

The importance of this election

By Tim Andrews,
S.C.O.P.E. President

I suspect this column will ruffle some feathers, but I believe the issue is one we must approach with objectivity. I have repeatedly stated that this year's elections will prove the most crucial elections ever for New York's gun owners. I have also declared many times that because this election is so important you will hear me reference it repeatedly prior to November 6. The entire legislature is up for election this year, but I'll address specifically the gubernatorial race.

The Republican candidate for governor is Marc Molinaro, the 42-year-old second-term Dutchess County Executive. His resume includes a stint in the state assembly where he supported the Second Amendment and voted against microstamping. Since that time, he has also been an outspoken critic of the unSAFE Act. In other words, Molinaro is the only gubernatorial candidate with an actual pro-gun voting record. That's the good news. The bad news is the GOP state convention named Julie Killian, who has embraced the unSAFE Act, as their candidate for Lieutenant Governor.

I spoke with Marc Molinaro and did urge him to drop her as his running mate. He told me that wasn't going to happen. He did remark that "he was at the head of the ticket and she would do as he told her". It appears Killian was a party decision and not Molinaro's choice. However, Molinaro did say she now supports his position on repeal of the unSAFE Act. I realize that it's a little tough to swallow but it's the best we can expect under the circumstances. As unfortunate as the party choice of Killian may seem, I still have no doubt that Molinaro would continue to represent gun owners' interests and support the Second Amendment as our new governor.

That brings me to recent rumblings among some gun owners regarding a possible third-party choice in the New York gubernatorial elections. Comments on social media

as well as by some SCOPE members at our recent state members meeting have expressed support for Libertarian party candidate Larry Sharpe.

I won't quarrel with the fact that Mr. Sharpe can say the right things and appear to be with us on critical issues. I also don't question his sincerity and commitment. However, with all due respect to Mr. Sharpe, he WILL NOT BE ELECTED GOVERNOR in 2018 and you can take that to the bank. Some folks have said to me, "Hey they said Trump couldn't get elected either". But there is a key difference in that Trump was a major (GOP) party candidate. A wiser decision for the Sharpe campaign would have been to seek the Republican or Democratic nomination for governor long ago. Reality dictates that the next governor will be a Democrat or a Republican, not a Libertarian.

Two major factors in getting elected are money and organization regardless of the issues. The Democrat and Republican parties have both. The Libertarian party has neither. You may be asking how I can be so sure Sharpe and the Libertarians can't win? We need only examine the numbers in the last three gubernatorial elections. A political party must receive a minimum of 50,000 votes in the election for governor to sustain a ballot line.

The Libertarian candidate for governor has been unable to do that in the last three elections for governor. In 2006 the Libertarian received 15,068 votes. Their high-water mark was in 2010 when they received 48,386 votes. In the most recent 2014 state election, the Libertarian candidate received 15,209 votes. For reference purposes, the winning candidate in each of the last three elections for governor received 2 to 3 million votes. Using a high of 3 million votes, the Libertarian's vote percentage in each of those elections was: 0.50% in 2006 (15,068 votes); 1.6% in 2010 (48,386); and again, a meager 0.50% in 2014 (15,209). To be clear, the Lib-

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Edmund Burke

A well Regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the People to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

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**Newsletter Deadline for the Next Issue
September 15, 2018**

Firing Lines is printed every two months. The deadlines are January 15, March 15, May 15, July 15, September 15 and November 15.

We do take articles from you, our members. They are subject to editing for spelling and grammar. We also reserve the right not to print the article.

Articles should be emailed as a file. Text or basic Word document formats are preferred. Please NO PDF files.

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FIRING LINES

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Firing Lines allows S.C.O.P.E. to keep members informed on issues in regards to defense of the 2nd Amendment, in particular, and the Constitution in general. It is also an opportunity for members to voice their opinions and concerns on those subjects; as such, it contains a variety of personal opinions. It should not be taken as representing the official position of S.C.O.P.E. or its officers and members unless so stated. Readers should remember that it is not meant to constitute legal advice



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Register and VOTE

Check your address label for your renewal date

With this newsletter your expiration date is included on the address label. It will save SCOPE time and money if you can renew your membership a month or two before your membership is due to expire.

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Thank you

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Political Action Committee

Effectively defending the 2nd Amendment requires us to go on the offensive. We cannot wait, unprepared, for the next assault from the radical left. Although we may have a friend in the White House, Cuomo and the radical left still reside in Albany.

SCOPE inc. works to educate the public and influence legislation while SCOPE-PAC is a separate, all volunteer organization and can provide direct financial support to candidates and promote legislation safeguarding the 2nd Amendment. Money is the "Mother's Milk" of politics.

In less than two years, Cuomo or some equally radical liberal will be running for governor and the slim majority in the NY Senate will again be at stake. We cannot wait for the last months before that election to begin preparing. In addition, if we can help a genuine 2A supporter in a primary, that will occur months before the election.

The time to begin building up cash reserves for that election cycle is now, when smaller donations given over time can mount up into a significant amount and will make a difference. Please consider making a donation now, no matter how small, to SCOPE-PAC and again whenever you can afford to support the 2nd Amendment.

Our ad in *Firing Lines* gives you specific directions on how to donate.

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THE PROBLEM WITH AMERICA IS LIBERAL LEFTISTS

By Budd Schroeder

America is heading for deep trouble and it is because of the actions and philosophy of the liberal leftists and socialists. Actually, socialism is high on the agenda of the left and is getting big pushes from the major media and many colleges and universities.

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Libertarian candidate for governor apart from 2010 could barely capture one half of one percent of the vote (15,000). In their best year, they barely exceeded 1% of the vote.

