



# Firing Lines

Fighting for your Second Amendment Rights since 1965

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## A Disappointing Election Leaves the Courts as Our Main Focus

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

The 2018 elections are over and are an unmitigated disaster for gun owners, and frankly in my opinion, for New Yorkers in general. We've become a one-party state. Cuomo and his fellow Democrats undoubtedly feel they have a mandate to unleash their progressive agenda, including more gun control.

Following the election, Cuomo said, "We already have the strongest gun safety laws in the nation, and in the upcoming legislative session we will take additional steps to make our laws even stronger to keep our communities safe." At the time of this writing, it looks as though Democrats will control the state Senate by a 40 – 23 majority, and that goes with the 2 to 1 majority Democrats already maintain in the state assembly.

Folks, I'm not going to try and soft pedal this, the Second Amendment is in serious jeopardy here in New York. Come January we are looking at the loss of more due process, with the governor's Red Flag law, (Extreme Risk Protection Order law), along with much more. Let me put it this way, the sky may be the limit for Cuomo's gun control agenda.

The governor's comments came in a response to the recent nightclub shooting in California. Now ask yourself: Why would that shooting have anything to do with New York? On numerous occasions, Cuomo has boasted New York has the best gun laws in the country. If that's so, why the necessity to pass more? Especially if the impetus is an incident that occurred in another state and not here. I would contend the governor's comments and his agenda are proof this isn't about gun safety laws as they like to call it,

it's about an all-out attack on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding New Yorkers.

So, what is there for us to do? Some will probably join the droves that have already done so and leave the state. If you are considering that alternative, I hope you choose to stay because if you go our job gets harder. It seems bleak but it's not hopeless. The courts, especially on the federal level, thanks to President Trump have become much friendlier. We've already begun planning an agenda using the courts as our battleground. We still believe the unSAFE Act is unconstitutional as well as the Red Flag proposal the governor plans on passing in January.

We're Americans, we don't quit, we don't give up, we have one big advantage and that is we are on the side of the Constitution. We can, and we will win this fight if we keep fighting. I know how frustrated we all are. I'm just as frustrated as anyone but whatever you do don't give up.

I've never enjoyed asking for money as I know how hard you all work and how expensive it is to live in New York. However, as you surely know legal action and lawyers are expensive, costs can easily reach the tens of thousands, we need your help to fund our expanding legal agenda. I'm asking you to dig down and donate to our legal defense fund, please give as much as you can and as often as you can. You can donate through our website using your credit card, [www.SCOPEny.org](http://www.SCOPEny.org) or you can mail your contributions to SCOPE, PO Box 165, East Aurora, NY 14052. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated.



**Join SCOPE  
Today!  
SCOPEny.org**

*"Nobody made a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little."*

**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

*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 pictures in JPG format. NO PDF files. Thank You

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## FIRING LINES

Editor - Ralph Esposito

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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



(Continued from page 2)

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## 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.

You can use the membership application in the newsletter or go online to [www.Scopeny.org](http://www.Scopeny.org) to renew.

Thank you

# SCOPE-PAC

## Political Action Committee

Effectively defending the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.

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

**SCOPE-PAC**  
**P.O. Box 12711**  
**Rochester, NY 14612**

Or online at:  
**[www.SCOPEPAC.com](http://www.SCOPEPAC.com)**



## Who Will Step Up to Lead the Resistance to Albany?

By Tom Reynolds  
Treasurer and At-Large Director

Since Franklin Roosevelt was President, the United States has moved slowly to the left domestically, as if on the installment plan; in small steps our elected officials moved us into socialism but few noticed the “low monthly payment”. Then, in 2009, Barack Obama and the Democrats got greedy and decided to foreclose on America by instituting wholesale socialist changes. Much to their surprise, America suddenly felt the accumulated pain, realized what was happening and reacted strongly to the erosion of their Constitution and traditional American values. The TEA Party was the most prominent example of this reaction and it grew to become a powerful anti-socialist force in the Republican Party. Driven by the TEA Party, over the next three election cycles, the Republicans gained control of the House of Representatives, then the Senate, and finally the Presidency.

New York State endured something similar. Liberal gun grabbers enjoyed some small successes until Andrew Cuomo went wild in 2013 with the SAFE Act. Many gun owners were awakened from their lethargy and 2nd Amendment defense organizations (such as SCOPE) saw their memberships increase dramatically.

