



October 2021

## Wisconsin Democrats Introduce 2 Gun Control Bills

Wisconsin Democrats in Madison have introduced 2 terrible gun control bills. The "Universal Background Check" bill is so poorly drafted that lending a shotgun to a friend for Trap league would be subject to 9 months in prison. The other would create a gun confiscation scheme if a court thinks a person is a threat. Existing Wisconsin law addresses a person who is a threat with a proven due process procedure.

Wisconsin Firearm Owners is opposed to both of these anti-gun, unconstitutional bills, and we are working with legislators to stop them from advancing.

Here's a list of the anti-gun lawmakers who authored these bills:

Senators Lena Taylor, Melissa Agard, LaTonya Johnson, Jon Erpenbach, Kelda Roys, Chris Larson, Tim Carpenter, Jeff Smith

Representatives Deb Andraca, Dianne Hesselbein, Sue Conley, Francesca Hong, Jimmy Anderson, Gary Hebl, Lee Snodgrass, Samba Baldeh, Christine Sinicki, Sara Rodriguez, SONDY POPE, Jodi Emerson, Sylvia Ortiz-Velez, Greta Neubauer, Jill Billings, Jonathan Brostoff, Mark Spreitzer, Kristina Shelton, Evan Goyke, David Bowen, Tod Ohnstad, Robyn Vining, Dave Considine

Also, Attorney General Josh Kaul is a supporter of these unconstitutional bills.

<https://www.fox6now.com/.../new-wisconsin-gun-legislation...>

You can count on Wisconsin Firearm Owners government affairs team to stop these and other anti-gun bills from becoming law.

## Wisconsin Firearm Owners In Action

Wisconsin Firearm Owners was at the State Capitol September 29th to support SB 516, a bill that improves Concealed Carry reciprocity for people visiting Wisconsin. This will help snowbirds and other law-abiding people who aren't Wisconsin citizens to protect themselves when they are in our state.

# Rising Shooting Stars: Thomas McGowan



I've seen the name dozens of times, always at the top.

Thomas McGowan, 16, of Hortonville, Wisconsin, began his shooting journey especially young.

Most people formally enter competition, particularly high power service rifle, at age 12 or older. If you're younger, traditionally you need a parental waiver. Having been shooting for as long as he can remember, Thomas recalls shooting a lot of 100-yard .22 LR. By age 9 he was shooting action pistol with his father; by 11, competing in high power service rifle.

Hunting began his foray into marksmanship, aspiring to never have to shoot more than once at a deer. In pursuit of this goal, Thomas began attending a 100-yard high power rifle league at his local club. A year later, the Wisconsin Junior Rifle Team invited him to attend and compete in the National Matches, though he had never shot a full match out to 600 yards. The decision happened quickly: Thomas and his father left for Camp Perry, Ohio four short days following the invitation. Thomas' first full-course match was the 2017 President's 100, an incredibly prestigious match not typically used for practice.

Regardless, Thomas's love for the sport grew.

Today Thomas is known for his performance in high power, though he has quickly become a force to reckon with in the long range world, beating the scores of many veteran shooters. This year he was the high junior at NRA Nationals for both across the course and long range. He also claimed a spot among adults on the National Civilian Rifle Team as well as the Deneke Trophy Team (juniors). He also earned high Palma rifle in the McMaken and Speaks Memorial Match at Camp Perry, Ohio. This spring he claimed top honors at the 2021 Orange Blossom Regional Matches for across the course.

Thomas showed talent early on, earning his NRA High Master card in high power service rifle at age 13, a short two years after entering the sport. This feat takes most far longer to earn, if ever. He is also a Distinguished Rifleman, holds a CMP High Master classification and seven NRA National records.

Thomas earned top honors at the 2019 National Matches, claiming the High Junior Mountain Man aggregate and has been a member of both the National Civilian Rifle Team and Deneke Trophy Team for three years running.

He attributes much of his success to those around him. "I have had many extraordinary people help me to become the shooter I am today, teaching me everything from the very basics of sight alignment, to overcoming the mental blocks to get the last few points for a perfect score. I would never have been to the point where I am now without them."

He also notes that shooting has changed him as a person, teaching him life skills that apply on and off the firing line. "It has taught me perseverance, self-confidence and mental focus ... All of the skills I have learned from competitive shooting, I can use every day in school, work and my other daily activities." Shooting has also taught him how to set and meet goals and grow as a competitor and person.



