

Military, Law, and more ...

NRA files lawsuit challenging Colorado’s excise tax on firearm and ammunition sales

FAIRFAX, VA - The National Rifle Association of America (NRA), together with the Firearms Policy Coalition, Second Amendment Foundation, Colorado State Shooting Association, Magnum Shooting Center, and an NRA member, filed a lawsuit challenging Colorado’s 6.5% excise tax on the retail sale of firearms, firearm precursor parts, and ammunition.

Colorado’s tax is set to take effect on April 1, 2025. The tax is levied on vendors, but the amount is passed through to law-abiding Coloradans every time they purchase such constitutionally protected items. The law also imposes burdensome registration and recordkeeping requirements on vendors and subjects them to harsh punishments for violations.



“Colorado’s firearms excise tax is an overt assault on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Coloradans and a deliberate attempt to discourage the exercise of constitutionally protected freedoms,” said John Commerford, Executive Director of the NRA Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA). “Recently, anti-gun activists in Colorado have been adopting California’s radical gun control agenda to systematically erode gun rights in the state. We are pleased to join with other Second Amendment advocates in this lawsuit to protect and defend the fundamental right to keep and bear arms.”

The United States Supreme Court recognized long ago that a right to tax is essentially a power to destroy. Thus, the Court has repeatedly held that the exercise of a constitutional right cannot be singled out for special taxation. But Colorado’s law does precisely that, penalizing Coloradans for exercising their constitutional right to keep and bear arms through an infringement-by-taxation scheme.

“Colorado’s firearms excise tax is an overt assault on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Coloradans and a deliberate attempt to discourage the exercise of constitutionally protected freedoms,” said John Commerford, Executive Director of the NRA Institute for Legislative Action (NRA-ILA).

The complaint argues that the tax violates the Second Amendment. The NRA seeks a declaratory judgment stating that the tax is unconstitutional and a permanent injunction forbidding its enforcement. The case, *Langston v. Humphreys*, was filed in the Denver County District Court.

Blackburn statement on new interim U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee

NASHVILLE, Tenn. March 28, 2025 – U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) released the following statement after President Trump named Joseph Murphy as the interim U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee:

“I am so pleased that we will have new leadership at the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Tennessee. Over the last few years, Shelby County has endured an unacceptable surge in violent crime, and Memphis is now ranked the most dangerous city in America. While crime has continued to skyrocket in the Western District, indictments brought by the U.S. Attorney’s Office are at the lowest

level they have been at in years. That’s precisely why we need a U.S. Attorney who will return to increased caseloads, aggressively enforce our federal criminal laws, and keep violent offenders behind bars so that Memphians can feel safe again. I have worked with President Trump to ensure that Memphis’ chief federal prosecutor is competent, tough-on-crime, and pro-law enforcement. Joe Murphy is a skilled federal prosecutor who has dedicated decades of his career to serving the U.S. Attorney’s Office in Memphis. As Interim U.S. Attorney, Mr. Murphy will crack down on violent crime, keep dangerous offenders off our streets, and fulfill President Trump’s promise to Make America Safe Again.”

Battlefields saved through the Civil War sites preservation grant funds awarded

NASHVILLE – The Tennessee Wars Commission, the Tennessee Historical Commission division responsible for preserving the state’s significant military history, has announced the Civil War Sites Preservation Fund (CWSPF) grant recipients for Fiscal Year 2025. This fund, which was established in 2013, is provided by legislation to the Tennessee Historical Commission, who approves and awards CWSPF grants. The Tennessee Wars Commission administers the application and grant processes. With this round of grants the Civil War Sites Preservation Fund has now allocated \$20,312,188.32 in matching funds for the acquisition and preservation of over 1,100 acres associated with the 38 most significant Civil War sites in Tennessee.

Grants can also assist in funding the acquisition and protection of Underground Railroad sites eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, or eligible for designation as a National Historic Landmark. “In addition to saving irreplaceable historic places, this valuable program has helped create parks and preserve open space and wildlife habitat, including in urban areas where there is significant development pressure,” said Tennessee Historical Commission Director Patrick McIntyre. Grant funds totaling \$1,935,250.00 were awarded to six applicants during the 2025 fiscal year, saving approximately 81.4 acres of battlefield lands:

- American Battlefield Trust, receives an additional \$125,250.00

- for the acquisition of the +/- 30.7-acre Charton Tract at the **Wauhatchie Battlefield** (Hamilton County) for a total of \$469,500.00.
- American Battlefield Trust, receives \$22,500.00 for the acquisition of the +/- 0.46-acre Essary Tract at the **Chattanooga Battlefield**, (Hamilton County)
- Franklin’s Charge, Inc., receives \$1,000,000.00 for the acquisition of the +/- 13.89-acre Hillhaven Tract on Ropers Knob at the **Franklin Battlefield** (Williamson County)
- American Battlefield Trust, receives \$187,500.00 for the acquisition of the +/- 23.75-acre Johnson Tract at the **Shiloh Battlefield** (Hardin County)
- Battle of Nashville Trust, Inc., receives \$505,000.00 for the ac-

- quisition of the +/- 1.03-acre Shy’s Hill Tract at the **Nashville Battlefield** (Davidson County)
- Battle of Franklin’s Charge, Inc., receives \$95,000.00 for the acquisition of the +/- 11.57-acre Smith/McKee Tract at the **Spring Hill Battlefield** (Maury County)

Applications for next year’s grant cycle will run from August 11, 2025 to October 31, 2025.

For questions regarding the grant process or application procedure, contact Nina Scall, Program Director of the Tennessee Wars Commission via email at Nina.Scall@tn.gov. More information is available on the Tennessee Historical Commission website.

Diego Lourenco wins individual competition of the Memphis Intercollegiate: Spirited by Old Dominick

MEMPHIS, Tenn. April 1, 2025 – The University of Memphis men’s golf team had a lot to celebrate Tuesday afternoon as Diego Lourenco won the individual competition while the team brought home second place in the Memphis Intercollegiate: Spirited by Old Dominick.

The win is the second for Lourenco in his tenure with the Tigers. After finishing day one at one over par, Lourenco shot a 73 in the final round to edge past Tennessee’s Christian Pardue.

Xiyang Wang (+3), Christian Morneau (+9) and Cian O’Connor (+9) all finished in the top 20 with Wang taking a share of fifth place after hitting 72. Playing as individuals, Jackson McCommon (+14) and Kittada Kosalutta (+15) collected top 30

finishes while Ty Werynski and Kaiser Godinez finished at +16 and +24, respectively.

Memphis will be back in action on Monday, April 14 when they travel south for the Mossy Oak Collegiate hosted by Mississippi State.

Grizzlies name Tuomas Iisalo interim coach

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 28, 2025 – The Memphis Grizzlies announced the team has named Tuomas Iisalo (two-mas EE-zaw-low) interim head

coach for the remainder of the 2024-25 season. Iisalo joined the Grizzlies as lead assistant coach prior to the start of the 2024-25 season following

serving as a head coach in Europe with Paris Basketball (2023-24), Telekom Baskets Bonn (2021-23) and Crailsheim Merlins (2016-21).

SAF announces Blackout Coffee joins as corporate partner at the Silver level

The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) announced that Blackout Coffee has joined as a corporate partner at the Silver level.

“At Blackout Coffee, we believe in the fundamental right to bear arms and defend our freedoms,” said Blackout Coffee CEO and Founder John Santos. “That’s why we proudly support the Second Amendment Foundation, an organization that relentlessly fights to protect and restore our constitutional rights. Just like a strong cup of coffee fuels the day, safeguarding the Second Amendment fuels the American spirit.”

Blackout Coffee has been a longstanding advocate of SAF’s mission to defend, secure and restore our Second Amendment freedoms. More than a year ago, Blackout created a special SAF roast and continues to donate a portion of proceeds from each bag sold to benefit the organization’s legal efforts.

“Blackout’s support of SAF, and our Second Amendment freedoms as a whole, is evident through their generous contributions and unwavering advocacy,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “From creating the special SAF roast to sponsoring our annual Gun Rights Policy Conference, and now as a Silver-level corporate partner, Blackout Coffee has been a steadfast supporter of the

“We don’t just make coffee – we make a statement,” said Blackout Coffee co-owner and Guns & Gadgets CEO Jared Yanis. “Whether it’s supporting the Second Amendment, backing our troops and law enforcement, or calling out corporate hypocrisy, we believe in standing up for what’s right. That’s why we proudly support the Second Amendment Foundation. Together, we’re not just brewing coffee – we’re fueling the fight for freedom.”

Second Amendment Foundation. We are grateful they continue to remain at the forefront of helping fight for the Constitutional freedoms we all hold dear.”

Blackout Coffee is unabashedly patriotic, proudly roasting premium coffee for hardworking Americans who love God, country, and freedom. Founded in 2018 out of a garage, and now operating from a 65,000-square-foot facility, Blackout has grown from humble beginnings into a national brand by staying true to their values: bold flavor, fierce

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