.

SB 2 | PORTANTINO (D)

Massively restricts the ability of CCW holders to carry in most areas of the state by establishing "sensitive places" criteria.

SB 368 | PORTANTINO (D)

Mandates that licensed dealers accept the temporary transfer and storage of a firearm to prevent a

potential suicide.

SB 452 | BLAKESPEAR (D)

Prohibits a licensed firearms dealer from selling, offering for sale a semiautomatic pistol unless it has been verified as microstamping-enabled.

The aforementioned 12 bills (nine from the Assembly and three from the Senate) are without a doubt unconstitutional and egregious. The authors listed feel they have the backing of the people and that our community is a minority voice. CRPA responded this year by being the pro-Second Amendment organization to have a Capitol Day where our members lobbied multiple members of both houses on their Second Amendment rights. Legislators commented that they hadn't seen that level of political activism out of our community.

Legislators were also put on notice when youth showed up to testify against bad legislation and set the record straight on the facts of firearms safety in shooting sports. Legislative staff commented on the diversity of those lobbying and testifying and how important it was for people to see that gun owners do not look like the stereotype portrayals by anti-gun groups. We need more volunteers to help us in 2024 on our two planned Capitol Days. If you are interested in participating in Capitol Day or testifying reach out to us at contact@crpa.org and place "Capitol Day" in the subject line.

The 2024 Legislative Session will see many new bills introduced and the following bills come back in January:

AB 262: HOLDEN

Children's camps: regulations. (Youth Ranges)

Legislators were also put on notice when youth showed up to testify against bad legislation and set the record straight on the facts of firearms safety in shooting sports.

AB 851: MCCARTY

Firearms. Urban Gun Free Zone – Downtown Sacramento

AB 1010: FLORA

Firearms. (SPOT BILL)

SB 8: BLAKESPEAR

Firearms: Gun Insurance. (formerly DVRO bill) 2 Year Bill

SB 637: MIN

Firearms: Financial institutions doing business with firearms manufacturers: ban on doing business with the state.

The attack on our rights will be fought with fervor as the governor tours the country in a presidential election year to promote his anti-Second Amendment agenda nationally in a ploy to raise money for either his 2024 or 2028 presidential ambitions. I want to use the governor as a refresher example of what happens

when the people forget their constitution. Our government is set up where the political leaders work for "We the People". This is important as it denotes, we do not serve them, we are not beholden to them, and they do not have all of the power. The fact is they work for us and not the other way around.

Gavin Newsom started as a businessman who ran for a supervisor seat and parlayed that into a post of mayor of San Francisco then to lieutenant governor, to governor and now his sights are set on the White House. Each election was an opportunity (not to mention recalls) to remove him from office. In meeting with people, I often hear their displeasure with his job performance. You must ask how a bad employee gets promoted up the chain. The answer is simple. Good people fail to act.

The 2024 election cycle is in full swing as you are reading this article. The way to change the legislature is to remember that it takes good people to get those like them to vote the legislature out of office. When you don't vote... you actually did vote to keep the status quo. The primary is on March 5th and there is no reason not to vote. The 2022 elections saw assembly members elected in one case by just over 100 votes. Your vote counts, so get out there and take action. The CRPA motto is "Be Safe, Shoot Straight and Fight back". Your vote is the "Fight Back" part. Getting others to the polls to vote is the "Fight Back" part. Your running for office is the "Fight Back" part. Taking back California in 2024 begins with you. **CRPA**

SPOTLIGHT ON

MICHAEL CAREY

Michael Carey found a home with CRPA due to its unyielding dedication to the state's unique challenges. The

organization's specific focus on California aligns perfectly with Michael's desire to contribute to a cause that works directly towards bettering the state he calls home. For Michael, service isn't just an option—it's a responsibility. With an eye on the future, he believes that taking action now is essential to secure the freedoms and promises of the nation for generations to come.

Michael first encountered the CRPA approximately three to four years ago, drawn to the organization's unwavering focus on preserving Second Amendment rights within the state of California. However, it wasn't until fall 2021 that Michael decided to take action. Witnessing the formation of a CRPA chapter in his local area, he wasted no time and quickly became the treasurer.

Recognizing the challenges faced by the rural chapter, Michael took the initiative to establish a new chapter in Fresno County, officially launched in September 2022. As the chapter chair, Michael is deeply involved in various aspects of CRPA's activities. This



BY
CHRISTINA
GASTELO
VOLUNTEER
COORDINATOR



► **Loading Bench** Processing Some Brass- Aug 2023. (BECKY CAREY)



► Sighting In Near Coarsegold - Aug 2022. (BECKY CAREY)



► CRPA Ag Show Booth - Feb 2023. (JOSE FLORES)

includes extensive research on Second Amendment issues, meticulous preparation for chapter meetings, organizing guest speakers, and orchestrating events that further the cause.

