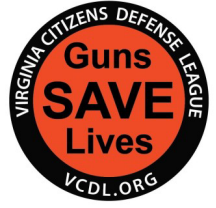




THE DEFENDER



A publication of

Virginia Citizens Defense League

Defending Your Right To Defend Yourself

VCDL.ORG

WINTER 2026

Lobby Day 2026—What Worked, What's Next?

by Patricia Webb, Secretary/Treasurer



Another Lobby Day is behind us. We had a great turnout compared to recent years, but nothing like 2020. This is sad, because the bills in queue are far worse than we saw six years ago.

Still, those who attended were enthusiastic, and the speakers were engaging. You can watch the entire rally on YouTube here: youtu.be/v9bz15KhQDM.

Now the hard work begins. There are committee meetings to attend. There are public comments to make. We'll be sending out calls to action and asking you to contact your representatives.

We also need to reach out to our local governments and ask them to reaffirm and strengthen their 2A Sanctuary Resolutions.

That includes contacting your local sheriff and commonwealth's attorney. If they refuse to enforce the unconstitutional laws it is left up to the state to arrest and prosecute.

VCDL is gearing up for even more lawsuits (we're still fighting some from 2020!). We've got our attorneys poised to file as soon as anything passes, and we will ask for emergency injunctions to prevent enforcement until the cases can be decided. However, we can't count on those injunctions.

As easy as it is to get discouraged, we must find our resolve. Running to another state will only prolong the inevitable. We must stop the scourge here and now. It can be done, but it will take us all working together.

**For more photos from Lobby Day 2026,
please see pages 6–7**

VCDL Public Meeting Dates

In-person meetings are held around the state, usually on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Check VCDL.org/Events for a current list.

VCDL holds **live virtual monthly meetings on the second Sunday of each month**. These meetings are simulcast on Facebook and YouTube at VCDL.TUBE 8:00 PM Eastern Time.

Watch the events at vcdl.org/events/event_list.asp
Check the website and VA-ALERT emails for meeting updates.





The President's Pen

Some Thoughts on the Civilian Disarmament Agenda in Virginia

From the Editor

"I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it any more!"

The immortal words of Howard Beale from the 1976 movie *Network* have been in my head a lot lately. No prize for guessing why. The new anti-gun majority in Virginia's General Assembly exceeded all my expectations for creativity and audacity.

But anger never solved a problem. While outrage is useful for inciting people to action, even to revolution, the road to lasting change must be paved by methodical strategizing. The United States of America, planned and debated by wise and sober-minded men, celebrates her 250th birthday this year. The U.S.S.R., conceived in rage and riot, couldn't even make it to 75.

I am proud to be part of an organization that uses the political instruments at hand to effect change, to be one of Edmund Burke's "little platoons" that undergirds a stable and prosperous society. That's why I participate in Lobby Day, bringing our best arguments to our lawmakers. Of course, VCDL members are prone to being mad as hell. We don't want to take it any more! For that, there's the rally by the bell tower. Both are useful, and we need your emails, letters, cards, and bodies to make change happen!

Mark Ching
Editor

As I have said many times, gun control is NOT about lowering crime, nor is it about "public safety." Crime and public safety concerns are merely excuses used to push for more gun control. The endgame for gun control is complete civilian disarmament. They want us to be like England. The gun controllers just don't dare say that part out loud.

Lest you think gun control is about lowering crime, then riddle me this: why do those who support gun control to "lower crime" and to promote "public safety" also support letting violent criminals out of prison early, support zero bail, support reduced penalties for violent crime, and oppose strong mandatory minimum sentences for REPEAT violent offenders? The answer is simple. The gun-control crowd NEEDS violent crime to keep their agenda alive, so they are willing to do whatever they can to make sure that violent crime continues to be a concern.

So, the dilemma for gun grabbers is that there is no political will to just ban all firearms from civilians. And there is also that pesky Second Amendment and Article 1, Section 13 that keep getting in their way.

