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New York AG seeks to dissolve NRA in new lawsuit

Letitia James accused the NRA of having 'a culture of self-dealing,' taking millions of dollars for personal use

By [Ronn Blitzer](#) | [Fox News](#)

NRA in the crosshairs as New York Attorney General files lawsuit to dissolve organization

Attorney General Letitia James announced that her office has filed a lawsuit against the National Rifle Association (NRA). James is seeking to have the organization shutter its doors, bringing a close to its nearly 150-year old existence.

[New York](#) Attorney General [Letitia James](#) announced Thursday that her office has filed a lawsuit against the National Rifle Association and its leadership, including Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre, looking to dissolve the organization.

James accused the organization of having "a culture of self-dealing," taking millions of dollars for personal use and granting contracts that benefited leaders' family and associates.

"For nearly three decades, Wayne LaPierre has served as the chief executive officer of the NRA and has exploited the organization for his financial benefit, and the benefit of a close circle of NRA staff, board members, and vendors," the 163-page complaint states.

The Washington, D.C. Attorney General's office also sued the NRA on Thursday based on similar allegations.

"Charitable organizations function as public trusts — and District law requires them to use their funds to benefit the public, not to support political campaigns, lobbying, or private interests," Attorney General Karl Racine said.

The New York lawsuit alleges that LaPierre, former chief of staff Joshua Powell, former CFO Wilson "Woody" Phillips, and general counsel John Frazer, engaged in self-dealing and ignored conflicts of interest in violation of NRA policy. Alleged conflicts included granting millions of dollars worth of contracts to companies like information technology firm HomeTelos, whose CEO had a personal relationship with Phillips that was not disclosed at the time.

This was later reported by staff members of Phillips, who acted as whistleblowers in 2018, the complaint says.

The lawsuit also details personal expenses for which LaPierre was allegedly reimbursed by the NRA. These included private air travel for him and his family and gifts to friends, on top of millions of dollars for personal and home security. The lawsuit also claims that LaPierre hired Phillips, Powell, and Frazer "despite their lack of skills or experience for their respective roles and responsibilities."

Any attempts to push back against LaPierre, the complaint alleges, "were quashed and ignored." For example, the complaint alleges that after the NRA President learned about whistleblower complaints and began looking into NRA governance, LaPierre "retaliated" against him by withdrawing his support for renomination. The president eventually resigned.

Additionally, the complaint alleges that the NRA filed false reportings with the New York Attorney General's office and the IRS, specifically regarding compensation to LaPierre, Phillips, Powell, and Frazer.

In addition to asking for the organization to be dissolved, James' office seeks to have LaPierre and Frazer removed from their positions, and a declaration from the court saying "that directors or members in control of the NRA have looted or wasted the NRA's charitable assets, have perpetuated the corporation solely for their personal benefit, or have otherwise acted in an illegal, oppressive or fraudulent manner[.]"

"The NRA's influence has been so powerful that the organization went unchecked for decades while top executives funneled millions into their own pockets," James said in a statement. "The NRA is fraught with fraud and abuse, which is why, today, we seek to dissolve the NRA, because no organization is above the law."

NRA President Carolyn Meadows called the lawsuit "a baseless, premeditated attack," claiming it targeted not just the NRA, but the constitutional rights it defends.

"You could have set your watch by it: the investigation was going to reach its crescendo as we move into the 2020 election cycle," Meadows said in a statement. "It's a transparent attempt to score political points and attack the leading voice in opposition to the leftist agenda. This has been a power grab by a political opportunist – a desperate move that is part of a rank political vendetta. Our members won't be intimidated or bullied in their defense of political and constitutional freedom."

Meadows added that the NRA "will not shrink from this fight – we will confront it and prevail."

To that end, the NRA [countersued](#) James, seeking a court declaration that they are following state not-for-profit law and alleging that The New York Attorney General is targeting the organization for its political positions, violating its free speech rights.

"The New York Democratic Party seeks to harass, defund and dismantle the NRA because of what it believes and what it says," the lawsuit says. "Only this Court can stop it."

