



## GUN OWNERS of California

### 2020 ELECTION: SOCIALISM REJECTED

By Sam Paredes, Executive Director

What happened to that ominous “Blue Tidal Wave” that was predicted by the left, where defenders of the constitution were supposed to get a royal shel-lacking and ultimately replaced by a horde of socialists? Short story is – it didn’t happen.

By the time you receive this 4th quarter newsletter, the results of the Presidential campaign may (or may not) be resolved, but regardless of whether we will be facing a Trump or Biden administration, the blue wave fizzled and on the whole, Americans rejected socialism. The self-described Progressive/Socialists made zero ground in governors races nor did they make progress in legislatures across the country. What’s more, rather than losing, we picked up more pro-gun seats in Congress. This was in spite of Joe Biden’s forked tongue messaging – he beat the socialist drum when addressing hard left groups, but moved more to the center when chatting up middle America.

So what happened? Most common-sense Americans with an IQ higher than a turnip believe there were election shenanigans in multiple states. In a recent Newsmax interview, former Democrat Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich (who was convicted of public corruption and imprisoned) said:

*“... election fraud runs deep and is widespread in large Democrat-controlled cit-ies...Coming out of the Democratic Chi-cago political establishment I know how*

*they operate,” he said. “It’s a time-honored tradition... They just want to beat Donald Trump at all costs.”*

These illuminating acknowledgments, when combined with abundant pre-election day examples of voter misconduct are reason enough to ask a lot of questions.

John David Danielson, editor of the Federalist wrote *“Under the pretext of ensuring “voter access” during the pandemic, Democrats, leftist nonprofits, and activist judges across the country unleashed a flood of changes to election rules in the months leading up to the vote, including an unprecedented expansion of mail-in voting, an inherently fraught method of casting ballots that removes almost all oversight from the process.”*

Pandora’s Box was opened. Any confidence in the integrity of the election has been irrevocably damaged.

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***“SOCIALISM is a philosophy of failure, the creed of ignorance and the gospel of envy. It’s inherent virtue is the equal sharing of misery”***

**– Winston Churchill**

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Here in the Golden State, GOC’s official political action committee (PAC) teamed up with Gun Owners of America and the California Rifle and Pistol Association. Through this joint effort, we were able to “arm and inform” gun owners throughout the state with comprehensive information on candidates for Congress, State Senate and the As-

sembly, detailing who were pro-2nd Amendment/pro-Constitution and who were not. Right up until election day, our offices fielded many phone calls from throughout the state – folks were eager to learn who was going to stand with them – or against them.

In the **CONGRESS**, it was widely expected that the anti-gun Democrats would retain their powerful national position, reelect all existing representatives and basically wipe out their pro-gun opposition. *This did not happen.* Instead, 2A Republicans kept every one of their seats and 4 pro-gun challengers defeated the incumbents. That is NOT what Nancy Pelosi wanted for Christmas. BIG win.

In the **STATE SENATE**, a record-breaking amount of money was spent targeting two Republican incumbents and unfortunately, the anti-gun Democrats won. No practical change here as the radicals still have a super-majority.

In the **STATE ASSEMBLY**, pro-gun Republicans made some headway and picked up one seat. This is much better than going backwards, but the far left still maintains its iron fist on that house.

It was in the **INITIATIVE** process where Californians woke up and emphatically voted against a number of socialistic propositions. We snubbed higher property taxes and a draconian expansion of rent control. We told the state they can’t discriminate to give one group an advantage over another and said a big yes to gig workers being able to remain

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## 2020 ELECTION...CONT.

independent contractors. We also said “heck no” to the unionization of dialysis clinics, and most importantly, totally rejected the elimination of paid bail as a means to get out of jail (voters supported the position taken by nearly every Sheriff in the state).

I’m part of that crowd that watched as tens of thousands lined up across the nation to hear President Trump, believing he had a path to victory if election integrity were maintained. I also went on record saying that if he did lose, we are in a strong legal position to restore, protect and defend the 2nd Amendment – and this is because of his extraordinary appointments to the Supreme Court (especially the successful appointment of Amy Coney Barrett to SCOTUS), the Appellate Courts and the District Courts. Plus, if we are successful in retaining control of the U.S. Senate by winning one or both of the Senate seats (which will be decided in January’s Georgia run-offs), we will be in an excellent position to obstruct anti-gun maneuvers put in place by either the sitting President or Congress.

**GOC** will continue to engage in the election process, in California and across the nation (believe it or not, we are already working on the 2022 elections). We’ve been wrangling the anti-gunners for over 45 years! Although earlier this year we lost our resilient and robust founder Senator H.L. Richardson to an infinitely better place, I think he would be pleased with *our resilience and fearless pursuit of freedom and liberty*.

