

THE Gun Owners

43 YEARS OF NO COMPROMISE – 1975-2018

Is There a “Blue Wave” Coming in 2018?

by John Velleco

Democrats across the country are counting on being swept into power in November on a widely publicized blue wave.

History seems to be on their side. The president’s party almost always loses seats in the midterm elections — particularly in the president’s first term — and sometimes dramatically so.

In 1994, after Bill Clinton rammed through a ban on many semi-automatic firearms and instituted the unconstitutional Brady background registration check system, Democrats lost 52 U.S. House seats, eight in the Senate, and control of both chambers.

Barack Obama passed ObamaCare without a single Republican vote in 2010, and in his first midterm election his party lost a whopping 63 seats in — and control of — the House.

(Only once since 1946 did a first term president’s party gain seats. Republicans picked up seats in both the House and Senate in President George W. Bush’s first mid-term election, attributed by most pollsters to his soaring approval numbers following the 9/11 terrorist attacks.)

This year, Democrats need to flip at least 24 Republican seats to gain control of the House. Feeding the blue wave theory, currently 25 seats are held by Republicans in districts Hillary Clinton carried in 2016.

President Trump’s approval ratings are barely above 40% and, according to Gallup polls, his disapproval ratings only dipped below 50% once, and that was in his first month in office.

GOA Running Political Ads Nationwide



GOA is running ads in several hotly-contested races across the country. In this ad (above), pro-gun champion Ted Cruz is running for reelection to the U.S. Senate against an anti-gun challenger who supports gun bans and registration of gun owners, while opposing concealed carry reciprocity. The race has attracted national attention, as Cruz’ opponent has raised a whopping \$10 million dollars. Gun owners can contribute to help place more of these ads by going to www.gunowners.me/PVF [Note: The URL is case sensitive].

The President’s former campaign chairman was convicted of tax fraud, his former personal attorney pled guilty to election law violations.

The constitutionally questionable special counsel Robert Mueller is handing out indictments in the alleged Russian collusion probe faster than the Obama administration passed out guns to Mexican drug cartels.

So perhaps Democrats can be excused for their giddiness as the 2018 midterms enter the home stretch.

Or maybe their collective hubris — and forcing issues onto the ballot that would otherwise not be a factor — will be their undoing.

The party that has thrown off any pretense of moderation still does, in fact, have to contend with an extreme left flank that believes pols like Nancy Pelosi and Diane Feinstein are, well, too moderate.

This is the crowd railing nightly for the impeachment of President Trump.

This is the crowd chanting to abolish ICE (Immigration and Customs

Enforcement).

And, this is the crowd demanding that the government take away the unalienable right to keep and bear arms.

Here are a few recent headlines illustrating the latter point:

“The Democrat Party’s New Litmus Test: Gun Control” (*Wall Street Journal*, 8/9/18).

“Democrats Fund Spike in Gun Control Ads This Election Cycle” (*USA Today*, 8/15/18).

“David Hogg turns on ‘older’ Dems; they ‘won’t move the f-- off the plate and let us take control” (*Washington Times*, 8/20/18).

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Congressional Voter Rating 

Go to www.gunowners.me/2018rating

Share with your pro-gun friends & family!

Is There a “Blue Wave” Coming in 2018?

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David Hogg, one of the leaders of the manipulated Parkland students touring the country with calls for civilian disarmament, recently teamed up with New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio to form “Mayors for Our Lives.”

The group’s intent: register and get out to the polls young people who will vote for an agenda stripping themselves and the rest of the population of their constitutional rights.

Mom’s Demand Action, an anti-gun group funded by Michael Bloomberg, can be seen donned in pink t-shirts at any legislative hearing or political press conference dealing with Second Amendment rights.

Anti-gunners are buoyed by so-called polls claiming that two-thirds of the voting public support greater gun restrictions.

But this hard-left agenda could lead to consequences not intended by its devotees.

It may turn out that chaos, disorder and destruction is not a winning political strategy, and the left might do more to drive voters to the voting booth — the polls that actually matter — than all the money advertising could buy.

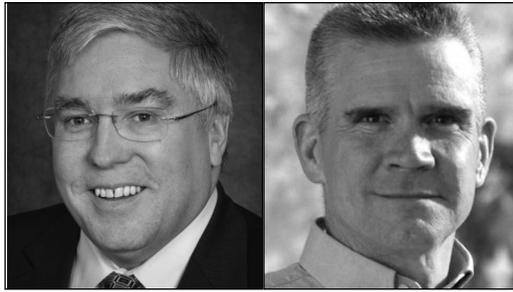
Key Races

Most of the media focus is on the House and the impending takeover by Democrats. Gun Owners of America is involved in several key House races, including defending several Freedom Caucus members who are top targets of the Left.

This includes Rod Blum (IA-1), Dave Brat (VA-7), Ted Budd (NC-11) and Freedom Caucus chairman Mark Meadows (NC-13).

GOA’s top open seat race in the House is in Texas’ 21st District, with Chip Roy facing off against an opponent campaigning on “standing up to the gun lobby.”

