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Citizens Association for Responsible Gun Ownership = CARGO

[www.cargogunclub.org](http://www.cargogunclub.org)

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Hello Fellow CARGO Members,

**The next meeting will be held at Community BBQ on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.**

Community BBQ  
7010 TX-78  
Sachse, TX 75048

For the dinner portion of the meeting, we will be in the meeting room between 5:30 and 6:15 for food and fellowship.

The meeting will begin at 6:15 PM and run until about 8:00.

**Under the Texas Open Carry Law, you could be committing an offense if you remove your pistol from its holster while open carrying. While at Community BBQ, DO NOT remove your pistol from its holster unless it is an emergency.**

## Topics for this month:

With Community BBQ's liquor license application in process we may not have the opportunity to do gun show and tell this month.

**However we have a very important meeting this month.**

**The Texas primary election is Tuesday March 3<sup>rd</sup> with early voting from February 18<sup>th</sup> until February 28<sup>th</sup>.**

There are five candidates for the Republican nominee for US House District 32. We have invited 3 of the Republican candidates who published 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment positions to speak to the club:

- Mr. Jeff Tokar
- Mr. Floyd McLendon Jr.
- Ms. Genevieve Collins

(Neither Mr. Jon Hollis or Mr. Mark Sackett publish any stance on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.)

Mr. McLendon Jr. and Mr. Tokar have accepted and are scheduled to attend.

Ms. Collins' campaign Manager responded that she had a prior engagement. Her campaign manager did share that she just received an A on their NRA survey.

This primary election is critical to North Texas and our area. Today we are represented by Democrat Colin Allred. Mr. Allred does not support the 2nd Amendment nor most of the values of CARGO. We need to find out where the Republican candidates fall in support of the 2nd Amendment.

From Ms. Collins' website:

"I am a strong supporter of the 2nd Amendment. I grew up around firearms where weapon safety is paramount and the first priority. We must protect the Second Amendment to ensure that our constitutional rights and freedoms are NOT taken away. We must better enforce our current background checks system to make sure we get them right.

A prevalence of weapons in our communities is not the only or main cause of the escalated violence that we have seen. I believe mental illness, opioid and drug abuse, combined with a system that allows those suffering from these afflictions to obtain guns, is the main issue at hand. We need to understand that our country is suffering from a serious problem related to mental health and address it directly."

From Mr. McLendon's website:

"As a former Navy SEAL, I understand firsthand the importance of firearm ownership. Good guys with guns keep bad guys with guns in check. While Democrats, who refer to an AR-15 as an "assault rifle", continue to play politics with the 2nd Amendment, I will always stand firm on this foundational freedom. The 2nd Amendment is clear: shall not be infringed. I will always fight to ensure our right to keep and bear arms is protected."

From Mr. Tokar's website and The American Resolution that is published to show his position on issues:

"Whereas, as acknowledged in the language of the second amendment, it is a fundamental constitutional right for the citizens of the United States to own firearms,

Let it be resolved, I affirm that right and oppose any legislation that in any way attempts to undermine or diminish this fundamental right."

Mr. Sackett's website has no 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment position published.

Mr. Hollis' website has no 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment position published.

**Please join us for the meeting to hear directly from the candidates. If you have specific questions or concerns please be prepared to ask the candidates directly.**

**This election is critical for our district, State, Country and our children's future. If you know any like CARGO friendly voters, invite them to our meeting.**

# Finally some good news from Virginia!

From: VCDL <[President@vcdl.org](mailto:President@vcdl.org)>

Date: Mon, Feb 17, 2020 at 10:13 AM

Subject: VA-ALERT: VICTORY! HB 961 is dead for the year! 10 to 5 vote!

To:



## Virginia Citizens Defense League

*Defending Your Right to Defend Yourself*



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Congratulations, VCDL! Your phone calls, emails, attendance at the Second Amendment Sanctuary hearings, attendance at General Assembly committee hearings, and attendance at Lobby Day has paid off - HB 961, the "assault weapon"/higher-capacity magazine/suppressor/bump stock ban, is DEAD for the year!

Thousands of gun owners packed the General Assembly building this morning and flooded the hearing room. After hearing public input and debating between committee members, the bill was passed by for the year!

The following Senators voted in a **bipartisan** manner to protect your rights and kill HB 961 (Republicans in **red** and Democrats in **blue**): **Chafin**, **Deeds**, **Edwards**, **McDougle**, **Norment**, **Obenshain**, **Petersen**, **Stanley**, **Stuart**, and **Surrovell**.