His commitment to service extends beyond CRPA. Micheal is an active Elks member and has served as a school board member in the past. Michael has a simple yet impactful message: step

up and get involved. The fight for freedom requires each individual's voice and action. Join Michael Carey and the CRPA in making a stand for liberty.

What was your first firearm experience /exposure?

Michael Carey: My dad was an avid hunter and outdoorsman. As a kid, I spent many days and nights in the

backcountry with our guns. Through him I gained an appreciation for the outdoors and for the safe use of our firearms.

What is it about the 2A issue, specifically, that motivates you to volunteer?

MC: The Second Amendment is unique to our country. It is the reason why we have been able to remain a free people when so many other countries have not. We must fight every day to keep it!

Does anyone in your life play a role in supporting your involvement? In providing inspiration.

MC: Without question, my wife Becky has been my source of support for this journey in forming the Fresno County CRPA chapter. She attends every meeting and works hard behind the scenes and at events to help our chapter move forward.

What is it that you wish more people in our community knew about the 2A?

MC: Our Second Amendment is the final firewall for all our rights. It is not just about our guns as the media and our politicians would have us believe. Firearms are the tools of our defense, both personally and as a country. They are the best tool available to safeguard us from criminals and, should it become necessary, they will allow us to defend our nation from foreign enemies, or an out-of-control tyrannical government. The future of our country depends upon a strong Second Amendment.

What accomplishments are you most proud of?

MC: Starting up the Fresno County chapter from scratch and pulling off a successful fundraising dinner in the chapter's first year. **CRPA**

VOLUNTEER REGISTRATION FORM

First Name	Middle Initial
Last Name	
Street Address	
City, County, State, Zip Code	
Cell Phone	
Email Address	
Date	

Check your areas of interest. This is not an exclusive list. You can always change your mind.

Join a CRPA Chapter

Visit Local Businesses to Promote Affiliate Program

Work on Political Campaigns or Elections

Assist with Youth/Women's Events / RSO

Assist with Training Events / RSO

Assist with Hunting Events

Be a CRPA Membership Recruiter

Liaison with Local Authorities and Council Members

Teach Firearm Safety and Proficiency

Promote CRPA/Pro-2A Messaging/PR Campaigns

Other:

THANK YOU!

Return to the **California Rifle & Pistol Association**
Attn: Volunteers Program

271 E. Imperial Highway, Suite #620, Fullerton, CA 92835
Phone: (714) 992-2772 | Email: volunteer@crpa.org

VOLUNTEERS ARE CRPA'S MOST POWERFUL WEAPON!

CRPA is looking for men and women to join the fight for our rights as a CRPA volunteer or grassroots activist. You can feel good about being part of the solution, meet new friends, learn about guns and politics and get free CRPA swag! For more information, fill out and send in this volunteer form, on the left, email us at volunteer@crpa.org or call (714) 992-2772.

Because of CRPA's tremendous growth, and with the support of our members and like-minded organizations, CRPA is expanding its involvement in local campaigns and elections and sponsoring and participating in more events. CRPA has made a substantial investment in grassroots/volunteer coordinating, local election messaging technologies and added staff to manage volunteers and events.

CRPA Chapters and affiliated groups maintain their independence, but work with CRPA and get access to: (1) real-time legislative information from our legislative advocates in the Capital; (2) CRPA/NRA campaign finance and PAC lawyers; (3) CRPA/NRA firearms lawyers who answer questions, fight for local FFLs and ranges in your area, oppose local gun control ordinances and file lawsuits; and (4) regular communication among coalition partners and other local groups to learn from each other and build a stronger network of activists. CRPA needs volunteers to work as Chapter Leaders; Government Liaisons (i.e., candidate development and local issues and ordinances coverage); Retail/Ranges Liaisons; Volunteers and Events Liaisons; and CCW Liaisons, among other things.

CRPA invites individuals as well as local 2A groups, clubs, ranges and FFLs to be a part of the effort in your county. Join us! Volunteer for CRPA!



EVENTS & TRAINING

EVENTS

NOVEMBER

November 4-5
CALIFORNIA GUN SHOWS
LANCASTER GUN SHOW

Antelope Valley Fairgrounds
 Lancaster, CA

November 4-5
BUCKSTOP PLACERVILLE GUN SHOW

El Dorado Fairgrounds
 Placerville, CA

November 11-12
CROSSROADS OF THE WEST
SAN BERNARDINO GUN SHOW

National Orange Showgrounds
 San Bernardino, CA

LOCATION KEY

- NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
- CENTRAL CALIFORNIA
- SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
- OUT OF STATE