While working in the U.S. Senate as Ted Cruz’ chief of staff, Chip Roy was instrumental in defeating the Toomey-Manchin gun control onslaught in 2013. GOA supported Chip through both a primary and runoff elections with mailings, radio ads, and personal visits to the district.



GOA helped Republicans Patrick Morrissey of West Virginia (left) and Matt Rosendale of Montana win their respective Senate primaries this spring. They now face off against two “F” rated Democrat Senators who are trying to sell themselves as “pro-gun” during this election season.

There are also several key races for the U.S. Senate in which GOA already has played an important role.

In West Virginia, GOA-backed Patrick Morrissey, the current state attorney general, won a contentious 3-way primary and faces off against incumbent Senator Joe Manchin.

Manchin, who once upon a time campaigned as a pro-Second Amendment candidate, has turned into Mr. Gun Control, carrying water for Michael Bloomberg and his allies. Manchin teamed up with another fake pro-gunner, Pat Toomey (R-PA) on a proposal to prohibit almost all private firearms transactions at gun shows unless run through a federal government background registration check.

Due to liability issues placed on gun show promoters, Manchin’s legislation would have quickly led to the elimination of gun shows.

West Virginia voters have steadily voted for more freedom, not less, with the state adopting Constitutional Carry in 2016. Manchin’s leadership in pushing for massive gun control could be the tipping point for a Morrissey victory.

In Montana, GOA supported state auditor Matt Rosendale in his primary against two other challengers. Rosendale is now running against anti-gun incumbent Senator Jon Tester.

Tester is another fair-weather friend who casts pro-gun votes on occasion — when his vote will have little impact on the final outcome. He then appears back home in Big Sky Country claiming to be a Second Amendment supporter.

But Gun Owners of America has his number. Tester earned an “F” rating from GOA for his votes in favor of

Obama anti-gun Supreme Court picks Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan, and against Neil Gorsuch, the Trump nominee with a record respecting the Second Amendment.

Another statewide race that will be of interest to gun owners throughout the country is the Florida gubernatorial race.

The Sunshine State has turned into ground zero for gun control. The Democrat candidate, Andrew Gillum, represents the leftward wing of the party and was supported by Socialist Senator Bernie Sanders.

His anti-gun platform includes a semi-auto and magazine ban, gun owner registration, and a ban on certain types of ammunition.

The GOA-backed candidate in the race is A-rated U.S. Representative Ron DeSantis, who will fight each of these proposals. This will likely become the most expensive race for governor in the country.

In addition to these few highlights, Gun Owners of America is involved in races up and down the ballot in 2018. You can view your own congressional rating by visiting www.gunowners.me/2018rating.

After crushing losses by anti-gun candidates in elections throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, gun control all but disappeared as a decisive issue in most elections over the last several election cycles.

But in 2018, gun control is back with a vengeance, and back on the ballot in just about every competitive race in the country.

It remains to be seen if gun owners — who are understandably frustrated that concealed carry reciprocity and suppressor deregulation have not passed even after the gun vote helped deliver the White House and both chambers of Congress to Republicans — will turn out to vote in massive numbers in November.

If gun owners stay home, a blue wave is much more likely. Nancy Pelosi or someone to her left will be Speaker of the House, and impeachment of the president and gun control will top their agenda.

But if gun owners turn out the way they did in 2016, then the blue wave may turn out to be little more than a trickle. ■

Hit the Right Target!

Give to Gun Owners Foundation



In many federal offices there are subtle (and sometimes not so subtle) pressures to give to the Combined Federal Campaign. Your boss may think his prestige depends upon getting everyone to kick in. The same thing happens in all too many corporations during the United Way fundraising drive.

You may have wanted to give but couldn't find a group that wasn't attacking your rights, let alone defending them, on the list of participating organizations. But that has all changed!

Federal employees now are able to designate **Gun Owners Foundation (GOF)** as the recipient of their gifts to the Combined Federal Campaign. Use **Agency Number 10042** for **Gun Owners Foundation** when you make your Combined Federal Campaign pledge or donation. Your gifts will go toward helping our legal assistance program to protect the Second Amendment rights of Americans across the nation.

Also, if you work for a company that participates in the United Way, you too, may be able to designate that your gift be to **Gun Owners Foundation**. Many local United Way Campaigns allow Gun Owners Foundation to participate through their Donor Choice Programs. Some, however, do not. Check with your local United Way Agency. You will not only be helping people and protecting your rights, but you will also get a tax deduction.

Of course, anyone can always make a tax-deductible donation at any time to **Gun Owners Foundation** by sending the contribution directly to 8001 Forbes Place, Suite 202, Springfield, VA 22151.

One additional note. If you are employed by a corporation or organization which has a Matching Gift Program, please keep **GOF** in mind when making your donation. *Thank you very much!*



GOA Standing for Gun Rights in the Courts

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In such instances, judges attempt to weigh whether officials have a compelling government interest which justifies restrictions on a constitutionally-protected right.