The following Senators voted in a **partisan** manner against your rights: [Boysko](#), [Lucas](#), [McClellan](#), [Morrissey](#), and [Saslaw](#).

Next year, the battle will continue, but if we fight like we did this year, vote in every election, and support pro-gun candidates, we will continue to be a force to be reckoned with.

**We dare not get complacent again.**

We are far from being out of the woods. Red Flag laws, Universal Background Checks, and destruction of the firearms preemption law are still very much alive this year. Watch for upcoming action items.

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**To view the archives**, [click here](#).

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Not yet a Virginia Citizens Defense League member? Join VCDL at: <https://vcdl.org/join>

VCDL's calendar: <http://www.vcdl.org/meetings>

Abbreviations used in VA-ALERT: <http://www.vcdl.org/help/abbr.html>

**You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website or you signed up at a gun show or other event.**

**Our mailing address is:**

Virginia Citizens Defense League  
PO Box 513  
Newington, VA 22122-0513

[Add us to your address book](#)



<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/virginia-assault-weapons-ban-fails-in-legislature>

# Virginia lawmakers reject Northam's assault-weapons ban, as Dems balk

By **Tyler Olson** | Fox News

*Virginia gun control debate could push some counties to join West Virginia*

As the debate over stricter gun laws rages on in the state capitol of Richmond, Virginia, West Virginia lawmakers have signed on to new legislation that would accept revolting Virginia counties and towns who want to join the Mountain State. West Virginia Delegate Gary Howell discusses this new legislation and if he agrees with some critics who claim a second Civil War is brewing.

A bill backed by Gov. Ralph Northam that would ban the sale of **assault-style** weapons in **Virginia** failed on a committee vote Monday morning, setting back one of the biggest priorities for the newly minted **Democrat**-controlled government in the state.

A crowd of gun-rights activists packed into the committee room cheered as the vote came in, with four moderate Democrats joining Republicans to shelve the bill until next year. Heated exchanges over guns have dominated this year's legislative session. They were also a key topic of last year's legislative elections – particularly after **a mass shooting in Virginia Beach** claimed a dozen lives – and gun control groups heavily funded Democratic candidates.

Gun-rights protesters have been out in force for weeks in Richmond, Va., the state's capital, over Democrats' gun control agenda.



**Second Amendment supporters gather on Bank Street outside the Virginia state capitol on Monday. (AP/The Virginian-Pilot)**

"I have friends that are not going to comply," warned [Nicholas McGraw](#), a gun owner from King William County who came to protest the assault weapons bill on Feb. 7, before the measure died.

McGraw's comments reflected the attitude of many conservatives and Second Amendment activists in Virginia, especially in its more rural areas. More than 100 Virginia cities and counties have declared themselves to be sanctuary jurisdictions for gun rights since Democrats, led by Gov. Northam, took control of the state's government.

Cheers erupted when the Virginia Senate Judiciary Committee voted to not move forward on HB961, the the "assault weapons" ban and magazine confiscation bill, for the year. [@DelegateMark](#), who had been pushing for the bill, has a priceless reaction.

HB 961 SENATE OF VIRGINIA 8:45 AM  
 Judiciary

HB 961: Assault firearms, certain firearm magazines, etc.; prohibiting sale, transport, etc., penalties.  
 Patron: Levine  
 Motion: Continued

**YEAS: 10 NAYS: 5 ABS: 0**

Nay	Boysko	Yea	Norment
Yea	Chafin	Yea	Obenshain
Yea	Deeds	Yea	Petersen
Yea	Edwards	Nay	Saslaw
Nay	Lucas	Yea	Stanley
Nay	McClellan	Yea	Stuart
Yea	McDougle	Yea	Surovell
Nay	Morrissey		

## MORE THAN 100 VIRGINIA CITIES, COUNTIES DECLARE THEMSELVES SANCTUARIES AS DEMS PREPARE TO TAKE LEGISLATURE

Such "sanctuaries" would order local law enforcement not to enforce state gun laws.

But proponents of the assault weapons bill said that they would take the setback in stride.

"While we are disappointed in today's vote, we are undeterred. Assault-style weapons, large-capacity magazines, and other accessories designed to heighten the lethality of firearms have no place in our communities," Kris Brown, President of Brady United Against Gun Violence, said in a statement. "In the meantime, the Judiciary Committee and Virginia Senate must swiftly pass the remaining seven, common-sense gun violence prevention laws before them. We need the action that voters demanded in November."

