

Elephant Talk

Plano Republican Women

TFRW Region No: 3 Senate District No: 8

March 2018

President's Byline : More Gun Control Won't Solve This



The tragedy at Parkland High School in Florida has been yet another instance of "Never let a crisis go to waste" and now the Democrats are using students from elementary school on up to lead the way to getting what they really want: gun confiscation. Make no mistake, that is the left's ultimate goal: an unarmed populace that will be controlled by the almighty Federal government. You have only to look at some of the unhinged posts on Facebook and Twitter to figure this out. And for that reason, this entire newsletter will be all about guns. If you support the Second Amendment, I hope you will read these articles and pass them along.

This past weekend, we had the "March for Life" in Washington, D.C. and in other cities across America. I googled "March for Life" just to see what would come up and this was what popped up: (1) Marchfor-Life.org; (2) Future Dates March for Life; (3) March for Our Lives: How many marched – USA Today. (4) March for Our Lives Highlights: Students Protesting Guns... New York Times; (5) The March for Life—Home/Facebook; (6) Here are the most Powerful Speeches from March for Our Lives—Time.com. I then googled "Students for the Second Amendment and sadly only found one current story about Kyle Kashuv, a student at Parkland High School who wants to debate the organizer of the March for Our Lives, Cameron Lasky. That was about it. As usual the media is all about the left's agenda and these students, none of whom have probably ever even read the Constitution (since it isn't being taught in our schools, why would they) or delved into the history of the 2nd Amendment, are useful pawns. And while this is a subject for another day, the sad fact is that our colleges and universities, high schools, middle schools and elementary schools, in so many cases, are indoctrinating students rather than educating them. And don't even get me started on Paul Hogg, the new darling of the left, whose profanity-laced rants show how immature he really is. He is definitely enjoying his "15 minutes."

Just yesterday, retired Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens called for the repeal of the Second Amendment. To give you some background on Justice Stevens, he was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1975 by President Gerald Ford at the time of his retirement in 2010 was the second oldest serving justice in the history of the Court and the third longest serving Supreme Court Justice in history. He was considered to have been on the liberal side of the Court at the time of his retirement. Well, I would say that at the age of 97, soon to be 98, that his liberal views are now on full display. If you care to, you can read his full editorial on the internet simply by googling his name. How sad to know that this man was ever on the Supreme Court, but he chose to retire under President Obama and we got Elena Kagan who I am sure whole-heartedly agrees with Justice Stevens.

According to VOX, there are possibly 4 pieces of gun control legislation being considered in the Congress:

1) A bill that would strengthen existing rules around the national background check system has garnered the most attention.

The **Fix NICS Act** has bipartisan support in both chambers of Congress; it's sponsored in the Senate by **John Cornyn (R-TX)**, Chris Murphy (D-CT), Tim Scott (R-SC), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Orrin Hatch (R-UT), Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), Dean Heller (R-NV), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH).

Reps. John Culberson (R-TX), Henry Cuellar (D-TX), Elizabeth Esty (D-CT), Ryan Costello (R-PA), and Pete Aguilar (D-CA) are sponsors in the House, where the bill has already passed in some form.

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Catherine Gibb

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Plano

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By email

The Second Amendment, the Founders and Original Intent

By Dan Zimmerman, September 5, 2014

In a recent TTAG thread I watched as a debate ensued over the words “well regulated” and their meaning in the Second Amendment. I read an article recently from a deluded anti-gun liberal who pushed the idea that Madison, Jefferson and Washington were nothing but rich, white landowners who wanted a militia to put down revolts. He stated that all pro-gun folks were crazy to think otherwise. The reason we think otherwise is because history tells us otherwise . . .

The Amendments were written to amend the Constitution because the state delegates demanded that it be done. That is why we call them the Bill of Rights. They are rights that the people demanded be written to ensure the Federal government could not abuse them.

As we all know, the Second Amendment states:

“A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.”

Those of us who have spent decades fighting for gun rights have often cursed the “militia” clause. It was, before Heller, the favorite attack point of the liberal anti-gun crowd. They claimed it meant the National Guard and no individual had a right to own a firearm.

That is not what the framers said, that is not what they wrote and we have enough to say that is not even what they thought. They had just finished a war for independence. They feared large authoritarian governments. They were the revolutionaries. This was fresh in their minds when they wrote the Bill of Rights.

The entire Bill of Rights enshrined individual protections from government intrusion. They applied to the people. Why would the Second Amendment not do so as the anti-gun crowd claims?

