

THE AMERICAN GUN OWNER

IN THIS ISSUE #18

**2020 POLITICAL
GUN DEBATE**

**US GUN LAWS:
KNOW YOUR RIGHTS**

**DEFENSIVE USE OF
FIREARMS**

**TEST YOUR
KNOWLEDGE
(QUIZ)**

COMING UP NEXT MONTH:

- ▶ **SUPPORT YOUR STATE RIGHTS!**
- ▶ **EVOLUTION OF FIREARMS**
- ▶ **IS YOUR WINTER GUN READY?**

The American Gun Association (AGA) provides information, tools, training, and support for gun owners throughout the USA.

The AGA stands for and advocates responsible gun ownership, as well as protecting our right to bear arms. Our mission is simple: **protect our guns, protect ourselves.**

2020 POLITICAL GUN DEBATE



The presidential candidates are coming in strong on gun topics. Let's take a look at where the 18 candidates (as of December 3rd) stand on the gun rights/control debate:

Article continued on page 4



American Gun

ASSOCIATION

The **American Gun Owner** is the official monthly publication of the **American Gun Association (AGA)**. We provide you with **information, tools, training, support, and an active online community**.

WHY WE EXIST

There are many threats to your safety and security, and gun ownership is being challenged more than ever before. We support and defend the rights of responsible gun owners throughout the USA.

OUR MISSION

Over the years, AGA has helped over **85,000 gun owners** stay safe and secure.

We help to educate and inform you about how to stay safe. Our goal is to provide you with at least **10x the value** of your modest membership fee.

OUR MEMBERS

Our members are hard working Americans like you, from all walks of life, backgrounds and locations, united in advocating the right to own firearms to defend themselves and their family. Our members are aware of the serious responsibilities that come with owning guns, and safety is their #1 priority

YOUR AGA ELITE MEMBER BENEFITS:

* The option to **test and keep gear** valued at up to \$85.00 for FREE (just cover the shipping and handling). Look out for the emails and text messages, as well as announcements in the Facebook Group

* Thousands of **discounts, savings and giveaways** on movie tickets, oil changes, pizza, car rental and much much more. Many members tell us they're saving in the region of \$150.00+ every month! Go to <https://gunassociation.memberdiscounts.co/perks/register> to access your benefits instantly!

* This **monthly printed publication** delivered to your door, with **articles, tips and training on developing new skills**, along with a **test** to evaluate your progress.

* The **online community** on Facebook, where our members share ideas and tips about family protection. To join, visit www.Facebook.com/groups/AmericanGunAssocation/ and click on the **+Join Group** button. Please allow 24 hours for approval, although it's often much faster.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS? CONTACT US:

Email: support@gunassociation.org

Call: 512-782-4624 (7am-11pm CST M-F, and 10am-7pm Sat)

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MEET THE EXPERTS

CRAIG CAUDILL



Craig Caudill has spent a lifetime practicing and teaching survival, preparedness and self-reliance, skills. He is the director of the Nature Reliance School and teaches these skills in the midwestern and southeastern U.S.

He is an incredibly active blogger and writer for several different blogs and self-reliance magazines. He has appeared on educational television teaching self-reliance skills multiple times.

He has a worldwide student base who study with him through his online self-reliance school. Craig considers himself a student in all things and is regularly studying with other instructors, thinking and practicing outside the box of conventional wisdom, and honing both his abilities and teaching methods.

His students have included military operators, law enforcement special response units, and many average ordinary law-abiding citizens.

JEREMY PARSONS



Jeremy Parsons is a former Marine sniper with multiple combat deployments overseas. He is truly a world-class expert at handling firearms.

Jeremy is a native of Austin, Texas. He joined the Marines at the age of 20 and quickly realized his passion for both the military and for shooting.

His passion for helping and instructing other gun owners led him to open a business where people can learn to be proficient with their firearms and feel more comfortable owning them.

Once hitting his unit he signed up for the scout sniper indoctrination and made his way into the platoon.

After a deployment to Iraq, he attended and graduated from Scout Sniper School and gained the title of **Marine Scout Sniper**.

Following a deployment to Afghanistan and starting a family he decided to leave the Marines and spend more time at home.

When returning to Austin his passion and skill lead him to start a company that would allow him to do what he loves to do, namely instruct and shoot.