Unfortunately, as America moved farther from 2009, the TEA Party lost some of its energy. 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment defense organizations also saw memberships drop as we moved further from the 2013 birth of the SAFE Act. Some of this should have been expected as we moved away from the crisis event and those marginally involved people dropped out. But unlike the TEA Party, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Amendment defense organizations had little tangible results other than having helped to block further erosion of 2A rights. These blocks were made possible by the Republican held New York Senate which acted as a kind of goal keeper; it blocked most – but not all - of the left wing craziness’ shots and NEVER went on the offense.

In 2018, Socialism started a recovery on the national level as Democrats won the House and in New York as Democrats took over the NY Senate. Unlike the federal level where Republicans control the Senate and the Presidency and can neuter the socialist tendencies of the House, the far left now controls all branches of New York’s government. And don’t expect any help from the courts as Cuomo appointees dominate the Appeals levels and those appointees have never shown any allegiance to the Constitutional rights of citizens, such as those in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment.

How did this happen?

No one cause covers everything, but one major issue is certainly the preponderance of Republicans In Name Only (RINO’s) amongst that party’s elected and elite. Personally, I consistently voted Republican or Conservative, but I did it while holding my nose. Too many Republicans in safe districts are content to have a career based on being “the lesser of two evils”. If these safe districts were Democratic, many incumbents would probably have no problem changing parties and adopting centrist Democratic principles, since they basically have already done that. This kind of leadership does not inspire marginally involved people to get out and vote – until the next crisis hits when it may be too late. Only then will some get engaged, but many will still only complain as they see the same Republican establishment faces that caused the problem and will not see the point in working and voting for those faces.

The second major issue is the incompetence of the Republican Party’s leadership. There are so many

problems there, I can only summarize them.

In New York, the Republican and Conservative parties’ strength is overwhelmingly in Upstate. So, where do the state chairmen park their butts? Michael Long (ever heard of him?) has been the Conservative Party chair since 1988 and lives in Brooklyn. Ed Cox (who occasionally ventures into the wilds of Upstate) has been the Republican Party chairman since 2009 and lives on Long Island. They are much like the generals who stay well behind the front lines but believe they know what’s happening from reports they get. Not exactly inspirations to the troops.

Although Republicans controlled the NY Senate for decades, the last Senate Majority leader from Upstate was Warren Anderson, of Binghamton, in the early 1980s. Again, Upstate Republicans are missing from the corridors of power even though they are the strength of the Republican Party.

On the national level, we may have just endured the two worst Republican House Speakers in history. (I only say “may have” because I don’t know the history of all House Speakers, but it is hard to imagine two worst ones than John Boehner and Paul Ryan). In the Senate, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell only seems motivated when there is a Supreme Court appointment at stake (but that does rank him ahead of Boehner and Ryan who were never motivated to effective action.) When the Democrats had both houses of Congress they were ruthless. Boehner and Ryan got control by promising to end Obamacare, fix immigration and defund Planned Parenthood but they were pussycats. Many promises were made but few were kept by this infamous leadership.

So, how do we dig ourselves out of this hole? First, keep in mind that the Democrats are Socialists and

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## WE STILL CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IF WE WANT TO

By Budd Schroeder  
Chairman Emeritus,  
At-Large Director

Gun owners in New York will have to adjust to the dictates of a corrupt administration and should expect a rush from Albany to usurp more of our constitutional rights. Governor Andrew Cuomo has

won a third term and it wasn't even close. We had the opportunity to elect a pro-gun, pro-Second Amendment governor, but that didn't happen.

Apathy was the big winner in this election and we will be facing a battle against more restrictive gun laws. The law looming most ominously is that which would require the registration of all guns which means that rifles and shotguns will be included as well as handguns.

Also in the rumor mill is that

Cuomo wants everyone to be required to have a firearms identification card. It would be illegal to own any long gun without it. The same background checks as are necessary to get a pistol permit probably won't be necessary, but it would be reasonable to expect that in order to get the card, a person would have to pass a NICS check. The problem is that under the SAFE Act, people have been falsely reported and it is almost impossible to be removed.

What makes this probable is that the Democrats now control the Senate and Cuomo can pass anything he wishes since there is no way to block legislation. The Democrats got what they wanted, which is total control, and those living in upstate New York will be subjected to the whims of the New York City politicians.

Cuomo will no longer have to sneak a "message of necessity" to get unfair laws passed. The "three men in a room" will impose whatever the liberals desire and the conservatives will have no legislative way to stop them. So, what can the upstate people do to protect their rights? They can prepare and get involved. Remember, politics is all about power and money and politicians have two important things in their agenda. That is election and reelection. They are also sensitive to public opinion and anything that can affect their image.