Let a regular army, fully equal to the resources of the country, be formed, and let it be entirely at the devotion of the federal Government; still it would be not going too far to say, that the State Governments, with the people on their side, would be able to repel the danger. The highest number to which, according to the best computation, a standing army can be carried in any country, does not exceed one hundredth part of the whole number of souls; or one twenty-fifth part of the number able to bear arms.

This proportion would not yield, in the United States, an Army of more than twenty-five or thirty thousand men.

To these would be opposed a militia amounting to near half a million citizens with arms in their hands, officered by men chosen from among themselves, fighting for their common liberties, and united and conducted by governments possessing their affections and confidence. It may well be doubted that a militia thus circumstanced could ever be conquered by such a proportion of regular troops.”

James Madison, author of the 2nd Amendment, Federalist Papers, #46, 1788

Madison clearly states what a militia is and what its purpose is; to counter the federal government. The anti-gun folks pretend this and other documents don't exist. They wish.

No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms.

Thomas Jefferson, proposal to the Virginia Constitution.

Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every kingdom in Europe. The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any bands of troops, that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States”.

Noah Webster, 1787

Liberal propaganda aside, it's very clear what the authors of the Second Amendment meant by “well regulated” They meant all those who could carry arms, organized when needed, to fight a corrupt federal government. So...who needs a select fire M-4 carbine? Every citizen who's able to bear arms. That was the intent.

For the last century or so this meaning has been lost on our citizens. Most do not and never have considered the possibility of taking up arms against their own government. They watch governments around the world abuse and kill their citizens as they sit comfortably in their homes, secure in the belief that it will never happen here. Let's hope not.

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Presidents Article / Second Amendment Article

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2) The 2013 “Toomey-Manchin” proposal expanding background checks could see yet another revival.

After the Sandy Hook massacre, Republican Sen. Pat Toomey (PA) and moderate Democrat Joe Manchin (WV) proposed an expansion of the current background check system for gun sales to gun shows. It failed when it was put up for a vote in 2013 and lost even more support in 2015 when it was put up for another vote.

3) There is discussion around raising the minimum age to buy AR-15s from 18 to 21.

Last week, Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) announced he and Feinstein were working on a Senate bill that would raise the minimum age to buy an AR-15 rifle to 21 for buyers who aren't in the military.

4) The “bump stock” ban is back — maybe.

Feinstein sponsored the proposal in the Senate last October, and in the House, Reps. Carlos Curbelo (R-FL) and Seth Moulton (D-MA) did the same.

I am not sure how any of these bills, with the possible exception of the strengthening the rules on background checks would stop mass shootings or any shootings for that matter. Perhaps if the FBI and the Sheriff in Florida's Broward County had not ignored the **numerous** warnings they had about the young man who murdered all those students, they would most likely be alive today. But we should all keep an eye on Congress and let our Senators and Representatives know that we don't support anything that infringes on the rights of our citizens to protect themselves, both from those who would do us harm and from an all-powerful Federal Government!!

Catherine Gibb

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The Second Amendment, the Founders and Original Intent

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The founders never addressed hunting or self-defense. These concepts were understood to be unalienable rights that no government could touch. They were **above** the Second Amendment to protect their homes as well.

That the said Constitution shall never be construed to authorize congress to infringe the just liberty of the press or the rights of conscience; or prevent the PEOPLE of the United States, who are peaceable from keeping their OWN **arms**..

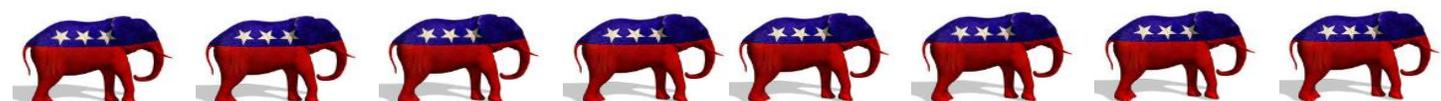
Samuel Adams

Next time an anti-gunner wants to lecture you on what the authors of the Second Amendment meant, explain what a militia is and cite my examples. It may scare the to death.

