

Chaffee County Patriots Town Hall June 2026

Presented by Jake Farber

Brian O'Connell, president of the Chaffey County Patriots, welcomed attendees to the town hall meeting and introduced Toby Taylor, who is running for Chief Accounting Commissioner on the Republican ticket. The group discussed upcoming events including flag waving on Main Street this Saturday from 10-11 AM and a flag retirement ceremony on Sunday at 2 PM in Poncha Springs near the M48 tank. Laurel Ann from the Salida Gun Shop mentioned she had petitions available for signing regarding hunting rights, removing abortion as a constitutional right in Colorado, natural gas appliances, and income tax rates.

Second Amendment and Gun Rights

The Group discussed the Colorado budget deficit and abortion rights, emphasizing the need for health and safety standards around abortion to protect women. He announced his presence at the Salida Gun Shop the following day and requested attendees to share information about hunting and fishing rights. The main focus of the meeting was on the Second Amendment, where The Group explained the historical context of "well regulated" militias and the importance of proper training and discipline. He highlighted the need for well-regulated civilian militias and mentioned the success of the Chaffee County Young Guns in a recent shooting competition.

Second Amendment Rights Discussion

The Group discussed the Second Amendment, emphasizing that it is not about hunting but about individual rights and self-defense. He explained historical interpretations of "arms" and the importance of teaching respect, responsibility, and etiquette through firearm training programs. The Group highlighted how

these programs can foster bonding between students and parents while teaching important life skills, and he expressed concern about government overreach regarding constitutional rights.

Global Gun Control Debate

The Group discussed global gun death rates, highlighting that while the US has a high rate, countries like Venezuela have even higher rates due to strict gun control laws. He explained Japan's strict gun regulations, where firearms are effectively controlled by the government, and criticized how Hollywood portrays gun usage inaccurately in movies. The Group concluded by discussing the Second Amendment, explaining its purpose and expressing concern that current laws significantly infringe upon the right to bear arms.

Second Amendment Historical Overview

The Group provided a historical overview of the Second Amendment, tracing its roots to the English Bill of Rights and early American experiences with militias. He discussed the debates surrounding the amendment's formulation, including concerns about religious objectors and the role of standing armies. The Group emphasized that the focus should be on addressing the "software" of human behavior rather than the "hardware" of guns, citing examples from other countries where gun control laws have not effectively reduced violence. He also questioned the potential for leniency in a criminal case involving a knife, highlighting the broader issue of how laws addressing weapons can impact crime and