November 17-19
BIG RENO SHOW

Sparks Nugget Casino Resort
Sparks, NV

November 18-19
CALIFORNIA GUN SHOWS
LODI GUN SHOW

Lodi Grape Festival Groups
Lodi, CA

DECEMBER

December 2-3
CALIFORNIA GUN SHOWS
ANTIOCH GUN SHOW

Contra Costa County Fairgrounds
Antioch, CA

December 9-10
CALIFORNIA GUN SHOWS:
TURLOCK GUN SHOW

Stanislaus County Fairgrounds
Turlock, CA

December 9-10
VALLEJO GUN SHOW

Solano County Fairgrounds
Vallejo, CA

December 9-10
CROSSROADS RENO GUN
SHOW

Reno-Sparks Convention Center
Reno, NV

■ ALL EVENTS CAN
BE FOUND AT
CRPA.ORG/EVENTS

■ TRAINING VIDEOS
& INFO ARE AT
**CRPA.ORG/
TRAINING-AND-
EDUCATION**

CRPA TRAINING COURSES

- Basic Rifle
- Basic Pistol
- Basic Shotgun
- Home Firearms Safety
- Basic Range Safety Officer
- Personal Protection in the Home
- Personal Protection Outside the Home
- Metallic Cartridge Reloading
- Hunters Education Traditional Course
- Hunters Education Follow-up Course
- Wild Game Cooking
- Wild Game Field Dressing
- First Aid/AED/CPR
- Wilderness First Aid
- Archery
- Basic Backpacking
- Leave No Trace
- Emergency Preparedness
- Photography
- Basic Map and Compass
- Trauma/ First Aid



TRAINING

OCTOBER

Oct 7
RANGE SAFETY OFFICER
Fullerton, CA

Oct 14
SHOTGUN INSTRUCTOR
Fullerton, CA

Oct 21
RIFLE SHOOTING BASICS
Fullerton, CA

Oct 28
PISTOL SHOOTING BASICS
Fullerton, CA

NOVEMBER

Nov 4
PERSONAL PROTECTION IN THE HOME
Fullerton, CA

Nov 11
PISTOL SHOOTING BASICS
Fullerton, CA

Nov 18
PERSONAL PROTECTION OUTSIDE THE HOME
Fullerton, CA

DECEMBER

Dec 2
RANGE SAFETY OFFICER
Fullerton, CA

THE PRESIDENT'S PISTOL MATCH

BY MIKE BARRANCO

California's competitive shooters have a history of accomplishments at Camp Perry, with wins in many team and individual events. These notable achievements have traditionally been at the national rifle matches. But this summer a team of strong pistol shooters from California earned the honors.

John Bickar of Menlo Park won the President's Pistol Match, the most prestigious individual event of the National Matches. And the CRPA Scarlet team of Bickar, Brian Mason, Jordan Kramp, and Matt Early was the winning civilian team in the National Trophy Pistol Team Match.

In the President's Match, Bickar fired a 386-13X, beating 2011 winner John Zurek by three X's. The 40-shot match – which consisted of 20 slow fire, 10 timed fire, and 10 rapid fire stages – featured 408 shooters competing in the rain and wind this year. Since its start in 1966, the format of the match has changed. But since 1981, it has been fired with the U.S. service pistol. Traditionally, that meant an accurized M1911 .45 with 230 grain "hardball" match ammunition issued on the firing line. In light of the military's use of the M9 9mm, the rules for service pistol competition changed to allow match-condi-



► John Bickar, winner of the 2023 President's Pistol Match, on stage at Camp Perry, Ohio. (CMP)

tioned Beretta 92s. Recent changes are more accommodating, allowing most semi-automatic pistols from 9mm to .45 that would be considered suitable for military or law enforcement service, with at least a 4-pound trigger pull, metallic

sights, and firing safe ammunition. Competitors are no longer restricted to full-power issue ammunition and can shoot hand loaded match ammunition.

Bickar, however fired a M1911, one that had been built for his



► **California Grizzlies service rifle team** presented with trophy plaques by Lt. Col. Amy Fullenkamp (left), commander of Camp Perry, alongside Team Captain John George and Coach Sarah Rozanski. (CMP)

mom Judy to compete with in the early 1990s by an Ohio pistolsmith. He used 185-grain jacketed hollow-point match ammunition from ASYM.

When the time came for the third relay to fire, John said the wind had stopped and the rain had let up, resulting in favorable shooting conditions. He thought a 386 would put him near the top, in the top ten or maybe top five, as the best pistol shooters in the country often fire closer to 390. Bickar is only the sixth civilian to win the President's since 1981, as the match is dominated by military competitors. In 1904 President Theodore Roosevelt sent a letter of congratulations to the winner of the President's Match, starting a tradition that has been followed by most presidents since.

Retired Marine Corps shooter

Kramp earned President's Hundred honors, finishing 84th with a 351-5X. Mason, a 2600-level shooter, finished 123rd at 343-7X. And Early, a CRPA rifle champion competitor, finished 159th with a 336-3X.

Bickar's achievement puts a Californian on the President's Pistol Trophy, alongside Jared Perry's win of the President's Rifle Trophy in 2012.

