



D.S.S.A. NEWS

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
A PUBLICATION OF THE DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
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That's a heck of a platform!

I can remember when the very best you could hope for was something like "We support the Second Amendment." Heck George Bush Sr. resigned from the NRA and imposed import bans, and even his son said that he'd sign a renewal of the "AW" ban. But the current GOP platform is:

"We uphold the right of individuals to keep and bear arms, a right which antedated the Constitution and was solemnly confirmed by the Second Amendment. We acknowledge, support, and defend the law-abiding citizens' God-given right of self-defense. We call for the protection of such fundamental individual rights recognized in the Supreme Court's decisions in District of Columbia v. Heller and McDonald v. Chicago affirming that right, and we recognize the individual responsibility to safely use and store firearms. This also includes the right to obtain and store ammunition without registration. We support the fundamental right to self-defense wherever a law-abiding citizen has a legal right to be, and we support federal legislation that would expand the exercise of that right by allowing those with state-issued carry permits to carry firearms in any state that issues such permits to its own residents. Gun ownership is responsible citizenship, enabling Americans to defend their homes and communities. We condemn frivolous lawsuits against gun manufacturers and oppose federal licensing or registration of law-abiding gun owners. We oppose legislation that is intended to restrict our Second Amendment rights by limiting the capacity of clips or magazines or otherwise restoring the ill-considered Clinton gun ban. We condemn the reckless actions associated with the operation known as "Fast and Furious," conducted by the Department of Justice, which resulted in the murder of a U.S. Border Patrol Agent and others on both sides of the border. We applaud the Members of the U.S. House of Representatives in holding the current Administration's Attorney General in contempt of Congress for his refusal to cooperate with their investigation into that debacle. We oppose the improper collection of firearms sales information in the four southern border states, which was imposed without congressional authority."

UPDATE: I'm not saying this is a guarantee of what a party or a candidate will do although I doubt Obama will run on a platform anything like this! But look at it in terms of evolution of how a party wants to be seen. [corrected, and italics tag closed] That offers a key as to what they see is in their own partisan interest, and that is a good predictor of political behavior.

The 1996 GOP platform devoted one sentence to the right to arms, and then dealt at length with the gun control measures it would push anyway:

"We defend the constitutional right to keep and bear arms. We will promote training in the safe usage of firearms, especially in programs for women and the elderly. We strongly support Bob Dole's National Instant Check Initiative, which will help keep all guns out of the hands of convicted felons. The point-of-purchase instant check has worked well in many states and now it is time to extend this system all across America. We applaud Bob Dole's commitment to have the national instant check system operational by the end of 1997. In one of the strangest actions of his tenure, Bill Clinton abolished Operation Triggerlock, the Republican initiative to jail any felon caught with a gun. We will restore that effort and will set by law minimum mandatory penalties for the use of guns in committing a crime: 5 years for possession, 10 years for brandishing, and 20 for discharge."

The platforms give us insight into what politicians, esp. GOP politicians, judge are the positions that will gain them office or keep them there. In 1996, it was lip service to the Second Amendment, then tell everyone all the forms of gun control you support in reality. In 2012, the key to political survival is instead lots of discussion of the 2A, and none about the virtues of gun control.

The 2000 GOP platform said:

"We defend the constitutional right to keep and bear arms, and we affirm the individual responsibility to safely use and store firearms. Because self-defense is a basic human right, we will promote training in their safe usage, especially in federal programs for women and the elderly. A Republican administration will vigorously enforce current gun laws, neglected by the Democrats, especially by prosecuting dangerous offenders identified as felons in instant background checks. Although we support background checks to ensure that guns do not fall into the hands of criminals, we oppose federal licensing of law-abiding gun owners and national gun registration as a violation of the Second Amendment and an invasion of privacy of honest citizens. Through programs like Project Exile, we will hold criminals individually accountable for their actions by strong enforcement of federal and state firearm laws, especially when guns are used in violent or drug-related crimes. With a special emphasis upon school safety, we propose the crackdown on youth violence explained elsewhere in this platform."

It actually says more about enforcing firearms laws than about the right to arms.

The 2004 GOP platform had this to say:

"Republicans and President Bush strongly support an individual right to own guns, which is explicitly protected by the Constitution's Second Amendment. Our Party honors the great American tradition of hunting and we applaud efforts by the Bush Administration to make more public lands available to hunters, to increase access to hunting clinics and safety programs for children and adults, and to improve opportunities for hunting for Americans with disabilities.