Most top competitors in any sport have goals and work hard to meet them, following a regimented training schedule or mental process. Thomas' favorite thing about marksmanship lies with the individual — “every shot and every score is a direct result of you.” In other words, whatever score you shoot can be traced back to your mental process, training or some other area in which things went wrong, or right.

In his last few years as a junior, Thomas has set a single, large goal: To be the high junior in the President's 100 Rifle Match and National Trophy Individual Match, as well as having the highest individual junior score in the National 2-Man Junior Team Match and National Trophy Team Match, all in one year. He also wants to earn high junior in the mountain man aggregate and the top spot on the National 6-man Junior Team. Looking into the future, Thomas wants to make rifle shooting a career.

Though much of his time is spent on the range, Thomas is also heavily involved in music, playing trombone and participating in his school's music program, jazz band and pit orchestra. He's participated in several solo and ensemble festivals and has qualified and performed for the Wisconsin State Solo and Ensemble. This isn't just a pastime – Thomas is well accomplished in the music world as well, a member of the Wisconsin State High School Jazz Ensemble. This group is made up of the very best, most talented student musicians in the state. “I find,” Thomas said, “that music utilizes many of the same skills as rifle competition does, making it much easier for me to perform under various circumstances.”

Thomas holds himself to an incredibly high standard, always looking for perfection, though it wasn't always that way. He advises new competitors joining high power to attend matches. “Don't be afraid to fail, it is expected,” he said. “There is no better practice than a match.” Matches afford opportunities for real-time learning in an environment filled with knowledgeable people willing to help. “Always take the positive out of every performance and set obtainable goals for yourself to help lead you to success. And as I like to remember, the day you beat yourself, knowing that no mistakes were made and that you shot as many 10s as you had control of, you'll most likely win. Always push for that mindset, whether a beginner, or a top-level competitor.”

## **Wisconsin Firearm Owners Upcoming Events and News**

**Wisconsin Firearm Owners election will be coming up quickly and we are going to be looking for some good people that are interested in defended the Second Amendment to put on our board of directors. We will have four seats up for reelection. If you are interested, please contact James Melville via email: [james@wisconsinforce.org](mailto:james@wisconsinforce.org)**



# 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.racinecountylinerrifleclub.com/>

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

**Central Wisconsin Gun  
Collectors Association**  
<http://www.centralwisconsin-gun.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 (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!**



- Advancing hunter rights and mentored hunting in Wisconsin.
- 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.
- 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.
- **Wisconsin Firearm Owners** gives you a voice in Madison to protect your Second Amendment Rights.

JOIN US TODAY TO HELP PROTECT YOUR GUN RIGHTS. <https://www.wisconsinfirearmowners.org/>

**WISCONSIN FIREARM OWNERS**  
RANGES • CLUBS • EDUCATORS

**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.



## A Passing of a fellow competitive shooter

Michael A. "Chico" Ciecko, 60, of Spring Prairie, passed away Saturday, September 25, 2021 at Aurora Medical Center in Burlington.

Born in Roselle, Illinois on March 19, 1961, he was the son of Chester Ciecko. His early life was spent in Schaumburg, Illinois. In 1978, he moved to Wisconsin to open his first business in Burlington, selling surplus items to the general public. Later expanding his business to Kansasville in 1982 to what is now known as Chico's LLC, eventually evolving into an outdoor power equipment retailer. On August 11, 2007 in Dover, Wisconsin, he was united in marriage to Mary Edmundson. Chico and Mary have been residents of Burlington for the past 27 years.

He has proudly owned Chico's LLC for almost 40 years. Chico was also a member of Racine County Line Rifle Club, Menomonee Falls Rod and Gun Club, and was a dedicated member of the NRA. He was a competitive shooter in small bore rifles, a Packers fan, loved being outside and riding his Goldwing.

