

# THE DEFENDER



A publication of  
Virginia Citizens Defense League  
*Defending Your Right To Defend Yourself*

SPECIAL ISSUE—January 2020

## LOBBY DAY 2020

### WHAT IS LOBBY DAY?

Lobby Day, traditionally held on the Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday, is a time when Virginia citizens visit their legislators to impress upon them the importance of citizen interest in issues to be debated and legislated. VCDL started visiting on this day in 2002, and many organizations followed suit. Actually, when we asked at the General Assembly Department of Legislative Services, we were told VCDL was the genesis of the tradition.

For lobbying, we will break into teams, each with a volunteer leader, and thus we can visit every legislator in the building. We present a list of the bills we are watching, and indicate whether we support or oppose the legislation, and why. Team Leaders are even now seeking to form teams from various districts; often a legislator will ask “Which of you are my constituents?”

The rally follows at the foot of the Capitol Steps.

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### ORDER OF EVENTS

**7:00-8 AM**

VCDL-sponsored buses arrive

**8 AM**

Get your stickers  
Teams form and enter the Pocahontas Building

**9 AM**

**(Committee meetings—[see schedule](#))**  
**[House committees](#)**

[Legislative Information System Bills by Number](#)

**11 AM**

Rally on the Capitol Steps

**VCDL Song and Pledge of Allegiance**  
**Speakers include**

**Dick Heller** —landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of DC v. Heller ([bio](#))

**Stephen Willeford** -- the hero of Sutherland Springs, Texas ([news report](#))

**Cam Edwards** — Bearing Arms and host of the Cam & Co Youtube channel ([bio](#))

**Jeff Katz**—Talkshow host on Richmond's radio station WRVA ([bio](#))

**Dr. Veronica Sloutzsky**, a psychiatrist in Northern Virginia

**Senator Amanda Chase**—R-11 ([website](#))

**1PM**

**Afternoon session begins in chambers**

**2PM**

**VCDL-sponsored buses leave**

## STATEMENT

Monday, January 20, is VCDL's Lobby Day. It is not VCDL's Protest Day.

There is a distinct difference between the two.

Lobby Day is about, well, lobbying - sending a message to the General Assembly and to the Governor, Attorney General, and the Lt. Governor. That message is simple: no more gun control that in any way, shape, or form negatively affects law-abiding gun owners. Bills that go after criminals or bills that are beneficial to gun owners are fine.

While there have been some verbal threats by the Democrat leadership to push major gun control down the throats of Virginia's gun owners and some very bad bills already filed to back up that threat, NOTHING has happened yet and won't until after January 8. And perhaps it won't happen at all, if we press hard enough.

The sanctuary movement, with its absolutely massive turnouts of gun owners, is sending a deafening message to lawmakers ahead of Lobby Day. On top of that, we now believe the size of the crowd on Lobby Day could be absolutely incredible, possibly historic, if gun owners from around the state follow through and attend as we believe they will. You will absolutely want to be a part of this!

### Militias

Various militia groups from Virginia and nearby states have graciously volunteered to provide security. With a large Capitol, Richmond, and State police presence, not to mention enough citizens armed with handguns to take over a modern mid-sized country, we have the security base covered nicely. That said, we welcome our militia brothers and sisters to be part of making the day a success! Some militia groups are looking to take canned food donations during Lobby Day and deliver them to a Richmond Food Bank.

### Long Guns

If you are asking how you can help with VCDL's mission, carrying long guns at Lobby Day is not helpful - it is a distraction. VCDL's important messages inevitably get lost as the press rushes to get pictures of anyone carrying an AR or AK. The stories then become about the rifle, not VCDL's agenda. You can set your watch by it. Long guns are not easy to carry in a crowd, either. VCDL needs its voice heard loud and clear in order to be able to stop the onslaught of gun-control bills.

### Laws you need to know for carry in Richmond

You can't have a magazine in a centerfire rifle or pistol that holds more than 20 rounds unless you have a Concealed Handgun Permit (CHP). You must also have a CHP if the centerfire rifle or pistol has a threaded barrel or a folding stock. [Click here](#) to see the code section, which also covers similar restrictions on shotguns: 18.2-287.4

Open carry without a CHP is legal in Virginia, but watch the restrictions in the previous paragraph.