The solution is for gun controllers to chip away at gun ownership from all possible directions, until guns are too hard, or maybe impossible, to get legally. They say, "Yeah, you have a Second Amendment right, but good luck trying to exercise it!"

Here's what I mean by "all possible directions" looking at what the gun-banners are trying to do in Virginia right now:

- **Ban guns.** Villainize and ban a large category of firearms, especially those that would be useful in overturning a government that has become tyrannical, but make sure the government is exempted. "Nobody wants to take your guns!" Yes, they do and this is rock-solid proof.
- **Shrink magazine capacity.** Limit the size of magazines to reduce the effectiveness of firearms that could be used to unseat a government that has become tyrannical. (Government agents are exempt, of course.)
- **Long term bans, if necessary.** If guns and/or magazines that have been targeted cannot be banned completely and confiscated, then "grandfather" those items, but do not allow them to be bought or sold. Thus, new gun owners will be locked out of owning those items, and the grandfathered items will slowly disappear over time due to loss, theft, breakage, and death or disqualification of the owner.
- **Make firearm purchases expensive, time consuming. Register gun owners.** Make it very difficult and expensive to purchase firearms. Require a Permit to Purchase that has extensive and expensive training, live fire, and fingerprinting requirements. Make the applicant wait over a month for approval. Keep a database of all applicants and share that with local law enforcement. Put a large tax on suppressors and a large tax on firearms and ammunition. Poor people need not apply.
- **Keep as many as possible from qualifying to own guns.** Disqualify a growing list of people from being able to own firearms by making more and more minor crimes a disqualifier. Expand Red Flag laws to make it easier for gun owners to be disarmed by accusations from as many classes of people as possible.
- **Destroy the gun industry.** Allow frivolous lawsuits to discourage companies from selling firearms or selling any kind of firearm-related items: "Yes, you can legally buy a firearm, but sadly there aren't currently any stores that sell them in the state."

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UPCOMING GUN SHOWS AND EVENTS

If you'd like to work a show, email the coordinator and ask to be put on the mailing list used for volunteers. Volunteers get free admission to the show, and some vendors offer discounts to other vendors, including our volunteers. It's an excellent way to easily recruit members. Verify all schedules; this list is correct as of February 15, 2025.

CHANTILLY, Dulles Expo Center
Apr 17–19, Jun 12–14

DOSWELL, Sportsman Show, Meadow Event Park
Feb 14–15

FISHERSVILLE, Augusta Expo
Apr 25–26

FREDERICKSBURG, Fredericksburg Fairgrounds
Apr 11–12

HAMPTON, Hampton Roads Convention Center
May 30–31

HARRISONBURG, Rockingham County Fairgrounds
Feb 14–15

RICHMOND, Richmond Raceway Complex
Mar 21–22, May 2–3

SALEM, Salem Civic Center
Mar 7–8

STAFFORD, Fraternal Order of Eagles
May 16–17

VIRGINIA BEACH, Virginia Beach Convention Center
Mar 7–8, Apr 25–26, Jun 27–28

WYTHEVILLE, Apex Expo Center
May 16–17

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS

Fredericksburg, Nov 8–9

Amanda Crosby, Samuel Redwine, Steve Giese, Mike Kapsarelis, Rowley Molina, Alexande Rogge, Matthew Brewer, Stephen Rochkind

Chantilly, Nov 21–23

Charlie Buettner, Jack Braddon, Mitch Darling, Anthony Dawson, Martin Goldstein, Brian Melde, Dave Morgerson, Victor Morales, John Nagel, Rick Richardson, Alexander Rogge, Corey Sinay, Thomas Van Meter, Paula Weiss, Robert Wilson, Josh Goodaire, Brian Wrenn, Kelly Yarnall, John Gosney, Marcus Kahn, Matthew Schor

COORDINATORS

LEADERS NEEDED

Do you have what it takes? VCDL is looking for gun show coordinators for Doswell, Fishersville, and Southwest Virginia (Roanoke/Salem). If you have the right stuff, contact John Gosney (gunshowcoord@vcdl.org).