In the National Trophy Team Match later that day, the rain was heavy. But the CRPA team fired four solid scores to win the Oglethorpe Trophy for the high civilian team. Bickar fired a 290-9X, the third highest score of the day. With Kramp's 280-9X, Mason at 272-3X, and Early at 264-0X, the team total of 1,106-21X beat the North Carolina's team by 12 points and was second overall to the U.S. Army Marksmanship

Unit's 1,130-34X. Bickar and Kramp, as captain of the winning civilian team, were both awarded the Elihu Root medal in recognition as being members of the 2023 National Civilian Pistol Team. The last year a CRPA team won this match was 1985. And before that, Californians had not won since the late 1960s.

If that wasn't enough shooting for one day, in between the President's and the NTT was the National Trophy Individual Match, where the top ten percent of competitors who have not become a Distinguished Pistol Shot earn points towards the badge. Bickar shot a 287-15X to finish fifth among the 338 competitors. The cut-off to earn points this year was 261-4X.

The week following the CMP national matches, three CRPA team members, Bickar, Kramp, and Nesly



► **CRPA pistol team members** John Bickar, Brian Mason, Jordan Kramp, and Matt Early in the rain after winning the NTT match. (NESLY KAELIN)

Kaelin, attended the NRA's National Pistol Championships a few hours away at Camp Atterbury, Indiana. Among the many matches fired there, Kramp and Kaelin represented CRPA in the two-person team matches with success. Bickar shot at 275-6X to win the NRA Distinguished Revolver Match. And, Bickar and Kramp finished fifth and sixth, respectively, in the overall championship. Both qualified for the Mayleigh Cup Match, a 50-meter .22 slow fire postal match that's contested between the United States, Great Britain, and a few other countries.

Now, Californians had some success at the rifle matches, too. It was the Grizzlies junior team on stage at Camp Perry, as they have been many times. The Grizzlies Team Dillon was the high junior

team in the Infantry Trophy Team Match. Thanks largely to the training and guidance of Jim O'Connell, the Grizzlies have won the junior trophy 15 out of the last 17 years, including winning the match overall in 2009. This year's team members were Brady Alford, Alex Brital, Simone George, Logan Gould, Bo King-shill, and Anton Van Hoven. Their score of 1,248 was not just good enough to beat the other junior teams but put the Grizzlies second among all civilian teams and third overall among 21 official teams, behind only the U.S. Army Marksmanship Unit and the Virginia civilian team Grizzlies, trained by O'Connell and coached in the match by Sara Rozanski and John George, notably beat the Marine Corps team and an experienced Army Reserve team.

Twenty-seven more teams that fired out of competition couldn't match the Grizzlies score.

In the junior team match, Grizzlies Team Geissele of Brital and Van Hoven shot 482-13X and 475-15X to place second. They were coached by former Grizzly, now AMU member, Staff Sergeant Lee Bahten. Four other Grizzlies teams finished in the top 20, with Grizzlies RCBS, Alford and George, finishing seventh, Grizzlies Gunzilla, Logan Gould and Kingshill finishing tenth, and Grizzlies Sierra Bullets, Brital and Hailey Gould finishing 14th among the 47 junior teams competing. Grizzlies hold the record score for this match, firing a stellar 992-49X in 2021. **CRPA**

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► Hypatia Shen receiving first place in her age group. (RYAN WATTS)

CMP NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

BY COACH RYAN WATTS

On July 8th Lincoln Rifle Clubs Junior Precision Team (Alex Watts, Logan Bonivert, Logan Michael, and Hypatia Shen) headed back to Camp Perry, OH to shoot in the Three Position National Championship. The kids were amazing; they traveled as a team, helped each other on and off the line and ultimately, had fun. The CMP National Championships takes place over three

days. The first day, the kids go through a gear and gun check before they hit the line to check positions and set sights in preparation for the match. On day two, they hit the line for the first match where there were four relays and 54 teams that qualified for the match, and they



► From left to right, Alex Watts, Logan Michael, Logan Bonivert, Hypatia Shen. (RYAN WATTS)



► From left to right, Alex Watts, Hypatia Shen, Ryan Watts, Logan Bonivert, Logan Michael. (RYAN WATTS)

were the only team from good ol' California.

Each day of competing brought new challenges, excitement and goals reached. Ultimately, Alex, Hypatia and Logan Bonivert all shot personal bests (both days). Alex Watts was able to obtain the necessary EIC points to earn the Distinguished Marksmanship Badge and Hypatia Shen took first place in her age group with a 590 out of 600 (and she is only 13!)

As a team, the kids scored eighth place (not bad out of 54 teams.) After the matches, we followed tradition and went go-karting at Cedar Point to relax and enjoy Ohio before returning home. I could not be more proud of these kids and am excited to see what the future holds. **CRPA**

GOLDEN RULES OF GUN SAFETY

1. **ALWAYS** treat all guns as if they are loaded.
2. **ALWAYS** keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.
3. **ALWAYS** keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot.
4. **ALWAYS** keep the gun unloaded until ready to use.
5. **ALWAYS** know your target, its surroundings, and beyond.
6. **ALWAYS** know how to properly operate your gun.
7. **ALWAYS** be sure the gun is safe to operate.
8. **ALWAYS** use only the correct ammunition for your gun.
9. **ALWAYS** wear eye and ear protection.
10. **NEVER** use alcohol or over-the-counter, prescription, or other drugs before or while participating in shooting sports.



