

# [***Kyle Rittenhouse Launches Foundation Aimed At Fighting Gun Control***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:68YM-3K41-JBCM-F4BB-00000-00&context=1516831)

Forbes.com

August 16, 2023 Wednesday

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**Length:** 660 words

**Byline:** William Skipworth, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** The new foundation suggests Kyle Rittenhouse is ramping up his political activity.

**Body**

**Topline**

Kyle Rittenhouse has launched an anti-gun control nonprofit in Texas, according to a filing with the Texas Secretary of State s office, which was first reported on bythe Texas Tribune a sign the young man who became a conservative star after being acquitted of killing two Black Lives Matter protesters in 2020, is ramping up his political activity in Texas.

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Kyle Rittenhouse speaks at a panel discussion at the Turning Point USA America Fest 2021 event in Phoenix. The panel discussion, called "Kenosha On Camera," came a month after Rittenhouse's acquittal on charges in the deadly Kenosha shootings in 2020. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

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**Key Facts**

Rittenhouse filed with the Secretary of State on July 23 to create the Rittenhouse Foundation, a nonprofit based in Fort Worth, Texas, which aims to protect an individual s inalienable right to bear arms through education and legal assistance, according to the filing.

Rittenhouse is listed as a director alongside Chris McNutt, president of the gun advocacy group Texas Gun Rights and Shelby Griesinger, treasurer of the Defend Texas Liberty PAC, which has financed the campaigns of right-wing candidates across the state.

The foundation s registered agent is the law firm of Tony McDonald, a long-time legal representative of conservative organizations in Texas, including Empower Texans, a now-defunct Tea Party-aligned group that was active from 2006 to 2020 and was described by in 2013as one of the most influential advocacy groups in Austin.

Defend Texas Liberty and Empower Texans have been given tens of millions of dollars by Tim Dunn, Farris Wilks and Dan Wilks, conservative mega donors who ve spent decades using their oil wealth to promote their ultraconservative causes, according to theTribune.

**Forbes** has attempted to contact Rittenhouse and his foundation via the foundation s attorney.

**Key Background**

Rittenhouse first became a household name in August 2020 when he shot three Black Lives Matter protesters, two fatally, during the aftermath of the death of George Floyd. Rittenhouse, who was 17 years old at the time, attended a racial justice protest in Kenosha, Wisconsin, armed with an AR-15-style rifle with the stated goal of protecting private businesses from protesters. After being chased into a parking lot, Rittenhouse fatally shot a man who had grabbed the barrel of his rifle. He then fatally shot another man who struck him with a skateboard, and shot and wounded a third person who subsequently pointed a handgun at him. The incident was widely condemned by liberals, but many conservatives came to his defense. U.S. Reps. Matt Gaetz (R-Florida) and Paul Gosar (R-Arizona)both offeredthe then-teenager internships, and then-President Donald Trumphosted himat his Mar-a-Lago estate. In a closely-watched criminal trial in November 2021, a jury acquitted Rittenhouse of murder charges and ruled that his actions were done in self-defense. After the trial, Rittenhouse moved to Texas.

**Tangent**

Since moving to Texas, Rittenhouse has become active in conservative ***politics***. He has endorsed right-wing Republican political candidates including Andy Hopper, who attempted to unseat Lynn Stucky for her Denton-based seat in the state House of Representatives, and Brandon Herrera, YouTube star known for supporting gun rights, running against U.S. Rep. Tony Gonzales (R-San Antonio). He also worked with Texas Gun Rights in May to oppose a House bill that unsuccessfully tried to raise the minimum age to purchase semi-automatic rifles from 18 to 21. On social media, he railed against the Texas House impeachment of state Attorney General Ken Paxton and posted messages in support of gun rights.

**Further Reading**

Kyle Rittenhouse launches nonprofit with far-right Texans as he ramps up political engagement in the state(Texas Tribune)

Kyle Rittenhouse Found Not Guilty On All Counts(Forbes)

**Load-Date:** August 18, 2023

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