Now some of you may be saying that Sharpe is different. One person at our members' meeting defended Sharpe's chances stating: "They said Trump couldn't win either". Yes, many did say Trump couldn't win but there are two major differences between a Trump candidacy and a Sharpe candidacy. First Trump ran on the Republican ticket and second, he had money. The other enormous advantage to running as a major party candidate is the party's organization. A major party can help fund a campaign and put boots on the ground to get out the vote. Libertarians may claim they have an organization but the proof of its effectiveness, or lack thereof, is in the vote count. They struggle to obtain even one half of one percent of the vote.

The actual goal of the New York Libertarian Party is reaching the 50,000-vote plateau to obtain a ballot line. Their candidates would admit this if they were being candid with us. But they obviously can't admit it without conceding their inability to win the gubernatorial election. While both conservative and libertarian voters tend to be pro-gun, the similarity ends there. Differences exist on social issues such as abortion and the legal-

The state of New York seems to be one of the test markets for this movement and because of it, falls in the top three categories having the reputation of the highest of tax burdens, political corruption and bureaucracies.

New York is a leader in corruption which is now getting the publicity it deserves regarding the pay for play activity in Albany. While Washington has the accusation of being a swamp, the state's capital can be likened to a sewer. The way it is being governed with its "three men in a

room" is what is creating the stink of deliberate corruption.

zation of drugs. There is a divergence of thoughts and goals. Governor Cuomo is vulnerable. But not to a third-party candidate. I will guarantee you Cuomo and the progressive gun grabbers in Albany love hearing gun owners talk about voting for Sharpe. They know a vote for Sharpe is one less vote for Molinaro and the unintended consequence is Cuomo's reelection. It wouldn't surprise me if the Cuomo campaign is surreptitiously supporting the Sharpe campaign.

I respect the commitment and tenacity of the Sharpe supporters. But we need to have a pragmatic approach to the upcoming election. Vote with your head, not your heart. Only a pro-gun candidate who can defeat Cuomo will impact future legislation affecting your gun rights. Such a candidate is Molinaro, not Sharpe.

My message to all who support the Second Amendment is: "Vote Smart". Ignore he who pounds the drum of gun rights with no chance of election. You may feel better supporting such a candidate, but it will only help to reelect the most anti-gun governor in New York's history. Vote for the electable candidate and restore your rights.

"There are almost 4 million gun owners in New York. Cuomo got 2.1 million votes in 2014. Do the math!"

room" is what is creating the stink of deliberate corruption.

At the head of the problems and the leader of the leftists is Governor Andrew Cuomo. He passes obnoxious and unpopular bills literally in the middle of the night with a "message of necessity." It is a pet bill of his to deny constitutional rights to honest, law abiding gun owners.

The way he did this would make logical people believe that he no longer views himself as an elected official, but rather fancies himself to be a king. He loves to act as if his word is law, and the SAFE Act gives credence to that opinion.

The liberal media will denigrate President Donald Trump because of a tweet or a sentence in one of his speeches that does not come under their definition of "politically correct." The comparison gives credence to the complaint by conservatives that the liberal media and politicians are more than willing to use a double standard in reporting and speaking.

Just look at the history of the Mueller investigation. It is another good example of the differences regarding the left and the right. It is obvious that the commission started out with bias and a double standard regarding corruption. Hillary got a pass with her destruction of her emails. The left didn't make an issue out of that event, but had it involved Donald Trump they would have called for criminal penalties.

But, true to their code, the liberals pursued the Mueller investigation with biased staff, lies, accusations and questionable FISA documents. The investigation has not shown any collusion between Donald Trump and Russian hacking of emails and other data. The reporting of the involvement of a couple of FBI management people is now drawing attention where it belongs—with corrupt individuals within an honorable division of government.

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The details of the exposure of the mistakes of this investigation are proving to be very damaging to the Obama administration as it has been shown that much of the hacking of government data by Russian operatives was done during the Obama administration. However, the liberal media seems to believe that it isn't worth their time to dig into it.

Back to the "test market" in New York! At one time, Andrew Cuomo put together the Moreland Commission to "root out corruption." Not much value came out of it and when it looked like the AG was getting close to the head of the dragon who could be the major influence in corrupt practices, the governor disbanded it. In politics, timing is a huge consideration when making decisions.

This is an important year for the citizens in New York. Two major seats are up for election. They are for governor and senator. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand is the senator and doesn't seem to have much competition in this race. Her opponent is running a very low-key campaign. A future column will address this.

However, it is worth mentioning that Senator Gillibrand has been very vocal about her anti-life stance on abortion and that she will do whatever she can to oppose the nomination of Brett Kavanaugh for Supreme Court of The United States. He is the most highly qualified, but not to her standards. She deserves input from her constituents.

The other person, Governor Andrew Cuomo has a viable opponent in Marc Molinaro who is a candidate making his run on a platform almost opposite to the practices of Cuomo.

Molinaro is campaigning on a platform of lower taxes to give the working public a break and debt reduction instead of debt increases with more borrowing. He proposes having a state auditor to review state contracts to eliminate the sweetheart

deals and the pay for play practices currently used, and makes the government more transparent in its lawmaking and enforcement policies. The scandal of the Buffalo Billions is just one example of the corruption.

In a recent interview he expressed his problems with the SAFE Act where honest law-abiding gun owners can lose their Second Amendment rights on accusations and false reports. Many NY gun owners suffered the loss of four constitutional and civil rights because of the current provisions and have no hope under the current administration to get relief from the injustice. Also, it did nothing to curb the criminal misuse of firearms.

Molinaro is now traversing the state to inform the citizens that there is hope for this state to keep it from being a socialist haven with sanctuary cities. It is rumored that Cuomo wants to make New York a 'Sanctuary State' and invite illegal aliens (actually invaders) to partake in benefits paid for by taxpayers. The pardoning of more than 20,000 criminals and giving them the right to vote is another disagreement by this challenger.

