



Gun Owners of Maine News Bulletin

January 2017

QUESTION 3 DEFEATED!

New Year Brings New Threats, Opportunities

The long battle against so-called Universal Background Checks that began back in January of 2015 finally came to an end in the early morning hours of November 9, 2016, as the votes from Election Day were tallied. Despite a massive advantage in money, advertising and favorable media coverage, the billionaire-backed measure failed by over 27,000 votes. Former NYC mayor Michael Bloomberg shovelled millions of dollars into his effort to remake Maine's laws in the image of New York.

Gun Owners of Maine, in partnership with the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, and working with the NRA, mounted a volunteer effort to educate the public, explaining the truth about the bill: How it would fail to keep guns away from criminals, infringe the rights of law-abiding citizens, and turn innocent citizens into criminals under its outrageous provisions.

Thanks to that army of volunteers from all over the state, we defeated a measure that was supposedly favored by over 80% of voters, and a lavishly-financed campaign that we were told could not lose.

Our opponents held all the cards, but there was only one thing they could not beat: The strength of Maine gun owners when we stand together to defend our rights.



It's Not Over

The fight is not over -- it never is. Anti-gun forces are right back at work with the opening of the 128th Legislature, and a new crop of anti-gun bills -- including Universal Background Check bills like the one that the people just rejected. Here are some of the new gun-control bills already submitted in the new session:

- An Act To Prohibit the Discharge of Firearms near Child-care Facilities Licensed by the State
- An Act To Require Gun Locks with New Firearm Sales
- An Act To Improve Public Safety

- An Act To Increase Firearm Safety
- An Act To Require Background Checks on All Private Sales of Firearms
- An Act To Require Background Checks for Sales of Firearms
- An Act To Allow Municipalities To Prohibit Weapons at Municipal Public Proceedings and Polling Places

Gun Owners of Maine needs your support to oppose these, and all bills that threaten the right to keep and bear arms. Please keep up to date on developments via our Facebook group and our Web site.

Our Turn

The new Legislative session also brings opportunities to make up lost ground and to extend our gun rights, as well. There are a number of very positive gun bills that deserve our support. These include:

- An Act To Amend Maine's Concealed Weapons Laws
- An Act To Enhance Safety on College and University Campuses by Allowing Firearms To Be Carried on the Campuses of Public Colleges and Universities
- An Act To Lower the Age Requirement To Carry a Concealed Handgun
- An Act To Prohibit the Creation of a Firearms Owner Registry
- An Act To Strengthen Maine Citizens' Right to Self Defense
- An Act To Allow Nonviolent Felons To Have Their Right To Bear Firearms Restored
- An Act To Repeal the Provision of Law Requiring Disclosure of the Possession of a Firearm under Certain Circumstances
- An Act To Repeal Certain Restrictions on the Sale or Purchase of Firearms

These pro-gun bills are important, not only for the positive changes they bring, but also to change the momentum of the gun rights fight. We have had to defend ourselves from continuous encroachment for far too long. It's time we take the fight to the enemy, and let them play defense, if they can.

Again, we will need the support of all gun owners to make these advances in gun rights. With your help, we've become New England's

first Constitutional Carry state since Vermont, improved reciprocity for concealed handgun permits, legalized suppressor hunting, protected the gun rights of public housing tenants and much more. We can continue to make Maine the most gun-friendly state in the nation, with your support.



There's Always Time to be SAFER

SAFER is Gun Owners of Maine's online handgun safety course. It is an excellent introduction to handgun safety and concealed carry. Developed as a free multimedia course to prepare people to exercise their right to carry a handgun under Maine's Constitutional Carry law, SAFER is available to anyone, anywhere, any time.

SAFER covers the causes of gun accidents, the rules of gun safety, handgun types and parts, proper loading and unloading, the law regarding firearms, concealed carry and the use of force, no-carry zones, transporting firearms, the difference between Constitutional Carry and carry with a Concealed Handgun Permit, and more. The course is taught by a certified firearm instructor and a licensed Maine attorney. Try SAFER at safer-maine.org.

Question 3 Celebration and 2017 Kickoff Banquet

To celebrate our stunning upset in defeating the UBC referendum, and to prepare for the legislative session ahead of us, Gun Owners of Maine is planning a banquet with our friends and partners at Sportsman's Alliance of Maine.

Come on out and meet fellow gun rights activists, share your stories of the Question 3 fight, and help us gear up to defend and extend our rights in the new year.

Watch the Facebook group or the web site for details.

Gun Owners of Maine, Inc. is a volunteer, grassroots Maine nonprofit corporation dedicated to preserving and protecting the right of the people to keep and bear arms, and assists members and nonmembers alike in locating training and educational resources to further responsible firearms handlings and ownership. Gun Owners of Maine is a nonpartisan citizen activist group and does not endorse any political group.

Help support our mission to defend and extend gun rights by being an informed gun owner. Like our Facebook Page and join our Facebook Group (just search for Gun Owners of Maine), and visit our web site at gunownersofmaine.org.

Consider a membership or a donation if you would like to help financially support our work.