For more information and training, please contact the California Rifle & Pistol Association: (714) 992-2772 | **CRPA.org**

THE NEED FOR AN APEX PREDATOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

The time has come and is in fact, long overdue for a comprehensive apex predator plan in California.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California Fish & Game Commission, and most conservation groups have supported science-backed environment management over species-specific management. Groups who focus on species management such as Project Coyote, Cougar Conservancy, and others often focus on a specific species' needs to the detriment of the ecosystem. This is becoming more evident with the decline in the number of non-apex predators versus the rise in the number of apex predators.

The definition of an apex predator is the predator at the top of the food chain without a natural predator of its own. In California for the last ten thousand years, the apex predator list includes the American black bear, gray wolf, cougars, coyotes, bobcats, and of course, humans. Balancing the populations of these various predators is under the purview of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife which



BY RICK TRAVIS
LEGISLATIVE
DIRECTOR



► **Blood draw** for disease surveillance and genetics by Wildlife Health Lab Veterinarian (resident). (CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & WILDLIFE)

works with a wide range of stakeholders to formulate plans to manage these predators.

COUGERS

California Mountain Lions (cougars) have been protected since voters in California passed proposition 117 in 1990. The population is estimated to

be between 4,000-6,000 cats statewide. Cougars are increasingly seen in the urban environment. Many of these sightings take place not in neighborhoods recently built in wildlife areas but in urban environments near Stanford University, Griffith Park, and other long-standing places where development occurred decades ago.

Cougars are managed with a species-specific plan, but not as an overall predator management plan. This leads to several issues in the management of ecosystems where wildlife is facing multiple apex predators. Apex predators have specific behaviors that are increasingly altered. Cougars, in this state for almost a century, were the top apex predators and seldom had to compete within a given range on a regular basis.

WOLVES

Yellowstone prior to the reintroduction of wolves is a great study point in that grizzly bears, cougars, black bears, lynx, wolverines, and coyotes had a well-established set of behaviors that, as wildlife managers, biologists, and researchers point out, was leading to a continual degradation of the national park. The reintroduction of the gray wolf in the mid-1990s led to a drastic series of changes in the behavior of all the other apex predators and resulted in widely accepted studies that the ecosystem is recovering.

The gray wolf was reintroduced to Yellowstone National Park in the mid-1990s with 31 western Canadian gray wolves. Predation during the first decade was lower than expected with 256 sheep and 41 cattle killed by the growing wolf packs because of the Yellowstone reintroduction. Wolves spread outside the park throughout Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. In all three of those states, they were delisted as endangered. Oregon saw its first wolves

establish themselves from Yellowstone in 2006 with now over 175 wolves as of 2023 per Oregon wildlife officials.

Yellowstone wolves have continued to migrate to Washington and northern California which has resulted in three known packs in 2022 known as the Lassen (Lassen County), Beckwourth (Plumas County), and Whaleback (Siskiyou County) packs which now have delivered a couple of dozen pups and have become well established in an

area that wolf groups feel can handle 450 plus wolves.

Recently a fourth pack has been identified in Tulare County and consists of five wolves with four having been positively identified. The identification of four packs is what has been identified but may not be an accurate accounting, as one wolf identified as OR-93 made it to Ventura County and was struck by a vehicle near the town of Lebec where the 5 Freeway transects the grapevine, separating central and southern California. There are reports throughout the Sierra Range from day hikers and backpackers that the howl of wolves and sightings are occurring. Wolves are protected by the California Endangered Species Act.

JOIN & SUPPORT CRPA'S RANGE COALITION



CRPA's Range Coalition members are businesses, clubs, private and public ranges throughout California. Range Coalition members are united to protect range operations and expand opportunities for public participation in the shooting sports so that all Californians have convenient access to ranges and to marksmanship, self-defense, hunting, safety and other training.

The CRPA Range Coalition advocates for ranges in Sacramento and locally to protect ranges and ensure that any proposed legislation or regulatory policies promote proven and sound best management practices and recognize the value of access to ranges and training programs. Through webinars and Information Bulletins, CRPA provides critical information to coalition members and range operators about environmental, safety, insurance, corporate, legal, operational and other important issues of interest.

California's ranges are encouraged to learn more about CRPA's Range Coalition by emailing CRPA at ranges@crpa.org.

JOIN ■ LEARN ■ TEACH ■ THRIVE

BLACK BEARS

The American black bear has a wide range of opinions from being a nuisance to some and sacred to others. In the world of wildlife management, this apex predator is vital to maintain ecosystems, but can be harmful to those ecosystems if not managed.