We believe the 2nd Amendment and all the rights guaranteed by it should enable law-abiding citizens throughout the country to own firearms in their homes for self-defense. We applaud those seeking to stop frivolous lawsuits against firearms manufacturers which is a transparent attempt to deprive citizens of their 2nd Amendment rights. We oppose federal licensing of lawabiding gun owners & national gun registration as a violation of the 2nd Amendment and an invasion of privacy of honest citizens"

The 2008 GOP platform provided:

"We uphold the right of individual Americans to own firearms, a right which antedated the Constitution and was solemnly confirmed by the Second Amendment. We applaud the

Supreme Court's decision in Heller affirming that right, and we assert the individual responsibility to safely use and store firearms. We call on the next president to appoint judges who will similarly respect the Constitution. Gun ownership is responsible citizenship, enabling Americans to defend themselves, their property, and communities.

We call for education in constitutional rights in schools, and we support the option of firearms training in federal programs serving senior citizens and women. We urge immediate action to review the automatic denial of gun ownership to returning members of the Armed Forces who have suffered trauma during service to their country. We condemn frivolous lawsuits against firearms manufacturers, which are transparent attempts to deprive citizens of their rights. We oppose federal licensing of law-abiding gun owners and national gun registration as violations of the Second Amendment. We recognize that gun control only affects and penalizes law-abiding citizens, and that such proposals are ineffective at reducing violent crime."

Reprinted with permission:

David Hardy · 1 September 2012

Third debate looms: Does foreign policy include Fast & Furious?

Reprinted with permission: Dave Workman, October 17, 2012

While dust still swirls around the outcome of last night's blistering debate between President Barack Obama and Republican challenger Mitt Romney, an important question that moderator Candy Crowley seemed to steer away from as soon as it was raised was about Operation Fast and Furious.

Romney dropped it like a grenade in the middle of a verbal joust over gun control, and it is evident that nobody saw it coming. Here's the transcript of Romney's remarks as published by National Public Radio:

"The — the greatest failure we've had with regards to gun violence, in some respects," Romney said, "is what is known as Fast and Furious, which was a program under this administration — and how it worked exactly, I think we don't know precisely — but where thousands of automatic and — and AK-47-type weapons were — were given to people that ultimately gave them to — to drug lords. They used those weapons against — against their own citizens and killed Americans with them.

"And this was a — this was a program of the government," the Republican added. "For what purpose it was put in place, I can't imagine. But it's one of the great tragedies related to violence in our society which has occurred during this administration which I think the American people would like to understand fully. It's been investigated to a degree, but the administration has — has carried out executive privilege to prevent all the information from coming out. I'd like to understand who it was that did this, what the idea was behind it, why it led to the violence — thousands of guns going to Mexican drug lords."

As this column noted earlier, Crowley jumped in and deflected the conversation to a perceived Romney weakness on guns, his signing of legislation while Massachusetts governor

that many in the gun rights community view as a semi-auto ban. But as this column revealed, the Gun Owners Action league of Massachusetts does not see it that way at all. Indeed, their website defends what Romney did, calling it a "great victory" for gun owners.

Examiner spoke briefly Wednesday with Mike Sweeney, GOAL communications manager, and he confirmed that many gun rights activists have misunderstood for several years what happened as a result of the legislation. According to Sweeney and the GOAL website, this is what the Romney-enacted legislation accomplished:

- "Established the Firearm License Review Board (FLRB). The 1998 law created new criteria for disqualifying citizens for firearms licenses that included any misdemeanor punishable by more than two years even if no jail time was ever served.

- For instance, a first conviction of operating a motor vehicle under the influence would result in the loss of your ability to own a handgun for life and long guns for a minimum of five years. This Board is now able to review cases under limited circumstances to restore licenses to individuals who meet certain criteria.

- Mandated that a minimum of \$50,000 of the licensing fees be used for the operation of the FLRB so that the Board would not cease operating under budget cuts.

- Extended the term of the state's firearm licenses from 4 years to 6 years.

- Permanently attached the federal language concerning assault weapon exemptions in 18 USC 922 Appendix A to the Massachusetts assault weapons laws. This is the part that the media misrepresented.

- In 1998 the Massachusetts legislature passed its own assault weapons ban (MGL Chapter 140, Section 131M). This ban did not rely on the federal language and contained no sunset clause. Knowing that we did not have the votes in 2004 to get rid of the state law, we did not want to lose all of the federal exemptions that were not in the state law so this new bill was amended to include them. **(con't on page 6)**

2012 Candidate Report Card

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The following information is being provided as a service to our members and is designed to provide our members with information as to how we view each of the various candidates for public office in terms of their support for the rights of hunters, sportsmen, shooters and gun owners with special focus on the fundamental right to keep and bear arms. For simplicity, familiarity and ease of use, the grading system used herein is similar in many ways to that used by the NRA-ILA Political Victory Fund.