Bloomberg's Gun Control Group Pours \$15 Million Into Races in 8 States



The group, Everytown for Gun Safety, hopes to help Democrats flip three Senate seats, win control of state legislatures and lift Joe Biden to victory in Florida. Michael R. Bloomberg's gun control group, Everytown for Gun Safety, has pledged to spend \$60 million during the 2020 campaign. Credit...Chet Strange for The New York Times

By Reid J. Epstein July 23, 2020 Updated 9:36 a.m. ET
Michael R. Bloomberg's gun control organization will focus its political advertising spending this fall on eight states where it aims to help Democrats flip three Senate

seats, wrest control of state legislatures and lift former Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. to victory in Florida. The group, Everytown for Gun Safety, is making an initial \$15 million investment in digital advertising in the states, an opening outlay of the \$60 million it has pledged to spend during the 2020 campaign.

It includes \$5 million earmarked for Florida, the lone state where Everytown plans on advertising in the presidential contest; \$3.5 million in Texas, where the group is targeting six House races; and \$1 million to \$1.5 million in Arizona, Iowa and North Carolina — three states where it will advertise in Senate races — as well as in Minnesota and Pennsylvania.

The group also plans an initial \$500,000 investment in Georgia, where, in addition to the state legislative contests, the group will advertise on behalf of Representative Lucy McBath, a suburban Atlanta Democrat who used to work as an Everytown spokeswoman.

Though the coronavirus pandemic and protests over racial disparities in policing have dominated Americans' attention this summer, John Feinblatt, Everytown's president, said he believed gun violence was more important to voters now than it had ever been.

“Post-Covid, our polling tells us it’s more critical to voters than ever,” Mr. Feinblatt said in an interview on Wednesday. “It’s become a litmus test for voters, as it was in Virginia.”

Everytown aims to replicate its success from Virginia’s 2017 and 2019 elections, when it backed Democrats who overturned a generation of Republican control of the state legislature with investments that pale in comparison to what major statewide races cost.

The group is now aiming to install Democratic allies atop state governments, through which it then hopes to enact sweeping gun control measures, as Virginia did this year.

Everytown remains largely backed by Mr. Bloomberg, the billionaire former mayor of New York, but it has an increasing number of outside contributors, including Connie Ballmer, the wife of the former Microsoft chief executive Steve Ballmer. Ms. Ballmer gave \$7 million in April.

The organization’s focus on digital advertising comes during what its top political aides said was the fastest change in media consumption habits since the dawn of the digital age. With millions of Americans homebound because of the pandemic, nearly half of all television consumption is now on streaming platforms.

“2020 looks more like 2025,” said Charlie Kelly, a senior Everytown political adviser.

Mr. Kelly estimated that the cost to reach voters on digital platforms across enough competitive state legislative districts to flip a state chamber was a fraction of the resources required in a federal or statewide race. Mr. Kelly said Everytown would spend to help Mr. Biden in Florida, but not elsewhere, after consultation with other Democratic super PACs, like Priorities USA, that would take responsibility for different states.

“The goal is to win and everybody comes to the table to do that,” Mr. Kelly said. “Post-2016, people were like, ‘We got to get ourselves together on that front.’”

Everytown is just one element of Mr. Bloomberg’s political largess. He spent nearly \$1 billion on his own presidential campaign, which ended after he won the Guam caucuses but no states. Mr. Bloomberg had pledged to pay his staff members through November, but later abandoned those plans and donated the \$18 million remaining in his campaign account to the Democratic National Committee.

Field staff members for his campaign subsequently filed class-action lawsuits arguing they had been tricked into accepting jobs.

Mr. Bloomberg’s personal super PAC, Independence USA, spent about \$60 million on 2018 races but has yet to engage in 2020 contests.

Everytown’s success has come as the National Rifle Association’s financial muscle has atrophied. The 2018 midterm elections were the first time gun control organizations — Mr. Bloomberg’s Everytown and a group founded by former Representative Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona — had outspent the N.R.A. in federal elections.