Chantilly—Matt Schorr, Sean Kennedy—
gunshows.chantilly@vcdl.org

Doswell—**Need coordinator and co-coordinators**—
gunshows.doswell@vcdl.org

Fishersville/Harrisonburg—Jim Kiser—
gunshows.vawest@vcdl.org

Fredericksburg/Stafford—Stephen Rochkind, **need co-coordinators**—gunshows.fredericksburg@vcdl.org

Hampton—Randy Braddock, Bryan Dunn, Michael Mumford, Lee Affholter—gunshows.hampton@vcdl.org

Louisa—Brandy Polanowski—events.louisa@vcdl.org

Richmond—John Gosney, Dave Eckart, Dave Troxel, Patrick Schrek—gunshows.richmond@vcdl.org

Roanoke/Salem—**Need coordinator and co-coordinators** (Thanks, Nat Weigle for serving!) gunshows.swva@vcdl.org

Virginia Beach—Phil Terrazas, Vic Nicholls—
gunshows.vb@vcdl.org

Winchester/Woodstock—Mark Lintz, **need co-coordinators**—gunshows.winchester@vcdl.org

State Gun Show Coordinator

John Gosney, gunshowcoord@vcdl.org

Rowley Molina, Stephen Rochkind, Brandan Mooney, assistants

PROMOTERS

C&E Gun Shows www.cegunshows.com

SGK Gun Shows www.sgkshows.com

Showmasters www.showmastersgunshows.com

Richmond, Nov 15–16

Sam Penn, Ken Vann, Michael Pickwood, Markus Kahn, Paul Klingensmith, Brian Melde, Brian Uzel, Dave Troxel, David Crosby, Marina Uzel Triana, Mike Tomillon, Patrick O'Conner, Richard Roberts, Roger Nixon, Rowley Molina, Steve Rochkind, Tony Grebas, John Gosney

Fishersville, Nov 29–30

Bob Schmidt, Pavel Vorobyev, Gaert Sime, Markus Khan, John Gosney, Steve Rochkind, Thom Verga, Tywman Andes, Robert Hollembeak, Brian Meyer, Elijah Walters, Jim Kiser

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Hampton, Nov 29–30

Bryan Dunn, Dennis Endres, Ken Vann, Dave McCain, Woodrow Waters*, Clem Tuttle, Roberta Tuttle, Matthew Taylor, Billy Taylor, Tom Brunton, Ken Harper, John W. Collick Jr. *, Steve Toth and Michael Durig, Randy Braddock

Virginia Beach, Dec 6–7

Steve Rochkind, John Gosney, Mark Lintz, Mike During, Mark Ashley, Philip Terrazas

Salem, Dec 20–21

Sam Hollingsworth, Keri Martell, Chris Fennell, Elly Hoinowski, John Hoinowski, Bob Lutjen, Marry Dalton, Michael Dalton, Neil Motter Larry Lewis and Maury Sharp, Mike Poff

Manassas, Jan 2–4

Michael Gross, Shaun Kent, Brian Melde, David Lee, John Nagel, William Nugent, Rick Richardson, Wayne Robinson, Alexander Rogge, Robert Wilson, Brian Wrenn, Matthew Schor

Hampton, Jan 10–11

Lanny Moore, Monty Oakes, Tim Waters, Gregg Horne, Penny Adams, Greg Reid, Bryan Dunn, Woodrow Waters, Joe Hemphill, Rieko Matayoshi, Billy Taylor, Matthew Taylor, Mike Ferris, Randy Braddock

Richmond, Jan 10–11

Dave Eckart, Ken Vann, Selden Denton, Tom Simpson, Brian Uzel, Cathie Gosney, Phil Freda, Tony Grebas, Richard Roberts, Rick Walker, Daniel Powell, Dan Liberty, David Crosby, Rog Tignor, Markus Kahn, Jim Carver, John Gosney, Dave Troxel

Fredericksburg, Jan 17–18

Steve Giese, Samuel Redwine, Mike Katsarelis, Alexander Rogge, Paul Williamson, John Walt, Harry Thompson, Christopher Wilcher, Matthew Brewer, Stephen Rochkind

Salem, Jan 17–18

Maury Sharp, Keri Martell, Larry Lewis, Walter Drew, Michael Dalton Jr. Mary Dalton, Sam Hollingsworth, Luke Poulin, Neil Motter and Dr. John Feldenzer, Mike Poff

Fishersville, Jan 24–25

Thom Verga, Elijah Walters , and Brian Meyer, Jim Kiser

*Indicates a first time volunteer.