* Indicates an Incumbent Candidates **recommended** by DSSA are shown in **red**

(D) = Democrat (R) = Republican (W-I) = Write-In Candidate (U) = Unopposed

PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT

*Barak Obama/Joe Biden (D) F
Mitt Romney/Paul Ryan (R) **A**

U.S. SENATE

* Tom Carper (D) F
Kevin Wade (R) **A**

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

* John Carney (D) F
Tom Kovack (R) **A**

GOVERNOR

* Jack A. Markell (D) F
Jeffrey E. Cragg (R) **A**

LT. GOVERNOR

* Matt Denn (D) F
Cheryl Ann Valenzuela (R) **A**

(Where no opponent is listed the opposing candidate(s) are not major party candidates)

DELAWARE STATE SENATE

District #1

* Harris McDowell (D) F

District #2

*Margaret Rose Henry (D) D-

District #3

*Robert Marshall (D) (U) F

District #4

* Michael Katz (D) B
Gregory Lavelle (R) **A+**

District #5

***Catherine Cloutier (R)** **A-**
Christopher R. Counihan(D) ?

District #6

Ernesto Lopez (R) **A**
Andrew Staten ?

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

District #7

*Patricia Blevens (D) C

District # 9

* Karen Peterson (D) (U) D-

District #11

Evan Queitsch (R) A

Bryan Townsend (D) ?

District #13

* David McBride (D) A+

District #15

*David Lawson (R) A+

Kathleen Cooke (D) ?

District # 17

* Brian Bushweller (D) (U) C

District # 19

Brian Pettyjohn (R) (W-I) A

Jane Hovington (D) ?

District #8

* David Sokola (D) F

William Stritzinger (R) A

District #10

*Bethany Hall-Long (D) (U) A-

District #12

*Dorinda Connor (R) B

Nicole Poore (D) D-

District #14

*Bruce Ennis (D) A+

Scott Unruh (R) A

District #16

* Colin Bonini (R) A+

District # 18

* F. Gary Simpson (R) (U) A+

District #20

Gerald Hocker (R) A+

Richard Eakle (D) ?

District #21

*Robert Venables (D) A+

Bryant Richardson (R) A

DELAWARE STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

District #1

Charles Potter (D) (U) ?

District #3

*Helene Keeley (D) (U) D

District #5

* Melanie G. Smith (D)(U) D-

District #2

*Stephanie Bolden (D) (U) B+

District #4

*Gerald Brady (D) (U) C-

District #6

* Debra Heffernan (D) D

Eric Taylor (R) A

District #7

* Bryan Short (D) C
 Daniel Lepre (R) C

District #9

*Rebecca Walker (D) (U) A

District #11

Jeffrey Spiegleman (R) A
 Lynne Newlin (D) B-

District #13

* John Mitchell (D) (U) D

District #15

*Valerie Longhurst (D) B

District #17

*Michael Mulrooney (D) A+
 Laura Brown (R) ?

District #19

Dennis Cini (R) D
 Kimberly Williams (D) ?

District #21

*Michael Ramone (R) (U) A+

District #23

Paul Baumbach (D) F
 Mark Doughty (R) ?

District #25

*John Kowalko (D) (U) D

District #27

*Earl Jaques (D) (U) D-

District #8

* S. Quinton Johnson (D) A-
 Matthew Brown (R) B+

District #10

* Dennis E. Williams (D) D-
 Robert Rodunda (R) A

District #12

*Deborah Hudson (R) (U) A+

District #14

* Pete Schwartzkopf (D) D

District #16

*James Johnson (D) D-

District #18

Michael Barbieri (D) (U) D-

District #20

Stephen Smyk (R) A
 Marie Mayor (D) ?

District #22

*Joseph Miro (R) C
 David Ellis (D) ?

District #24

*Edward Osienski (D) (U) D

District #26

*John Viola (D) (U) A

District #28

*William Carson (D) A+
 Christopher Sylvester (R) A

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION

District #29

***Lincoln Willis (R) A+**
William Paradee (D) A

District #31

***Darryl Scott (D) D+**
Samuel Chick (R) A-

District #33

***Harold (Jack) Peterman (R) A+**
John Robbins (D) A

District #35

***David Wilson (R) A+**

District #37

***Ruth Briggs King (R) A+**
Elizabeth McGinn (D) ?

District #39

***Daniel Short (R) (U) A+**

District #30

***William (Bobby) Outten ® A+**

District #32

Ellis Parrott (R) A
Andria Bennett (D) A

District #34

***Donald Blakey (R) A+**
Theodore Yacucci (D) ?

District #36

***Harvey Kenton (R) (U) A+**

District #38

Ron Gray (R) A-
Shirley Price (D) D

District #40

Timothy Dukes (R) A
Benjamin Lowe (D) ?

District #41

***John Atkins (D) A**
Richard Collins (R) A

****Please note that the candidate grades shown here are reflective of issues that are specific to Delaware and the DSSA and are NOT necessarily identical to those published by NRA-ILA Political Victory Fund.**

(con't from page 2)

•“Re-instated a 90 day grace period for citizens who were trying to renew their firearm license. Over the past years, the government agencies in charge had fallen months behind in renewing licenses. At one point it was taking upwards of a year to renew a license. Under Massachusetts law, a citizen cannot have a firearm or ammunition in their home with an expired license.