A wise man said: "All politics is local." It is the way to get some balance in the making of changes in attitudes. There is no way the Second Amendment activists can change the mindset of the New York City liberals, but they do have loyalty to their party and want to keep the power they have and usually want more; like complete control. That is where SCOPE has a chance to make a difference because of the county chapter organization.

We know from experience that sending busloads of people dem-

*(Continued from page 4)*

Socialism ALWAYS fails. We have to be in position when that happens.

Our immediate New York goal should be to regain the NY Senate in 2020 and we may have Andrew Cuomo's ego to help us. Most are pretty sure he will make a run for the presidency in 2020 and his strategy should help us. Will he try to strengthen his far left credentials and, thus, provoke a crisis? Remember, it was Obama's overreach that created the TEA Party and Cuomo's SAFE Act that motivated gun owners. Since Cuomo completely controls the political side of New York, it is easy to imagine him pushing through a far left social agenda that will antagonize Upstate and he already has an economic agenda that is depopulating Upstate.

All 2nd Amendment defense organizations must work together for the common goal. There may be hard feelings between some of the organizations but Andrew Cuomo and the Democrats are our common enemies. We don't have to be best friends but we must work together – cautiously if necessary – but together for the greater good. Many SCOPE members are also members of other 2A organizations and they must press them to work together

We must reach out to other organizations that Cuomo has and will offend. We may not agree on some things but we disagree with Cuomo on everything. Is there a TEA

Party in your area? Get some of your membership involved and remind them we have the same enemy. Are you aware of any anti-abortion groups in your area? Cuomo has offended them as much as he has offended 2A groups and many churches are very angry over this. And don't forget the upstate economy, or lack thereof. The "Divide NY" people are on our side. These may seem like a stretch but remember, during World War Two we partnered with the Soviet Union to take down our common enemy.

The leadership of 2A groups goes into gun fights without ammunition when gun owners don't vote. Gun owners must get registered to vote and then follow through. Register in a political party so you can vote in their primary. We have to rid ourselves of the "lesser of two evils" if we are to get marginally engaged gun owners to vote. Primaries get a low turnout and a motivated group can overcome the incumbents just by showing up to vote. Identify good candidates to represent us in those primaries and then support those people. We will not get any help on this from within the party; they will circle the wagons.

As party members, you can work to oust the current do-nothing leadership.

No one has to do all this themselves but it does require leaders. It's time to step up.

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onstrating in Albany doesn't work well enough to justify the expense. It is a one day show that is easily forgotten by the politicians. All legislators have a district office and that is where we can be effective.

We must be on a first name basis with the assemblymen and senators, even those who vote against us. They must know us and be willing to listen. We must support our friends when they have fundraising events and even have our members write letters to the local papers to congratulate or praise them when they vote our way. Politicians love good press.

On the other side, most politicians hate negative publicity and home base is where the demonstrations should be held. If a legislator tells you that he or she is going to vote for more gun restrictions, that is the time to demonstrate in front of the district office. A group of thirty or more people carrying signs and talking to the press can be very embarrassing to the politician.

Bombarding them with phone calls to the district office can be very effective. The handwritten letter is rated high in effectiveness, but they can be put aside and ignored. Eyeball to eyeball conversations are the best. That way you can handle objections and present the reasons for your concern on the proposed bills.

The phone call is good. You will probably talk to a staff member. This ties up time and if you have a group of people on board, the volume of calls can be very annoying to an anti-gun legislator. Let them know that we can be excellent friends and bad enemies. Our chapters should provide instructions on how to be effective. Be nice, be courteous and persistent.

Finally, get involved with the county political parties. If you are Republican, Democrat, Conservative, or any other party, get on board. Call the chairman and tell him or her that

you would like to be a committeeman. They are the soldiers of a party and we will have detailed instructions of how to do this when the parties organize. Until then, the party chairman can appoint committeemen. Working on the inside of the party is probably the most effective way to cause change.

In order to be an effective Second Amendment activist, you must be active. These suggestions

are a good starting point. We have the talent to help interested people make a real difference in the upcoming elections and two years gives us the time to learn and do it right. In this process, the most important person is YOU! Do you have the will to do it? How much time and effort are you willing to give to protect your rights and freedom?