## NO REST FOR GOC

We have options after every election: we can either sit back, put our feet up for a well-deserved rest, or we can build on the momentum we had worked so hard to establish before all the votes

were counted. GOC says “bring it on!” There’s no resting in our world – *we are ready for the next round* and it begins **TODAY**. We’ve come away with a lot of positives from the 2020 election – but we would be plumb stupid if we didn’t learn a thing or two as well. This is in keeping with the goals set by our late founder, Senator H.L. Richardson who said we must make lemonade with rough hands:

*“We must learn to build alliances and collect residuals in any and all confrontations with the left. Even when temporarily set back by election losses, organizations can be held together for the next encounter, a fight which will inevitably take place. From each conflict something can and must be gained – experience, friendships, political skills, fundraising files, evaluation of talent, and the building of potential candidates. The continual building of ongoing structure is vitally important. Good candidates and future skills come from fighting in the trenches and participating in campaigns. A farm system develops out of political conflict where new talent is trained by the rough hands of trial and error.”*

*“I’m in the business of raising THEIR blood pressure. I am a giver of ulcers, not a getter.”*

One of the most significant things that differentiates GOC from other groups is that we have a keen knowledge of exactly who and what we are dealing with. We have no illusions that the Left are simply a bunch of misguided and ill-informed “good” folks – in reality, we know full well they want nothing more than to gut us philosophically – and to **DISARM** us physically.

Decade after decade, Senator Richardson has been proven right when he said “*Liberal legislators practice deceit. It’s well within their ethics to do so. Why*

*bother to get excited when viewing them on television or listening to them pontificate on talk shows? Why get frustrated and an ulcerated tummy over something which we should expect? By their nature and training they will omit key information, color their commentaries with personally clever anecdotes, and tell outright fibs if necessary. Why be upset by their propaganda and clutter our brains worrying over their non-sensical left-wing trivia? Dogs bark, snakes wiggle, jackasses bray, vultures vomit, and radical leftists lie. It’s their nature to do so.”*

All one needs to do is take a look at what happened in the presidential election and the wholesale character assassination of Donald Trump by the Left for the past four years.

Richardson wrote “*Why clutter the brain with political gunk? Whenever someone asks my opinion of Speaker Pelosi’s or some other liberal’s last speech, I tell them I’m not into fiction so I didn’t watch it – I didn’t. Why get upset watching prevaricators prevaricate? I’m in the business of raising THEIR blood pressure. I am a giver of ulcers, not a getter. Shouldn’t you be, too?”*

## WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT THE “NEW” SUPREME COURT (SCOTUS)

By Sam Paredes, Executive Director

Why is the anti-gun left wetting their pants with regards to the future of the 2nd Amendment?

It’s no secret that since the SCOTUS rulings in both Heller v Washington DC and McDonald v Chicago over a decade ago that the 2nd Amendment was established as an individual and not a collective right. The cases further determined that the right was so important that it could not be infringed by the federal, state or local governments, yet there have been many lower court rulings that have done just that.

Multiple federal Courts of Appeal have issued decisions in direct conflict with the rulings in Heller and McDonald. It is the Supreme Court’s responsibility to resolve those conflicts but, even though well over a dozen cases have made their way to SCOTUS, the court has declined to hear them. This has angered several Supreme Court Justices who opined that the 2nd Amendment has been relegated to nothing more than a Second-class right.

It has been reasonably speculated that pro-2nd Amendment justices on the high court have not wanted to take on a case if there were a possibility that they would lose Chief Justice John Roberts to the anti-gun left. This could ultimately create a dangerous precedent that would permanently devalue the 2nd Amendment into a 2nd-class right. President Donald Trump, however, stuck to his word and appointed Justice Amy Coney Barrett to replace leftist stalwart Ruth Bader Ginsburg upon her death. Now the threat of Justice Roberts going south has been greatly minimized.

Currently, we have a solid 5 out of 9 vote majority on SCOTUS who have a robust record on the 2nd Amendment, who we are hopeful will restore this right to its proper level of importance and relevance. To be fair to Justice Roberts, he voted correctly on Heller and McDonald, but, it is also speculated that the wording was somewhat watered down by Justice Scalia in Heller and Justice Alito in McDonald so as to not lose John Roberts’ and Anthony Kennedy’s (retired in 2018) votes.

The judges on SCOTUS now fall into one of three camps, the first and most appropriate being *originalists*, which are those who believe that the Bill of Rights should only be interpreted using the text, history and tradition of the founder’s words, and not left to judicial “balancing tests”. Court “progressives” are those who believe U.S. Constitution is a living document that changes

with time and circumstance much like the Pirate’s Code - more of a suggestion than a rule. Court “minimalists” are wild cards - not compelled by either position and sometimes stick their fingers in the air to gage which way the wind is blowing at the time.

**Originalists**

Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, one of the strongest supporters of the 2nd Amendment. Appointed by President George H.W. Bush in 1991.

