

## AHEAD OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION, PA RESIDENTS VOTE WITH THEIR WALLET

Expressing their concerns over the anti-American positions of Democrat Presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders, patriots in Pennsylvania have been exercising their Constitutional rights (while they still can) by purchasing record numbers of firearms.

“Every hour during the months of January, February and March, more than 97 people attempted to buy or transfer ownership of a gun in Pennsylvania,” according to a recent pennlive.com report.

According to the state police firearms report, 213,054 background checks for individuals hoping to obtain a firearm were conducted in the first three months of this year, up from 180,938 for the same time period last year. Another 96,417 background checks were done for those seeking concealed carry permits, up from 64,640 in the first quarter of 2015, the article notes.

And 1,873 background checks were performed on individuals who sought to have returned guns that were held as police evidence. That is up from 675 checks done in the first three months of 2015.

Major Scott Price, director of the state police's Bureau of Records and Identification, said overall, the number of Pennsylvania Instant Check System (PICS) checks conducted in the first quarter of this year is up 26 percent over the same time period last year, according to the pennlive.com report.



MOLON LABE

It's not hard to figure out why. America-hating “president” Barack Hussein Obama in early January took executive action to expand background checks for some firearm purchases. People are also concerned that if the wrong person gets elected as President, we could see more instances of Islamic terrorism along with a chokehold of our Second Amendment rights, leaving us even more vulnerable to common criminals as well as trained terrorists.

And the Feb. 13 death of U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia also contributed. Price said he saw an uptick in PICS checks the weekend following his death, according to the pennlive.com article.

Scalia was regarded as pro-gun rights and authored the 2008 District of Columbia v.

Heller ruling that struck down Washington, D.C.'s handgun ban and said the Constitution guarantees the right to a gun, at least for self-defense at home.

When Pennsylvania first established the PICS system in 1998, the state police averaged 200,000 background checks a year. State police records show that jumped to more than 1.1 million in 2013 and 893,054 in 2014. The data for 2015 isn't available at this time, Price said.

[http://www.pennlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/04/rate\\_of\\_attempted\\_gun\\_buys\\_in.html](http://www.pennlive.com/politics/index.ssf/2016/04/rate_of_attempted_gun_buys_in.html)

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## **PATRIOTIC RESIDENTS FLOCK TO FIREARM EDUCATION SEMINARS**

Presenters at a recent "Concealed Carry Seminar" in Luzerne County's West Wyoming addressed requirements for carrying a concealed weapon and provided information about how to safely do so, in addition to addressing other gun-related topics, according to a dispatch in the timesleader.com.

"Every time we have this type of seminar, we fill the room," says State Rep. Aaron Kaufer, R-Kingston, who organized the seminar.

District Attorney Stefanie Salavantis explained to more than 70 attendees that the state's Castle Doctrine is predicated on an individual's right to be safe in his or her home.

She said the law was quite extensive and provided examples of various scenarios in which a citizen could legally fire a weapon.

She also detailed scenarios in which someone could not legally discharge their weapon.

"For example," she said jokingly. "If your spouse is coming home late from work, you can't shoot him."

First Assistant District Attorney Samuel M. Sanguedolce said in Pennsylvania citizens can "open carry" a weapon without a license, but that a license is required to carry a concealed weapon.

Separately, about 200 people attended a concealed carry seminar, sponsored by state Rep. Mauree Gingrich (R-Lebanon), which focused on women and unique situations they might encounter, according to a report on [www.ldnews.com](http://www.ldnews.com).

"An increasing number of women are taking an interest in guns for hunting, target shooting and self-defense," Gingrich said in a news release. "Several women had approached me with questions about gun laws, gun safety and self-defense. Their interest prompted me to hold this event, and I was pleased do so in conjunction with the Palmyra Sportsmen's Association. I think we all came away from it with a clearer understanding of the laws, proper use of a weapon and when it is appropriate to use deadly force to protect ourselves."