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Emperor Andrew Cuomo

## Are Democratic Socialists Redefining Socialism and Whitewashing its Record?

By Tom Reynolds  
Treasurer and At-Large Director

Many of the progressive winners in the election are socialists and socialism always fails. It's easy to point at Venezuela and Cuba as current examples of socialism's failures but the last century gave us numerous examples.

If the left understood history, they would know that Nazi stood for National SOCIALIST German Workers Party. So why are the democratic socialists on the left labeling Republicans in general and President Trump in particular as Nazis and Hitler? Shouldn't self-avowed socialists look in the mirror?

Remember the Soviet Union that President Reagan correctly labeled as an, "Evil empire...destined for the ash heap of history"? The USSR stood for Union of Soviet SOCIALIST Republics.

China is a communist nation and communism is the inevitable result of socialism.

Now, the left is relabeling itself as a different kind of socialism, (democratic socialism) in order to separate themselves from their failed past; they are 0 for the last century. The Red Sox and Cubs had a better century than socialism.

But it's not just socialism's monumental economic failures that should scare us. In the last century, socialist dictatorships were responsible for 100 million people being killed. Mao murdered 40 to 50 million Chinese. Stalin killed 30 to 40 million people and Hitler chipped in with 20 to 30 million deaths. Minor tyrants such as Pol Pot and Fidel Castro barely get a mention but they did

their best to bring death and destruction wherever they went. 100 million people killed and today's socialists are saying, "Hey, let's try it again"!

What are socialism / communism/ fascism? Their technical definitions sound very academic, non-threatening and revolve around the economy. But at their heart, they all involve central government control of the people. The differences revolve around the degree of control but, in reality, they all lead to total government control of all aspects of people's lives.

Why do socialists hate guns? They want to be in control of society. When socialism fails, again, people will rebel and the left will need to force them to comply. Socialists aren't interested in a fair fight; they want all the guns so they can keep people in line.

Why does socialism always fail (and a capitalistic / free market society succeed)?

Capitalism entails free choice while socialism necessitates government mandates. Very few like being told what to do, especially by faceless and far away bureaucrats.

Power is centrally held and when a tyrant (or an incompetent) takes control, they are virtually unopposed. Those in power will do whatever is necessary to stay in control and they have all the power. As I mentioned earlier, they are not interested in a fair fight, so they want all the guns.

Under our Constitution, which is the antithesis of socialism, political power is divided between the three branches of government. Power is further diluted amongst fifty states and each state has separate powers in their own right. Government's power can also be challenged by the non-government sector where corporations, unions, the media, etc. are capable of opposing government. Of course, when these various government and non-government entities become aligned with the central government we are on the road to another

socialist failure.

Under socialism, all power is held by the central government and when it makes a bad decision it affects everyone. The USSR's failures are well documented. When China was totally communist, it could not feed its own people so it opened up some capitalism and now it is a world class economy. (But to paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, a nation will not continue to exist half communist and half free.)

In the USA's private sector, businesses and individuals are free to succeed or fail without (usually) taking down others. Others learn from those successes and failures and emulate the successes and avoid the failures.

Federalism is supposed to allow the individual states to try new things and if they fail they do not bring down the entire nation. Other states are free to copy – or not – these individual state efforts. But socialist government being what it is, they would rather be socialist than right. For example, gun free zones have been breeding grounds for mass murderers and yet socialist states keep establishing them even though they have a history of failure.

Those that do not learn from history are destined to repeat it.

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## Has Cuomo Added the Democratic Socialists to his Enemies List?

By Michael Giuliano

In a relatively stunning development, our poor, beleaguered and ever put-upon Governor Cuomo now considers both “extreme” conservatives and socialists (<https://www.newsweek.com/cuomo-amazon-headquarters-alexandria-ocasio-cortez-1222753>) to be among his enemies. You see, both sides have been critical of his and De Blasio’s lavish corporate welfare offered up to snag an Amazon facility in Queens.

Mr. Cuomo is hurt and offended that these disparate political interests would question his presumably pure motives and tactics. “This transaction is a lightning rod for the political rhetoric on both extremes. The extreme conservatives and the socialists both now vehemently oppose “incentives” for Amazon, which is one of the most profitable companies in the country,” said Cuomo in an op-ed released by his office (<https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/op-ed-governor-andrew-m-cuomo>). Among those “extreme” conservatives? The New York Post. Cuomo, it seems, is having his own battle with the free press. He also attacked The New York Times, Rupert Murdoch, and CNN.

These tax breaks and all are offered ostensibly for New York City to compete against other states and localities but, in the end, they are costing taxpayers a vast sum and the plan benefits the already very wealthy Jeff Bezos.