“No question about it, the N.R.A. has never been weaker,” Mr. Feinblatt said. “It’s fair to say they are going to be spending more money on legal fees than they are digital or TV ads this cycle.”

Everytown’s \$60 million commitment for 2020 is twice what it spent on the 2018 midterms.

The N.R.A., which spent \$54 million on the 2016 elections but just \$20 million in 2018, has yet to make a public commitment for the 2020 elections.

Amy Hunter, an N.R.A. spokeswoman, declined to reveal what the gun-rights organization would spend this year but predicted voters would reject gun control proposals put forth by Mr. Bloomberg, Mr. Biden and former Representative Beto O’Rourke of Texas, who as a presidential candidate last year called for the government to seize assault rifles from people who own them.

“2020 has been a bad year for the Bloomberg team,” Ms. Hunter said. “First, after spending billions, Mike crashed and burned early out of the presidential primaries and, then, millions of voters join the ranks as gun owners. N.R.A. members and gun owners know what is at stake and they will vote for freedom — not for the Biden-Beto gun confiscation scheme.”

Jim Sable Environment & Conservation Education Scholarship!

2020 Scholarship Winners Announced!

The League is proud to announce the students awarded Jim Sable Environment & Conservation Education Scholarship!

Congratulations to the athletes below, and best of luck to them as they begin to pursue their futures this fall!

Adam	Froman	Carroll County High School	KY
Cora	Smith	Waverly High School	NY
Bryce	Byers	Keystone-Clarion-North Clarion High Schools	PA
Eli	Quist	Minnetonka High School	MN
Emma	Schwardt	Jordan High School	MN
Clarice	Peasall	Weston High School	WI
Aria	Sheldon	Maize High School	KS
Alexandra	Medvec	Richfield High School – Academy of Holy Angels	MN
Brandon	Werner	Mater Dei High School	IN
Spencer	Stephens	Golden Valley High School	CA
Cameron	Ziarko	Scales Mound High School	IL
Matthew	Redmond	Whitehall High School	NY
Connor	Olson	Foley High School	MN
Hailey	Olson	St. Michael-Albertville High School	MN
Bryce	Clover	Murphysboro High School	IL



Jim recognized that education came before anything else. He would always ask his students if they had gotten their homework done, asked about the grades, and encourage them to succeed academically. As a student mentor, Jim felt that it was his duty to ensure that nothing interfered with students' academic progress.

With over 50 years of experience as a firearms safety instructor, Jim has also long recognized the importance of hunting, outdoor shooting sports, and other outdoor activities. He has always championed the symbiotic relationship between conservation funding and outdoor shooting sports activities, and that hunters and outdoor shooting sport enthusiasts are the best stewards of our environment. It is with that relationship in mind that the League's scholarship program was established.

clay target, high school, scholarship, trap shooting, trapshooting

Wisconsin Firearm Owners Upcoming Events and News

Upcoming Events

Green Bay
80 shot 200 yd reduced
August 15th, 2020

Wisconsin Rapids
Vintage Team Sniper
August 15th, 2020

Negunee
Coyote 300 yd match
August 22nd, 2020

Hubertus
Reduced Course State Championship
August 29th, 2020

LaCrosse
Mid-Range, 4-Gun 600 yd
August 29th and 30th, 2020

Eau Claire
Mid-Range, 4-Gun 600 yd
September 5th, 2020

Eau Claire
80 shoot NMC
September 6th, 2020

Green Bay
80 shot 200 yd Reduced Course
September 5th, 2020

Beloit
80 Round Regional Course 100 yard reduced
September 6th, 2020

Wausau
State Garand Championship
September 6th, 2020

Lodi
Spirit of America Fullbore National Championship
September 8-13, 2020

Green Bay
50 shot M1 Garand
September 12th, 2020

Eau Claire
Mid-Range 4-gun 600 yd
September 26th, 2020

Eau Claire
80 shot NMC
September 27th, 2020

Green Bay
100 shot 200 yd reduced Chili match
October 3rd, 2020

Check us out on our web site at: <https://www.wisconsinfirearmowners.org>

Check us out on Facebook @ Wisconsinforce

Obituary

Ronald W. Albanese 57, of Watertown passed away on Tuesday, July 28, 2020 at Froedtert Hospital in Wauwatosa.