Before the bill failed, Virginia Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security Brian Moran underscored the resolve some Democrats have to get an

assault weapons ban done. He said Americans do not have a right to own such firearms under the Constitution.

"Assault weapons are not protected by the Second Amendment because they are weapons of war," Moran said.

Other gun control bills have, however, made it through the Virginia House and Senate. These include measures that would ban guns in certain areas and buildings, require universal background checks, limit how frequently people can buy handguns and allow law enforcement to temporarily take guns away from someone they deem dangerous.

Whittney Evans, a reporter for [myVPM](#), a local NPR affiliate, reported that Democratic Sen. Louise Loris said, "you bunch of wimps," after the vote results came in. The assault weapons bill, which was more moderate than previous proposals to outright ban possession of assault rifles or force owners to register them with police, could not get the moderate Democrats needed in order to pass.

The Monday vote tasks the state crime commission with studying the issue as the legislature puts off any action on assault weapons until at least 2021. Virginia's legislative session will end on March 7.

*Fox News Barnini Chakraborty, Sam Dorman and the Associated Press contributed to this report.*

***CARGO Editor's note: Governor Northam's budget has \$6 Million across two budget categories for 28 total new hires – 18 of which are for administrative for the registration process for gun confiscation units.***

<https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/washington-secrets/virginia-governors-call-for-18-person-gun-ban-force-comes-under-fire>

# Virginia governor's call for 18-person gun ban force comes under fire

by Paul Bedard | January 02, 2020 11:47 AM

Virginia's pop-up [gun sanctuary movement](#) has turned its attention to fighting the governor's call for a \$4.8 million, 18-officer team to enforce his proposed "assault weapons" ban.

Two key groups issued an alert this week to push gun owners to four budget hearings Thursday around the state, asking them to quiz state legislators if they will vote to ban or confiscate weapons.

"We understand that this is short notice. But it would have a significant impact if many of our members could show up and make a 3-minute statement and ask questions of the legislators in attendance," said the [Virginia Citizens Defense League](#).

"We see in the governor's proposed budget that he wants \$4 million and 18 new law-enforcement positions to enforce a ban on commonly-owned firearms," said Erich Pratt, [Gun Owners of America](#) senior vice president.

"Gun owners want to know: Is this money going to be used for the gun confiscation?" he added.

Both groups have been key in the surprising success of the organic gun sanctuary movement in Virginia that was prompted when Gov. Ralph Northam said he'd back sweeping gun control legislation after Democrats took control of the legislature in the 2019 elections.

The election surprised gun owners and prompted them to subsequently flood town and county meetings to demand that local lawmakers OK sanctuary resolutions to ignore Richmond's gun control urge.

A surprising 91% of all state counties have adopted the resolutions, sending a signal to state lawmakers.

In two weeks, the groups are planning to bus in thousands of gun owners for a "lobby day" in Richmond to reinforce demands not to pass new gun laws.

The gun control side is also working overtime to win support for gun control initiatives, including expanded background checks and a ban on modern sporting weapons such as AR-15 rifles and pistols.

At today's budget hearings, the groups have urged their members to ask questions about Northam's budget that includes [\\$4.8 million for an 18-person force](#) to implement his proposed assault weapons ban.

It also features more than \$2 million to hire 10 more to enforce other gun control proposals, including universal background checks, a one gun purchase per month limit, and "extreme risk legislation."

"We need to get as many pro-gun Virginians as possible to attend these meetings and demand to know if the delegates and senators plan to allocate money -- as delineated in budget -- to confiscate common, household firearms from Virginia citizens," VCDL wrote in an email alert.

*CARGO Editor This is the liberal spin on the situation – Paranoid gun nuts, it isn't about confiscation they are to make sure that they register them... (underlines are mine):*

<https://www.virginiamercury.com/2020/01/07/no-virginia-the-governors-budget-doesnt-fund-an-18-officer-gun-confiscation-squad/>

## No, Virginia. The governor's budget doesn't fund an 18-officer gun confiscation squad.

By [Graham Moomaw](#) - January 7, 2020



Gov. Ralph Northam, flanked by incoming Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw and House Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn, outlines Democrats' priorities for the 2020 legislative session on Jan. 7, 2020. (Ned Oliver/Virginia Mercury)

Amid a conspiracy theory-tinged [uproar](#) over the possibility of Virginia passing new gun-control laws, pro-gun activists have scoured the state budget for evidence validating their fears about the government coming for their firearms.

