

10 Why Gun Owners **MUST** Vote for McCain

By James H. Warner

I know there are many gun owners who do not want to vote for Senator John McCain for president. Most of you have had many policy differences with him over the years. I myself have disagreed with him on a number of issues. Nevertheless, I am telling you – as a fellow gun owner – that you must vote for McCain. If he is not elected president, our gun rights will be in greater danger than ever before. Let me explain.

I know the importance of judges who can read the Constitution and understand it to mean exactly what it says. I am an attorney, retired from the legal office of the National Rifle Association. While I was at the NRA our office had several occasions to participate in legal actions defending your rights. Although I am otherwise retired, I recently wrote one of the briefs (a written legal argument) submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court in the recent case challenging two restrictive gun laws in the District of Columbia. Our side argued that these laws violated the individual right to keep and bear arms, which is protected by the Second Amendment. We succeeded. This was the first time in the history of our country that the Supreme Court has recognized that the Second Amendment protects an individual right.

You may think that the battle is over. You would be wrong. Our gun rights are in greater danger today than ever before. The decision in the Supreme Court was five to four. That is a razor-thin margin. One of the Justices who voted against us was Justice John Paul Stevens. He is 88 years old. Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who also voted against us, is 75 years old and is believed to be in poor health. If two Justices leave the Court, the next president of the United States would appoint their successors. If Barack Obama is elected, and these two Justices leave the Court, he could appoint nominees like Charles Schumer and Diane Feinstein to the bench. If that were to happen, nothing would have changed and our margin would remain a razor-thin, one-vote margin. However, if they were to be replaced with Justices who take our view of the law, our majority

would then be seven to two, a much safer margin.

But what if three Justices, or even four, were to leave the Court? Justice Anthony Kennedy, who voted with us, is 72, as is Justice Antonin Scalia, who was also in our corner. What if they left the Court and President Obama replaced them with Hillary Clinton and Richard Durbin? The anti-gun crowd would have a six-to-three majority. Where would our gun rights be then? For that matter, where would our guns be? If there should be a Democratic president and a Democratic Congress, you can be sure that there would be a flood of new gun laws. You can be sure that many of the guns that are currently in your gun locker would be made illegal.

I know that there are others who don't trust McCain. I have a different perspective. He has been my friend for 37 years. I didn't meet him at a Washington fundraiser, or a lobbyist's cocktail party. I met him when 36 of us were taken from Hoa Lo prison (the infamous "Hanoi Hilton") and put in cramped 6-1/2' by 3' cells in a place we were told was a "punishment camp." I would trust his integrity if my life depended on it. I say this because I saw how he performed when we were forced to trust in the integrity of our comrades. I have seen – with my own eyes – that John McCain's word can be trusted. He has said that if elected he would appoint Judges whose view of the law is similar to that of Justice Samuel Alito and Chief Justice John Roberts. I believe him, and I urge you to trust him also.

Regardless of any other differences you may have with McCain, you must help elect him so we can keep our guns. I was disarmed once (when I was captured) and it didn't work out so well. I don't want that to happen to you.

James H. Warner is an attorney who is retired from the legal office of the National Rifle Association. He served as a domestic policy advisor to President Ronald Reagan from 1985 until 1989. He was a Marine officer in Vietnam and was held as a POW in North Vietnam for five and one half years.



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