It will be an interesting year for politics and almost a decision of good versus evil when it comes to government. Hopefully, the citizens will be motivated to break the chains of corruption and choose to improve



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the quality of legislators who are chartered to represent, not rule them. Go for it.



SCOPE PAC needs donations

Ken Mathison, Treasurer SCOPE PAC

You should all know that SCOPE has a Political Action Committee (PAC) whose sole purpose is to collect money to donate to deserving Second Amendment candidates and incumbents.

I have always said that if all gun owners donated one dollar a month to the SCOPE PAC we would have millions of dollars to work with. So, I'm asking all SCOPE members to donate one dollar per month (more if you can) to the SCOPE PAC. You can do that through an automatic deduction from your credit card, bank account with your debit card, or through a PayPal account if you have one. All you need to do is visit www.scopecpac.com, click on the Donate button, and follow the instructions.

Money is the grease of the political machine, if we have significant money we can grease the machine in our favor. **See Page 3**

Open the Borders and Disarm American Citizens?

By Tom Reynolds

Not only the fringe left, but now even such main stream Democratic "intellects" like Kristin Gillibrand would call for the opening of our borders, the abolishment of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE) and, of course, the neutering or repeal of the Second Amendment. They are so caught up in the Washington Merry-Go-Round that they have lost sight of what a dangerous world we live in. Ignore, for the moment, hunting and protection from our own government as reasons for gun ownership. There are a world of reasons why we need guns, but these "intellects" would disarm us while opening our borders.

Let's take a quick world tour of places you don't want to visit and where the civilian population certainly wishes they had guns.

Russia has a long history of and is still a symbol of internal oppression with its crackdown on rights and freedom within Russia. Corruption is widespread and believed to be a major factor in drug and sex trafficking. Externally, it invaded Crimea and supports Syria's regime.

Want to visit Asia?

China has a record of oppression and it has unleashed a campaign of politically motivated investigations, detentions and sentencing of its own people. It threatens Taiwan, which has been independent for about 70 years. China is also trying to gain control of international waters in the South China Sea.

India has long been plagued by hostility and hate along caste and religious lines. The BJP ruling party wants to make India a Hindu theocracy and has created a hostile and violent environment against religious minorities. India has nuclear weapons and has a history of warfare with its neighbor, Pakistan.

Pakistan is infamous for its religious persecution, corruption and cooperation with terrorists. It has fought four wars with India, and also has nuclear weapons.

Want to visit the Middle East, which is dominated by Sunni and Shiite Muslims who, since Mohammed died, have hated each other almost as much as they hate infidels?

Iran is a major exporter of terrorism and a threat throughout the Middle East. It is dominated by a Muslim theocracy and its economy is a mess in spite of huge oil reserves.

Iraq has huge oil reserves and was controlled by Saddam Hussein, a dictator who brutalized his people and supported international terrorism. He was temporarily succeeded by ISIS, a radical Muslim terrorist organization which rivaled Hussein in brutal violence. Only the re-intervention of the U.S. prevents ISIS from regaining control, brutalizing its people and threatening the world with its brand of terrorism.

Afghanistan was controlled

by the Taliban, which brutalized its people, and was a base for terrorists. Only the intervention of the U.S. prevents the Taliban from regaining control and again brutalizing its people and threatening the world with terrorism.

Syria has been in a civil war since 2011 which has resulted in an estimated half million deaths. The government used poison gas against its own people. It is opposed by ISIS, so the people of Syria cannot win.

The Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza continually launch rocket attacks on Israel, which happens to be the only real U.S. ally in the region.

How about an African safari? It has its share of problems with radical Muslims.

Nigeria drew headlines with the kidnapping and forced marriages of schoolgirls by the radical Muslim Boko Haram, which also uses suicide bombings. Cameroon, Niger and Chad are being drawn into the conflict.

Somalia is torn apart by the Islamic group Al-Shabab. One bombing in 2017 killed 358 people.

Armed groups in the Central African Republic use rape and sexual slavery as a tactic of war.

South Africa has one of the world's highest violent crime rates. Its government position is to take farms away from white farmer owners leading to murders and violence against those white farmers.

How about Latin America? Amnesty International has declared it the world's most dangerous place for journalists to work.

Columbia is a major drug exporter, with its associated violence. Groups such as FARC and ELN are behind assassinations, kidnappings and extortions.

Brazil, El Salvador and Honduras have a huge problem with crime.

Venezuela is among the

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most violent places in South America. Although it has some of the world's largest oil reserves, its store shelves are empty and inflation has run rampant.

Mexico is traditionally a corrupt country and has a brutal internal war against and among drug cartels. It is a major exporter of illegal drugs into the U.S. In case you hadn't noticed, Mexico is on our southern border.

I'll stick to North of our border for my vacation.

Canada is on our northern border and is an island of stability, except that it has a very strange Prime Minister who may change that status.

In a world of instability, hatred and violence, what kind of idiot would want to take away the people's ability to defend themselves? Answer: Obama, Cuomo, Gillibrand and Schumer.

I could point out that the above "Garden Spots" are dominated by the ocracies that do not tolerate religious minorities, have radical Muslims and brutalize women. In many cases they have huge reserves

of oil and natural gas but also have socialist governments to waste the assets, persecute the citizens and take guns away from their citizens in order to better exploit them. But that's another story.