But much of the pro-gun rhetoric surrounding Gov. Ralph Northam's proposed budget doesn't match reality. The [two-year budget](#) includes roughly \$4 million to support 18 new Virginia State Police positions related to an assault weapon ban, a line item pro-gun groups have portrayed as an ominous sign of looming gun confiscation.

"The Virginia governor's new budget reveals funding for a new team of anti-gun cops," reads a headline on conservative website Liberty Nation.

"Gun owners want to know: Is this money going to be used for the gun confiscation that, in November, the governor said he was considering," Gun Owners of America Senior Vice President Eric Pratt said in a news release urging supporters to pack the state's budget hearings last week.

"It is not clear from the document what the precise function of these 18 government collaborators would be," the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action said in a recent post.

According to the governor's office, the funding is for administrative workers who would oversee the registration/permitting process Democrats are proposing to allow gun owners to keep firearms they already have. The 18 jobs mentioned in the budget are not trooper positions, said Northam spokeswoman Alena Yarmosky.

“These 18 positions are for administrative staff to process applications and background checks for Virginians who apply for a permit to retain assault firearms they currently own,” Yarmosky said. “Funding will also support the development of an IT system to manage applications and permits.”

That doesn't mean there won't be more sworn officers focusing on guns.

The budget proposal also includes roughly \$6.5 million to convert 43 civilian workers who oversee the state's sex offender registry into trooper positions, creating a new “combined sex offense and firearms investigation unit,” according to budget documents. It's not clear how that unit would operate, but nothing in the budget suggests it would focus solely on enforcing an assault weapon ban.

Banning particular types of weaponry may be the most contentious of the gun-control proposals Democrats are expected to pursue using their new General Assembly majorities. Depending on how it plays out, the legislation could outlaw future sales of certain types of guns and affect the legal status of thousands of weapons Virginians already own.

Northam has said the proposal he supports will grandfather in existing guns that meet the assault weapon definition. But gun owners would have to register them with the state, a requirement gun-rights activists adamantly oppose and see as a step toward future gun seizures.

Northam's professed support for a grandfather clause hasn't stopped the proliferation of online conspiracy theories suggesting the state government is preparing to confiscate guns en masse. During a news conference at the Capitol Tuesday, Northam addressed some of those theories head-on.

“We ask that the discussion be civil and based in fact, not misinformation and intimidation,” Northam said. “We have no intention of calling out the National Guard. We're not going to cut off people's electricity. We're not going to go door-to-door and confiscate individuals' weapons. We are going to pass common-sense legislation that will keep guns out of dangerous hands.”

In total, Northam has proposed \$7.6 million to implement new gun laws. But the price tag will depend largely on what bills have passed when the session, which starts Wednesday, ends in mid-March.

In addition to the assault weapon ban, Democrats want to enact universal background checks, create a red flag law that would let authorities take guns from people deemed dangerous and reinstate a one-handgun-a-month law.

Northam's budget includes an additional \$3.6 million to implement the other gun measures and a bill dealing with background checks for student loan servicers.

Pro-gun organizers think they have a shot at stopping some bills in the state Senate, where Democrats have a slim, 21-19 majority and several moderates within their ranks.

“Most of these bills are going to pass,” said soon-to-be Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw, D-Fairfax. “I don't know if every single one will, but most are going to pass.”

Northam's budget proposal includes \$250,000 to cover a possible increase in the number of people imprisoned under the new laws. Some conservative outlets have characterized that money as a sign the state is preparing for a mass jailing of gun owners.

That overlooks the fact that the extra prison funding arises from a routine budgetary practice. Under state law, any criminal justice-related legislation that could increase prison populations has to include an estimate of how much it might cost the state.

When the fiscal impact is undetermined because the state doesn't have a solid estimate of how many people might break a new or expanded law, the bills get tagged with a \$50,000 minimum cost estimate.

The Northam administration arrived at the \$250,000 estimate by attaching the standard \$50,000 appropriation to five separate gun proposals.

Among the bills that had the same \$50,000 price tag last year were proposals to boost criminal penalties for drunk boating, timber theft and threatening a family member over the phone.

NRA representatives working in Virginia said this week that they and their Republican allies may push to attach more precise cost estimates to the bills, which they believe could cost the state significantly more. D.J. Spiker, Virginia director for NRA-ILA, said the \$50,000 estimates are so low "it boggles the mind."

