

THE ONLY CERTAINTY IS UNCERTAINTY, NOT!

BY: MIKE COX, LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Covid-19 news is fast-moving. It would be pointless to post numbers of current infected cases and the number of deaths because, by the time you read this article, those numbers will be obsolete.

COVID-19 has infected the world. It has trashed our economy, upended our social systems, changed our behaviors, overwhelmed our healthcare systems, and killed our loved ones. How long will it last? When will it be over? Everyone is a self-proclaimed expert in risk assessment. Which economies will survive and which will fail?

Texas Governor Greg Abbott has announced that the extreme lockdown of today will ease soon. Politics have been in play throughout the pandemic and will remain at the forefront. We have monitored the actions of city, county, and state leaders' activities with a focused study. Will our constitution protections weather the storm? Though no one knows how long it will last, the pandemic will eventually end. Some things, however, may never go back to the way they were.

Founded in 1919, The Texas State Rifle Association (TSRA) has been at the forefront in defense of our right to keep and bear arms.

TSRA will never waver. NRA-ILA and others are valuable allies in this struggle, but we need all freedom-loving Texans to join us.

Though predictions of what our new normal will look like is difficult, there is no question that Gun Control politics will still be active in the post-pandemic new world. Millions of dollars from outside of Texas will pour in to defeat pro-gun candidates for office during the 2020 elections.

Many articles in the media had headlines such as: "Why so many

first-time gun buyers," "Gun and ammunition sales are breaking records." TSRA members were curious about such questions. Could it be possible that the authors were so naïve not to understand the dynamics of the situation? Charles Fritz (godfather of disaster research) had a fantastic insight that is an essential part of the Federal Disaster Plan. It was a recognition that people in crisis help each other first. Elites panic about riots, looting, and other disasters, but most of us just try to help the people nearest us. And then we help the others further out.

Acting in self-defense was recognized by our founders as a natural right, an inalienable right. It is no mystery that people assessed the precarious situation and took preparations for worse case situations.

Texas is a top target for the very same gun control groups that helped flip Virginia's General Assembly in their favor last year — and they're planning to go even bigger here, announcing they will spend at least \$8 million to elect anti-Second Amendment

candidates to the Texas Legislature and to represent Texas in the U.S. Congress.

Everytown for Gun Safety, a Michael Bloomberg-backed group that pushed for expanded background checks, red flag laws, and outright gun bans and magazine limits in Virginia, is plotting what its political director calls an “unprecedented financial and grassroots effort” to flip the Texas House, defend vulnerable anti-gun members of Congress and help gun control candidates win suburban congressional seats.

Our best advice for our members and all Second Amendment supporters is to steel yourself for non-stop TV,

internet, and radio ads and flooded mailboxes with mailers for gun control candidates. Everytown will no doubt employ the same strategy they used in Virginia. Those ads used fear and focused on suburban women, the same constituency that gun control advocates will focus on in Texas in 2020. Young voters and minority communities will also be targeted.

2020 has already proven to be a pivotal time in living history. The post-pandemic political season is shaping up to be just as challenging. Founded in 1919, The Texas State Rifle Association (TSRA) has been at the forefront in defense of our right

to keep and bear arms. TSRA will never waver. NRA-ILA and others are valuable allies in this struggle, but we need all freedom-loving Texans to join us.

We can't just wring our hands about our opponents plans, we must have the fortitude to fight. This takes everyone pitching in – educate yourself, talk to your friends and neighbors, financially support and vote for pro-Second Amendment candidates and donate when you can to help TSRA-PAC stay on the battlefield. Freedom isn't free and neither is the ongoing defense of our Constitutional rights.

UPDATE Virginia Gun Legislation

Governor Northam Signs Gun Legislation into Law

Governor Ralph Northam today announced he has signed several landmark gun violence prevention measures into law, including legislation to enact an Extreme Risk Protective Order, require background checks on all gun sales, mandate reporting of lost and stolen firearms, prevent children from accessing firearms, and reinstate Virginia's one-handgun-a-month policy.

Governor Northam signed these bills:

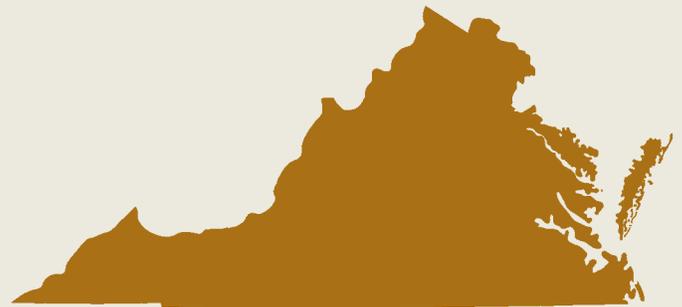
Senate Bill 70 and **House Bill 2** require background checks on all firearm sales in Virginia, which will prevent guns from ending up in dangerous hands.

Senate Bill 240 and **House Bill 674** establish an Extreme Risk Protective Order, which creates a legal mechanism for law enforcement to temporarily separate a person from their firearms when they represent a danger to themselves or others. Virginia is now among 19 other states and the District of Columbia in enacting this type of law.

Senate Bill 69 and **House Bill 812** reinstate Virginia's one-handgun-a-month rule to help curtail stockpiling of firearms and trafficking.

House Bill 9 requires gun owners to report their lost or stolen firearms to law enforcement within 48 hours or face a civil penalty.

House Bill 1083 prevents children from accessing firearms by increasing the penalty for recklessly leaving firearms in their presence.



Governor Northam proposed amendments to these bills:

Senate Bill 35 and **House Bill 421** allow localities to regulate firearms in public buildings, parks, recreation centers, and during permitted events. Amendments clarify the exemption for institutions of higher education.

Senate Bill 479 and **House Bill 1004** prohibit individuals subject to protective orders from possessing firearms, require them to turn over their firearms within 24 hours, and certify to the court that they have turned over their weapons. Governor Northam amended this legislation at the request of the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. This will enhance safety for victims by allowing judges to hold the respondent in contempt of court if they fail to comply with the certification requirements.

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