In closing:

The right of a citizen to keep and **bear arms**, in lawful defense of himself or the State, is absolute. He does not derive it from the state government. It is one of the “High Powers” delegated directly to the citizen and is excepted out of the general powers of government. A law cannot be passed to infringe upon or impair it because it is above the law, and independent of lawmaking”

Cockrum v State, 24Tex394 (1859)



April Plano Republican Women Meeting



Next PRW Meeting:

Tuesday, Tuesday, April 17, 2018

RNC & Right2Speak

Speaker: Toni Anne Dashiell

Republican National Committeewoman for Texas

Right2Speak an organization for women who seek to serve as a counter-balance to the extremist voices attempting to represent women in the media

Toni Anne Dashiell was elected for a second term in May 2016 and currently serves as the Republican National Committeewoman for Texas. She has been active in politics, grassroots advocacy, and leadership training for more than 35 years. She is a leader among leaders, who was awarded the 2009 Ronald Reagan Leadership Award by the National Federation of Republican Women for her distinctive performance as the President of the Texas Federation of Republican Women (TFRW). She is an empowering personality who, added women from Nigeria, Bosnia, Sri Lanka, and Burma to the long list of leaders she has empowered by training in campaign management, leadership development, and communication. Toni Anne and Rachel Woods Co-Author Leading for Freedom: Leadership Skills for Republicans.

Location: Reflections on Spring Creek

1901 East Spring Creek Parkway

Time: 11:15 am: Arrive and check-in

11:30 am: Meeting, Lunch & Program

PRW membership is not required to attend our meeting Lunch is available with RSVP for \$20 in cash or check payable to PRW

RSVPs for lunch must be made by 5 pm the Friday before the meeting

RSVPs to attend without lunch may be made up to 5pm the Monday before the Tuesday meeting

To RSVP send an email to: rsvp@planorepublicanwomen.org

Include your name in your email and say if you will/will not be having lunch



“Number One with a Bullet”

By Bill Whittle of “Truth Revold, March 23, 2015

Every time there is a shooting in America, our moral betterers on the left immediately ammo up the assault rifle of their rhetorical arsenal: namely, our country's sick, twisted obsession with personal firearms; our adolescent, psychosexual, dangerous and frankly embarrassing when facing our European film critic friends AMERICAN GUN CULTURE.

Hopping over to the ever-reliable Wikipedia, for example, we discover that when it comes to per capita gun ownership, the USA does in fact top the list: when measured as the number of guns per 100 residents, the US comes in first, at ninety! NINETY guns per one hundred residents: evidence for the Progressives on the left that they do in fact live in the murder capitol of the world; because when it comes to gun ownership, America IS number one with a bullet, with by far the highest per capita gun ownership in the world – 90 guns per 100 people being half again more than the number two spot held by Serbia, with 58.2.

Now all we have to do to prove the left-wing Progressive weenie case for banning guns is to do is a quick search for the per capita MURDER rate... and sure enough, leading the number two country by about half again more with 90 murders per 100,000 people is... Honduras.

Socialist, gun-controlled Honduras. Because even though America has by far the highest per capita gun ownership rate, we don't have the highest per capita murder rate. And unfortunately for the Progressive leftist argument, we're not second either. Or third.

When it comes to per capita murders, Team USA didn't even make the top five.

As a matter of fact, we didn't even make the top ten.

Or the top twenty. Or the top thirty. Or the top forty. We're not in the top fifty per capita murders. Gun Culture America is not in the top sixty nations in terms of per capita murders. Or the top seventy. Or the top eighty. Or the top ninety.

Of the 218 nations and territories listed for per capita murders, the United States of America – murderville – did not break the top one hundred. We are, with 4.7 murders per 100,000 people in 2012, number 111.

111th place puts near top of the bottom half of all of the nations and territories in the world when it comes to total per capita murders... and virtually all – if not all -- of those nations ranked higher than us are big-state socialist utopias with stringent gun control laws.

How tragically disappointing that must be for our moral superiors.

And unfortunately for the left, it gets worse. Because 111th place America's murder rate of 4.7 per 100,000 citizens is artificially much higher than it should be, because it includes so many deadly, murderous, toxic places... like number one on the list of highly gun controlled, Democratically-governed-since-the-stone-age murder pits like Detroit Michigan.

Detroit, with strict gun control laws has a per capita murder rate of 54.6 murders per 100,000 citizens. If Detroit were its own country, it would just beat Venezuela for SECOND as the most murderous country in the world, behind Honduras.

America's 111th place, 4.7 murder per 100,000 people also includes, in order, Democratically governed, heavily gun controlled New Orleans, with 53.2 murders per hundred thousand; St. Louis, with 35.5; Baltimore with 34.9; Newark, 34.4; Oakland, 31.8; followed by Stockton 23.7; Kansas City 22.6, Philadelphia 21.5, Cleveland 21.3, Memphis 20.2, Atlanta 19.0 and Chicago, with 18.5 murders per 100,000 per year.