*Mercury reporter Ned Oliver contributed.*

*CARGO Editor: This liberal piece regurgitates multiple lies about gun control. However, the critical point is that when people expressed their verbal anger at the vote, they were given 30 seconds to vacate the room or be arrested for trespassing, the public's house chambers.*

[https://www.roanoke.com/news/politics/police-clear-committee-room-after-uproar-following---vote/article\\_849a4fa6-54ad-5737-9034-84254de43a14.html](https://www.roanoke.com/news/politics/police-clear-committee-room-after-uproar-following---vote/article_849a4fa6-54ad-5737-9034-84254de43a14.html)

## Police clear committee room after uproar following 12-9 vote for bill targeting assault weapons, high capacity magazines

- By Amy Friedenberger amy.friedenberger@roanoke.com 981-3356 Feb 7, 2020



Del. Mark Levine, D-Alexandria, prepares to present HB 961, his measure to ban the sale of assault weapons, to a standing-room-only meeting of the House Public Safety Committee on Friday inside the Pocahontas Building in Richmond.

- BOB BROWN | Richmond Times-Dispatch



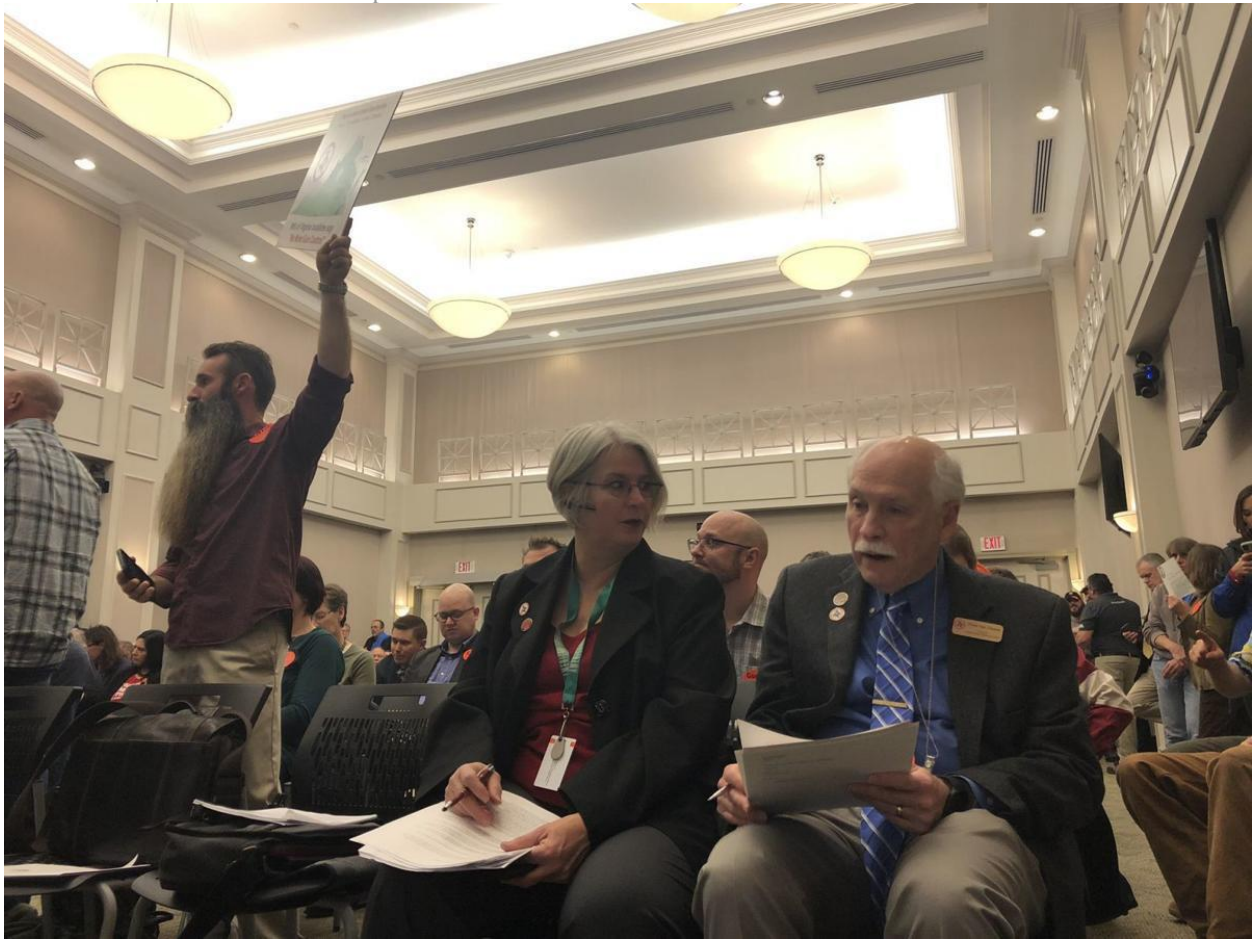
After presenting HB 961, his measure to ban assault weapons, to a standing-room-only meeting of the House Public Safety Committee, Del. Mark Levine, D-Alexandria, stands before members of the audience raising their hands in opposition to it.