Despite your background check and concealed handgun permit, you will not be permitted to carry a firearm inside the same spaces where your legislators work. This includes all legislative buildings on Capitol Square - the Pocahontas Building and the Capitol Building itself. As we understand it, carry will not be permitted in the building, and security will stop anyone attempting to enter while armed except a legislator. Keep an eye on the VA-ALERTs. Should any of this change, we will notify you there.

VCDL Lobby Day is a peaceful event about gun rights and NOTHING ELSE.

*(Continued on page 3)*

We are NOT there to have arguments with the other side. They lobby, we lobby, and never the two shall meet. Just ignore them.

And we are not there to push any other agenda. Our total focus is on protecting our right to keep and bear arms. Period. This is not about flags, statues, history, etc. Just guns.

If you somehow find yourself being harassed by the other side, don't engage them. They could well be baiting you and recording what you do for propaganda purposes. If necessary, go find a police officer and let them take care of the person causing the disturbance. Otherwise, just ignore them and go about your business.

VCDL has a great relationship with the Capitol Police, the Richmond Police, the Virginia State Police, and most other law enforcement agencies in the Commonwealth. We welcome their presence and are glad they are there to keep everything peaceful, while we work on the job at hand.

This should be a great event, with freedom-loving Americans from all walks of life standing shoulder-to-shoulder to protect our most precious civil right - the right of self-defense. See you there!

**Virginia Citizens Defense League  
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Please feel free to contact any of the Officers or Directors should you have any questions or if you would like to volunteer your services in VCDL.

## VCDL FIREARM SAFETY POLICY

1. Safety mishaps, particularly with firearms, expose the organization to liability issues and could significantly damage VCDL's credibility as a gun rights organization. At all events, the rules and requirements of the sponsor/promoter shall be strictly observed.

2. As a minimum, for all non-range VCDL activities or functions, the following standards shall apply:

### A. Loaded Firearms

Whenever the sponsor/promoter permits loaded firearms, or at all VCDL-sponsored meetings, events, or gatherings, loaded firearms shall NOT be handled; they will remain holstered or otherwise secured at all times.

### B. Unloaded Firearms

1. If loaded firearms are not permitted by the event sponsor/promoter (e.g., gun shows), clear your firearm before coming into the event, and keep your loaded magazine or cartridges elsewhere about your person unless this contradicts the promoter's rules. Shift partners and/or coordinator will verify that each other's firearms are cleared at the start of each shift or event.