CHRISTINE ZÁDOR



Christine Zádor is the President & CEO of San Joaquin Rifle and Pistol Range, Inc. (SJRPR) located in Linden, CA. Her parents opened the range in 1979. Christine has dedicated herself to carrying on her parent's legacy by continuing to operate and develop the range today. Christine's dream is to make San Joaquin Rifle and Pistol Range a top-notch shooting facility.

Christine Zádor has created a long history of success in several different industries, however her true passion is in the firearms industry. Before taking ownership of SJRPR she attended the University of Southern California, where she played water polo and won an NCAA Women's Championship. She later co-founded a water polo board company named Zaqua Boards, and has been coaching water polo for many years.

Ever the adventurer, Christine also enjoys swimming, hiking, horseback riding, and traveling to meet and learn stories of Veterans in determination to make a difference in their healing process.

Christine is an avid shooter and currently competes in the USPSA, American Marksman, and competes in nationwide competitions.



MICHAEL BENNET
(DEMOCRAT)

Bennet's official campaign website doesn't mention gun control, but he revealed his stance in interviews:

- Background checks
- Assault weapons ban
- Red flag laws
- Repealing legal protections for gun companies
- Federal funding for gun violence research



JOE BIDEN
(DEMOCRAT)

Former Vice President Biden clarified his stance as follows:

- Background checks
- Assault weapons ban
- Eliminating loopholes in existing gun laws
- Red flag laws
- Handgun licensing and registration



MICHAEL BLOOMBERG
(DEMOCRAT)

Bloomberg's stance has been lambasted even by Liberal media as indicative that he does not understand gun laws:

- Background checks
- Assault weapons ban
- Eliminating loopholes in existing gun laws
- Red flag laws
- Handgun licensing and registration
- Limiting gun ownership to those aged 21+
- Federal funding for gun violence research



CORY BOOKER
(DEMOCRAT)

The Senator follows the party line by mimicking the stance of other Democratic candidates:

- Background checks
- Assault weapons ban
- Eliminating loopholes in existing gun laws
- Red flag laws
- Handgun licensing and registration



PETE BUTTIGIEG
(DEMOCRAT)

The South Bend, Indiana mayor is similarly unoriginal in most regards:

- Background checks
- Assault weapons ban
- Eliminating loopholes in existing gun laws
- Red flag laws
- Handgun licensing and registration
- Targets gun lobbies as "a national threat"



JULIAN CASTRO
(DEMOCRAT)

While Castro hasn't included any gun policy views on his campaign website, he did state:

- Background checks
- Assault weapons ban
- Red flag laws



JOHN DELANEY
(DEMOCRAT)

Delaney's website and debates reveal the former Maryland Congressional Representative:

- Background checks
- Assault weapons ban
- Eliminating loopholes in existing gun laws
- Red flag laws
- Federal funding for gun violence research



TULSI GABBARD
(DEMOCRAT)

Hoping to become the first female President of the US, Gabbard's stance is slightly softer than that of her fellow Democrats:

- Background checks
- Assault weapons ban
- Eliminating loopholes in existing gun laws



AMY KLOBUCHAR
(DEMOCRAT)

Another hopeful female candidate, Klobuchar takes a harder stance than Gabbard:

- Background checks
- Assault weapons ban
- Eliminating loopholes in existing gun laws
- Repealing legal protections for gun companies
- Federal funding for gun violence research



DEVAL PATRICK (DEMOCRAT)

Arriving late to the party and already blaming others

for his own campaign's inadequacy, Patrick's stance on gun rights/control is strict but incomplete:

- Background checks
- Assault weapons ban
- Handgun licensing and registration



BERNIE SANDERS (DEMOCRAT)

Once a gun-control moderate who was supported by the

NRA, Sanders now takes a harder stance:

- Background checks
- Assault weapons ban
- Handgun licensing and registration



TOM STEYER (DEMOCRAT)

Hedge fund manager turned political activist Steyer is unique in some

regards, but predictable when it comes to gun laws:

- Background checks
- Handgun licensing and registration
- Voluntary buyback program for the confiscation of firearms



JOE WALSH (REPUBLICAN)

GOP primary challenger Walsh made his stance on gun control clear:

- Supports the Second Amendment right to bear arms, including for home defense and as concealed carry
- Favors loosening the current restrictions on interstate gun purchases



PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP (REPUBLICAN)

Hoping to be re-elected, President

Trump's stance on gun control is simple:

- Background checks
- Red flag laws
- Eliminating loopholes in existing gun laws



BILL WELD (REPUBLICAN)

Weld's stances are similar to Walsh as the only other Republican

campaigning against Trump:

- Opposes gun control
- Supports the Second Amendment right to bear arms, including for home defense and as concealed carry



ELIZABETH WARREN (DEMOCRAT)

Warren is hesitant to clarify her stance on several issues, but

has no such problem when it comes to guns:

- Background checks
- Assault weapons ban
- Eliminating loopholes in existing gun laws
- Federal funding for gun violence research



MARIANNE WILLIAMSON (DEMOCRAT)

As a "lifestyle guru" with political aspirations,

Williamson's lack of experience shows in her stance:

- Background checks
- Assault weapons ban
- Red flag laws
- Handgun licensing and registration
- Mandatory waiting period
- Making it illegal to allow children to handle firearms
- Guns should have child safety locks
- Federal funding for gun violence research



ANDREW YANG (DEMOCRAT)

Tech-financier turned politician Yang has an unsurprising twist to his stance:

- Background checks
- Assault weapons ban
- Handgun licensing and registration
- Eliminating loopholes in existing gun laws
- Repealing legal protections for gun companies
- Federal funding for gun violence research
- Promotes so-called "smart gun" technology and proposes to create financial incentives to entice gun owners to make the switch

US GUN LAWS: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



With gun laws such a major topic for debate in the 2020 Presidential Elections, it's always a good idea to brush up on where things stand.

THE MINIMUM AGE

On a federal level, the Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA) requires gun users to be at least 18 before they can legally purchase a shotgun, rifle, or ammunition. For handguns, the minimum age is 21.

Individual states are allowed to set their own age restrictions. However, they are not allowed to be lower than the federal minimum.

Michael Bloomberg, a Democratic candidate, is proposing to raise the limit on all firearms to 21 on the federal level.

PROHIBITED PERSONS

The following persons are prohibited from purchasing a firearm:

- Fugitives
- Individuals deemed a danger to society
- Patients committed involuntarily to mental health institutions
- Individuals convicted of a felony carrying a prison sentence of 1 year or more
- Individuals convicted of a misdemeanor carrying a prison sentence of 2 years or more
- Those who have been found guilty of possessing or using illegal/controlled substances in the past year (including marijuana, which remains illegal on a federal level)
- Individuals who were issued restraining orders due to

harassment, stalking, or other threatening behavior

- Those who renounced their citizenship
- Military personnel who were dishonorably discharged
- Those visiting the US on a non-immigrant visa (e.g. tourists)
- Illegal immigrants

Some states are already enacting the so-called "red flag law," which permits authorized officials to temporarily confiscate firearms already belonging to someone who is deemed a danger to themselves and/or others.

Almost all of the presidential candidates endorse the red flag law, including President Trump.

FIREARM REGULATION

The GCA is administered by a division of the Department of Justice (DOJ) called the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Standards for the issuing of firearm vendor licenses are also regulated by ATF.

Also on a federal level, the National Firearms Act of 1934 regulates firearm mufflers, machine guns, rifles, shotguns, and silencers.

Conversely, states are allowed to self-regulate the purchase of semi-automatic weapons and automatic weapons (with the latter being restricted to models produced before 1984).

Most of the Democratic candidates are proposing a federal ban on the sale of assault weapons to members of the public.

LICENSING

Firearm dealers who sell for profit (i.e. are operating a business) are required to have a Federal Firearms License (FFL).

However, individuals who are not selling for profit (e.g. are engaged in reselling their own firearms) are not under the same restrictions, which might be considered a “loophole” by some.

To obtain an FFL, one must undergo a background check. Dealers are legally required to confirm a background check on anyone wishing to purchase a firearm from them.

Most of the Democratic candidates are proposing stricter universal background checks and license requirements.

PERMITS

On a federal level, citizens and legal residents of the US are not strictly required to have a purchase or carry permit. However:

- 12 states require a purchase permit for handguns
- 3 states require a purchase permit for rifles and shotguns
- 37 states require a carry permit for handguns
- 2 states require individuals carrying rifles and shotguns to have personal identification and/or firearms identification on their person while carrying
- Open carry is legal in most states

CONCLUSION

As gun owners, we need to keep abreast of current gun laws as well as those being proposed.