- BOB BROWN | Richmond Times-Dispatch



Gun-rights supporters sit inside the room where Del. Mark Levine, D-Alexandria, presented HB 961, his proposed assault weapons ban, in Richmond on Friday. Most people in the room opposed the bill, which later passed.

- BOB BROWN | Richmond Times-Dispatch



- A man objecting to the assault weapons ban bill stands as Virginia Citizens Defense League leader Philip Van Cleave (right) sits in the House Public Safety Committee on Friday morning in Richmond.
  - AMY FRIEDENBERGER | The Roanoke Times
- 

RICHMOND — House Democrats used their majority Friday to advance the most controversial gun control bill this General Assembly session, a ban on the sale of assault weapons and the possession of “high capacity” magazines of 12 or more rounds.

The House Public Safety Committee backed HB 961 on a 12-9 party-line vote, sending it to the floor of the House of Delegates. The bill would, among other things, require Virginians to turn over or destroy ammunition magazines considered to be “high capacity” and allow the possession of centerfire assault rifles but prohibit the transfer or sale of them in most situations.

About 200 people, most of them gun rights advocates, packed into the meeting room wearing National Rifle Association T-shirts and Gun Saves Lives stickers or Moms Demand Action T-shirts.

“This is the bill,” NRA lobbyist D.J. Spiker told the committee. “This is the one that’s fired up Virginians.”

The bill from Del. Mark Levine, D-Alexandria, underwent a significant revision from the original proposal that called for expanding the definition of assault weapons and making it a Class 6 felony to import, sell, buy, transfer or build them within the state. Levine said he took input from various stakeholders to offer a less restrictive bill.

The legislation inflamed gun rights advocates across the commonwealth and invigorated a movement for localities to identify themselves as Second Amendment sanctuaries.

Throughout the discussion of the bill, gun owners cheered at the remarks from Republicans and jeered at comments from gun control advocates. **When the bill passed, gun owners stood up and shouted “We will not comply!” Del. Patrick Hope, D-Arlington, the committee chairman, directed law enforcement to clear the room.**

“Whose side are you on?” people shouted to law enforcement officers when they told people to leave.

Del. Nick Rush, R-Montgomery, stood up and tried to speak over the shouting, telling the crowd the officers were just doing their job.

Under the revised legislation, people will be able to keep their assault weapons, but it will be illegal to import, sell, transfer or manufacture any assault firearms. There are some exceptions for transfers, such as if it happens at a shooting range for the purpose of target shooting, or as gifts to immediate family members or via wills or estates. The bill also would ban the import, sale or transfer of silencers.

The current version of the bill aligns more with the growing research that suggests it is the magazine capacity that may increase the death toll because shooters can fire more rounds before they are stopped. Data shows that when magazines are regulated, they’re used less often in crimes. Virginia has no limits on magazine capacity, with exceptions that ban carrying certain loaded high-capacity firearms in public in eight specific, heavily populated cities and five counties.

In an impassioned speech to the committee, Public Safety Secretary Brian Moran invoked the April 2007 Virginia Tech massacre. The shooter killed 32 people and wounded 17 with handguns equipped with high-capacity magazines, enabling him to commit one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history before killing himself.

Moran spoke about Professor Liviu Librescu blocking a classroom door so his students could jump out of the second-story window. The shooter forced his way in and shot and killed Librescu with a semi-automatic pistol.

“When seconds matter, they could escape through that window. Reloading that magazine mattered,” Moran said. “That’s why we’re here. Just like those students, just like the theatergoers in Aurora, just like the schoolchildren in Newtown, the concertgoers, the nightclub goers in Orlando Florida. Time and again, this is too often.”

In Newtown, Connecticut, the shooter fired 154 rounds from an assault rifle with multiple high-capacity magazines and in less than five minutes killed 20 first-graders and six teachers.

Lori Haas said she's met a mother whose child died at Sandy Hook Elementary and carries the weight of her daughter surviving being shot at Virginia Tech.

"You don't want to know what I know," Haas said. "Don't let it happen again."

Del. Tony Wilt, R-Rockingham, said the mass shooting at Virginia Tech was a tragedy, but he said it happened at a gun-free zone.