•“Mandated that law enforcement must issue a receipt for firearms that are confiscated due to an expired license. Prior to this law, no receipts were given for property confiscated which led to accusations of stolen or lost firearms after they were confiscated by police.

•“Gave free license renewal for law enforcement officers who applied through their employing agency.

•“Changed the size and style of a firearm license to that of a driver’s license so that it would fit in a normal wallet. The original license was 3” x 4”.

•“Created stiffer penalties for armed home invaders.”

Still, many in the firearms community will refuse to accept GOAL’s perspective as they have convinced themselves of Romney’s anti-gun sentiments. One would think that if Romney

is as bad as his critics believe, GOAL would be confirming that, since the organization has nothing to gain or lose by telling what it believes to be the truth.

Crowley’s intervention Tuesday night, intended or otherwise, got Obama off the hook about the Fast and Furious scandal, so he did not have to respond to Romney’s prying curiosity. That Romney brought it up surprised many in the firearms community.

Just what was the real motivation behind Fast and Furious? Who actually did allow it to go into operation and get out of control? And the most important unanswered question of all, why did the president claim executive privilege to prevent the House Oversight and Government Reform committee from getting its hands on stacks of subpoenaed documents relating to the operation?

Fast and Furious definitely falls within the realm of foreign policy. After all, it is an operation that allowed some 2,000 firearms to enter the illicit market, cross illegally into a neighboring country without that government’s knowledge, and feed a bloody drug war that still rages today.

Perhaps next Monday evening, the nation will get some answers. The public deserves to know prior to the election.

DELAWARE STATE SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION BULLET POINT NEWS

Crunch Time: #gunvote Could Make Difference in Many Races

USE #GUNVOTE BUTTON ON FACEBOOK AND TWITTER PROFILES, WEBSITES . . . It's less than a month until Election Day and many races across the country -- including the presidential race -- are extremely close. NSSF is asking everyone to help spread the word of just how important this year's elections are for gun owners and our industry. Please utilize this #gunvote button for your Facebook and Twitter profiles -- and on your websites -- and encourage all of your online followers to do the same. See NSSF's Facebook page as an example. As it has in previous elections, the collective vote of shooters, hunters and gun owners will make a huge impact at the polls. Learn more and choose from a selection of #gunvote images at nssf.org/gunvote.

USITC FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION DATA FOR AUGUST 2012

NSSF reports that overall U.S. imports (in units) in six sporting arms and ammunition categories increased 39.8 percent in August 2012 compared to August 2011. August 2012 imported units in tracked categories totaled 204.5 million, up from 146.2 million reported in August 2011. NSSF reports that overall U.S. exports (in units) in six sporting arms and ammunition categories increased 10.5 percent in August 2012 compared to August 2011. August 2012 exported units in tracked categories totaled 64.4 million, up from 58.3 million reported in August 2011. All figures sourced from U.S. International Trade Commission (USITC). See a complete breakdown of each category's August import and export data. NSSF members may access additional historical import and export data by logging in at www.nssf.org/members and clicking NSSF Industry Research.

Delaware State Sportsmen's Association, Inc. Membership Application

Send to: Membership Secretary

Delaware State Sportsmen's Association

P.O. Box 94 Lincoln, DE 19960

Individual Membership (check one)

A. Life \$400 ___ B. Annual \$ 25 ___ C. Family \$ 40 ___ D. Junior \$ 10 ___ E. Email \$20 ___

Name: _____ NRA Member? _____

Street Address: _____ New DSSA member? _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ DSSA Renewal? _____

Phone Number: (_____) _____ Occupation: _____

Email: _____ (PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Family Memberships (Must be part of life or annual member's household.)

_____, _____

_____, _____

I certify that I am not now and never have been a member of any organization which has as any part of its program the attempt to overthrow the government of the United States by force or violence; that I have never been convicted of a crime of violence; that if admitted to membership in the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association, I will fulfill the obligations of good sportsmanship and uphold the Right to Keep and Bear Arms found in the Constitution of my State of Residence and of the United States of America.

DSSA NEWS

The DSSA NEWS is a bi-monthly publication of the Delaware State Sportsmen's Association. It is distributed to each member as a benefit of membership. Additional copies are provided to elected officials and other NRA state associations. If you would like to contribute to the DSSA NEWS please submit your material to lawman515@aol.com. Questions or concerns may be sent to the same address.

Mail Delivery Option

If you have paid dues at the full rate of \$25.00 per year you may elect to receive your newsletter through the USPS. To make a change please contact DSSA Membership Secretary, William D. Bell at: dabll@comcast.net or 302-245-4822.

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