



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on July 22, 2022

Published in the August 15, 2022 issue of [the New American](#) magazine. Vol. 38, No. 15

Exercising the Right Shot Himself in the Foot

Business Insider reported on June 17 about a Republican congressman who decided to betray his voters by supporting gun control and quickly realized that it wasn't going to be as easy as he thought. Representative Chris Jacobs (R-N.Y.) announced in a press conference on May 27 that if "an assault weapons ban bill came to the floor that would ban something like an AR-15, I would vote for it." In the same press conference, Jacobs also announced support for other gun-control measures, which sent political shockwaves throughout his congressional district.

Jacobs had previously campaigned as a strong supporter of the Second Amendment. His campaign website proudly announced that he would "defend the Second Amendment," and boasted that he "had an A rating from the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association" and would "bring this record to Congress." Jacobs attributed his flip-flop on gun control to the tragic shooting in nearby Buffalo, New York, where a deranged gunman killed 10 people in a supermarket.

The political backlash was fierce, as many Republican politicians and party leaders who had previously endorsed Jacobs for reelection contacted him to let him know they were withdrawing their endorsements. There was also a fast-moving campaign behind the scenes by the chair of the New York GOP to run a primary opponent against Jacobs. Even Donald Trump, Jr. tweeted that Jacobs had "already caved to the gun-grabbers whose proposals won't do a single thing to protect our families & children from criminals & murderers. He knows this but he can't resist getting a few glowing headlines from the mainstream media."

The chairman of the Conservative Party for the biggest county in Jacobs' congressional district said that Jacobs had committed "political suicide."

Only a week after his radical turnabout on the Second Amendment, Jacobs announced that he would not seek reelection and that he would retire at the end of his current term. In a press conference announcing his early retirement, Jacobs said, "We have a problem in our country in terms of both our major parties.... If you stray from a party position, you are annihilated.... For the Republicans, it became pretty apparent to me over the last week that that issue is gun control. Any gun control."

Supporters of the Second Amendment should celebrate this news story for several reasons. One is that we will no longer have a weak Republican in Congress who will betray us on guns. Another is that Jacobs' quick political demise sends a strong message to other Republicans that gun control is nonnegotiable for their voters.

"GOP Gun Politics"

In a related story, *The Washington Post* reported on May 26 about the U.S. Senate primary race in Alabama and explained how it demonstrated the power of "GOP gun politics." The race was drastically changed when a video clip surfaced of one of the Republican Senate candidates seemingly endorsing gun confiscation. The video showed candidate Mike Durant giving a speech in 2011 at the Army War College discussing the 1993 Somalia raid, which was the subject of the movie *Black Hawk Down*. Durant, who was a veteran of that conflict and was taken prisoner when his helicopter crashed, stated that the initial goal of the military was "disarming the population." He then added, "Let's face it. If we



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could do that with some of our U.S. cities, that would be a pretty good step towards law and order.” At the time, Durant might have just been making an off-the-cuff flippant remark, but that clip went viral during the campaign and cemented the view of him in the eyes of Republican voters as a supporter of gun confiscation. Durant ultimately lost his campaign, and political observers attributed it to the gun issue.

The *Washington Post* story included some other interesting details, such as how the NRA doesn’t really have much of an impact in these races despite what the mainstream media tries to portray. Retiring Senator Richard C. Shelby, whom the candidates are running to replace, told *The Washington Post* that the NRA doesn’t “have any money. They endorsed [U.S. Representative Mo] Brooks, but they didn’t do any — if they submitted any money, I didn’t know about it.”

Senator Kevin Cramer (R-N.D.) echoed those sentiments that the NRA is not as all-powerful as the media tries to portray, and that gun rights are actually a legitimately popular issue with voters. Senator Cramer told *The Washington Post* that the idea that the “gun lobby” is dumping millions of dollars into campaigns to sway voters is a myth, because the voters who are likely to vote in GOP primaries genuinely love gun rights and don’t need some shadowy organization to force them to vote that way. “It’s not the NRA. It’s gun owners, individual gun owners,” Cramer said.

The Second Amendment Prevents a Dictatorship

One of the Senate candidates who finished ahead of the aforementioned Durant, Representative Mo Brooks (R-Ala.), made national news when he gave the real reason for the Second Amendment’s existence. Brooks explained during an appearance on *Fox News Sunday* May 29 that the “Second Amendment is designed to help ensure that we, the citizenry, always have the right to take back our government should it become dictatorial.”

Brooks stated that he would only support any laws related to guns if they protected American’s right to keep and bear arms. “If you’re talking about depriving people of their Second Amendment right to bear arms, well, first, that’s unconstitutional, so you’re going to have to address that with a constitutional amendment.... We’ll see how Congress and the states react to that kind of measure,” Brooks told *Fox News Sunday*.

The news media and political pundits flipped out about Brooks’ statement and reacted as if he were saying something insane. Brooks ultimately lost the runoff election to Katie Britt, who was endorsed by Donald Trump on June 10, but Second Amendment supporters should appreciate Brooks’ willingness to tell the truth in a frank manner.



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