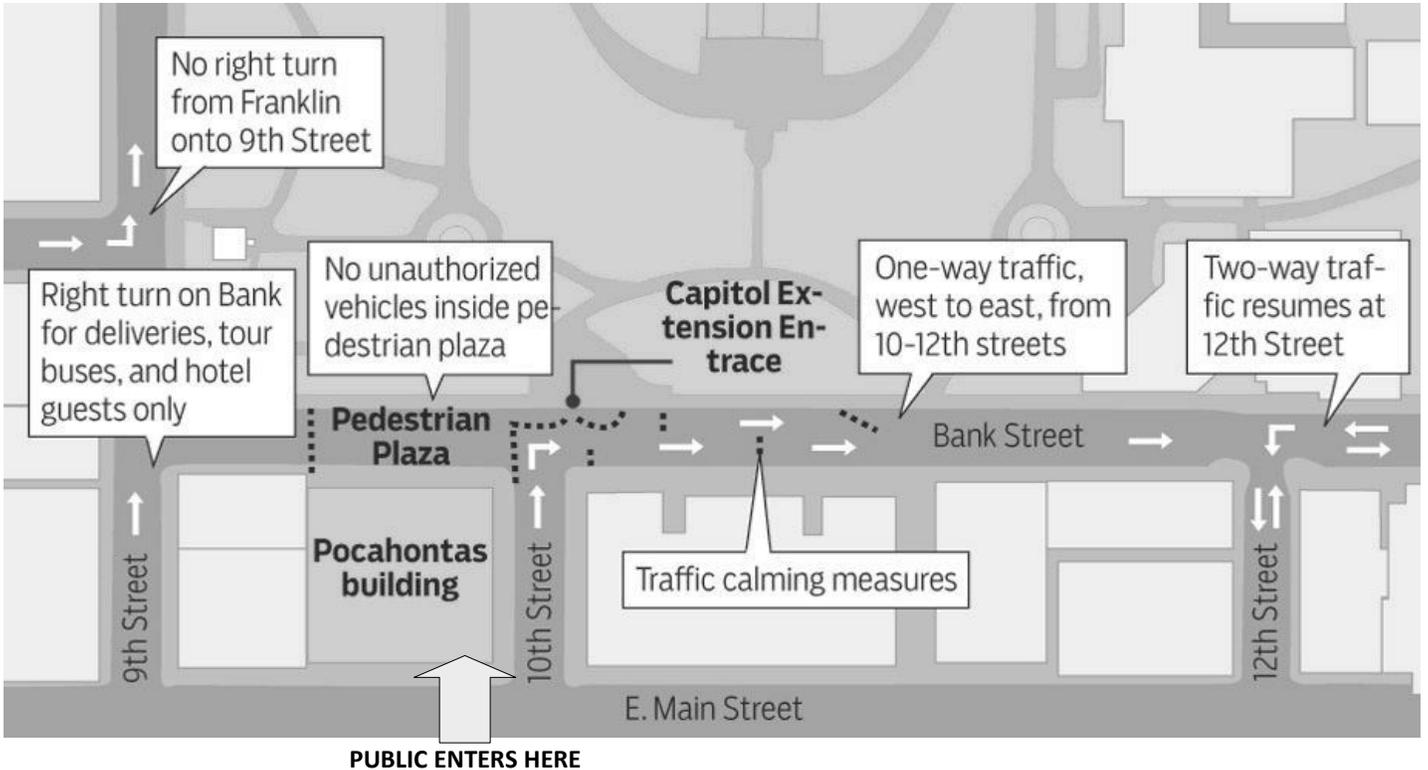
2. When handling or passing an unloaded firearm to another person, the firearm will always be kept pointed in a safe direction, cleared and visibly checked and confirmed unloaded by at least two persons. Cylinders or actions will be in the open position as the firearm is passed to another person.

3. Triggers will not be touched unless standard safety precautions (above) have been met to execute a safe dry fire.

3. During range activities the policies and rules of the range master or senior instructor shall be strictly observed.

4. Responsibilities: All members/attendees share the responsibility to support, adhere to, and assist with the implementation of these procedures and standards, to make corrections and report violations to any VCDL coordinator, executive member, officer, or director in attendance.

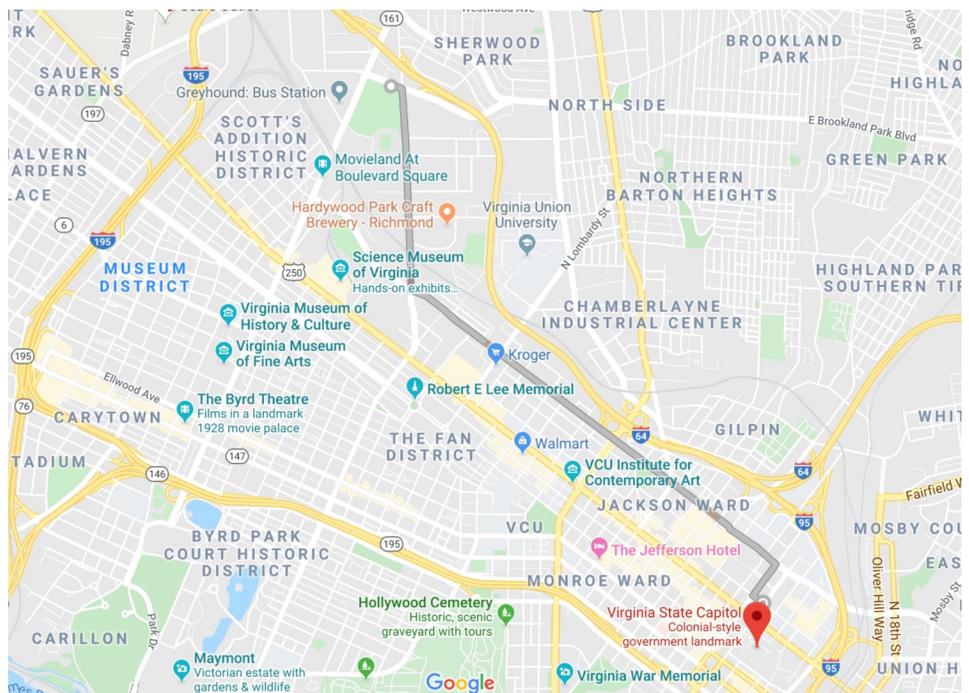
**IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF CAPITOL SQUARE AND POCAHONTAS BUILDING**  
**Additional Street Closures WILL Be In Effect**