"These are basically killing grounds," he said to applause from the crowd. "We cannot legislate morality. We cannot stop evil."

The United States had a federal ban on new production — but not ownership — of assault-style rifles between 1994 to 2004. Research is limited and inconclusive about how effective the ban was on reducing gun violence.

Currently, seven states and the District of Columbia have their own assault weapons bans, some of which go further than the federal law did.

Former Republican Congressman Tom Garrett, who also formerly served in the General Assembly, addressed the committee, warning members that the votes may exist on the U.S. Supreme Court to strike down gun restrictions.

"Instead of banning weapons you're so intimidated of because you fail to understand them, you'll ensure the ability of Americans to possess them from heretofore," Garrett said.

The House has sent all eight gun control bills that have the backing of the Northam administration to the floor. Not all of the bills the House and Senate have passed are exactly the same, so it's unknown which ones could ultimately get to the governor's desk. Senate Majority Leader Dick Saslaw, D-Fairfax, introduced an assault weapons ban bill, but then scrapped it from being considered.

The committee also advanced a few other gun control bills to the floor, including removing the option to take an online course to obtain a concealed carry permit.

"These bills will save lives, and that's why we feel strongly about it," Hope said.

<https://www.gunpowdermagazine.com/bloomberg-unveils-plan-for-extreme-gun-control-if-elected-president/>



THE BATTLE | GUN CONTROL | GUN LAWS | SECOND AMENDMENT

# Bloomberg Unveils Plan for Extreme Gun Control if Elected President

Dec 05, 2019

**By: Teresa Mull**

Billionaire Michael Bloomberg just delivered one of the first speeches of his 2020 presidential campaign, and he made extreme gun control his primary focus.

Bloomberg, the former mayor of New York City who has spent millions of his fortune to push gun control, announced his candidacy for president last week. Bloomberg spoke in front of a small group in Aurora, Colorado earlier today.

Specifically, Bloomberg said:

When I started working on gun violence 15 years ago, neither party — neither Republicans or the Democrats — were particularly interested in the issue.

My agenda is not some johnny-come-lately list of borrowed ideas. This is part of my life's work, and I'm just telling you I will get this done whether I get elected or not.

Now I know critics will say that Americans shouldn't need a permit to exercise their constitutional rights. But voting is a constitutional right, and we require people to register to protect the rights of all citizens, and this exactly the same idea, because a criminal with a gun can destroy our right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

According to *Politico*:

Bloomberg's plan calls for a background check system that entails permits for all new gun buyers, police notification when owners have been prohibited from holding firearms, and a crackdown on unlicensed sellers at gun shows or online, according to campaign officials. As mayor in 2009, Bloomberg oversaw a sting operation at gun shows around the country and turned over illegally-bought firearms to federal authorities.

Bloomberg is also calling for a "red flag screening" to block people who pose a danger from getting permitted to own a firearm. Issuers would have to review histories of domestic violence and other risks.

And his plan demands that guns not be sold before background checks are complete, a policy his team said could have prevented 15,000 sales to people prohibited from owning a gun over five years.

#### **'A Relentless Record of Banning Guns'**

Ryan Flugaur, Senior Political Director for the National Association for Gun Rights, told *GPM* previously that Bloomberg's "relentless record of banning guns dwarfs both President Obama and Hillary Clinton.

"During and following his reign as Mayor, New York City, Bloomberg effectively bared the legal ownership of most firearms and notoriously prosecuted tourists, including military members, for attempting to comply with 'no guns' signs at national landmarks," Flugaur said.

"If Bloomberg becomes president, you bet he'll take New York-style gun control to the national level. He'll keep pushing to ban guns and magazines and to strip Second Amendment rights from millions more law-abiding Americans without trial or congressional approval. Michael Bloomberg would be the most anti-gun President in our lifetime."

*Teresa Mull is editor of Gunpowder Magazine. Contact her at [teresa@gunpowdermagazine.com](mailto:teresa@gunpowdermagazine.com).*

# Northam's war on gun owners in Virginia



Threatens localities with 'consequences' if gun laws aren't enforced

Illustration on attacks on the Second Amendment in Virginia by Linas Garsys/The Washington Times  
By Stephen P. Halbrook - - Thursday, January 9, 2020

## **ANALYSIS/OPINION:**

War has been declared on Virginia's gun owners by the Democrats who recently won both houses of the General Assembly. Most notorious is Senate Bill 16 by Senate Majority Leader Richard Saslaw, which would impose five years imprisonment on law-abiding citizens who possess the most common firearms in America today. Among other proposed restrictions on conduct that has been lawful since Jamestown was settled in 1607, not one would penalize criminal misuse of guns.