The term "carrying capacity" is important as it is the ability of a region to support living organisms without environmental degradation. Bear biologists in the early 2010s stated that California could support about 25,000-28,000 bears without negative impacts to ecosystems and other species. Dogs were removed from bear hunting a decade ago and now bear population estimates are well over twice those numbers. Bear behavior is changing as a result, and increases in human-wildlife interactions, and disease are all on the rise.

COYOTES

Coyotes have increasingly been at the forefront of predator discussions from the local level of homeowner associations to city councils to county supervisors to the Fish and Game

Commission for more than a decade. There are several varied opinions on how coyotes should be managed. The key issue with this predator is that there are two distinct populations of coyotes in the state. The first is a wild coyote that is born and lives in the wild. These animals both in the wild and in the majority of urban interactions (which are minimal) react to humans and deterrent practices as suggested by the Department of Fish and Wildlife and non-governmental organizations that operate in the protection of coyote space.

The secondary group of coyotes are those born in the urban environment. Pups open their eyes and ears to their environment around 12 days old. They are exposed to the urban noises of human activities such as sirens, vehicle noise, and other human noises, smells, and activities. This exposure leads this population group to be desensitized to deterrent practices. This group also

They are exposed to the urban noises of human activities such as sirens, vehicle noise, and other human noises, smells, and activities. This exposure leads this population group to be desensitized to deterrent practices.

adapts to the local environment and the availability of foods that are not part of its natural diet. This has led to a variety of management failures statewide where people break the law in order to feed coyotes which furthers the altering of the species from its natural state.

BOBCATS

Bobcats have recently seen their numbers increase as a result of new management practices and now may be a contributing factor to the detri-

ment of ecosystems.

A NEW APPROACH IS NEEDED

The species-specific management plans have been erratic in timing and frequency and largely driven by species-specific nongovernmental organizations. The issue is that California needs an overall predator management plan that focuses on the health of the various ecosystems. California sportspeople have been working for decades to improve ecosystems, and the Department of Fish and Wildlife has been working hard on meeting the demand for predator plans that take years to develop based on science.

The time has come for the development of a science-based, ecosystem-driven statewide apex predator plan that balances nature and not a plan that satisfies a specific group at the detriment of our most precious resources for future generations to enjoy. **CRPA**

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ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN

FOCUSING ON SHOTGUN WADS

The issue of shotgun wads was introduced at the California Fish and Game Commission during public comments at the 22 August 2023 meeting. The

Surfrider Foundation representative introduced their initiative to get the Fish and Game Commission to become involved in regulating shotgun wads to protect the beach environment.



BY RICK TRAVIS
LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

There are no ranges or hunting areas for example along the water in the San Francisco Bay. Beaches in the bay area have shotgun wads that wash up from areas further up the delta. This has led the commission to look at how to manage this issue.

Surfrider Foundation has a program called Shotgun Wad Watcher which states on its website, "Plastic shotgun wads show up in great numbers along waterways and shorelines throughout the world. Projected from shotgun barrels – the plastic wads are shot into marshes or over water where they are difficult



to retrieve. Heavy rains and high tides cause the wads to float to the sea where they remain until picked up and sometimes photographed by concerned citizens. The wads have the ability to travel great distances in water, following ocean currents, and have been collected by beachcombers, dog walkers, and sports enthusiasts far from their source."

This program is not limited to California but is focusing on many areas along both the Pacific and Atlantic

coasts, Great Lakes areas, and rivers. California is the starting point and the issues raised at the upcoming Wildlife Resources Committee and Game Commission meetings over the next few months will be used across the nation.

Our community has options to address the issue and prevent this from growing into a call to ban shotgun shells. The first option is to work with ranges, preserves, and shooting areas to clean up the wads before



(SURFRIDER FOUNDATION)

rains move the debris downstream leading to the issues of plastic in the environment.

This also provides an opportunity for a clever reader to develop alternative materials that will biodegrade and not negatively impact shooting sports activities as well as the environment. Those of us who are not

engineering-minded can reach out to manufacturers and encourage them to develop shotgun wad structures that will enable the sport to thrive.

Those who decide to do range clean-ups of shotgun areas, who pick up shotgun debris in the field, and hunters who clean up their area send photos to contact@crpa.org

and put in the subject line "shotgun clean up." Those photos will be used in the fight to defend our shooting sports and refute the claims that sportspeople neglect to clean up.

CRPA will be working with sportspeople groups statewide on this issue and look for updates in future firing line editions. **CRPA**

THE FIGHT FOR HUNTING

The hunting season is now in full swing, and the tradition of thousands of previous generations continue.

Hunters have been maligned off and on throughout that time, so it should come as no surprise that there are concerted efforts to remove the tradition... and that's the problem— it's so much more than a tradition. All hunters, quit calling it a tradition.

Consider two other popular "traditions" this time of year.