America's per capita average of 4.7 murders includes all of these high-crime areas. The first city to appear in Gun-Mad Texas is Dallas, which isn't in the top twenty. America's overall average of 4.7 is as low as it is because of places like Plano, Texas – the last city on the list – with a murder rate of 0.4. Having been to Plano Texas several times, I can tell you with confidence that virtually every home in Plano Texas has an entire arsenal of Ar-15 assault rifles, semi-automatic shotguns, 30.06 hunting rifles, .45's, .357s, 38s, 9mms, an assortment .22s for the kids to practice with, not to mention every species of bowie knife, hunting knife, jack knife, bayonet, switchblade pointy rocks and sharp sticks.

The per capita murder rate in Gun Nut Central is 0.4 per 100,000: if the United States of America, as a nation, had the same murder rate as Plano Texas, we would not but 111 out of 218; we'd be 211 out of 218 – well below Switzerland at 0.6, HALF of Germany, Spain and Denmark at 0.8, and well, well below half of New Zealand, the Netherlands, Austria, Italy, France and Australia. If all of America had the murder rate of the gun-nut capital of Gun Culture USA – Plano, Texas – then America's per capita murder rate would be ONE QUARTER of those murderous, violent, rampaging, death-worshipping Belgians with their horrific 1.6 murders per hundred thousand.

Maybe it's not the guns. Maybe it's the people holding the guns.

PRW March Meeting Photos



Banning Assault Weapons is Bad Policy

By: David French, Senior Writer for National Review

It's always remarkable to me that assault-weapons bans dominate the gun control conversation after mass shootings. Yes, I understand that AR-15s or similar weapons have been used in a number of recent attacks, but when we slow down, take a breath and look at actual gun crime, the logic for banning the kind of weapon that millions of Americans use for entirely lawful purposes (including self-defense) starts to disappear.

Let's break this down by three broad categories of gun deaths.

First, an assault-weapons ban is irrelevant to suicide deaths. The large majority of gun death are suicides, and there is no credible argument that an assault-weapons ban will have the slightest effect on suicide. I'm not sure I've ever even heard anyone make that argument.

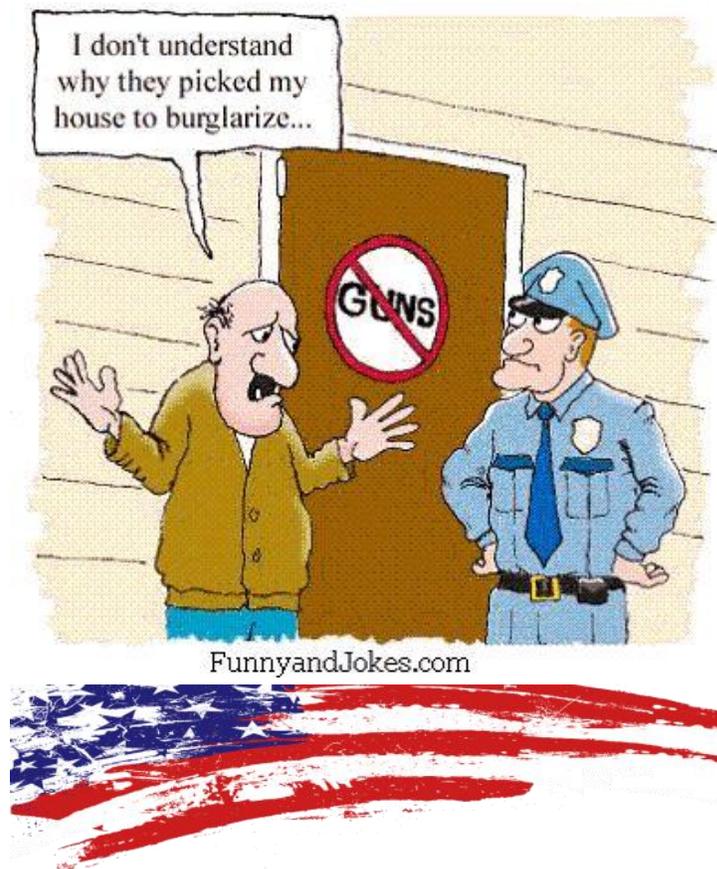
Second, an assault-weapon ban is statistically meaningless to homicide deaths. Rifles of all kinds kill fewer people annually than knives or even feet or fists. An assault-weapons ban (really a ban on future sales); proposed laws would not take a single so-called assault weapon off the streets) would be aimed at a firearm that is rarely used to kill.

