

ABOUT COMMON-SENSE GUN SAFETY...

"This isn't about taking away anyone's rights. It's about protecting children [and] families. It's about protecting our freedoms to go to school, to a grocery store, and to a church without being shot and killed." - President Joe Biden

ABOUT GUN VIOLENCE:

- **656 mass shootings** last year
- Over **110,000 gun deaths** in the last five years alone
- Gun deaths among **kids and teens rose 50%** from 2019-2021
- **Leading cause of death** among ages 0-19: gun injury (as of 2019)
- **US school shootings: 57 times** the number of shootings in all other major industrialized nations *combined*
- More Americans have **died from gunshots in the last 50 years than in all of the wars** in American history. Since 1968, more than 1.5 million Americans have died in gun-related incidents. By comparison, approximately 1.2 million service members have been killed in every war in U.S. history.

UNDER BIDEN

- In March 2023, President Biden signed an Executive Order to **increase the number of background checks** conducted before firearm sales. The Executive Order keeps more guns out of dangerous hands by **increasing the effective use of "Red Flag" laws**, strengthening efforts to hold the gun industry accountable, and accelerating law enforcement efforts to identify and apprehend the shooters menacing our communities. Biden also asked the Federal Trade Commission to issue a **public report analyzing how gun manufacturers market firearms to minors**.
- In January 2024, Biden signed new executive actions to help **promote safe storage of firearms**.
- In June 2022, Biden signed into law the first **major federal gun safety legislation** passed in decades, the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act*. It included \$750 million to help states implement and run crisis intervention programs. The money can be used to implement and manage red flag programs. The bill also closed a domestic violence loophole.

IF BIDEN IS REELECTED

Democrats believe in the following measures for common-sense gun safety:

- **Ban Assault Weapons, their Ammunition, and Bump Stocks**: Assault weapons are exceptionally deadly firearms commonplace in mass fatality shootings. Bump stocks are common after-market items that turn a normal rifle into a semi-automatic one. Automatic and semi-automatic weapons are generally capable of firing far more bullets, far faster than manual-action hunting rifles. Prohibiting assault weapons can prevent mass shooting injuries and deaths.

**PROTECT
OUR CHILDREN**



SENSIBLE GUN REFORM SAVES LIVES

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- **Raise the Age to Purchase a Gun to 21:** People under the age of 21 have used semi-automatic rifles to commit mass shootings. Several of these shooters targeted students. History paints a very clear picture. Young people between 18 and 20 are using semi-automatic rifles to engage in tragic acts of violence.
- **Enact Red Flag Laws:** When a person is in crisis and considering harming themselves or others, family members and law enforcement are often the first people to see the warning signs. “Red Flag” laws allow loved ones or law enforcement to intervene by petitioning a court for an order to temporarily prevent someone in crisis from accessing guns.
- **Prohibit Open Carry:** Carrying firearms visibly in public, known as open carry, is a dangerous policy. It is exploited by white supremacists and opposed by law enforcement and the public. Members of hate groups regularly openly carry guns in a show of intimidation. Research shows that the presence of a visible gun makes people more aggressive. Allowing guns to be carried openly in public also makes it very difficult to distinguish between the “good guys” and the “bad guys” during an active shooter incident. States should prohibit guns from being carried openly in public.
- **Stop Arming Teachers:** To prevent tragedies, we must implement strong school safety solutions, but arming teachers is not one of them. School shootings are chaotic and during these moments, we cannot ask teachers to stop a shooter. Having guns in the classroom increases the likelihood that a student will access a gun and that someone will be shot even in the absence of an active shooter incident.

UNDER REPUBLICANS

After every mass shooting, Republicans offer “thoughts and prayers” but zero concrete action to improve gun safety.

- The Federal *Assault Weapons Ban* enacted in 1994 under President Bill Clinton expired in 2004. Attempts to renew this ban have failed, as have attempts to pass a new ban, such as the *Assault Weapons Ban of 2013*.
- In 2018, Abbott called on state lawmakers to consider a “Red Flag” law that would allow state courts to take firearms away from persons who present a danger to themselves or others. A few months later, he backed away from the idea. The state ended up passing laws more focused on boosting mental health resources and giving teachers more access to guns on public school campuses.
- In the last two legislative sessions, Texas legislators have loosened gun laws, most notably by passing permitless carry in 2021, less than two years after mass shootings in El Paso and Odessa took 30 innocent lives.
- Trump systematically gutted existing gun safety laws, including narrowing the definition of “fugitive from justice” that’s used to determine who’s barred from buying a gun; purging 500,000 records from the federal background check system; freezing a rule that would have prohibited more people who are dangerous because they suffer from severe mental illness from buying guns; and halting a proposal to require gun makers and dealers to sell child safety devices in stores where guns are sold.

IF TRUMP IS REELECTED

Without detailed policy proposals, it is hard to say for sure what agenda Trump would pursue if elected again. But there’s no reason to believe he’d do any more in a second term on enacting or pushing for gun safety than he did in his first term.

- In February, Trump told the NRA that if he’s elected, “no one will lay a finger on your firearms” and vowed to undo Biden gun restrictions. Trump told the NRA, “Every single Biden attack on gun owners and manufacturers will be terminated my very first week back in office, perhaps my first day.”