Or put more simply, judges try to determine if the law is more important than the Constitution.

But Gun Owners argued that the Second Amendment protects the right to keep and bear arms against *all* infringements, and that alone invalidates all "judicial balancing tests."

Incredibly, the D.C. Circuit broke with its own precedent and adopted the "text and history" approach that GOA was advocating, and which the Supreme Court had mandated in the 2008 *Heller* case.

This pro-gun decision is significant because it sets up a potential conflict at the appellate level with other concealed carry cases that have been decided differently.

And such conflicts can easily justify the U.S. Supreme Court taking up a firearms case.

Gun Battles Still Pending

Speaking of the high Court, GOA and GOF are currently engaged in several fights that could one day wind up at the U.S. Supreme Court:

- **Defeating a ban on bump stocks.** Our Foundation attorneys are currently preparing a legal case to challenge an expected ruling by the ATF which will ban the private possession of bump stocks — a ban which could be easily expanded by a future anti-gun President to ban AR-15s and other semi-autos.
- **Fighting for suppressors.** GOF is challenging the NFA's draconian restrictions on suppressors and, in the process, is defending gun owners in the state of Kansas who were prosecuted by Eric Holder's Justice Department. Our arguments in this case (*U.S. v. Kettler*) also help buttress Kansas' Second Amendment Preservation Act, which outlaws federal gun control laws within the borders of the state.
- **Defending commonly-owned semi-autos.** Our Foundation attorneys have submitted an amicus brief to Connecticut's Supreme Court in *Soto v. Bushmaster Firearms* — a

case which represents a thinly-veiled request for the court to ban all semi-autos.

- **Opposing gun owner registration.** GOF has challenged the ATF's unlawful registration of gun owners who purchase two or more long guns within five days. Federal law only requires this of handgun purchases, but the Obama administration unilaterally began applying the same registration requirements to gun owners purchasing rifles in the four southern border states.

There's a lot on our plate — even more cases than can be mentioned here. But you can help support our Foundation's legal work in two different ways:

- By giving a tax-deductible contribution to GOF online at gunowners.com/contribute;
- Or by contributing to GOF through the Combined Federal Campaign by using Agency Number 10042.

Your gifts will help Gun Owners Foundation defend the rights of honest gun owners across the country and protect good citizens against infringements of the Second Amendment by the federal government. ■



GOA Standing for Gun Rights in the Courts

By Erich Pratt

Gun Owners of America — and its legal arm, Gun Owners Foundation (GOF) — helped win two significant cases within the last year.

One of them involved concealed carry in the nation’s capital.

The other suit involved a homeowner’s right to be safe from police officers searching his property without a warrant.

The latter case, *Collins v. Virginia*, didn’t even involve a firearm — but everyone knew that our involvement in this case meant the ultimate outcome now benefits gun owners nationwide.

The Supreme Court gave Gun Owners Foundation a reason to rejoice with its 8-1 decision in May — a case which ultimately strengthens gun owners’ rights to be protected from unreasonable searches.

As stated by the liberal *Slate.com* on the day the Supreme Court handed down this decision in May:

[The Supreme Court] gave gun rights advocates and libertarians a reason to rejoice on Tuesday morning [when] the court ruled 8-1 that cops generally need a warrant to search a vehicle in your driveway...

Gun owners, after all, want to protect their homes and families, using lethal force against intruders if necessary. If the police can trespass on their property with impunity, the concept of unlawful intrusion gets blurry.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor, who handed down the decision for the Court, appeared to be very familiar with GOA’s *amicus* brief, given the way she formulated her statements during oral arguments.

The commonwealth of Virginia was trying to push the boundaries of when and where police officers need to get a warrant.

Thankfully, the Supreme Court overwhelmingly smacked down the state’s attempts to condone an officer who was conducting a warrantless search.

As stated by *Slate.com*:

[G]un rights groups fretted that a bad decision in *Collins* could further undermine gun owners’ rights to be protected from unreasonable searches.

That is why GOA and GOF will continue to fight for our Fourth Amendment protections, knowing that the safeguards against warrantless searches and seizures will protect gun owners from coast to coast.

Fighting for Concealed Carry

At the appellate level, GOA is celebrating a landmark victory in *Wrenn v. D.C.*

The District’s permitting system had been extremely restrictive, requiring honest citizens to show “good reason” why the D.C. government should issue someone a concealed carry permit.

GOA submitted an *amicus* brief in *Wrenn*, arguing against the “good reason” requirement.

And the D.C. Circuit agreed, ruling that the city’s “good reason” requirement for concealed carry permits is unconstitutional.

In this case, Gun Owners argued that judges have no authority to use a “balancing test” approach to Second Amendment rights.

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Hit the Right Target! Give to Gun Owners Foundation

- ✓ Give to Gun Owners Foundation through the Combined Federal Campaign
- ✓ Use Agency #10042 for GOF
- ✓ This helps GOF legal cases to protect gun owners in court
- ✓ Get more info on how to contribute to GOF through the CFC ad on page 3



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