Thanksgiving is a tradition that looks nothing like it originally was. Now it's a commercialized race to a Thursday food coma followed by a mad dash, complete with protective padding, to

get the best deals in preparation for another tradition that comes a month later. I won't even go into all of the traditions that surround December that have been made unrecognizable thanks to over-commercialization.



BY RICK TRAVIS
LEGISLATIVE
DIRECTOR

Hunting is so much more than just passing on customs and beliefs from generation to generation. Hunting is a way of life that, to this day, provides, based on numerous scientific studies, the highest quality of healthy protein for humans. No matter your personal belief system, there are two facts that cannot be denied. The first is every human alive on this planet is the descendant of a hunter. The second is modern medical science affirms that we were

designed to get our nourishment from all that nature provides. Even the late Godfather of Fitness, Jack LaLanne, who lived to be 96 stated "if man makes it, I don't eat it."

The attack on hunting involves a series of issues that this article will cover broadly— and throughout the 2024 year, we will cover more in depth in each issue of the magazine highlighting the issue and what you can do to make a difference. The attack breaks down into four categories that have always been at issue — access, companions, tools, and wildlife management. The first issue we will tackle is that of access.

HUNTING ACCESS

California hunters share some key access issues with hunters across the state that while may seem new at face value have been the result of land debates for over a century. Many of you might have seen movies like Robert DuVall and Tommy Lee Jones' "Lonesome Dove", Ed Harris' "Appaloosa", Kevin Costner and DuVall's "Open Range" or maybe Anson Mount in the television hit "Hell on Wheels", or Costner in "Yellowstone."

CRPA IS A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE CALIFORNIA HUNTING & CONSERVATION COALITION

California Hunting and Conservation Coalition (Coalition) members include all the major hunting and natural resource conservation groups in California. Coalition members are united to ensure a strong future for wildlife conservation by protecting and expanding hunting and fishing opportunities throughout California and supporting wildlife management decisions based on the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

The Coalition works to make sure these decisions are based on the best available science and sound management strategies.

The Coalition's primary goal is to ensure that wildlife populations thrive in perpetuity and that our traditional hunting and fishing heritage will be guaranteed for all Californians, for generations to come.

Coalition efforts are badly needed in these times of great challenges to our hunting heritage but also in times of great opportunities.

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CALIFORNIA HUNTING &



CONSERVATION COALITION

They all deal with land issues in the western United States.

Land in the west was carved up by Railroad companies in the 1800's and throughout the last century. This resulted in large swathes of land being negotiated by railroads, corporations, big ranches and farms, and regular people. Over time some of that land got merged with "public lands" managed by various federal agencies such as the United States Forest Service (USFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Department of Energy (DOE), and others. This has created a patchwork of public lands and private lands that, at present, puts an estimated 8.3 million acres of public land for hunting off limits to you due to an access issue known as "corner locking." This is when plots of land are connected only at the corner and crossing diagonally from one into the other means passing over the corner of an adjoining private plot, even by a foot. Yellowstone National Park is 2.2 million acres and to give you an idea of how much land that is in real terms, it's more land than the entire state of Maryland and then some.

The issue is that in some instances in the West and in California (where over 226,000 acres are corner-locked) access is also blocked by physical barriers to discourage people from accessing the very public lands they have a right to access. This places these lands off limits to a wide range of possible allies that include but are not limited to fishing enthusiasts, hikers, wildlife watchers, cross-country skiers, and participants of just about every other outdoor sport.

The debate on accessing public land for hunting is complicated, to say the least. You say, "how can walking from one corner to another corner be difficult?" Let's look at just two common discussion points in this area. No of-

The issue is that in some instances in the West and in California (where over 226,000 acres are corner-locked) access is also blocked by physical barriers to discourage people from accessing the very public lands they have a right to access.

fense to any friends of the cause who are in the professions of law, public policy, or surveying. Those individuals with the aforementioned backgrounds really enjoy seeing how much they can micro define anything they come into contact with, which leads us to discussion point number one.

#1 CORNER BOUNDARY DEFINITION

Corners that touch would seem fairly easy. The hunter walks on public lands and using GPS sees the next public corner just across the way from the corner they are standing on. They simply move one foot at a time into the next section and viola they are now in the adjacent public land. Unfortunately, the last 170 years of debates on this corner issue have yielded that we have a spatial property concept at play. Private property owners see that their land rights extend into the air above their property, so they often build high fences in conjunction with other property owners to block the adjoining access.

Montana for example is serious when it comes to corner crossing as

you can read on their website (upom.org/corner-trespass-2/) "There is no 'minimal' amount of trespass that wouldn't be considered taking of property. To cross a corner, a member of the public must cross all four corners, including the private ones. That is a trespass—a physical occupation of private property. There is simply no authority for the proposition that the government can impose public access across private land for free just because access seems like a good idea for everyone else. The Montana Supreme Court has ruled that it is irrelevant what economic costs it imposes on the private property owner."