Cuomo’s diversionary ploy of labeling any dissent from either his policies or corruption as “extreme”, “socialist”, or otherwise emanating from people whom he considers generally unwelcome in New York, is wearing thin. At least it is wearing thin to the 41% who voted against him and perhaps a sliver of even those who elected him to four more years.

As for the rest of the Cuomo voting bloc, they prefer their Tammany-style Democrat politics “good and hard,” to amend slightly the observation on democracy by H.L. Mencken.

### **Albany’s Newest Tactic: Attacking the First Amendment (and Fourth, Fifth, etc.) to Ransack the Second**

The anti-gun, anti-upstate forces in Albany and New York City (Note: Molinaro won 47 of 62 counties in November) won’t stop at anything to achieve their fantasy, which is not of stopping violence, since their gun control schemes cannot accomplish this as guns don’t commit crimes, but of needling their political enemies, attaining the leftist bona fides for CNN appearances, and invites to Congressional wine-and-coffee klatches with well-heeled donors.

Two of DeBlasio’s swamp creatures, a state senator and the Brooklyn Borough President, proposed a bill to require that a gun purchaser turn over their social media passwords and *past three years of search history* (<https://www.wivb.com/news/new-legislation-calls-for-social-media-search-before-pistol-permit-in-ny/1612876779>). This legislation is so extreme that even a certain gun “reform” organization (the NYAGC) has been slow to endorse it. Inevitably, such groups will eventually endorse it and we must be ready.

Most tellingly, the bill does not involve the policing of whether a person has made actual public or private threats against any person (i.e. threats that would be criminal acts under the current law) and thus presumably subject a person to scrutiny under the existing laws. It goes much further, which is to say, it loudly enters the territory of free speech. It allows a review one’s political speech and opinions posted on social media and internet search history as a basis to deny a permit. The proposal is a shameless, bold-faced attack on free speech and association as well as the Second and Fourth Amendments. No thoughts or actions are to be private under the new regime.

The Albany swamp is quite willing to attack groups unpopular and unwelcome in its hallowed halls of power. In fact, conservatives have been told they aren’t welcome in

*(Continued on page 9)*

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(Continued from page 8)

New York whatsoever by the very ethical and unimpeachable Mr. Cuomo, whose own corruption commission had to be disbanded lest it make things messy for Albany by finding anything further.

Call the new Senate Minority Leader John Flanagan and your own state senator and ask (politely) that they make a very prominent public statement against this outrageous legislation if it is introduced. In the minorities, the Republicans are without much power. The very least many of them could do is represent their constituents.

**Cuomo 'Disrespected the Judiciary' after it Struck Down SAFE Act Magazine Capacity Provision**

The Buffalo News has reported (<https://buffalonews.com/2018/11/19/amid-confusion-part-of-safe-act-will-stop-being-enforced-in-Erie-county/>) that Erie County's District Attorney has instructed local Erie police departments to stop charging violations of

the seven-round limit provision in the SAFE Act. A couple dozen criminal cases were still pending at the time of the news report that charged a violation of this provision.

The seven-round provision was ruled unconstitutional years ago (in two separate decisions in federal court) but many observers suspect Cuomo's administration has been encouraging the state police and many other local departments to continue charging individuals with violations of the magazine limit under the flimsy pretext that a lower federal court decision isn't binding on the state.

Check with your county officials and inquire as to whether police agencies have been instructed to act in accordance with these court decisions. Kindly ask if your respective county officials respect the federal courts?

Look towards Washington and witness and smell the hypocrisy. The President is frequently attacked, in the most sanctimonious terms, for impugning the legitimacy of the judi-

ciary. This attack on him is usually made with scant evidence. Vocal disagreement is not the equivalent of subversion. In contrast, liberal politicians such as Mr. Cuomo only "respect the courts" and operate within the confines of those courts' decisions when a judicial decree squares with their progressive political platform.



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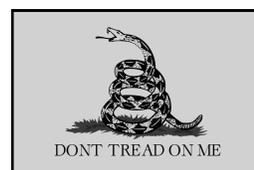
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## Letter to the editor

By Richard Rossi  
Delaware County

I would like to share my concern as an American citizen to what is going on in our country since President Trump has been elected. Let me be perfectly clear, I am speaking as an American Law-abiding citizen. This has nothing to do with anyone's political affiliation or my political preference.

We are ALL American's first, regardless of our political affiliation, and that should be paramount in our desire to insure America continues to be the greatest country in the world. Wishing for our President to fail - means America fails... Saying 'America was never great' is disgusting....