The firearms to be banned are mostly semiautomatic rifles with features that facilitate accurate shooting. They include an adjustable shoulder stock to make it fit one's size, a pistol grip to enable a firm hold (the same type used in Olympic rifles), and a muzzle brake to reduce kick. Even a flare launcher is a banned feature — distress signals will be verboten. These innocuous features somehow transform a gun into an "assault" weapon in the proponents' fantasy land.

Throughout the Commonwealth, around a hundred counties and cities have reacted by declaring themselves Second Amendment sanctuaries. That's a national trend arising in states being subjected to one infringement after another on the right of the people to keep and bear arms.

Gov. Ralph Northam, best known for his gig in blackface or a Klan hood, threatened localities with "consequences" if their law enforcement officers don't enforce the coming gun laws. U.S. Rep. Donald McEachin proposed that Mr. Northam should call out the National Guard to bring the sanctuaries under the boot. Perhaps Guardsmen would establish checkpoints on the streets to pat down residents or conduct house-to-house searches. But don't count on members of the Guard to do that to their neighbors.

Attorney General Mark Herring, another blackface veteran, threatens that "these gun safety laws ... will be enforced." "Safety?" Gun safety means not pointing at anything you don't intend to shoot, not imprisoning peaceable gun owners. The Second Amendment sanctuary resolutions, he says, "have no legal effect whatsoever." This is the same Mark Herring who, when first elected, disclosed that he wouldn't defend a certain law defining marriage with which he disagreed.

Mr. Northam says that his gun ban will have a grandfather clause for those who already own the forbidden weapons to register them by a certain deadline. States like California and New York did the same when they passed similar bans. But Mr. Northam must not have gotten the memo that only about 10 percent of gun owners complied.

There are deep historical reasons why Americans don't go along with gun registration and confiscation. We'll skip what happened when royal governors like Thomas Gage in Massachusetts Bay and Lord Dunmore in Virginia tried to seize the colonists' arms in 1775, sparking the American Revolution. Would you guess that had something to do with the adoption of the Second Amendment?

Instead, let's jump to Europe in the 20th century. In 1933, the Nazis seized power in Germany and used the Weimar Republic's gun registration lists to disarm their political opponents and then the Jews. In 1935, French Prime Minister Pierre Laval sought to repress citizen unrest by decreeing gun registration, limits on the right to assemble and an increase in the national guard.

When Germany launched its blitzkrieg against France in 1940, decrees were posted in each town warning French civilians that the death penalty would be imposed on any who did not turn in their firearms within 24 hours. Upon its defeat, France signed an armistice agreeing to enforce the decrees of the Nazi forces.

How convenient that the French police, who had the gun registration records, now worked for the Germans. Yet, despite the threat of the death penalty, many French refused to surrender their firearms. The press routinely reported the names of gun owners who faced the firing squad for that reason. Those who never registered their guns were less likely to be caught.

Seeing the gathering war clouds, in 1940 the U.S. Congress authorized the requisition of certain private property. Aware of the Nazi war on gun owners, Congress declared that nothing in the law would allow the registration of firearms, and reaffirmed support for the right to bear arms. That sentiment remains today in various federal laws prohibiting a national gun registry. Unregistered firearms facilitated the beginning of the French Resistance against the Nazis. After the war, it was estimated that, despite potential execution, less than one-third of some 3 million hunting guns had been turned in to the authorities.

This is in no way to compare today's America with those dreadful events, but there are some lessons to be learned. If a gun ban can't be enforced with the death penalty, don't expect a five-year prison term to be effective. Don't expect overwhelming compliance with gun registration from a public that sees it as just a step to confiscation.

And it goes without saying that the right to keep and bear arms is enshrined in the Second Amendment and the Virginia Constitution. It's not too late to have a conversation about measures to repress criminal violence rather than peaceable exercise of a constitutional right.

• *Stephen P. Halbrook, a lawyer in Fairfax, Virginia, and senior fellow with the Independent Institute, is author of "The Founders' Second Amendment" and "Gun Control in Nazi-Occupied France."*

The Governor of Virginia might want to crack open his history books and remember what the Virginia state flag looks like and what the state motto is:



The **state** motto of **Virginia** is "Sic Semper Tyrannis," meaning "Thus Always to Tyrants." The motto was adopted in 1776, with the words symbolizing victory over tyranny.

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