From the Secretary's Desk

The State of the Commonwealth

by Patricia Webb, Secretary/Treasurer

As most of you know, the elections did not go as we wanted. There is a trifecta of the anti-2A-party majority, meaning any improvement in current law stands about a snowball's chance. On the other hand, we will see if the avalanche of gun control bills will thaw slightly or gain momentum as they plow forward.

As I write this, we are just completing our second full week of session. By the time you see it, we will be right around cross-over day. As expected, the most egregious of the bills were held until after our Lobby Day. The anti-2A faction did NOT want to see crowds like they saw in 2020! And it worked!

While we had a larger attendance than the last several years, it was still disappointing that only about 2,000 people made the time to make their voices heard. There's strength in numbers, and we have not sufficiently shown our resolve lately.

Now we are faced with potential for some of the worst 2A infringements in the country—right here in Virginia, where freedom began! Are we going to let the American Experiment die? I, for one, will do my best to prevent that!

The situation is dire, but there are things that can be done. First and foremost, we can never give up. If we do, freedom is lost, not just for Virginia, but for the nation.

We must start by SHOWING UP:

- **Attend committee meetings**
- **Write your senators and delegates**
- **Educate your friends and neighbors**
- **Become a local government watchdog**
- **Get your local government, sheriff and commonwealth's attorney to strengthen their 2A Sanctuary Resolution**

We must join together financially:

- **Give gift memberships or encourage others to join**
- **Enroll your family members—we have family memberships now!**
- **Donate to VCDL or VCDF**

Whatever passes will need to be challenged in court. We've already spent hundreds of thousands of dollars fighting the 2020 laws that were passed. We've had recent wins, but we're still fighting some of those cases!

This is not a short-term project. In 1787, at the conclusion of the Constitutional Convention, Ben Franklin announced that our new government was a Republic, if we could keep it. That admonition took into account the necessity for participation in our government by We The People. WE are the stewards of freedom, and responsible for preserving it for future generations. We know the 2nd Amendment is the right that protects all others. We cannot let it die.

Cold Weather Carry

by William Moore

The winter months and the cold weather they bring pose a yearly conundrum for some of us. You chose your concealed carry firearm and holster during better weather and you now find yourself with gun and holster buried under layers of clothing. What to do?

Unfortunately, many gun makers don't really consider winter use when designing firearms. In general, the smaller the gun the smaller the trigger guard. In small frame and medium frame revolvers and semi-automatics, trigger guards are often distorted in depth forward of the trigger. The medium frame revolver has a more oval shape and the semi-automatic is rectangular. The semi allows fingers wearing the heaviest gloves inside the trigger guard without too much trouble.

Gloves

So let's look at your guns to see how much room you have for gloves. First, unload your handgun, then verify by sight and touch it's unloaded. Put your winter gloves on and see if your finger cleanly fits into the trigger guard without pressing the trigger. If you've got a semi, recheck the chamber, make sure it's cocked and do it again. Then try to do it without looking and if you hear a "click", you've chosen poorly. You neither need nor want a short travel light trigger on a defensive firearm for a bunch of reasons. This is just one.