We may disagree on various stances based on our political affiliations, different viewpoints are good - only if 'common-sense' prevails and we discuss the issues, without inflammatory rhetoric, and logically. Today, this is sorely missing from the agenda. It is NOT what is best for America.

We have many challenges facing our country today. The answers are complex; however, they need to be addressed. We must be a country of Laws. Our immigration policy need updating; Our border security is lax. Our Rights and Freedoms are being infringed; Our health-care system is inadequate; Our military needs to be strengthened; Our national debt is out of control; Our government, at all levels, is too big and out of control. Our Supreme Court is making laws instead of enforcing them based on our Constitution. We have Governors and Mayors believing they can over-ride Federal Laws because they don't like them. etc...



Our Constitution/Bill of Rights must be followed. It is NOT the right of any elected official or branch of Government to decide which laws are just and which ones should be ignored. Our Founding Father clearly outlined a procedure to address changes when required. Our Constitution is not broken - it is ignored by elected officials who took an oath to protect and enforce it.

We have a God given right to self-preservation. Firearms are not 'either good or bad' - it is the individual who makes that choice. They are responsible for their decisions and actions. We need representatives who truly believe in this fact.

We have a right to know who is living in our country and to insure they came here legally. Our Governor believes he has the RIGHT to "play God". He believes that he is above the law.

Our Government is not there to provide for all your needs and wants, from birth to death. Individuals need to take personal responsibility and ownership for their actions and be responsible citizens. This will mean sacrifices and standing on one's own two feet.

Nothing in life is 'FREE'. Nothing the Government can provide is FREE - someone must foot the bill. I keep hearing that the American People want FREE College, FREE Healthcare etc. We are a Democratic

Republic not a Socialist Democracy. Are you willing to give at least 80% of your income to the government so you can have all these 'so-called' FREE benefits? I for one, am not ready for my life to go from "Citizen to Slave". America was built on hard work and a day's pay for a day's work.

When Aliens have more rights and freedoms than Law-abiding Citizen, something is very wrong in New York State. When corruption is the norm, something is very wrong in New York State. When hard working Law-abiding citizens can't make a living because taxes are sky rocketing to pay for entitlements for 'leaches', something is wrong in New York State.

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*(Continued on page 13)*

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## POLITICS 101 FROM AN AMATEUR PERSPECTIVE

By Budd Schroeder

The battle is on and it doesn't look good for the country. As most people are trying to figure out what is really happening, it gets more confusing. This column has long insisted that the major part of politics is the reliance on perception and perspective to address the people. If voters believe lies and it results in a certain politician getting elected, the winning party will say that the end justifies the means.

What the politicians and left leaning media say doesn't have to be accurate for their means. Results will justify what they say and do. Republicans and Democrats are involved with that philosophy, but the Democrats are better at doing it. They will accuse a person of lying even if the statement was an honest mistake, but the media can twist an event or statement to "prove" a "lie."

Let's say on a Monday Joe passed by a beige house and thought it was attractive. He mentioned it to Clyde on Friday, but since he didn't go past it since Monday, he didn't know that on Tuesday the home owner painted the house green. Clyde drove by the house on Thursday and called Joe a liar because he said the green house was beige. It should be mentioned that Clyde didn't like Joe and wanted to embarrass him.

Well, what he said was originally true, but the color changed without his knowledge so was Joe a liar? Of course not! In his mind, it was the truth, but to embarrass Joe, Clyde made an issue about it. This is similar to the way some of the media will deal with an event or statement that is made by a public figure they don't like.

Clyde was correct about the color of the house and Joe was wrong when the statement was made. But, a

spin doctor can get mileage with incidents like this to embarrass or denigrate a person they don't favor. It happens frequently in the electronic news or in the printed press.

It has been reported that in cases before a court, a skilled prosecutor can get statements from a participant in one session and then, later do a little skillful re-questioning in such a manner that it contradicts what was originally said, and all of a sudden the person is charged with perjury. This is a skill that can be used by very successful lawyers.

In politics, what you see is often not what you get, and often you get what you didn't see. Politics 101 is complex and sometime devious. Some people in the political arena have been successful for decades with the perception and perspective twisting techniques.

It is easy to blame those in government for mistakes. Most successful politicians are very adept with the techniques. The media, consultants and advertising agencies are experts who make a good living with their skills.

There is an old story about a man who wanted to hire an executive for his business and had three applicants apply for the job. He told them that he would ask them the same question and his decision would be based on the best answer.

