



THE ROMNEY RECORD

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A RECORD OF SUPPORTING SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

"The Second Amendment protects the individual right of lawful citizens to keep and bear arms. I strongly support this essential freedom. As President, I will protect the right of every law abiding American to keep and use firearms."

- Governor Mitt Romney

"As governor, [Romney] took real, meaningful steps to affirm our right to bear arms. Romney has shown that he is willing to confront the jumble of state gun laws in Boston – and if he can do that with an 85 percent Democratic legislature in one of the most liberal states in the country, think what he could do in Washington with a more supportive base in Congress."

- Senator Larry Craig (R-ID), [Idaho State Journal](#), 3/12/07

Governor Romney Believes In The Individual Right To Keep And Bear Arms And As President, Will Vigorously Defend The Rights Of Law-Abiding Gun Owners. He is a member of the National Rifle Association and has a distinguished record as governor of Massachusetts in defending Second Amendment rights. His efforts on behalf of gun owners has been lauded by gun rights and sportsmen's advocates.

Governor Romney Believes The Second Amendment Protects Essential Freedoms And Supports The Constitutional Right Of Law Abiding Citizens To Keep And Bear Arms.

- **Governor Romney Believes The Second Amendment Is About More Than Just Self-Defense Or Sport; It's About The Basic Freedom Of Lawful Citizens To Live Their Lives.** The Second Amendment was enshrined by the Founding Fathers in our Constitution and our Bill of Rights to protect the rights of our citizens to own firearms and defend themselves. Bumper sticker gun control does not protect the individual but does take away protections. Criminals do not buy guns in stores nor subject themselves to background checks. Law-abiding citizens have a right to protect their homes and their families.
- **Governor Romney Supports The Recent Federal Appeals Court Decision Concluding That The Second Amendment Protects An Individual's Right To Keep And Bear Arms.** As President, he would support that interpretation and protect the right of every law abiding citizen to keep and use firearms.
- **Governor Romney Believes We Need To Focus On Enforcing Our Current Laws Rather Than Creating Laws That Burden Lawful Gun Owners.**

Governor Romney Repeatedly Sided With Massachusetts Gun Owners And Sportsmen In Defending Second Amendment Rights:

In July 2006, Governor Romney Signed Legislation Reversing Burdensome Regulations For The Makers Of Customized Target Pistols. "Governor Mitt Romney today signed legislation approving an exemption for the makers of customized target pistols, who due to a provision within state law have

found it increasingly difficult to do business in Massachusetts." (Office Of The Governor, "Governor Romney Approves Exemption For Target Pistols," Press Release, 7/26/06)

- **Gun Owners' Action League (GOAL) Executive Director James Wallace:** "Target shooters are an important part of our membership and I know they will be very pleased with this change." (Office Of The Governor, "Governor Romney Approves Exemption For Target Pistols," Press Release, 7/26/06)

Governor Romney Supported And Signed Into Law Legislation Clarifying The Definition Of A Loaded Muzzleloader. "Governor Mitt Romney today signed legislation aimed at providing one clear definition of a loaded shotgun or rifle for the state's hunting enthusiasts. ... 'Today, we are simplifying the gun laws in Massachusetts,' Romney said. 'With this legislation, our hunters will know precisely what is expected of them.' ... Hunters now no longer face the lengthy, complex and unnecessary task of cleaning the barrel every time they encounter a public way, nor will they unknowingly violate the law by only removing a gun's priming device." (Office Of The Governor, "Romney Resolves Long-Standing Conflict In State's Firearm Law," Press Release, 11/22/05)

- **GOAL Executive Director James Wallace:** "This new law addresses a conflict that had previously caused great concern in those who use traditional muzzle loading rifles and shotguns. Now they confidently know what is expected of them and can enjoy their heritage without the fear of being prosecuted for violating a poorly written law." (Office Of The Governor, "Romney Resolves Long-Standing Conflict In State's Firearm Law," Press Release, 11/22/05)

Governor Romney Signed Into Law A Provision Providing Free Replacement Licenses. (Gun Owners' Action League Official Website, www.goal.org, Accessed 2/19/07)

On The 31st Anniversary Of GOAL, Governor Romney Declared May 7, 2005 As "Right To Bear Arms Day" In Massachusetts. (Gun Owners' Action League Official Website, www.goal.org, Accessed 2/19/07)

- ***The Boston Globe:*** "Also, in 2005, Romney designated May 7 as 'The Right to Bear Arms Day' in Massachusetts to honor 'the right of decent, law-abiding citizens to own and use firearms in defense of their families, persons, and property and for all lawful purposes, including the common defense.'" (Scott Helman, "Romney Retreats On Gun Control," *The Boston Globe*, 1/14/07)

In 2005, Governor Mitt Romney "Suspended 'Administrative Fees' To The Natural Heritage And Endangered Species Fund Of Massachusetts." (Gun Owners' Action League Official Website, www.goal.org, Accessed 2/19/07)

In July 2004, Governor Romney Signed Major Legislation Supported By Gun Owners That Reformed The State's Onerous Gun Laws. "The bill enjoyed the support of Massachusetts gun owners because it also encompassed several measures they favored – including a lengthening of the terms of firearm identification cards and licenses to carry." (Scott Helman, "Romney Retreats On Gun Control," *The Boston Globe*, 1/14/07)

The Law Governor Romney Signed Made A Number Of Improvements To Help Sportsmen, Including:

- **Establishing The Firearm License Review Board To Review Cases Of Those Applying To Have Their Firearm Licenses Restored.**
- **Extending The Term Of Firearm Licenses From Four Years To Six Years.**
- **Re-Instating A 90-Day Grace Period For Citizens Trying To Renew Their Firearm License.**

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