However, gloves come in all types. You might consider a very thin glove like the Isotoner. I've owned gloves made of capeskin, cotton, deer skin, polypropylene, silk (they're very thin, made to be glove liners inside heavier gloves for more warmth) and wool. I've also got a pair of spring/summer motorcycle gloves. Gloves made

as dress gloves and maybe driving gloves if they're not ventilated will work unless it's really cold. Keeping your hands in your pockets helps in colder weather. Thicker, heavier gloves for really cold weather can be a problem for many uses. A combination of thin glove/glove liner inside a heavier glove might be needed in Arctic-level cold, but we're unlikely to see that in Virginia.

Gun Accessibility

If you're not outside for very long, simply leaving your outer coat loose or only partially buttoned/zipped might be an option. If you're wearing a suit, not so much. The general solution is an oldie: a gun in a pocket of the outer coat. However, this can present several problems, one of which is safety.

Revolvers have a near-two century history of being carried in pockets without holsters. The comparatively long and heavy pressure needed to fire the gun reduces, but doesn't eliminate, the danger of an unintended discharge (UD). It's entirely possible to have the gun fire when you don't want it to. Over decades I've seen a number of gruesome ER photos of gunshot wounds caused by unlikely circumstances. So I'm not endorsing the practice. Semi-automatic handguns with a double action first shot (TDA or DA/SA) have the same issue; striker-fired and single action handguns are even more of a problem. There must be a holster that covers the trigger to prevent unintended contact with the trigger. See the photo below.

Make Your Own Pocket Holster



Another issue is the wear you put on the coat pocket. A properly-made pocket holster is the answer to both safety concerns and clothing wear, but while many holster makers make pocket holsters, most pocket holsters are made for pants pockets. Pants pockets generally don't vary much in shape or

size, so it's not too hard to find a decent holster. **IMPORTANT:** the gun goes into the holster then both get put into any pocket. The shape and size of winter coat pockets vary a lot, so it's difficult to find a ready-made holster that works in all coat pockets. I have a Carhartt coat with pockets that will swallow a full size service pistol. Other coats have pockets meant only for gloves-by both size and material.

One solution to the holster issue, if you're handy with tools, is to make a holster. Tandy leather company has all the stuff you'll need except patience. You should be looking at about 8 oz leather. I found a 1/16 drill bit is an easy way to make holes for stitching and the holster should be shaped and sized to the pocket. See the picture of a homemade holster for front BDU pants pockets and others with flat bottoms.

Your pocket holster must cover the trigger guard, even if it's in a pocket. You cannot depend on manual safeties to prevent unintentional firing and the widget in the trigger "safeties" won't prevent the UD. Several years back there was a Virginia gentleman with a Glock in his pocket who bled to death in front of his kids from a severed femoral artery. Don't let this be you.

Stay safe. Stay armed. And stay warm!

VCDL Lobby Day 2026

Making Our Voices Heard





Some Thoughts on Reaction Time and Appendix Carry

Responding to a Recent Article in a Major Firearms Publication

by William Moore



Just a brief note commenting on the article on appendix carry in a prestigious firearms publication from an old coot retired from being a certified law enforcement instructor.

I'm not going to answer the question of whether one should appendix carry. It appears to violate several safety rules and practices: never point a gun at anything you wouldn't want to see destroyed and don't trust safety devices.

The article goes on to mention a 1.5 second draw and fire-from concealment as a foundation defensive skill and makes mention of the Tueller Drill (AKA the 21-foot rule) as a basis for it. Let's look at this from a real world perspective.

Into the mid to late 1980s it was a widely held belief that a person with a contact weapon (knife, hammer, hatchet) wasn't a threat until they were within arms length. During firearms training, Sgt. Dennis Tueller, then with the Salt Lake City PD, was asked



this question: if an officer's gun was holstered, how far away did a person have to be to reach the officer before he could fire? The average police gunfight range was seven yards, so that was a convenient distance to try. During testing, the class discovered the average time for an assailant to cover seven yards from a standing

start was 1.5 seconds. (At a school I attended, a 47-year-old man did it in 0.87 seconds. He was 5'7" and 160 lbs.)