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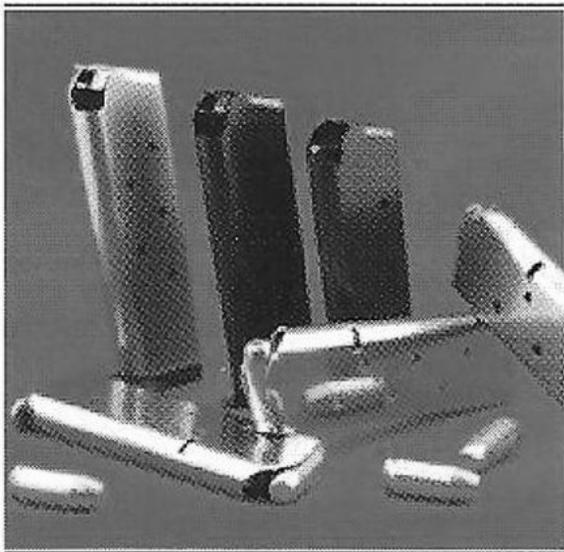
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THE PEOPLE ARE THE PROBLEM

By Budd Schroeder

The problem with New York and its corrupt government, which accounts for high taxes, limited freedoms and oppressive laws and regulations, is not exclusively because of dishonest or incompetent politicians. It is because most citizens are dumb.

What an insult! Unfortunately, it is true and the statement is based on the truth that the majority of citizens don't get involved in the political process and they won't vote in elections. This allows the corrupt politicians to get elected and reelected. It is somewhere between difficult and impossible to recall an election year where a majority of the registered voters bothered to go to the polls to vote.

That is the tip of the iceberg because we have credible data only on the people who are registered to vote. We have to guess on how many people are eligible to vote but refuse to register. Those are the really stupid ones. They live in a country that was organized and chartered to be a government of the people, by the people and for the people. This is a great theory, but unfortunately, not practiced as it should be.

A song writer once commented that "The best reason for not doing anything is 'I don't want to.'" There are other reasons for not doing certain things and they are called laws and requirements. However, most of them are negotiated. In any society, laws and regulations are necessary to maintain safety and order.

We need traffic rules to be able to drive safely and orderly. How much damage could be done without speed limits in populated areas or stop signs or signals at busy intersections? Yet, some people refuse to obey them and often the violations can result in damages and even deaths. Some lawyers make a career and a good living getting people "the money they deserve" as a result of these accidents. The Constitution gives us certain unalienable rights such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. The govern-

ment can affirm those rights, modify them and in some extreme cases, deny them. It is supposed to be done in a described and acceptable manner that is approved by the people. That last part has been under attack for centuries.

Certain actions that were agreed upon in the Constitution have been attacked and changed. At one time the Constitution was amended to prohibit the making, selling and consuming of alcoholic beverages. The people ratified the amendment and it proved to be a huge mistake. Later, it was repealed because of the disasters it caused. The Constitution was fine before the 18th Amendment and it took a lot of bad results of the law to get it changed.

The original concept of the new country and new method of governing was based on individual freedoms and consent of the people. We were given the right to choose people to represent us and remove them if they didn't do the job in a correct and beneficial manner.

As the country began, those who were qualified were elected by the people and took the job as "doing their duty." They left their farms or businesses to find ways to improve the lives of those they represented. After a few terms, they went back to their occupations and new people were elected to do the job.

Along the way, some found out that politics actually could be their occupation and became professionals in the craft. Politics became a way of life for many and they discovered that the job could be profitable and give them power that they never had before. They liked it. They changed their attitude from being a representative to that of a ruler.

They decided that they, and people who thought like they did, could force those who elected them to conform to the political objectives of those who held the power of their majority in the legislature. The Congress and Senate are the ones who make these decisions. The President can lead, but as far as legislation goes, he can approve a law or veto it if he doesn't like it.

A majority of the Congress can override a veto by a super majority

and the Supreme Court can determine whether the law is constitutional. If it isn't, the law is removed by the court decision. A subsequent Court can overturn previous decisions. This is usually very controversial and not a common practice.

The point is that the laws and government are a result of the people in power and should come because of the consent of the people. All politics is local and most of our representatives are tuned into the wishes of their constituents. However, with an apathetic attitude of the citizens, a minority can call the shots.

Think of it in this fashion. In a "normal" election, a forty percent or lower turnout is considered the norm. By simple math, this means that twenty-one percent of the people in the district can determine the outcome of who wins. In elections where there are more than two candidates, a plurality will do nicely.

That is where the power of a political party comes into play. They can have a minority of the voters, but if they mobilize their faithful members, they can win the election over the apathetic opposition. And, participation of the people on an issue can overcome the power of the party. People don't have to vote on their party line if they don't like the candidate or the major issues the candidate supports.

Future columns will expand on these concepts and as far as the New York elections this year are concerned, the people have an outstanding opportunity to make significant changes in the governing of New York.

It will depend on motivating the apathetic to actually register and vote. Then, to make issues a priority over "party loyalty." We get the government we deserve. The people can't change the laws, but they can change the lawmakers and this year is the year to prove it can be done. The state you save can be your own.

"There are almost 4 million gun owners in New York. Cuomo got 2.1 million votes in 2014. Do the math!"

"ABC" Anybody But Cuomo (Cuomo's Gotta Go)

By Gary Perry

Larry Sharpe cannot win New York State's gubernatorial election this November.

Unfortunately, the only viable pathway to a Larry Sharpe victory in the race was not taken by the campaign. Although originally interested and excited about using the "Opportunity To Ballot" (OTB) option as a possible pathway to victory, the Sharpe campaign has chosen not to follow that path. The OTB is a legal way for a 3rd Party candidate to force a primary election in a major political Party. Collecting the OTB designating petition signatures would have been very doable. However, winning a primary election is challenging and would have required some resources and commitment from Larry Sharpe and his campaign which they originally assured me that we would have. For reasons unclear to me, the Sharpe campaign made the decision to pass designating petitions and hope for a so-called "Wilson-Pakula" certification from Ed Cox.