Ron was a huge supporter of our junior program and owner of The Wisconsin Trigger Company. We will miss his smiling face hanging out on the assembly line during the national team matches at Camp Perry. Our sincerest condolences to all of his friends and family. He will truly be missed by all who knew him.

Ronald was born on September 24, 1962 in Chicago, the son of Nicholas and Lenore (Sinkenberg) Albanese. Ronald married the love of his life Elizabeth (Grant) Peters on February 21, 2009 at St. Bernard's Catholic Church in Watertown and the couple enjoyed 11 years of marriage. Ronald was President of the Watertown Conservation Club and he taught auto mechanics at MATC for many years.

Ronald was very mechanically inclined, he was an engineer without the engineer's degree, he was a Patent holder and loved learning about military history. In his free time he enjoyed watching the stars at night and going on Sunday drives in the country, and spending time with his family, friends, and his dogs. Ronald had a distinctive laugh and sense of humor, people always knew when he was in the room. He will be dearly missed.

Ronald is survived by his wife, 2 children William and Daniel Peters, his father, and brother Chris (Jill) Albanese. He is also survived by a number of other relatives and friends.

He is preceded in death by his mother.



Wisconsin Firearm Owners Junior Service Rifle Supporters



<https://www.friendsofnra.org/>



<https://kriegerbarrels.com/>



<http://www.nosler.com/>



<http://www.bruxbarrels.com/>



<http://www.vortexoptics.com/>



<http://www.hodgdonreloading.com/>



<http://www.halltitle.com/>



<http://www.wisconsintrigger.com/>

Wood County Rifle and Pistol Club
<http://www.wcrifle.org/>

Racine County Line Rifle Club
Devoted to the Shooting Sports
<https://www.racinecountylinerifleclub.com/>

HOLUB MACHINE & REPAIR, LLC
<http://www.newhighpower.com/>

Central Wisconsin Gun Collectors Association
<http://www.centralwisconsingun.org/>

Chippewa Brass & Aluminum Foundry LTD.



<https://www.chippewafoundry.com/>



<https://bartleinbarrels.com/>



<https://www.sierrabullets.com/>



CHANGING THE FUTURE OF YOUTH SHOOTING SPORTS



- **Wisconsin Firearm Owners** gives you a voice in Madison to protect your **Second Amendment Rights**.
- We are the **only NRA** State Chartered Association in Wisconsin.
- **WFO** and the **NRA** led the lobbying efforts for Right to Carry and The Shooting Ranges Protection Act.
- **WFO** provides Club and Range support for those looking to expand and improve their ranges.
- As your **NRA** and **CMP** State Association, **WFO** sanctions State Championships for multiple shooting disciplines.
- Our lobbying efforts have helped to clean up Wisconsin's handgun restrictions.
- Advancing hunter rights and mentored hunting in Wisconsin.

JOIN US TODAY TO HELP PROTECT YOUR GUN RIGHTS. www.wisconsinforce.org

WISCONSIN FIREARM OWNERS ASSOCIATION

MEMBER TYPE:

Individual:

___ Annual \$20

___ Life \$250

___ Junior Membership FREE (under 18)

Club or Business:

___ Regular Annual \$30

___ Patriot Annual \$250

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ DOB: ____/____/____

Payment: ___ Check ___ Paypal (Online Only) _____

Mail To: Wisconsin Firearm Owners
PO Box 130
Seymour, WI 54165

I certify that I am not now, and never have been, a member of any organization which has in any part of its program, the attempt to overthrow the government of the United States by force or violence, and that I have never been convicted of a felony, crime of violence, or misdemeanor domestic violence, and I am not otherwise prohibited from owning firearms. If admitted to membership in Wisconsin Firearm Owners, Ranges, Clubs & Educators Inc. I will fulfill the obligations of good sportsmanship, and I will uphold the Constitution of the United States of America and the Second Amendment thereto.

