

# Gun Safety Committee Study Articles

## NEW GUN SAFETY COMMITTEE

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**W**ith the increase of gun violence at schools, churches, entertainment venues, in homes and on our streets as well as deaths by suicide, the State and Local Leagues have established GUN SAFETY COMMITTEES.

Our newly formed Gun Safety Committee seeks to support national and state League positions on guns including:

1. Support for private gun ownership licensing procedures which include strict enforcement and better resources allocation for monitoring gun dealers.
2. Background check waiting periods, personal identity verification and gun safety education.
3. A state ban on all semi-automatic assault weapons and large capacity feeding devices.
4. State provision of records to the FBI National Background Check System (NICS) and continuing efforts to repeal unsafe gun legislation, i.e., Open Carry and current interpretation of Stand Your Ground.

Our local committee is considering ways to partner with law enforcement, educational institutions and faith-based organizations in the area on ways to reduce gun violence.

Did you know that the *Florida Red Flag Law* has been used twice in Escambia County? It allows police to request a judge to approve temporary seizure of guns if it is believed "that a person poses a danger to himself or others by possessing a firearm." The NRA says this law violates the Second Amendment. As adopted in 1791, the Second Amendment reads "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Do you believe the Florida law violates the Constitution?

*An article in the upcoming Voter will examine why the Second Amendment was adopted and how its interpretation has evolved and continues to do so. If you would like to join the Gun Safety Group, e-mail kinge3324@gmail.com.*

## **The Second Amendment in the Modern World**

by attorney Randle Carpenter, Gun Safety Committee member

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"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"

### **The Second Amendment and the Supreme Court**

#### **United States v. Miller**

From its ratification in 1789 until 1939, the Second Amendment was not the subject of serious controversy. Then in 1939, the Supreme Court directly addressed the Second Amendment. United States v. Miller, involved a challenge to the National Firearms Act of 1934 (NFA) which had been passed in response to the St. Valentine's Day gangland massacre. The NFA required certain types of firearms to be registered with the government. The defendant, Jack Miller, was an Oklahoma bank robber who was arrested while carrying a sawed off, 12- gauge, unregistered