Our mission is to replace Andrew Cuomo as Governor, following through with the campaign slogan begun over five years ago "Cuomo's Gotta Go". Andrew Cuomo has brought the citizens of New York State increased and never-ending tax increases, increased state spending, increased corporate giveaways (billions in corporate welfare) and the never-ending corruption trials taking place in Manhattan and Buffalo that these failed economic stimulus programs breed, failed common core education, "free" college tuition and never ending anti-2nd Amendment legislation. Under Andrew Cuomo's policies NY State is bleeding manufacturing and small business and the jobs that they create. Working class families and college educated young adults are leaving the state in droves seeking good high paying jobs available in other states. Working people and retired state employees

of all ages across the entire state are leaving NY State for lower taxes found in many other states. Those of us who are left who want to fix New York's failed fiscal and economic policies we know must defeat Andrew Cuomo in November. History and election statistics prove to us that Larry Sharpe appearing on only the 3rd Party Libertarian ballot line simply cannot defeat Cuomo. Going back five elections (20 years) we see failed attempt after failed attempt by 3rd Party candidates to defeat the Democrat and Republican Party candidates.

Please visit the NY State Board of Elections website and look at the previous election stats to see for yourself at: <http://www.elections.ny.gov/2018ElectionResults.html>

Wealthy former New Yorker Tom Golisano ran in three successive elections as a 3rd Party candidate and had far more resources available to him than the Larry Sharpe campaign and he never came close to winning. The past two gubernatorial elections the Libertarian Party has failed to gain 50,000 votes establishing their Party on a ballot line. As the recent events have unfolded it has proven to me that the Libertarian Party knows that Larry Sharpe has literally no chance of winning the Governor's election. What the Libertarians hope to accomplish is getting 50,000 votes on the Libertarian line making it easier in future elections for Libertarian candidates to get on the ballot for many different elective office positions.

Larry Sharpe in his own words <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MXkd15Xe1e4>

This year there is a very real chance to defeat Andrew Cuomo (Cuomo's Gotta Go) with a combined Republican Party / Conservative Party / Reform Party candidate. While I will always support giving the voters a choice in a primary election the Larry Sharpe campaign has decided not to pursue the legal process to do this. Any signatures collected for Larry Sharpe on a Republican Party ballot will be null and void at the Board of Elections office in Albany when they are submitted

and filed. After spending time with Republican Party candidate Marc Molinaro last week I have learned that with Marc Molinaro as the candidate we support we have a very real opportunity to defeat Cuomo (Cuomo's Gotta Go). For these reasons the only real choice, at this time, to replace Andrew Cuomo and end four more years of Cuomo's destructive tax and spend policies is to support Marc Molinaro. For those of us who continue to insist on supporting Larry Sharpe for Governor, I highly recommend getting behind the "Larry Sharpe for Governor 2022 movement". This could be, and should be, the long game or the 10 to 20-year plan several of you have spoken about. To throw away a chance to defeat Andrew Cuomo (Cuomo's Gotta Go) this year hoping to gain ballot access for the Libertarian Party is a terrible sell-out to your principled fellow Conservative family members, friends and neighbors. I cannot in good conscience even consider enslaving my children, family members and friends with four more years of Andrew Cuomo just to gain easier Ballot Access for the Libertarian Party.

What will be left of NY State and its citizens and for any 3rd Party designs after 2 - 4 more years of Andrew Cuomo doubling down on his Progressive tax and spend policies and "giveaways" as he works to position himself even further to the left as the most Progressive Governor in the country for a Presidential bid in 2020? This November a vote for Larry Sharpe is the same as a vote for Andrew Cuomo. I am asking everyone to please consider the reality of this situation here in NY State and join me in voting for Marc Molinaro in November and defeating Andrew Cuomo (Cuomo's Gotta Go) and then get behind the "Larry Sharpe For Governor 2022 movement" starting this December.

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Contact SCOPE to become one of our member clubs.

Page 2



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Application on page 14

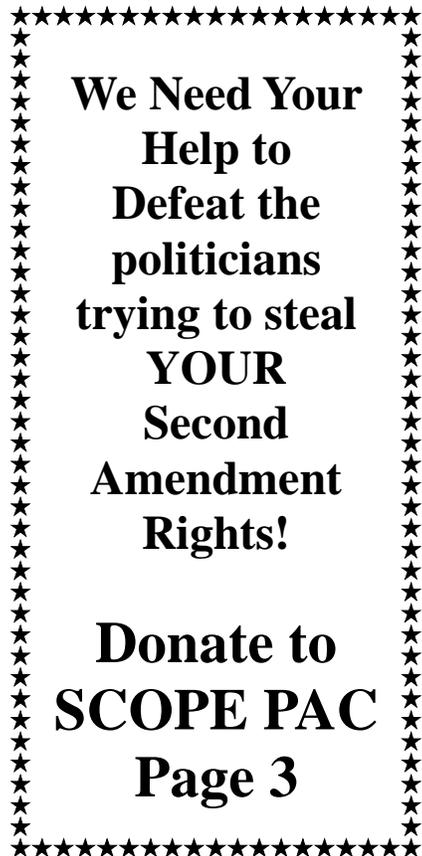


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(Continued on page 13)

SHOOTER'S COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION (SCOPE, INC)