By doing this, we’re able to ensure we stay within the legal limits prescribed, and at the same time not allow for unconstitutional proposals to gain traction.



TOP FACEBOOK GROUP CONTRIBUTORS THIS MONTH

- 1  Seth Roeder
- 2  John Knopp
- 3  Eddie Harvey
- 4  Jimmy Machado
- 5  Gene Coniglio

Congratulations to the top contributors in the AGA Facebook group! Join us on Facebook at www.AGAmembers.com for tips, ideas, news, and more.



Denny Turk
December 23, 2019 at 9:16 AM

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steal Our Rights in Virginia or
any State in Our Country!**
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DEFENSIVE USE OF FIREARMS



Self-defense is one of the most predominant reasons given for gun ownership. For some, it's a matter of potential security – knowing if SHTE, they have a firearm at their disposal to defend themselves.

For others, it's a realized security – they've already had to use their firearm in self-defense against someone with criminal intent.

This is one of the reasons our Founding Fathers enacted the Second Amendment, which gives US citizens and legal residents the constitutional right to bear arms.

But of course, fear-mongers like to ignore the facts.

Seeking to impose severe limitations on our constitutional rights – and even advocating for the Second Amendment to be repealed entirely – they use mass shooting events to scare the public into accepting this heinous infringement.

Part of the reason is they simply don't understand that confiscating the guns of legal firearm owners, and prohibiting those legally permitted to obtain firearms through legal channels, will not prevent mass shootings.

Nor will it significantly impact the level of gun-related violence in the US, if it has any impact at all.

This is because such fear-mongers either don't understand or willfully ignore the fact defensive gun use far outnumbers criminal use.

Understanding defensive gun use is an important knowledge tool we as gun owners need, especially if we're to properly and legally defend not only ourselves, but our constitutional rights.

DEFENSIVE GUN USE AND THE LAW

Defensive gun use laws can be tricky to quantify.

You need to begin by taking a look at the type of firearms legally permitted in your state.

Even if you meet all the legal requirements for defensive gun use, if the firearm used is illegal in your state (whether by design or through modifications made to an otherwise legal weapon), then you're still breaking the law.

Similarly, you need to pay close attention to how your state regulates the carrying of firearms.

If you present or use your firearm in a way that meets all the legal requirements for defensive gun use, but you're guilty of illegal concealed carry (such as without possession of the concealed carry permit required by state law), then you'll still land in legal trouble for its use.

That said, you'd still be able to use the self-defense argument to defend yourself against criminal charges.



However, there's no guarantee your legal defense would hold up. And even if it did, you might still find yourself under closer scrutiny by the local law enforcement.

HOW DEFENSIVE GUN USE IS UNDERSTOOD BY THE LAW

Even if your possession and carrying of a firearm is perfectly within your state's legal boundaries, using it in self-defense might still be up for debate.

Traditional self-defense laws typically require you:

- First attempt to de-escalate the situation, preferably by retreating if possible without resorting to a physical defense.
- If safely retreating is not possible, use only the amount of force deemed reasonably necessary to satisfactorily defend yourself.

This can be understandably ambiguous.

Ability to Retreat

If your defensive use of a firearm results in a court case, a jury of your peers will examine the available evidence and try to determine whether or not you had an opportunity to retreat or otherwise de-escalate the situation without resorting

to using your weapon.

As a general rule-of-thumb, if the attack was ongoing, you were trapped with no possible escape route available, and/or you did attempt to retreat but your attacker pursued you, then you were justified in resorting to physical defense.

The Use of Reasonable Force

This is where it gets interesting. You should always present your firearm before firing it, as a de-escalation method.

Those who are ignorant of defensive gun use might argue this constitutes intimidation, but the argument will typically fail provided your attacker had some sort of deadly weapon as well.



If you do have to fire your gun, then shoot to stop. Don't waste time trying to injure the attacker – this can and will almost certainly be used to charge you with misuse of a lethal weapon.

Shooting to injure rather than to stop gives the impression you weren't truly fearful for your life and physical safety.