Signature _____ Date ____/____/____ Donations to Wisconsin
FORCE are not refundable or transferable and are not tax deductible as charitable contributions for tax purposes.





Wisconsin Firearm Owners (WFO)

Mission

To promote and support the purpose and objectives of the National Rifle Association, while protecting and defending the Constitutions of the United States and the State of Wisconsin.

Securing Our Rights

The assaults on the rights of today's firearms owner have never been stronger. These attacks on our civil rights come from anti-hunting, anti-gun, and anti-civil rights organizations. We must stand together to preserve the rights guaranteed to all free citizens under the Second Amendment, the U.S. Constitution, and the Wisconsin Right to Keep and Bear Arms. WFO has a constant presence in Madison helping to ensure your voice is heard. Whether it is the right to self-defense, micro stamping or hunting regulations, we are involved. Combine your voice with that of thousands like you in Wisconsin; our united voice cannot be ignored.

Club and Range Support

We are the experts in the State advising the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, clubs, and businesses in upgrading, improving, and the design of ranges.

Competitions

Matches and events are listed on our calendar. Match Directors can also utilize our on-line registration. NRA discipline championships are authorized and promoted by WFO. **Please join us today!**

Wisconsin State Mid-Range Championship



On July 11th and 12th the Wisconsin State Mid-Range Championship at Racine County Line Rifle Club. We only had one junior compete, but he finished very well. Thomas "Shooter" M. put down the service rifle for the weekend and picked up his palma rifle. The winds were pretty switchy on Saturday. Thomas would finish the day 3 points behind first place with a 790-32x. On Sunday morning the winds were stronger but a lot less switchy. Shooter shot a 793-42x, including a nice 200-12x to finish the weekend with a 1583-74. Just 1 point ahead of second place making him the 2020 Mid-Range State Champion. Congrats Thomas!

Our next match will be the Wisconsin State Service Rifle Championship at the end of the month. Wish us luck to our juniors!



Wisconsin State Service Rifle Championship



Elite 5 Winner Left to Right: Spencer McGowan, Thomas McGowan, Liam McKenna, James Lee and JR Treharne

Because of Covid-19 the National Match at Camp Perry was cancelled. High Power match director James Melville decided to host a mini Camp Perry for three days. The weekend started off on Friday July 24th with the inaugural Wisconsin "Elite 5". This is a 30 shot presidents 100 style match with the top five competitors firing in a shoot off to see who takes the top spot. There were two juniors that made the shoot off. James Lee shot a 291-9x including a 98-3x standing and Thomas McGowan was in the lead going into the shoot off with a 295-12x. Thomas would retain his lead to take the win on Friday.

Saturday July 25th was a big day. Eau Claire National Rifle Club was hosting the Wisconsin State Service Rifle Championship along with the CMP Home Range Series /White Oak 1600.



To fill the void of the unfortunate withdrawal of the 2020 National Matches from the annual schedule, the Civilian Marksmanship Program (CMP) have prepared a solution that will allow all of our competitors to compete with one another during the summer months, from the comfort of their local ranges. White Oak Armament is a sponsor of the Home Range Series and donated \$1200 to our match in prizes.



Wisconsin State Service Rifle Champion:
Thomas McGowan

Saturday July 25th was the Wisconsin state championship and the start of the Home Range Series. Thomas "Shooter" M. led the way with his winning score of 792-34x making him the 2020 Wisconsin State Service Rifle Champion. Congratulations to Thomas!

There were a few other good scores shot by other throughout the day. David Holub had a nice 199-11 in rapid sitting, Andrew B. had a 199-7 in rapid prone, and Sam C. and James L. both shot 196's at 600.