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Election 2018

By Richard Rossi

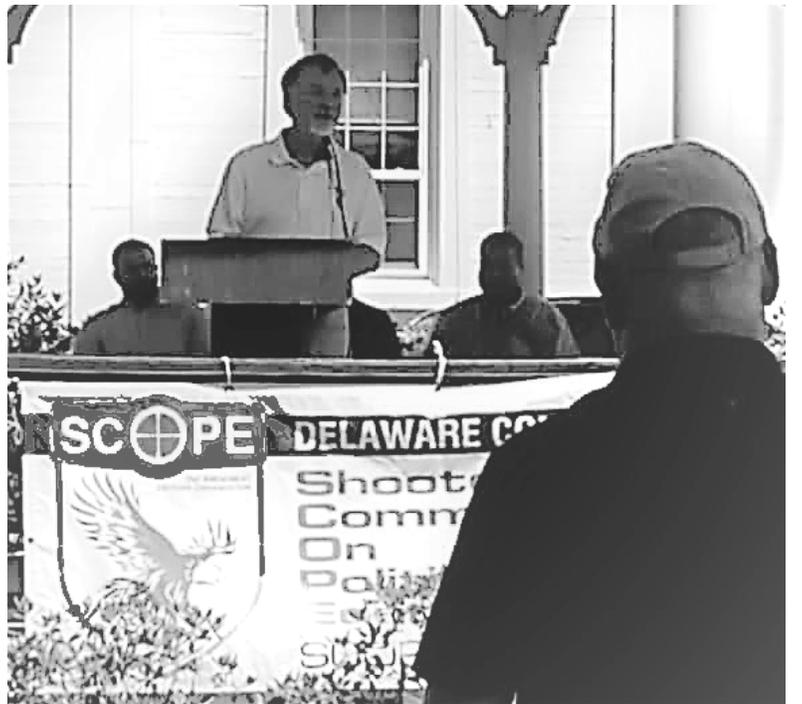
SCOPE members, before we realize it another election will be upon us. This will be a critical election for all of us in NYS - I am not limiting this to gun owners because it impacts all American Citizens living in New York. Now is the time to unite and have a unified agenda to defeat our anti-America establishment in Albany.

Let me be perfectly clear, this is not a time to be 'Summer Soldiers' or 'Fair Weather Patriots'. It goes way beyond our Second Amendment Rights and Freedoms. We have also seen Governor Cuomo and our Albany Republicans 'chip away' at our 4th, 5th, 6th, and 14th Amendment guarantees. When the 2nd Amendment is abolished, the rest are sure to follow. Remember, unarmed citizens are not citizens but slaves, and can be easily controlled.

I would like to share something that Ronald Reagan said: *"While a Constitution may set forth rights and liberties only the citizens can maintain and guarantee those freedoms. Active and informed citizenship is not just a right; It is a duty."*

In a republic, a Constitution or Charter of Rights protects certain inalienable rights that cannot be taken away by the government, even if it has been elected by a majority of voters. In a "pure democracy," the majority is not restrained in this way and can impose its will on the minority.

The key difference between a Democracy and a Republic lies in the limits placed on government by the law, which has implications for minority rights. Both forms of government tend to use a representational system



Tim Andrews, President of SCOPE speaking at the 'Rally for the 2nd Amendment' in Delhi, NY

— i.e., citizens vote to elect politicians to represent their interests and form the government.

For a detailed full explanation of both the differences and similarities, please see the website: https://www.diffen.com/difference/Democracy_vs_Republic

Remember an informed voter is a citizen. Learn the facts and get involved. Vote, and get others to vote. This is our country - don't let it be taken from us.

New York State
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A black and white advertisement for an AR-15 Receiver Spur. The background is a dark, textured surface with a faint image of a rifle receiver. At the top left, the text "AR-15" is written in large, bold, white letters, with several white stars above it. Below this, "RECEIVER SPUR" is written in a similar bold, white font, slanted downwards. To the right of "RECEIVER SPUR", the text "PATENT: #US9, 127, 905B2" is written in a smaller, bold, white font. In the center, "Made for AR-15 and Similar Style Rifles" is written in a large, bold, white font. To the right of this, "Proudly Made In The USA" is written in a large, bold, white font. Below the main text, there is a bulleted list of five points. At the bottom, there is a contact information section with the text "Contact Your Sporting Goods Dealer For Availability", "S&B Products, Inc.", "PO Box 145 • Munnsville, NY 13409", and "www.sbproductsinc.com".

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An 'Identity Crisis' for Democrats or Fear of Admitting the Truth?

By Attilio Contini,
Secretary-Ulster County S.C.O.P.E.

We continually hear the talking heads tell us the Democrats have an identity crisis. They tell us they don't know who they are but nothing could be further from the truth. They know full well. The Democrats' problem is: they have become afraid to openly admit who they are and what they stand for.

They are afraid the American people are not ready to accept a class society where the enlightened five percent of them rule the rest of us from our cradle to the grave. They are afraid we are not ready to relinquish all our freedom and let them abolish our Constitution. In 2016 they were confident that after eight years of Obama-style socialism the American people were willing to accept the nanny-state hook, line and sinker. They had a rude awakening when Donald Trump came along with "Love America" and "Make America Great Again".

All of a sudden, the voters responded with: Yes, we still love our Country and our Constitution, and we don't want a corrupt, criminal, degenerate, totalitarian class society. They were so ready to strike the final blow on our Free American system of government that they refuse to accept Trump's election.

They have resorted to a concerted effort of lying, deception, sabotage, and twisting or reversal of the reality of the situation to make the American people think, believe, that Trump and Conservative Republicans are the enemy of the people and the Republic. They are afraid of the truth. They know that if the truth be known the people will drive them out

of office.

So far they appear to have not been able to devise a plan that will hood wink the people into believing they are still the best thing since sliced bread and are the champions of the down trodden. The Fake News tells us that they could very well prevail this November. Maybe so! They have all the wild cards including the mass media. All we have is Donald Trump. One man can do only so much against the odds of entrenched brainwashing and misinformation to keep the voters misinformed.

They have a world view that should have no place in a free country and society. We must realize the biggest security threat we have in this Country today is the enlightenment elitist Democrat Party with its entrenched 5th column Washington establishment. Our two-party system has degenerated into an almost three-party dilemma where the new parties should be called: the Treason Party, the Don't Rock The Boat Party, and the Make America Great Again Party.

We are dealing with people who are out to destroy this country politically, economically, morally, and socially. They have infested Washington to the point where they are using various agencies and the system to destroy and undermine everything and everyone who challenges them.

