



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on September 16, 2019

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## **Exercising The Right**

### **Warren Targets Guns With Taxes**

Democratic presidential hopeful Elizabeth Warren is seeking to out-flank her primary opposition by moving further left on the Second Amendment. In an August 10 post on Medium, Warren called for higher taxes on U.S. gun manufacturers and wrote that “since 1919, the federal government has imposed an excise tax on manufacturers and importers of guns and ammunition. Handguns are taxed at 10% and other guns and ammunition are taxed at 11%. These taxes raise less in revenue than the federal excise tax on cigarettes, domestic wine, or even airline tickets. It’s time for Congress to raise those rates — to 30% on guns and 50% on ammunition — both to reduce new gun and ammunition sales overall and to bring in new federal revenue that we can use for gun violence prevention and enforcement of existing gun laws.”

Writing in response at Town Hall on August 12, Katie Pavlich warned that “[Warren’s] latest idea is to tax Americans out of gun ownership, which discriminates against poor individuals who can’t afford it. These are the very people Warren claims to be fighting for.... Further, Warren’s plans would actually increase crime.... A tax of any level would do little to dissuade attackers involved in recent tragedies — they would have committed their heinous crimes whether or not they had to pay extra money to buy the ammunition. Much like traditional restrictions on firearms, taxes only affect law-abiding citizens. Those who wish to carry out illegal acts will have no problem buying tax-free guns and ammunition from a black market dealer.”

### **Philly Shootout Exposes Faults With Gun Control**

The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) Founder and Executive Vice President Alan M. Gottlieb brought attention to the violent shootout in Philadelphia on August 14 in which six officers were injured. “The suspect in Philadelphia has done time for drug and gun law violations, and other crimes.... He’s a walking example of gun control failure and considering his background, we’re wondering why he was even on the streets. His presence in the community underscores the argument for judicial reform, and his ability to obtain firearms shows once again that gun control laws do not prevent determined criminals from getting their hands on guns,” Gottlieb explained. Investigators are still working on the crime scene, but they believe the suspect had an AR-15 and several handguns. “Law-abiding citizens use semi-auto rifles for all kinds of purposes, including self-defense.... However, instead of admitting that their gun control laws have failed, politicians try to exploit cases like Philadelphia to demand more gun laws that also won’t work because criminals don’t obey the law.... You do not prevent criminals from having guns by disarming their intended victims.... But that’s the nature of gun control. It penalizes the good guys and doesn’t stop the bad guys.”

### **Anti-gun Lobby Money**

Mark Walters, writing at LifeZette on August 6, discussed how another major push for gun control is under way in light of the recent mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio. Walters explained that in “the last election cycle alone, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, one of the most militant pro-gun control voices in America, spent an astounding \$112 million to defeat pro-gun rights Republicans and replace them with pro-gun control Democrats.” Such spending dwarfs anything done



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by the NRA, which is usually made out to be some all-powerful lobby by the media. “The anti-gunners are the ones loaded with cash — and they are spending it at will to deny ordinary Americans their constitutional rights.”

Likewise, there is a network of nonprofits that are determined to push for a gun-grabbing scheme. One of the most prominent among them is The Arnold Foundation, which was founded by a former trader at Enron; that’s the failed energy company whose collapse led to the indictment, arrest, and conviction of billion-dollar executives. Today, it has committed \$50 million to push an anti-gun narrative.” Walters warns his readers that “supporters of the Second Amendment are outmanned and outgunned.” This seems to be inconsistent with the narrative we get from the media that it’s the pro-gun lobbies flushed with cash and buying influence in Washington, D.C.

## **Shotgun for Self-defense?**

Terry Nelson, writing at OutdoorHub on August 20, advised his readers to choose a shotgun when it comes to picking a firearm for self-defense. Nelson wrote that shotguns are “reliable and effectively intimidating” when it comes to armed self-defense. “Everyone has their own ideas as to what will work best for them in a self-defense shotgun. Because I carried and used one extensively during my career in law enforcement and for more years than I care to remember in a hunting capacity, the pump action in 12 gauge has to be my top pick. A primary reason for me, is the pump action being fairly simple and rugged, making it generally reliable and easy to use. As I mentioned earlier, 12-gauge ammunition is the most readily available of all the gauges listed — a critical consideration when making a ‘one-gun-does-all’ selection.”

While Nelson most assuredly is correct that a shotgun blast at close quarters would be extremely effective in incapacitating any would-be attacker and that the appearance of a shotgun or the sound of a shotgun slide being racked might be enough to get a criminal to halt in his tracks, he didn’t acknowledge the downsides of its use as a self-defense weapon. Kevin Creighton, writing at NRAFamily.org in 2018, explained that shotguns usually have less ammunition capacity than pistols or an AR-15, although magazine capacity depends on local regulations as well. Furthermore, shotguns require two hands to operate and can sometimes be hard to maneuver in tight spots owing to the long barrel. Ultimately, Creighton advised having a “safe room” in the home with multiple types of firearms to use in a required self-defense situation. “So which is better for personal defense, a handgun, a rifle or a shotgun? In my opinion, they all have a role to play in keeping you and your loved ones safe,” Creighton wrote.

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