**PARKING**

Satellite parking is available at The Diamond, 3001 N. Arthur Ashe Blvd. VCDL-provided shuttle buses will run from 7 AM to 3 PM between The Diamond and Capitol Square. Most parking immediately around Capitol Square will be reserved for coach buses, and intermittent street closures will be used for pedestrian safety. Shuttle bus and parking are free. If you want to make a donation to help cover the cost, do so at [vcdl.org/Donate](http://vcdl.org/Donate) and annotate the purpose.

Another option is to park on the outskirts of town and take a city bus in. The GRTC Transit System buses operate into the downtown area from several locations. See [their information pages here](#) to plan parking and routes. Pay attention to schedules; these routes operate with varying frequency throughout the day. Ride-sharing services and taxis are an option, but beware of the announced [road closures](#).



## DINING OPTIONS

The Meriwether at the Capitol Café is located on the 3rd floor of the Sun Trust Building.

There are dozens of restaurant options within a 10-block radius of the Capitol. We recommend an internet search to locate those that interest you. A partial list of fast food chain restaurants includes

Subway  
Quiznos  
Potbelly  
Panera  
Wendy's  
Chick-fil-A

Some of the downtown hotels have restaurants. There are also a number of independently run restaurants specializing in such meals as pizza, tacos, sandwiches, and soul food.

We have notified over **30 food truck vendors** of the events of the day. We fully expect some or most of those food trucks will be available nearby. Still, given the crowds expected, plan accordingly.

## BUSES

Buses are being chartered from widely scattered points in Virginia, and by other individuals in other states.

Buses we know of are listed at [VCDL.org](http://VCDL.org).

VCDL-chartered buses will bring hundreds. The Eventbrite ticketing system is tracking riders. Riders will need to present an Eventbrite-issued ticket, either paper or on an electronic device. Riding without a ticket is at the bus captain's discretion. If you plan to ride the bus, ensure you read the [VCDL Firearm Safety Policy](#) and the [Carry Restrictions](#) dictated by the Rules Committee. All firearms carried on the buses must be holstered or cased.

## IF YOU ARE NOT GOING INSIDE THE POCAHONTAS BUILDING TO LOBBY

Arrive at will before 11 AM.

Talk to people. Show friendliness.

Wander past the Governor's Mansion at the [southeast corner of Capitol Square](#), or the legislative chambers. Show your involvement. Signs (as long as they are not on sticks, which are dangerous ....) can help share the message. Short, pithy sayings communicate best. Some we expect to see include

GUNS SAVE LIVES

NONSENSE IS NOT COMMON SENSE

GUN RIGHTS ARE WOMEN'S RIGHTS

WE WILL NOT COMPLY

There will be press. Talk to them—identify yourself and your concerns. Be POLITE and PROFESSIONAL. Remember, the only person who can speak for VCDL is Philip Van Cleave.