So now we had a benchmark time for an assailant to close the distance, and we know a person at that distance CAN be a real threat with a contact weapon. This revolutionized training doctrine for law enforcement. However, in the real world bullets don't knock the aggressor backwards. Unless a higher power steps in, you're not going to get an instant stop. So it's best to move out of the aggressor's way while getting the gun into action. Make those side steps BIG steps! Quick sidesteps while drawing the handgun should be part of your practice anyway. Do it in both directions and again, make them BIG steps.

Practicing quick draw to an audible signal you're expecting may help build your skill level, but it's setting you up of failure in the real world. It's known that it takes longer to respond to a visual cue.

A bit later in the article the author notes that you should be able to perform that 1.5 second draw "when you recognize a threat." That's a tad murky, so let's look at the results from Force Science Institute research. They put the time from when a person can identify a weapon in an attacker's hand until they fire a shot at less than 0.4 seconds. A prone suspect with concealed hands can do it in a wee bit over 0.6 seconds. My own tests show I can go from hand on the gun in a pants pocket to a shot in the immediate incapacitation zone at three yards in an average of 1.125 seconds, counting my reaction time to the start signal. The 1.5 second draw isn't looking terribly good now, is it?

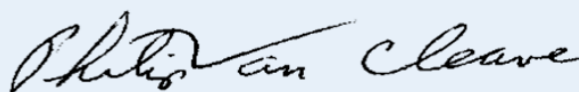
I'm not against training and performance goals, but a 1.5 second draw and hitting a vital area in that time can be a good goal from open carry in a holster, without safety straps or retention devices, while standing on the firing line waiting for the signal to perform. There are folks who can do this from the (wink-wink, nod-nod) "concealment" of action shooting competition. But even with dedication, training, and practice, not everyone can do this from real world concealment. What you need to work on is a smooth presentation of the firearm. With smooth, unwasted motion, speed will come. Shot timers or shot timer apps can help here. When training for competition, I found that hurrying actually slowed me down. I covered the Art of the Draw in the Summer

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The President's Pen *(continued from page 2)*

- **Make it impractical or impossible to carry a gun.** Make it illegal to carry a gun almost everywhere, including public places, government buildings, and even in rest areas. Don't honor CHPs from other states or minimize the number of states whose permits are recognized.
- **Make it illegal to make a homemade gun** unless the government knows about it through serialization.
- **Make stored guns hard to use in an emergency.** Require guns to be stored unloaded in a locked container.
- **No one under 21-years-old can purchase an "assault firearm."**
- **A person convicted of battery in a "dating relationship" loses the right to possess a firearm for 3 years.**
- **A person convicted of a misdemeanor "hate crime" (whatever that is) cannot possess a firearm.**
- **A second offense of misdemeanor drunk driving prohibits a person from possessing a handgun for 5 years.**
- **A conviction of simple assault, assault and battery, or stalking prohibits a person from possessing a firearm for 5 years.**
- **Extends the prohibition on carry outside of a polling place from 40 to 150 feet.**
- **Firearms in a home with a minor or prohibited person must be unloaded and locked in a container if not carried on the person.**
- **\$500 and towing for a visible handgun stored in an unattended vehicle.**
- **Felony prohibition on the possession of a pneumatic gun on school property.**
- **Crime for gun owner to allow a minor to possess a firearm and that firearm is used unlawfully.**
- **Expansion on the items a judge shall consider when issuing a red flag order.**
- **Creation of a Red Flag training program to encourage the use of Red Flag orders.**
- **A person under a protection order can only turn their guns over for safe keeping to someone over 21 years old and does not live with them.**
- **Firearm industry can be sued civilly, even if not selling firearms, but only firearm accessories, if they don't "properly" protect items from theft or criminal misuse.**
- **Gun dealers must provide a locking device for handgun sales, along with a warning message in the gun's box.**
- **Creation of a state agency named "Virginia Center for Firearm Violence and Prevention."**

VCDL will be fighting new laws in the courts, but that is expensive and time consuming. Please consider a tax-deductible contribution to the Virginia Citizens Defense Foundation to help us defray the cost of litigation. Buckle up!