Lebanon Sheriff Bruce Klingler, Detective Toby Pokrop of North Londonderry Township Police Department and attorney Matthew Menges shared their expertise on Pennsylvania's gun laws, how to safely carry a gun and rules of self-defense, the newspaper noted. They also shared experiences they have encountered on the job that demonstrated how tense situations were diffused and instances in which misunderstandings could have had a tragic

ending. There were also some humorous stories.

"I learned a lot, and the feedback that I have received on this seminar has been overwhelmingly positive," said Gingrich. "Clearly, there is a lot of interest in this area. The seminar started at 6 p.m. and was only supposed to last two hours, but we were still answering questions after 9 p.m."

Over in Greencastle (Franklin County), a capacity crowd attended a concealed carry seminar in mid-March at the Greencastle Sportsmans Association. The event was hosted by Rep. Paul Schemel, who said it was so popular that he may hold another session next year.

"People have rights and responsibilities as a gun owner," Schemel told the 300 men, women and a few children, according to the echo-pilot.com. "Today is to learn how to be safe with the weapon, and to know the law."

Pennsylvania State Police trooper Ed Asbury explained that during any contact with police, if the officer became aware that a firearm was involved, the situation elevated. Citizens in Pennsylvania are not required to announce they had a handgun on their person, but if asked they had to produce the license, according to the article.

Asbury encouraged the audience to be cooperative when dealing with law enforcement.

Attendees received a 139-page manual on Pennsylvania laws as they related to firearms. The majority of the audience already had a concealed carry license, and others came to gather information before they applied for one,

as indicated through a show of hands, the article related.

Though no license was needed for open carry, featured speaker Matt Menges – an attorney with Trinity Law in York – didn't see the value of displaying a gun in public. "It's not a good idea, because if a bad guy sees you, you become his intended target," he said. In addition, police likely would want to check if the person was allowed to possess a weapon, according to the article.

<http://timesleader.com/news/local/529604/concealed-weapons-seminar-provides-overview-of-gun-laws-in-pennsylvania>

<http://www.ldnews.com/story/news/local/community/2016/04/12/gingrich-concealed-weapon-seminar-focuses-women/82889688/>

<http://www.echo-pilot.com/article/20160410/NEWS/160419998>

### ***Editor's Comment – by Tom Campione***

In the above, Mr. Menges suggests that open carry makes a person a target for criminals and leads police to stop and check if a person is allowed to possess. First, there are many considerations before one open carries, but the 'targeted by a criminal' argument is substantially a myth.

For example, the average street criminal knocking-off a convenience store, upon seeing a customer with a gun, is likely to lay low and avoid the confrontation. He is likely to wait until that person leaves, to do his dirty deed.

If instead, we are talking about professional criminals executing an armed bank robbery, yes it is likely that an open carrier is targeted, if spotted.

As far as police stopping someone, it is unlawful in PA for them to do so, simply to determine if you are a lawful gun owner. Open carry while on foot is a perfectly lawful act (except within Philadelphia city limits where a license is required) and in order to detain a person, police must have reasonable articulable suspicion (RAS) of a crime. What Mr. Menges suggests is akin to police stopping cars on a roadway to make sure that the driver is allowed to drive the car, although no law was violated.

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## **RADICAL PA. JUDGE TRAMPLES OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS**

A radical judge first nominated to the bench by former president Bill Clinton, has just taken a giant step to try to gut our Constitutional rights, according to an article posted on [www.thetrace.org](http://www.thetrace.org).

In late March, Pennsylvania federal judge Yvette Kane ruled that a gun group, Firearm Owners Against Crime, doesn't have legal standing to sue to overturn two gun ordinances enacted by Harrisburg. Those laws, which were allowed to stand, bar guns in local parks and prohibit the discharge of firearms in the city, noted the article.