The first applicant was a mathematician and the question was "How much is two plus two. The man answered: "Four!" The second person was a statistician and his answer was: "I will make a graph to determine what it will be and depending on the variances it could be anything between two and four."

The third candidate was a lawyer and his answer was: "How much do you want it to be?" The executive was involved in the political process, so guess which one of the three was hired.

Politics can be a very dirty business and this is most evident during the campaigns. The most effective

way to get votes is walking door to door and talking to the voters one by one. This is impossible for candidates in state and federal elections, so the campaign depends on mass media and rallies before large groups of people.

These efforts are very expensive and depending on the size of the district and office it can cost from high six digits to millions. The three conditions for a candidate that are necessary to be viable are name recognition, the ability to raise money, and a power base. The part about money is extremely important.

If we know anything about politics, we find that many elections have been bought. The person who was able to afford the necessary media coverage and commercials won over candidates who were better qualified to hold office.

Abraham Lincoln was credited with the statement: "You can fool some of the people all of the time, all of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time." Might be true, but in politics, all you need is fifty percent of the vote plus one to win.

Some elections are close and Josef Stalin was quoted as saying something like "The person who votes is not as important as the person who counts the votes." Some politicians have won under questionable ballot counting.

We have some very fine people in government. We have some who are not so fine and as we all know, some are downright crooked and should be investigated. In New York, we have more than our share of the last category.

This column has said that the difference between a statesman and a politician is that a statesman looks forward to the next generation. The politician looks forward to the next election. The big elections are two years away. Let's hope there are more statesmen running than politicians.

## THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

OK, OK, OK... I'M SICK OF PEOPLE CALLING ME A BULLY! LET'S JUST STOP AND GET THIS STRAIGHT! YOU WORK FOR ME, I DON'T WORK FOR YOU!



IT'S JUST POLITICS  
By Arlie

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**Application on page 12**

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## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN GOVERNMENTS GO BLUE

By Budd Schroeder

There will be changes in government because of the change of political power. We should know by now that politics is all about power and money and those with the most power and money get to call the shots on what will happen on the national and local scenes. In Washington, DC the Congress went to the Democrats, but the Republicans managed to increase their majority in the Senate.

Many think this arrangement will cause confusion and more internal battles that will involve getting or maintaining power. It will be difficult to get legislation passed and there will be more distractions, especially in the house. It is almost certain that what President Trump will be mangled by the Democrat majority. The citizens will be the ones to pay the price for the dissention.

The Democrats in the house have already stated or at least, hinted what their agenda will be. The prime directive is to distract from any legislation Trump wants. There will be the cries from the Waters' group for impeachment. What the charges will be have not been invented yet. The fact that after two years of Mueller's attempts to charge the president with

collusion involving Russia, and coming up with nothing, that investigation will continue to be on the agenda.

The liberal leftists have made significant inroads into the process and since positions are traditionally based on seniority, the committee chairmanships will go to people like Maxine Waters and Gerald Nadler for key positions. Knowledgeable people are skeptical about the results that will come based on their past performances and reputation.

Ideology is going to be tested as well. From the direction the left has taken during the past two years, it is probable that there will be attacks on the Constitution. Nancy Pelosi has already stated that weakening the rights stated in the Second Amendment is high on her hit list. It is obvious that the liberal left is determined to strip rights from the citizens and increase the power of the government.

The Founding Fathers placed the right of the people to keep and bear arms high on their list of important rights. Only the freedom of speech, press, right of religion, and to peaceably petition the government were placed before the right to be armed. They stated that the right to own a gun was not to hunt or even for self-defense, but as protection against a government that became a threat against a republic. Since the Civil War, politicians and bureaucrats have been infringing on that right.

It is difficult to find another

constitutional right that requires governmental permission to enjoy. From the time of the Jim Crow Laws to restrict the right to keep and bear arms, to laws requiring permits to carry them, the power brokers keep passing laws that infringe on the right in spite of what the Second Amendment says. Requiring a permit to have and bear arms has turned a right into a privilege. This is not what the Founding Fathers said. Of course, power seeking politicians don't care what the Constitution says.

Then, there is the hypocritical issue of the First Amendment right of free speech. The liberals speak of their support of free speech, but think nothing of banning conservative guest speakers in the liberal colleges. Some college students held violent riots to prevent conservative ideas from being spoken in THEIR college halls. This is becoming more ingrained in the educational process, some being evident in public schools.

