



EDITORIAL

The Gun Lobby's Loss

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The gun lobby has long intimidated politicians with its war chest and its trumpeted ability to deliver single-issue voters, especially in tight races. After this year's election, those politicians should be far less afraid and far more willing to vote for sensible gun-control laws.

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unrelated to raising a militia. But Mr. Obama did not abandon his support for reasonable gun-control laws. "Don't tell me we can't uphold the Second Amendment while keeping AK-47s out of the hands of criminals," he declared at the Democratic convention.

In Congressional races, the N.R.A. endorsed candidates in 20 of the 25 races where Democrats picked up seats from Republicans. We will not miss Florida's Tom Feeney and Ric Keller, Idaho's Bill Sali, Michigan's Joe Knollenberg, Ohio's Steve Chabot, Colorado's Marilyn Musgrave and Pennsylvania's Phil English — willing champions of an extreme agenda.

On the Senate side, the N.R.A. spent considerable sums to help Senator Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina and Bob Schaffer, the Republican Senate candidate in Colorado. Both were defeated.

And the N.R.A.'s poor showing was not just a single isolated event. A useful election analysis prepared by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence shows that its 2006 campaign effort also was a big flop.

We hope the trend continues. To fight crime and keep Americans safe, this country needs sound gun-control laws. To pass those laws as president, Mr. Obama will need strong Congressional support.

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