Montana private property views are held by the vast majority of private property owners across the West. The roots of this issue are found in the fifth amendment of the United States Constitution, "nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." The "just compensation" issue is also not an easy point as seen in the case involving four Missouri hunters currently moving through the 10th United States District Court. The hunters crossed and passed through the air space of Fred Eshelman's Elk Mountain Ranch in Carbon County, Wyoming. Chief U.S. District Judge Scott Skavdahl (Obama appointee) ruled in favor of the hunters stating, "Corner crossing on foot in the checkerboard pattern of land ownership without physically contacting private land and without causing damage to private property does not constitute an unlawful trespass."

The hunter's lawyers in that case argued that the Unlawful Enclosures Act of 1885 prevents ranchers like Eshleman from preventing the crossing. The act states that it is unlawful to construct or maintain things that

would prohibit crossing. This case has serious implications for public land access throughout the West and is expected to be appealed possibly to the United States Supreme Court. It is important to note that Eshelman claimed over \$7 million in property damages for the four hunters crossing the corner. Judge Skavdahl denied the claim.

#2 THE IRRESPONSIBLE LAND CROSSER

Landowners often begin the conversation saying it's only human nature that people will just plain trespass and claim it's a corner.

They often cite those who do not get permission to hunt and park in driveways, private roads, and in their pastures to go hunting. Having spent time in meetings dealing with hunting issues, I know this is an issue that leads to more complications, as there are hunters who simply do not show respect, break laws, and have a bad attitude despite being told that is not acceptable by the larger community of hunters.

This specific issue of corner crossing has led to bills to make it legal to do so (Wyoming, Montana, and Nevada) and one to make it illegal (Montana) resulting in four failed

bills. The issue of corner crossing is going to be at the forefront of Hunter's Access to public lands for the foreseeable future. We will see many groups over the next year weigh in on the subject and here in California you will see continued pressure to resolve this issue and may see some interesting partnerships to achieve this goal of public access.

Moving forward and assuming that public access to all lands opens up to hunting, there will be other debates that will seek to diminish the hunter's ability to hunt that we will cover. In the meantime, get out in nature and explore our public landscapes. **CRPA**

CORE PRINCIPLES OF THE NORTH AMERICAN MODEL OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Proper ecological stewardship and natural resource management through hunting, trapping and strategic depredation efforts are critical components of maintaining ecological balance.

Hunters and anglers provide the vast majority of funding for natural resource conservation efforts through license fees and federal excise taxes paid.

The traditional science-based and experience-proven North American Model (NAM) of Wildlife Conservation approach to natural resource management has been used to successfully maintain balanced population levels of diverse wildlife species for many decades. Consistent with NAM, hunters and anglers obey conservation regulations, adopt safe practices and adhere to a code of ethics.

Animal rights extremist groups that oppose hunting (see humanewatch.org and huntfortruth.org) advocate abandoning the NAM in favor of an unbalanced and unscientific approach to species management that would deliberately make hunting unsustainable. These groups promote a model that would encourage predator species populations to explode. These unchecked predator populations would decimate game species and endanger suburban neighborhoods.

Through education, mentorship and example, CRPA supports and promotes the NAM. CRPA opposes the ongoing duplicitous efforts of animal rights extremist groups and fights the unscientific and unbalanced approach they advocate at the Capital, the California Fish and Game Commission and in the courtrooms!

- Wildlife belongs to the people and is held in the public trust. It is managed in trust for the people by government agencies.
- It is illegal to sell the meat of any wild animal in North America.
- Laws developed by people and enforced by government agencies ensure the proper use and conservation of wildlife resources.
- Every law-abiding citizen has the right and privilege to hunt and fish and should have the opportunity.
- Humans can legally kill certain wildlife for legitimate purposes under strict guidelines for food and fur, in self-defense or property protection. Laws are in place to restrict casual killing, killing for commercial purposes, wasting of game and mistreating wildlife.
- Because wildlife and fish freely migrate across boundaries between states, provinces and countries, they are considered an international resource.
- The best science available will be used as a basis for informed decision-making on wildlife management.

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Upgraded members receive *additional* benefits as listed below. To sign up for membership, please visit crpa.org.

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■ **5-Year General Membership:** \$225 (\$5 savings a year on annual membership)

■ **2A Sustaining Membership:** \$17.91 / month

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■ **Life Member:** \$1000

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CRPA's Enhanced Life Members are 2A supporters, hunters and shooters committed to the CRPA's mission and success. In addition to ALL the above-listed member benefits, CRPA Enhanced Life Members also receive:

- **Defender Life Member:** \$1000 upgrade for CRPA Life Members
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 - Annually updated copy of *California Gun Laws: A Guide to State and Federal Firearm Regulations* by CRPA's President and General Counsel Chuck Michel
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 - Invitations to Exclusive VIP Events, Briefings and Tours
 - Personal Recognition from CRPA President

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