He was a go-to handyman for many in the community and enjoyed spending time with his family. Michael is survived by his wife, Mary; children, Brandi Jo (Mike) Miles, Michael (Abby) Ciecko, Kristin (Tony) Beison and Danielle (Billy) Morey; grandchildren, Leah, Madison, Syllas, Ardelle, Xander, Tyler, Jordan, Colton and Abraham; mother-in-law, Delores Edmundson; and siblings, Dr. Andrea (Dr. Victor Quiros) Edmundson, , Linda (Brad) Matter, Kelly Beringer, Dean Edmundson, Kathy (Rick) Ryczek, Leslie (Pat) Burns, Rob (Lori) Edmundson, Joanne Edmundson, Sheri (Sergio) Sandoval, Lisa (Rod)

Duvall and Debbie (Jim) Westphal. Chico is further survived by an endless number of nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends. He was preceded in death by his father, Chester, grandma Helen Murray and step-mom Carol Ciecko.

The family would like to thank the Aurora Burlington Hospital ICU doctors, nurses and staff for their care and compassion during this time.

## **DNR Board looks to remove conflicted Kaul's office in wolf hunt lawsuit**

Empower Wisconsin | Oct. 7, 2021

By M.D. Kittle

**MADISON — The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Board wants a judge to remove Attorney General Josh Kaul's conflicted agency from representing the board in a lawsuit involving the state's wolf hunt.**

The board has scheduled a video conference meeting for 8 a.m. Friday to vote on a motion seeking outside counsel.

"It appeared the only play we had. We had been getting nowhere with DOJ," board Vice Chairman Gregory Kazmierski of Pewaukee, tells Empower Wisconsin.

Kaul is appealing his failed lawsuit attempting to remove Chairman Fred Prehn from a conservative-led DNR board that has infuriated Gov. Tony Evers and environmentalists even as the attorney general's assistants claim to represent the board against environment groups suing to stop Wisconsin's wolf hunt.

"Apparently he's in the active process of an appeal to get our chair removed while supposedly defending us. Talk about a conflict, said Kazmierski, who, like Prehn, was appointed to the board by former Gov. Scott Walker, a Republican.

Kazmierski said it's just the latest example of a liberal-led executive branch that is openly defying the laws of the state.

"It's total lawlessness," Kazmierski said.

"To me it's kind of a precedent-setting case. That's why as a board we're fighting so hard. If this precedent gets set, this agency can do anything they want, any time they want, Katy bar the door," he said.

A Dane County judge last month rejected Kaul's lawsuit to remove Prehn, who has remained on the board months after his term ended. Prehn has successfully argued he doesn't need to vacate the post until the Republican-controlled state Senate confirms his successor, nominated by Democratic Gov.

Tony Evers.

Dane County Circuit Court Judge Valerie Bailey-Rihn agreed with Prehn, citing a previous Wisconsin Supreme Court Ruling — *Thompson v. Gibson* — which found a state auditor could remain in his position until his successor was confirmed.

"Accordingly, the Court is bound by the holding of *Thompson v. Gibson* to conclude that there is no vacancy in the Board seat," Bailey-Rihn wrote in her ruling.

Despite the fact that a judge in the most liberal court system in Wisconsin found his arguments suspect, Kaul, a deeply partisan Democrat, has said he is appealing the lower court decision.

Prehn's presence keeps Evers' nominee, teacher and environmentalist Sandra Naas, off the board for now. Conservatives hold a narrow 4-3 majority.

At the same time, Kaul's office is supposed to be representing the DNR Board against a coalition of environment groups suing to stop Wisconsin's wolf hunt this fall and invalidate a state law that mandates annual hunts.

The DNR board asked Kaul to let it retain outside counsel. His office denied the request, making it all the more political in noting in its letter that Evers' office also has denied the request. The AG's office said they had an "adequate fire wall" to prevent a conflict of interest.

Kazmierski said DNR originally refused to post the notice for Friday's meeting.

"We had a quorum established on Wednesday afternoon. As of last night they had told our liaison who works for the department to not put the notice out yet .. We went to bed last night not knowing at all whether they were going to notice the meeting on a timely basis," Kazmierski said.

**Evers' DNR this week defied its board again, dramatically scaling back the number of wolves hunters are allowed to harvest in the upcoming fall season. In August, the board approved a limit of 300 wolves, 170 more than DNR biologists had recommended.**

**Kazmierski said Evers' DNR is out-of-control, and the public has no idea just how lawless the agency has become.**

**"That's what made our chair want to stay, because they violated the (wolf hunt) law originally in February, and the court said they were in violation of the statute. They've done that with a number of rules and laws," the board member said.**