Provided the attacker attempted to use or reasonably threatened the use of a deadly weapon (another gun, a knife, a baseball bat, a metal bar, etc.), shooting to stop an attacker should be upheld in a court of law as a legally defensive use of your firearm.

Even if your attacker does not have a lethal weapon, you can still be justified in presenting your firearm and giving a verbal warning that you will shoot if necessary.

After all, this – even without firing your weapon – also counts as defensive use. However, bear in mind you must be able to demonstrate you were unable to retreat, otherwise you might still face charges of intimidation.

The “Castle Doctrine” and “Stand Your Ground” Laws

Anyone who is defending against a home invader can generally use the “castle doctrine” defense. Theoretically, you have the right to

defend your home without the need to retreat.

In some states, this extends to “stand your ground” laws, which allow a similar defense even outside of your property.

However, in the case of stand your ground laws especially, you must still demonstrate reason to believe your physical well-being was endangered.

DEALING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT AFTER DEFENSIVE USE OF YOUR FIREARM

This next step is very important.

After any defensive use of your firearm, whether merely presenting it or firing it, you must call 911 immediately after.

Even if your attacker beat a hasty retreat as soon as you drew your gun, you still need to inform law enforcement.

Stick to the facts when on the phone. Inform the officer you were attacked and forced to draw your firearm in self-defense.

If you wounded or killed your assailant, say so without going into more detail. Give the officer your name and your location, then say nothing else.

Once you get off the phone, disarm yourself by engaging your firearms safety and holstering it or otherwise (safely) storing it away.

Keep your hands in clear view, do whatever is needed to remain calm, and avoid making any sudden movements, especially once officers begin arriving on the scene.

Be cooperative, even if the officers want to handcuff you and/or take your firearm into evidence.

Politely but emphatically insist you have legal representation present before you answer any questions.

Don't fall into the trap of trying to justify yourself against any seemingly accusatory questions.

You'll be under a lot of psychological stress and might accidentally misremember and/or misrepresent what happened.

And if it comes down to it, contact a lawyer immediately.

CONCLUSION

Ultimately, the best way to ensure you're properly prepared to deal with a situation where defensive gun use becomes necessary is to undergo proper defensive shooting training.

This will typically include de-escalation techniques.

Additionally, consult an attorney if you have any doubts about your legal rights in your state of residence.



TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

After studying this training, we encourage you to test your knowledge with this quiz. The answers can be found at the bottom right hand corner of this page.

1: Which is the more predominant reason for wanting a self-defense firearm?

- A. Potential security
- B. Realized security
- C. Unspecified

2: What excuse do fear-mongers use to promote their anti-gun policies?

- A. The Second Amendment is outdated
- B. Mass shootings
- C. Criminals

3: Why are defensive gun use laws difficult to quantify?

- A. They may differ between states based on other state-level gun laws
- B. There's no clear legislation on a federal or state level
- C. They're open to interpretation based on individual circumstances

4: What do traditional self-defense laws say about acceptable defensive gun use?

- A. You must first try to de-escalate or retreat before using deadly force
- B. You must first try to de-escalate or retreat before using reasonable force
- C. You must first try to de-escalate or retreat before using minimal force

5: Which of these is the odd one out?

- A. If the attack was ongoing, defensive gun use may be justified
- B. If the attacker attempted to pursue you when trying to retreat, defensive gun use may be justified
- C. If the only possible escape route doesn't look appealing, defensive gun use may be justified

6: If you have to fire your weapon, what should you do?

- A. Shoot to stop
- B. Shoot to injure
- C. Shoot to kill

7: Why should you carefully label ammunition storage containers?

- A. Because it looks neater
- B. Because it keeps your ammunition organized
- C. Because it helps you to be more mindful of your storage

8: Why is a safe preferable to a lockable closet?

- A. Alert law enforcement
- B. Store your weapon away safely
- C. Both of the above

9: How should you NOT behave when law enforcement officers arrive on the scene?

- A. Defend your decision to have used your weapon defensively
- B. Cooperate politely
- C. Insist on having legal assistance present before answering questions

10: What is the best way to prepare yourself to use your gun defensively?

- A. Undergo defensive shooting training
- B. Always have your gun on your person
- C. Something else

QUIZ ANSWERS

1c, 2b, 3a, 4b, 5c, 6a, 7b, 8c, 9a, 10a

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