Even words have to be "politically correct" if a person wants to avoid problems. Saying the politically incorrect word can cause a person to lose a job or be denigrated publically. Books have been taken off shelves because they had parts or words that could hurt someone's feelings. Words have great power and using certain ones or making statements could cause a law suit if said in the wrong way or environment. The

*(Continued on page 19)*



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(Continued from page 18)

term “racist” has become a weapon in the mouths of the liberals.

What would happen if those who are conservative or on the right insisted that it is a denigrating word that is hurtful and would have to be referred to as the “r” word? Of course with the liberal media and educational institutions that would be unacceptable because it doesn’t offend them. Calling a person a racist is one of their best weapons.

The states take part of these methods to advance their agenda and New York and California are high on the list of the liberal states with more joining the blue tide. However, to a logical mind they are hardly a standard for rational living. California is high on the list of a haven for illegal immigrants and homeless people and it is getting worse. New York just became a totally blue state with the Assembly and Senate run by Democrats.

The major problem is geography. The power is all in New York City and the voting shows it. The upstate counties are much more conservative and invariably the counties with a high percentage of people getting public assistance vote Democrat. It is obvious that upstate New York will be run by the whims of the New York City politicians. They now have to power to do that. Some are saying that corruption will increase along with taxes and a loss of freedoms.

Governor Cuomo will no longer have to sneak in his pet projects with “a message of necessity” to dominate the state. He will be able to have the power of a dictator and push his agenda whenever and wherever he wishes. This will be a very tough year for conservatives and others who value freedom.



## SCOPE Elections

### If you want to run for a SCOPE leadership position

This has been a very busy year and we find January closing in on us already. SCOPE by-laws require those wishing to run for At Large Directorships next year publish their intentions by January 1 each year.

Section 2.2.3 Qualifications states "Directors must be at least 18 years of age and must also have been a member in good standing for at least 2 years prior to their notice of candidacy. The SBOD may waive the two-year requirement. To become an at-large candidate a member must give a notice of candidacy and a biography by January 1st to the election committee. The member will become a recognized candidate unless the election committee can show cause for ineligibility. A chapter chair may not hold the position of at-large Board member.

We would like to encourage all who feel they have something to offer the organization to step forward. Those applying and determined qualified will have their biographies posted in the January/February edition of the newsletter, The Firing Lines, and will be elected by mail-in ballots, counted during the members meeting in April.

**If you feel you are interested and qualify, please forward your intentions and biography to [admin@scopeny.org](mailto:admin@scopeny.org) or mail through regular mail to S.C.O.P.E., Inc, PO Box 165, East Aurora, NY 14075. Allow sufficient time for the delivery before the January 1, 2019 deadline.**

## 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.scopepac.com](http://www.scopepac.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**

**[www.scopepac.com](http://www.scopepac.com)**

From, SCOPE, PO Box 165, East Aurora, NY 14052  
Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Webster, NY  
Permit # 91

Firing Lines page 20

Your membership expiration date is on the label, please renew today!

**YOU INSURE YOUR CAR, YOUR HOME, EVEN  
YOUR HEALTH - WELL HOW ABOUT  
INSURING YOUR 2ND AMENDMENT RIGHTS?**

**SCOPE THE RIGHT INSURANCE!**

**SO DON'T DELAY  
SIGN UP TODAY!**



\*\*\*\*\*

**Help**

**Defeat the  
politicians  
trying to steal  
YOUR  
Second Amendment  
Rights!**

**Donate to SCOPE -  
PAC Page 3**

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## SCOPE Membership Application

Membership Dues:  Annual - \$25  3-Years Annual - \$70  SCOPE Patch - \$5  
**Check**  Sponsor - \$50  3-Years Sponsor - \$140  Senior Life (65+) - \$250 with proof of age  
**Appropriate**  Life - \$600  Endowment - \$800  Benefactor - \$1,000  
**Boxes**  New Member  Renewal  Window Decal \$2.50  Inside  Outside

Mail to: SCOPE (Shooters Committee On Political Education) PO Box 165 East Aurora, NY 14052  
Make Checks Payable to SCOPE, Inc. (*Do Not Send Cash*)

How do you want your newsletter delivered? US Mail  or Email Link (Circle one)

Please Print

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (Needed for newsletter delivery) \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check the boxes that apply: Will you serve on Committees  Yes  No

Are you registered to Vote  Yes  No

Dues subject to increase.  
Contributions, gifts or membership dues made or paid to SCOPE are not refundable or transferable and are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal Income Tax purposes.