The ruling comes nine months after an appellate court declared unconstitutional a law — Act 192 — that permitted outside groups to sue municipalities with gun laws tougher than those on state books. Pennsylvania, along with most other states, doesn't allow cities and towns to enforce more restrictive gun laws, a legal concept known as preemption. But until Act 192, a plaintiff had to live in the specific city

with the gun ordinance in question, and had to prove they were "injured" by it.

Act 192 ushered in the most aggressive firearms preemption blitz in the country, according to [www.thetrace.org](http://www.thetrace.org) posting. The law held that if a plaintiff wins a preemption challenge, the town must pay damages and all legal costs. But if the town won, the plaintiff did not face that same financial burden.

Just days after 192 passed, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Lancaster sued top state elected officials. The NRA then sued those cities. Harrisburg was sued by both Firearm Owners Against Crime, which is a local gun group, and a Texas-based outfit called U.S. Law Shield.

Harrisburg lost the initial rounds of the legal fight. In February 2015, a state court struck down three of the city's five gun ordinances: a requirement to report a lost or stolen gun within 48 hours, a prohibition on the possession of firearms by anyone under 18, and a ban on gun sales and transfers during a state of emergency, according to the article.

That left two ordinances still in effect: the ban on guns in local parks and a prohibition on the discharge of firearms in the city. The fight over those laws was taken up in federal court. On March 24, Judge Yvette Kane dismissed the lawsuit brought by Firearm Owners Against Crime, ruling the group did not have legal standing to sue.

In its original form, Act 192 never addressed preemption, or firearms — it set penalties for scrap metal thefts. But right before the vote, a GOP lawmaker attached to it a four-year-old gun bill that removed the requirement that a plaintiff must be directly affected by a gun

ordinance to sue over it, opening the door for anyone to sue any Pennsylvania town.

A state court, ruling in June, held that the law was unconstitutional on the basis that it violates the single-subject rule, which says legislation may only address one main issue. Although arguments regarding the constitutionality of Act 192 are being heard in Pennsylvania Supreme Court – and a decision isn't expected by the summer – Kane followed the example set by fellow traveler Barrack Hussein Obama and used it to lash out against our constitutional rights.

<http://www.thetrace.org/2016/04/pennsylvania-gun-law-preemption-harrisburg/>

<https://docs.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/pennsylvania/pamdce/1:2015cv00322/102030/50>

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## MEMORIZE THESE SAFETY RULES

1. Always treat all guns as though they are loaded
2. Always keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction
3. Always keep your finger off the trigger until you are ready to shoot
4. Be sure of your target and what is beyond it

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## QUOTABLE QUOTES

The natural liberty of man is to be free from any superior power on Earth, and not to be under the will or legislative authority of man, but only to have the law of nature for his rule. - Samuel Adams

We must reject the idea that every time a law's broken, society is guilty rather than the

lawbreaker. It is time to restore the American precept that each individual is accountable for his actions. – Ronald Reagan

You may not like guns, and choose not to own one. That is your right. You might not believe in God. That is your choice. However, if someone breaks into your home the first two things you're going to do are: 1) Call someone with a gun. 2) Pray they get there in time. – Author Unknown

To ban guns because criminals use them is to tell the innocent and law-abiding that their rights and liberties depend not on their own conduct, but on the conduct of the guilty and the lawless, and that the law will permit them to have only such rights and liberties as the lawless will allow. ... For society does not control crime, ever, by forcing the law-abiding to accommodate themselves to the expected behavior of criminals. Society controls crime by forcing the criminals to accommodate themselves to the expected behavior of the law-abiding. – Jeff Snyder

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If you'd like to contribute to this newsletter, please send your brief article to [tom.campione@2a-lvtp.org](mailto:tom.campione@2a-lvtp.org)

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### US Constitution 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

### PA Constitution Article 1 Section 21

"The right of the citizens to bear arms in defense of themselves and the State shall not be questioned."