On Sunday July 26th was the 4-person 80 shot team match and the second match of the Home Range Series/White Oak 1600. The day started out wet with a couple hours of rain to get things started. With our two Shot Marker (Electronic Target System) and The Wisconsin CMP Junior's four Shot Markers, ECNRC held its first fully electronic target match. Things went well with some problems in the rapid-fire stages. Everyone handled the imperfect conditions well with a few personal bests shot.

The All Guard Team finished on top and “Big Cheese and the Curds” took 2nd place. Thomas M. again led the way his personal best and top score of the day with a 797-41x, including a nice 200-16x in sitting.

The CMP Home Range Series also makes you eligible for a trip to CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park. These matches are held all over the United State with the top six finishers earning a trip to CMP Talladega Marksmanship Park paid for by White Oak Armament. Every year at Camp Perry they do a similar match with Thomas McGowan earning a trip last year. It looks like he will be going again this year.



Congratulations to Thomas M. on his repeat winning of the Service Rifle Championship and to all the other competitors who shot well too.

The Wisconsin Firearm Owners sends a big Thanks to the Eau Claire National Rifle Club for hosting the match and to White Oak Armament for sponsoring the “Home Range Appreciation Series”!



Remington Arms declares bankruptcy despite surging gun demand

Civil unrest, worries about personal safety have driven firearm sales to record highs

By Andrew Scurria The Wall Street Journal

Firearms maker Remington Arms Co. filed for **bankruptcy** protection for the second time since 2018, weighed down by more debt than it can repay even as fearful Americans **buy** more guns than ever.

Remington, which supplies weapons for hunting, shooting sports, law enforcement and the military, sought chapter 11 protection and will try to sell its business at a time when civil unrest and worries about personal safety have driven firearm sales to record highs.

The chapter 11 petition in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Decatur, Ala., marks Remington's second restructuring since 2018, when it filed for chapter 11 and transferred ownership to investors including Franklin Resources Inc. and JPMorgan Chase & Co.

Remington has been searching for potential buyers and was in talks to sell itself out of bankruptcy to the Navajo Nation before negotiations collapsed in recent weeks, leaving the company without a lead bidder, or stalking horse, in place.

The manufacturer's firearms and ammunition businesses could be sold off separately, according to a person familiar with the matter.



In this March 1, 2018 file photo, the Remington name is seen etched on a model 870 shotgun at Duke's Sport Shop in New Castle, Pa. (AP Photo/Keith Srakocic, File)

GUN SALES SOAR 145% IN JUNE AMID PROTESTS, CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Despite shedding roughly \$775 million in debt in 2018, the company has struggled with high interest costs and has faced litigation related to the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, in which the killer used a Bushmaster rifle manufactured by Remington.

Meanwhile, gun-control activists have put pressure on investors and retailers to reconsider their ties to the firearms industry, particularly following the 2018 school shooting in Parkland, Fla.

The industry's fortunes tend to rise and fall based on the country's political climate. Under former President Obama, firearm sales grew as enthusiasts worried about potential regulations. Sales softened after President Trump took office pledging to defend gun rights.

Demand has skyrocketed again since March as measured by Federal Bureau of Investigation background checks, a proxy for sales. Background checks in June for civilians seeking licenses to carry guns were the highest since the FBI began conducting them 20 years ago.

Gun stores, which have largely stayed open during the Covid-19 pandemic, are selling to many first-time buyers worried about personal safety over the civil unrest that followed the killing of George Floyd in police custody and the ensuing movement to reduce police funding.

While many types of retail inventory have plummeted in value during the pandemic -- such as apparel, fashion accessories and footwear -- firearms are holding up relatively well, according to appraisal and liquidation experts.

But buoyant sales at the counter don't immediately flow to manufacturers like Remington, which traces its roots to 1816 and makes firearms at facilities in Ilion, N.Y., and Huntsville, Ala. Some firearms companies also face supply-chain issues that have been exacerbated by the pandemic, making it difficult to ramp up production to meet growing demand.
