



Written by [Patrick Krey](#) on January 6, 2020

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Exercising The Right

Backlash Against Gun Control in Virginia

The *Washington Post* reported on November 23 about how pro-gun-rights Virginians continue to stick to their guns, so to speak, when it comes to the Second Amendment. A Board of Supervisors meeting in Amelia County was packed to the gills with supporters of a Second Amendment sanctuary ordinance. This column has previously written about this concept in which local municipalities pass resolutions that state they won't permit the enforcement of any gun-control laws that violate the Second Amendment. The large crowd demanded that the Board of Supervisors declare Amelia County a Second Amendment sanctuary, part of a larger movement spreading like wildfire throughout the state. Both chambers of the state's general assembly came under Democratic control in the past election, and when the new legislative session begins in January, Democratic politicians have already made it known, new gun-control laws will be on their agenda.

The list of county governments that have passed Second Amendment sanctuary bills include Charlotte, Campbell, Carroll, Appomattox, Patrick, Dinwiddie, Pittsylvania, Lee, and Giles. Amelia Sheriff Ricky L. Walker assured the crowd that he wouldn't comply with an unconstitutional seizure of guns. "My oath of office is to uphold the Constitution of the United States," he told the crowd. Clay Scott, a construction project manager, spoke to the growing rural-urban divide that has split the state and addressed concerns that the cosmopolitan North is going to force its will on the rural southern part of the state. "We need to send a signal to Richmond about Northern Virginia. We don't want their influence to affect us down here. We're very different people," Scott was reported by the *Post* to have said. The Board of Supervisors won't vote on the resolution until next month, but the large showing of people sent a message that there is legitimate support for its passage. The *Post* reported that around 300 people showed up. Philip Van Cleave, president of the Virginia Citizen Defense League, told the *Post*, "I've never seen anything like this.... Everything has exploded right now. Gun owners are awake."

House of Delegates member John J. McGuire III (R-Henrico) told the assembled crowd that he was seeking next year's GOP nomination to challenge U.S. Representative Abigail Spanberger (D-Va.), and got a good reaction when he said, "I don't understand what part of 'shall not infringe' they don't understand."

Other residents made passionate speeches about the Second Amendment and what it means to them. Troy Carter told the crowd that he was "a proud descendant of a Revolutionary soldier that fought four and a half years to free our land.... Our forefathers bled on this very ground in Virginia for this very reason. The Second Amendment is ours. Our forefathers fought for it. I'm sending this message to Ralph Northam because Virginia is here, and we are awake."

Allison Crews was the sole dissenting voice in the audience and explained that she was a member of the anti-gun group Moms Demand Action, but she even had to admit that she was blown away by the size of the crowd. "I wish we'd see those crowds for things like water quality in the town, or the school system," Crews said. The Board of Supervisors will vote on the resolution at their next meeting, which has been moved to a high-school auditorium to accommodate the anticipated large turnout.

All of this public outcry is not sitting well with the gun-grabbing ideologues who thought that Virginia residents would roll over and comply with their gun-control agenda. Lori Haas, the Virginia state



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director for the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, wrote an editorial in the *Roanoke Times* on November 27 mocking the concerned citizens and belittling them for taking a stand for the Second Amendment. Haas claimed the “gun lobby” is behind this movement and derided the people involved for being “AR-15 toting white men.” Haas, who from her appearance looks to also be white, did not bother to explain why being a white man should disqualify someone from political engagement. Haas went further in denigrating these efforts and said that Second Amendment sanctuaries are “symbolic gestures” that are only being passed in “rural, conservative areas.” Apparently Haas believes that if an area is rural or conservative, then it means those areas don’t count and they shouldn’t be allowed to have a say in what happens to their gun rights. “Now that commonsense has finally prevailed, the gun lobby is left with empty gestures and gimmicks. They are worried because change is coming to Virginia.... [The new gun control] will be enforced and applied statewide and applicable to all Virginia citizens in every county. The reality is that these sanctuary declarations are not worth the piece of paper that they are printed on.”

Haas seems pretty confident that, now that the Democrats control the state government, no one will be able to stand in their way, and it angers her to see that some Americans still believe they have recourse to protect their God-given Second Amendment rights. But it would appear Haas’s bitter and caustic tone was her way to mask her concern that this widespread movement all over the state is going to prevent her desired gun control measures from being passed. This would be understandable considering the measures to enact Second Amendment sanctuaries.

In a stunning reversal, the *Washington Free Beacon* reported on December 10 that “Virginia Democratic leaders abandoned their gun confiscation proposal Monday following a grassroots outpouring of opposition to gun control across the state.” While this is a welcome development, it should serve as a reminder that politicians will only back down if they see that there will be political repercussions at the ballot box. The popular outpouring of support for gun rights sent them that message and, contrary to the rantings of the anti-gun Haas, the resolutions were definitely effective in stopping her and other like-minded totalitarians from infringing on the Second Amendment.

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