Reaction Time and Appendix Carry *continued from page 8*

2023 issue. The Art of Reholstering appeared in the Fall 2023 issue. You might also want to read Gunfight Myths at tacticalanatomy.com. Navigate to the Shop and select Gunfight Myths.

Some training points here. Practicing quick draw to an audible signal you're expecting may help build your skill level, but it's setting you up of failure in the real world. It's known that it takes longer to respond to a visual cue. The Force Science Institute discovered that major improvements in reaction time came from picking up threat behavior cues earlier. Turning targets are somewhat of an improvement, but you still need to be able to recognize cues of a possible threat before they're close enough to be a danger and avoid them. (See my other article in this issue.) Best to avoid trouble, by paying attention to what's going on around you. it's less expensive, stressful and more life enhancing.

Keep a mantra from noted trainer John Farnham in mind: "Don't go to stupid places where stupid people do stupid things." While it's not light reading, you might also read Left of Bang: How the Marine Corps' Combat Hunter Program Can Save Your Life and/or visit their website for more on threat cue recognition.

Why Preserving the Second Amendment Matters for Future Generations

by Jill McDaniel, Director of VCDL Academy

The discussion surrounding the Second Amendment often centers on current political debates, but its significance extends far beyond the present moment. Preserving this constitutional protection is fundamentally about what we pass on to the generations who follow us.

As the Director of the VCDL Academy, I see firsthand how education, training, and responsible gun ownership shape the culture of safety in our communities. The Second Amendment is not simply a policy preference; it is a structural safeguard within our constitutional framework. It establishes a clear limit on government authority and affirms that the right to self-defense belongs to the people. Ensuring that this protection remains intact means future generations inherit a right that is stable, predictable, and grounded in the principles that have guided our nation for more than two centuries.

This continuity is essential. In much of Virginia, particularly rural areas with longer emergency response times, the ability to make personal safety decisions is not theoretical. It is practical and necessary. Preserving the Second Amendment ensures that individuals retain the agency to assess their own needs and respond accordingly without relying solely on state systems.

A secure constitutional right also strengthens a culture of responsibility. When the foundation is stable, families,

instructors, and community organizations can invest in long-term safety education and training. At the VCDL Academy, this is our mission: to equip Virginians with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to exercise their rights safely and responsibly. That work is only possible when the right itself is protected.

Finally, safeguarding this amendment maintains the balance of power envisioned by the Founders. They understood the risks of concentrated authority and designed a system in which

the people retain meaningful tools to check government overreach. Passing this safeguard intact to future generations is part of our responsibility as stewards of the rights we inherited.

Preserving the Second Amendment is not simply about firearms. It is about autonomy, constitutional

stability, and the long-term health of a free society.

When we protect this right, we ensure that future generations inherit the same protections and opportunities for responsible self-governance that have shaped our nation since its founding.

Our rights endure when informed citizens stand together. Let's continue building a safer, stronger, and more empowered Virginia—one generation at a time.

CALL TO ACTION

If you believe in strengthening education, expanding responsible gun ownership, and ensuring future generations inherit their rights intact, I encourage you to stay engaged.

Join VCDL if you haven't already.

Share VCDL Academy resources with your community.

Invite others to learn, train, and participate.

Postcards for the Governor!

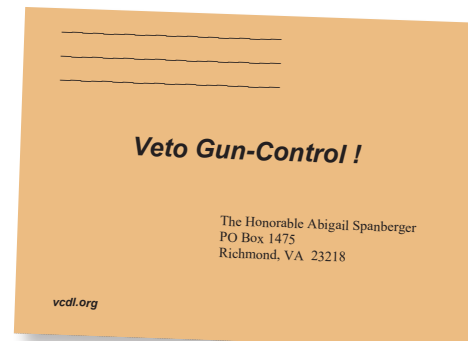
We face an unprecedented attack on our liberty and the Right to Keep and Bear arms! A huge volume of gun control bills is moving through the General Assembly, many of which may reach the Governor's desk.