There will be anti-gun representatives. Talk to them, if you like. Be POLITE and PROFESSIONAL. Some will want to provoke you; they want a reaction. Please don't give in to them. Walk away. Call the Capitol Police and press charges if appropriate. We've found the Capitol Police to be exceptionally professional toward our group in the past.

Pick up trash if you see it, and deposit it in an appropriate receptacle.

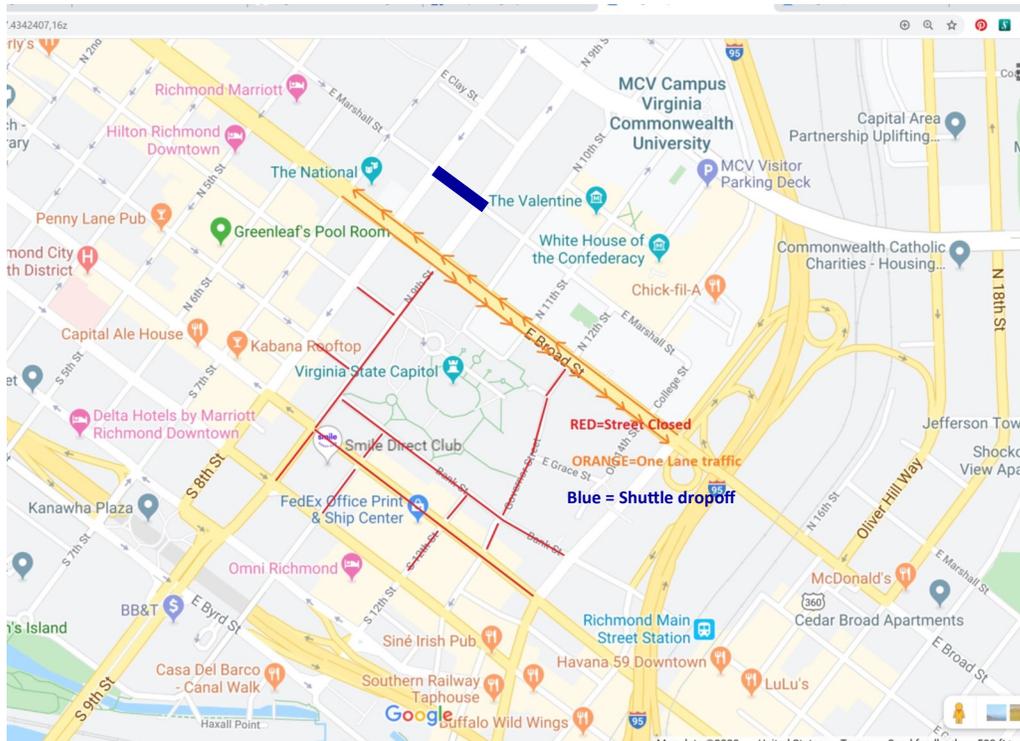
This is a Virginia effort. Display of the Flag of Virginia, with its SIC SEMPER TYRANNIS (Thus Always to Tyrants) motto, is always appropriate.

Fan out throughout the downtown Richmond area. It is a holiday; many businesses will not have their normal weekday custom. Supporting them sends a message of support for the community.

Stay tuned and subscribed to VA-ALERT for updates not possible in a printed product.

## KNOWN STREET CLOSURES

Broad Street will be restricted to one lane in each direction from 14th Street to 7th Street, and will be closed from time to time for pedestrian traffic. 9th Street will be closed to vehicle traffic from Main Street to Broad Street. Main Street will be closed from 14th Street to 9th street. Franklin and Grace Streets will be closed between 8th and 9th. Bank Street will be closed as well. These street closures are in effect from approximately 7AM to approximately 4 PM



## CARRY RESTRICTIONS

On January 10, the Rules Committee decreed that no firearms may be carried in Capitol buildings or the Pocahontas building. This map shading shows affected areas. The streets outside the shaded areas are not “the capitol”. In red are new restrictions. In yellow are Executive department buildings already affected by EO50.

As we understand it, carry will not be permitted in the building, and security will stop anyone except a legislator attempting to enter while armed.