Associate Justice Samuel Alito, author of the very important decision in McDonald v Chicago, who along with Justice Thomas have been critical of the court failing to take on 2nd Amendment cases. Appointed by President George W. Bush in 2006.

Associate Justice Neil Gorsuch, while on the 10th Circuit, wrote an opinion that supported SCOTUS on the ruling that the 2nd Amendment was an individual right. He has been referred to as a justice with an originalist philosophy akin to the late Justice Scalia. Appointed by President Donald Trump in 2017.

Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh argued in his confirmation hearings that the text, history, and tradition is key to determining the constitutionality of gun laws. Appointed by President Donald Trump in 2018.

Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett, in her recent confirmation hearings testified that the 2nd Amendment confers an individual right. She clerked for Justice Scalia and is an adherent to his judicial philosophy. Appointed by President Donald Trump in 2020.

**Progressives**

Associate Justice Stephen Breyer suggested that the 2nd Amendment is out of date. Appointed by President Bill Clinton.

Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor,

while on the 2nd Circuit held that the Constitution does not protect the 2nd Amendment right to keep and bear arms against infringement by state and local governments. Appointed by President Barack Obama in 2009.

Associate Justice Elana Kagan, in her confirmation hearings refused to support the 2nd Amendment and testified only that it was settled law. The issue is that she sits on the only court that can unsettle the law. Appointed by President Barack Obama in 2010.

**The Minimalist**

Chief Justice John Roberts is considered by most a conservative but lately his record shows that he is more of a “minimalist.” His philosophy is to avoid sweeping decisions that create disruption. We are grateful that he supported Heller and McDonald, but there is growing concern that he will not go any further than that. Appointed by President George W. Bush in 2005.

Are the opponents of the 2nd Amendment justified in their fear that the newly constituted Supreme Court will rule in favor of restoring our rights, providing an opportunity to push back on the unconstitutional gun control laws that are on the books? As Senator H.L. Richardson was fond of saying, “*you bet your sweet bippy*”.

## THE LEGISLATURE: WHAT THE GOVERNOR SIGNED

In the 3rd quarter newsletter, we reported what bills had made it to the Governor’s Desk in the final days of the legislative session. We can now report on what he ultimately signed: of the three that passed, Governor Newsom signed two – and we were a bit surprised (and thankful) that he vetoed the most destructive of the bunch:

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**THE LEGISLATURE...CONT.**

**AB 2362: Muratsuchi/D - SIGNED**

This will permit the DOJ to fine gun stores and will place retailers in jeopardy of going out of business for minor paperwork violations.

**AB 2847: Chiu/D - SIGNED**

Forces manufacturers to use micro-stamping technology in order to have handguns on the California approved roster. Also, this bill *deletes* **three** models from the roster for every **one** "new" microstamped handgun. SIGNED

**SB 914: Portantino /D - VETOED**

This bill was a convoluted mess that would have seriously undermined youth shooting programs throughout the state by mandating that only parents – not a relative, a school or legitimate shooting club – can provide a firearm to anyone under 18. In his veto message, Governor Newsom’s refusal to sign the bill was because “DOJ does not currently have the technology to verify the validity of hunting licenses.” **Rather than being about the destructive policy, it was more about money and technology.**

Each bill signed by the Governor this

year is ripe for a legal challenge, including **SB 118**, (inserted in the Budget “trailer bill” last June), which significantly expands the definition of assault weapons. You can be assured that **GOC’s fight in the courts** is at the top of our busy list for 2021.

**JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS! WE STAND UNITED!**

Pre-order your exclusive GOC t-shirt today! This limited edition t-shirt, produced by our partners at TAC 702 is the perfect Christmas gift and makes the statement that we stand UNITED, while supporting the Second Amendment! Check out the GOC Shop to order yours today - order before December 16th to receive before Christmas! All of the proceeds go towards building our war chest for 2021, by lobbying the legislature, participating in the numerous court cases that are in the works, and by arming and informing new and existing gun owners across the state.




*Gun Owners has felt the painful economic sting of 2020, much like many of you, our faithful members. We thank you for standing with us through such uncertainty and division in our nation, and encourage you to continue in your support. It is our earnest hope that your Christmas will be blessed, that 2021 will bring a renewed sense of purpose for us all and that we will soon be able to gather without fear of sickness or the heavy hand of the government. Regardless of the current circumstances, please know that GOC is steadfastly hopeful, and grateful.*



YES! I want Gun Owners of California, Inc. to continue fighting for our 2nd Amendment rights. I understand the minimum donation of \$35.00 entitles me to full membership benefits.

\$100    \$75    \$50    \$35    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Membership Benefits*

- Regular newsletters informing members of pending legislation and issues affecting gun rights.
- Information alerts through our website, email.
- Voting records of all California Legislators.
- Access to all Legislators through our website.

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