The Governor needs to see that law abiding citizens of Virginia overwhelmingly oppose all these draconian bills.

Cut out the orange postcards included with this issue of the Defender. Sign and mail one for yourself and give the others to friends and family to mail. **We need to bury the Governor's desk with thousands of these cards.**

Spread the word. No to gun control. Yes to Liberty.

Also be sure to contact your state Senator and Delegate and let them know of your opposition. You can find out who they are at: whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov



VCDL Membership Application

Recruiter last name/member # _____

___ **New** ___ **Renewal** (Member # _____)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ ZIP _____

Phone (_____) _____

Email _____

___ 1 **VCDL** membership: \$ **25.00**

___ Family members @\$15/each:* \$ _____

___ Donation to **VCDL**: \$ _____

___ Donation to **VCDL-PAC** \$ _____

VCDL-PAC donations also require the following information:

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Employer's principle city/state: _____

This information is not made public unless your annual contributions total more than \$100.00.

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

(Note: Membership processing can take 4-6 weeks)

Method of payment

___ Cash (Do not send cash through the mail.)

___ Check (Make checks payable to **VCDL**)

___ Charge

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV _____

Name as it appears on the card

Signature of Card Holder

Billing Zip Code

Mail to:

VCDL Membership Processing Center

P.O. Box 77

Willis, VA 24380

Save time and postage! Use a credit card or eCheck at vcdl.org/join.

***For family memberships, the primary member is \$25 annually and each additional member \$15 annually.** List primary member on application and family members on separate sheet. We need the full info for all family members. Full details on VCDL.org.

VCDL and VCDL-PAC contributions, gifts, or membership dues are not deductible for Federal income tax purposes.



There are no state-wide elections coming in 2026, but that doesn't mean that the VCDL-PAC is sitting by idly. In fact, we are looking ahead to 2027, when the entire General Assembly is up for election. We have the chance to turn this ship around, but we need your help.

Are you tired of not having good candidates to vote for? Are you upset because there are uncontested districts? Well, we are too!

Now is the time to start finding qualified candidates to run for office. Get involved with your local political groups. Consider running for office or suggesting to people you think would be good candidates that they run. Help raise funds for those who are making that commitment.

VCDL-PAC is working on raising funds now for the 2027 election cycle. It will be a decisive election and could determine the future of Virginia for a long time. The House of Delegates office is a two-year term, while the Senate, Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General are 4-year terms, with the Senate being offset from the others by two years.

Virginians cannot afford to sit out any elections. We must activate our community and educate the public on the importance of voting for our right to keep and bear arms first, as it is the one right that protects all our other rights. Working together, we can make a difference. But we must all do our part.

**THE
PAC
CORNER**



Yours in Liberty,
Patricia Webb
VCDL-PAC Acting Chair





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February 2026

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<p>Find us on social media Linktree.com/VCDL</p>  <p>Our moderators keep that document updated to show changing circumstances.</p>	<p>Virginia Citizens Defense League Board of Directors</p> <p>Bruce Jackson Bruce@vcdl.org Gilbert Ambler Gilbert.Ambler@vcdl.org John Pierce John.Pierce@vcdl.org Jim Snyder Jim.Snyder@vcdl.org Susan Brush Susan.Brush@vcdl.org Philip Van Cleave Philip@vcdl.org Patricia Webb Pat.Webb@vcdl.org</p> <p>All Directors and Officers leadership@vcdl.org</p> <p>Please feel free to contact any of the Officers or Directors should you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer your services in VCDL.</p>

CHP RENEWALS

Virginia law provides that you can get the full five years of your Concealed Handgun Permit if you apply for renewal at least 90, but no more than 180, days prior to expiration of your current permit (Section 18.2-308.010). Members can add their permit expiration date to their member profile for email reminders during the 90-180 day window.

EXPIRES	RENEW IN
January	August–October
February	September–November
March	October–December
April	November–January
May	December–February
June	January–March
July	February–April
August	March–May
September	April–June
October	May–July
November	June–August
December	July–September