We frequently talk of cooperation and compromise. Do we actually see much of it in Washington and Albany anymore? It always seems the Democratic notion of compromise is: We take and the Republicans must give. The middle ground is always somewhere left of center. The problem has evolved and now it seems the liberal view point has shifted so far to the extreme left that so-called moderate is now extremely liberal.

The so-called progressives consider themselves better than the rest of us. They have become intolerant of anyone who disagrees with

them. Only one side is welcome to the table of ideas. All others are irrelevant and are considered inferior extreme, irrational, false, wrong or evil. They put down, belittle, demonize, and defame everyone who disagrees with them.

They refuse to accept let alone listen to anyone with different points of view. All opportunity for compromise is unacceptable. Their intolerance has become their hallmark. This is why we are experiencing the divisiveness and total non acceptance of Donald Trump as our elected President. They think they are so much better and smarter than the rest of us that they believe they have the right to force their philosophy on us.

They refuse to accept or allow others to prevail, because they think we are obligated to do as they say. They even think they have the right to use the Government to suppress anyone who opposes them and are doing so. They are so arrogant that they believe they have the right to force President Trump out of office at all costs or impeach him, because he is "unfit and unqualified" to hold any public office let alone be President. In their mind he is too "deplorable" to be President. How dared he be elected!

They have become condescending elitists, Gods unto themselves, who think they are predestined to control and rule the rest of us. How dare we challenge them! No one's opinion or belief is worth anything except theirs. They talk about Democracy and equality but only for them.

So where does gun control fit into the scheme of things? Well, elitism is like a puzzle. They are already using violence! At some point we, the American people, are going to have to say, enough! Did you notice that Obama made a comment that his biggest regret was that he was not able to get more gun controls? He

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

knows they need the means to be able to confiscate all guns swiftly and completely before the revolt starts.

Look at where this whole anti- Trump movement is going. The movement has been growing for years. The current corrupt sinister game actually began in 2010. Think about it. The elitists have infested our government and have a stranglehold on our higher educational system. Obama planted like-minded people thru out various departments and agencies where they can organize the total police state they plan for us. Today these people are working 24 hours a day obstructing and destroying everything Trump tries to do. It is amazing that Trump has accomplished as much as he has.

We are teetering on the edge of the cliff. We almost stepped off into the abyss of the enlightenment world view. It is time we realize what the consequences of that will be. We must step back and return to the traditionalism.

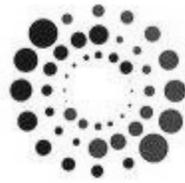
We cannot let the Swamp swallow up President Trump!

**Make a
difference**

VOTE!

**“There are almost 4 million
gun owners in
New York.**

**Cuomo got 2.1 million votes
in 2014.
Do the math!”**



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The Firearm Suppressor

By Harold Moskowitz

The first commercially successful firearm suppressor was devised by Hiram P. Maxim in 1902. He was the son of Hiram S. Maxim, inventor of the Maxim Machine Gun. The Maxim Silent Firearms Company began production in Hartford, Connecticut in 1908. He received U.S. Patent 916,885 for a "Silent Firearm" in 1909. It sold in hardware stores for around five dollars. The Sears and Roebuck mail order catalogue advertised it as a "moderator which will allow a person to protect the chicken coup without disturbing the neighbors." Theodore Roosevelt had one on his Winchester 1894 carbine at his Sagamore Hill home on Long Island.

Maxim silencers were made for rifle calibers from .22 to .45. They could be ordered custom for large caliber Winchesters and Remington Autoloaders. Even shot-loaded cartridges worked with his silencers. Company advertising claimed that the silencer "absolutely prevents report noise and reduces recoil over two-thirds."

Despite his claims of total silence, Maxim took pains to inform potential customers that although his device stopped "all of the noise of the report," it would not control the "noise made out in the air beyond the gun by a high velocity bullet in flight." To provide a totally silent shot, he offered for sale modified ammunition with velocity less than 1,100 feet/second. The cartridge used a heavy bullet for maintaining strike energy at the reduced velocity. Modified ammunition was supplied for all center-fire rifle calibers at the same price as regular ammunition.

The silencer checked the muzzle blast of a firearm by forcing the gasses to whirl around inside the device. In the process the gasses were slowed down by curved vanes and allowed to leave the gun barrel

gradually instead of instantly. It could be attached to a threaded rifle barrel or to a threaded thimble which could be pressed onto the gun barrel. His design placed the silencer's chambers below the barrel so that the iron sights could be used. The bullet's path was unimpeded by the device.

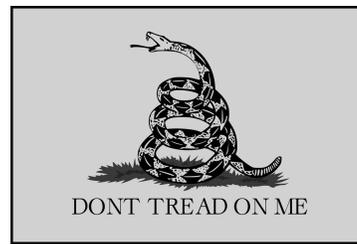
There were no governmental restrictions upon possession or use. "Gentlemen" were encouraged to use them as a consideration of other shooters. Target practice could be done without bothering the neighbors. All of the benefits of silencer use were dealt a serious blow by the National Firearms Act of 1934. Congress had been under pressure to deal with Prohibition Era violence resulting from mobster assassinations of rivals and bank robberies. The law criminalized short-barreled rifles and shotguns. Fully automatic weapons such as the Thompson submachine gun became tightly restricted weapons. Silencers, like the fully automatic weapons, could be owned after complying with bureaucratic procedures and payment of a \$200 tax. It has been suggested that the silencer tax in part was to prevent poor, rural families from being able to kill deer for food off-season without being detected. According to Emily Rupertus, writing for the "NRABLOG" (Oct. 5, 2016) the \$200 tax in 1934 was the equivalent of \$3,583.71 in today's purchasing power.

The term "suppressor" was introduced in the 1980's. It is more accurate than the term "silencer" since except as portrayed in Hollywood movies, a gunshot cannot truly be made silent. As with infringement of the Second Amendment, denial of access to hearing protection is a civil rights issue and should be pursued as such in any litigation or proposed bills. While hearing protection can be used at a gun range, neither hunters nor hunting dogs have hearing protection in the field. The "Dangerous Decibels Program" at the

University of Northern Colorado has determined that noises exceeding 85 dB can cause permanent hearing damage over time. The program's results indicate that a gunshot report can be between 140 and 190 dB, which would cause immediate damage.

Many European nations with very strong gun restrictions allow ownership of suppressors. Great Britain requires them by law on all hunting rifles. If forty-two U.S. states and many strict gun control European nations see suppressors as a positive health safety item, then why can't our elected leaders entrusted with the duty to protect the health and well-being of the people see the issue in the same way?

On the national level, New York Representatives Chris Collins, Claudia Tenney and Lee Zeldin, along with 158 other Republicans and three Democrats, co-sponsored the Hearing Protection Act of 2017 (H.R. 367). It was introduced by Representative Jeff Duncan (S.C. 3). Eventually, it was inserted into the Sportsmen's Heritage Recreational Enhancement Act (H.R. 3668). The measure would have amended the federal criminal code to preempt state or local laws that tax or regulate firearm silencers as well as ending the \$200 national tax. It was discharged successfully from several committees. Unfortunately, due to political considerations, it never made it to a full House vote where you could have seen how your elected representatives stood on the issue.



INDEPENDENCE DAY TO REMEMBER OUR FREEDOMS

By Budd Schroeder

Independence Day is a day to celebrate the birth of a country that had its start to create a new form of government based on the rule of law, not the whims of dictators or royalty. It was a great idea and still is, but there are people in our country that disagree. Those who call themselves “progressive” have simply attached another name to “socialism.”

Our founding fathers and the patriots who fought and suffered to break away from the bonds of royalty of the British Empire would have a tough time recognizing the pattern of movement away from the concepts of their efforts. The major focus of their type of government was individual freedoms. They wrote a constitution to guarantee certain unalienable rights as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

They placed in the documents of freedom the fact that the rights were endowed by our Creator and not given by men. The document was written to assure that the limits were placed on the government and the leaders to be unable to destroy or infringe on their rights. However, during the course of history, politicians have “adjusted” or eroded those rights, contrary to the wishes of our Founding Fathers.

The Constitution starts with the guarantee of free speech, free press and freedom of religion, but some members of our society have a problem with that. They have warped the concept of religion and have changed aspects of it to be “freedom from religion.” They have forced removal of doors or signs showing the Ten Commandments in some public buildings and won’t allow prayers to be said at some public functions.

The term “Merry Christmas” has been criticized and changed to “Happy Holidays” and the holiest of the Christian celebrations has been eroded into a commercial buying frenzy. God has been replaced by the Almighty Dollar. School children have been prohibited from mentioning the holiday in

their classrooms and criticized for saying “Merry Christmas” to their friends.

The “politically correct” people will fight to have THEIR right to any type of free speech they choose, but if speech conflicts with their definition of politically correct, there can be consequences varying from criticism to loss of jobs or businesses. We still are confused about who determines what is “politically correct” but the liberal left media and politicians seem to be at the forefront of the movement.

It is probably just a coincidence, but it is difficult to recall any mass murders in schools before the saying of prayers was banned in the classrooms or religious education being allowed during school hours. Just one thought of many on the subject. It is strange to see the differences of how religion is treated, even in the courtrooms.

People will swear on the Bible or affirm that they will tell the truth in a courtroom. How long will it be before the Bible will be forbidden as part of the process? Perjury is the same for either and it would help the progressives to further erode the role of religion in THEIR society.

A baker was fined because he would not decorate a wedding cake for a same sex wedding because it was a violation of his religious beliefs. Recently, that was overturned by SCOTUS. However, it still lingers on when a person must be concerned that his or her religious beliefs can come in conflict with the liberal version of what public policy should be.

The Declaration of Independence was flawed when it stated that “all men are created equal” because it did not ban slavery. That was a huge issue and was a compromise to make the 13 colonies a union of 13 states. The Supreme Court with the Dred Scott Decision and Fugitive Slave Act stated that slavery was not unconstitutional and it took a Civil War to right that wrong. However, it brought out the 13th Amendment and freedom reigned. Many brave men lost their lives in gaining that freedom as was done in the Revolutionary War.

The Second Amendment has been assaulted since that war. “The

right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed” was an inconvenience to the liberals of that time and gun control was introduced. The real purpose was to keep the newly freed slaves from defending themselves against the KKK and night riders who still viewed African Americans as inferior and not deserving of means of self-defense.

The term “infringed” is obviously very subjective and has been a constant issue in the courts for more than a century. The New York Sullivan Act and the SAFE Act are two examples of how the leftist liberals twist facts and enlist corrupt politicians to destroy constitutional rights for the citizens. The amendment was placed in the Constitution as the Second Amendment to protect the people from being subjected to an oppressive government. The Founding Fathers considered that to be very important.

The Constitution is a written contract and is being challenged by the liberal left to conform to their socialistic beliefs. They want to expand the government’s power at the expense of the individual freedoms of the citizens. As they erode the freedoms with laws that give more power to the bureaucrats and reduce the freedoms of the individuals, it is a decided attempt to move the government from a republic to socialism.

Independence Day is a day to reflect and remember the origin of our country and the brave patriots who fought and died in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, two World Wars and several conflicts that were listed as efforts to “save democracy” in foreign lands. The sacrifices were great.

We will watch parades with soldiers marching and carrying the American Flag, which many of the liberal left go out of their way to disrespect. They can do this because of “freedom of speech.” They use the amendment to spit on the Constitution and the memory of those patriots who lost their limbs, health and lives to fight for freedom, here and abroad. May this country come to its senses and spend the day with respect and a promise of maintaining the concept of freedom as it was originally intended.

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