Third, there's no evidence that banning assault weapons would prevent mass shootings. This is a key point. The post-shooting debate is often conducted as if folks think that if a mass shooter can't get an assault weapon, he won't shoot at all. Blocking access to a new AR-15 is not remotely the same thing as stopping a mass shooting.

In reality, the move to ban AR-15s rests on a different idea – the notion that the ban will *possibly* decrease the lethality of a given mass shooting. Aside from the most unusual circumstances (such as the Las Vegas shooting), this is speculative. After all, the history of mass shootings demonstrates that men wielding handguns are capable of inflicting terrible losses, and handguns are generally the weapon of choice for mass killers.

An assault-weapons ban represents the worst form of gun control. We know it would burden the self-defense rights of law-abiding American without meaningfully addressing the problem it's purportedly designed to address. We know it wouldn't affect overall gun death rates. We don't have evidence it would prevent mass shootings. Given that reality, it looks much less like rational policy-making and much more like legislative emoting—a moral gesture with the primary impact of diminishing American constitutional rights.

This article appeared in the March 29, 2018 edition of the Dallas Morning News



PRW Members in Action - Senatorial Convention



Political Cartoons

facebook.com/PoliticalCorrectnessGoneWild follow us @PC_GoneWild

84,999,989 GUN OWNERS killed **no one** yesterday.

Just sayin'...

Why are voter I.D. laws "racist," but gun background checks aren't?



Veterans For Capitalism and The Constitution

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YOU REALLY ARE A DREAMER.



@Ramireztoons

michaelpamirez.com

Here Are 8 Stubborn Facts on Gun Violence in America

By John G. Macolm and Amy Swearer

In the wake of the tragic murder of 17 innocent students and teachers at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, students, educators, politicians, and activists are searching for solutions to prevent future school shootings.

As emotions morph from grief to anger to resolve, it is vitally important to supply facts so that policymakers and professionals can fashion solutions based on objective data rather than well-intended but misguided emotional fixes.

Are there ways to reduce gun violence and school shootings? Yes, but only after objectively assessing the facts and working collaboratively to fashion commonsense solutions.

Here are eight stubborn facts to keep in mind about gun violence in America:

1. Violent crime is down and has been on the decline for decades.
2. The principal public safety concerns with respect to guns are suicides and illegally owned handguns, not mass shootings.
3. A small number of factors significantly increase the likelihood that a person will be a victim of a gun-related homicide.
4. Gun-related murders are carried out by a predictable pool of people.
5. Higher rates of gun ownership are not associated with higher rates of violent crime.
6. There is no clear relationship between strict gun control legislation and homicide or violent crime rates.
7. Legally owned firearms are used for lawful purposes much more often than they are used to commit crimes or suicide.
8. Concealed carry permit holders are not the problem, but they may be part of the solution.

Each of these facts is firmly based on empirical data. Here's a deeper look.

1. America is relatively safe, and the trend is toward becoming safer.

- According to the National Crime Victimization Survey, violent crime has been [declining steadily](#) since the early 1990s.
- The 2011 homicide rate was [almost half](#) of the rate in 1991, and according to the Pew Research Center, the 2013 gun-related death rate was [half](#) of the rate in 1993.
- The number of nonfatal firearm crimes committed in 2011 was [one-sixth the number](#) committed in 1993.
- In the past few years, there have been minor increases in certain types of violent crimes, mainly in large metropolitan areas. However, these increases are nowhere near [those seen in the 1990s](#) and are largely related to [gang activity](#).
- It should be remembered that it takes at least three to five years of data to show true trend lines. It appears that the collective homicide toll for America's 50 largest cities [decreased modestly](#) in 2017 after two consecutive years of increases.

2. The principal public safety concerns are suicides and illegally owned handguns.

- According to the Pew Research Center, almost two-thirds of America's annual gun deaths are [suicides](#). Since 1981, when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began publishing data, gun suicides have outnumbered gun homicides. In 2010 alone, 19,392 Americans used guns to kill themselves.
- Most gun-related crimes are carried out with [illegally owned firearms](#)—as much as 80 percent according to some estimates.
- The FBI's Uniform Crime Reports prove that the overwhelming majority of gun-related homicides are [perpetrated with handguns](#), with rifles of any kind accounting for less than 3 percent of gun-related homicides. In 2013, 5,782 murders were committed by killers who used a handgun, compared to 285 committed by killers who used a rifle. The same holds true for 2012 (6,404 to 298); 2011 (6,251 to 332); 2010 (6,115 to 367); and 2009 (6,501 to 351).
- More people are stabbed to death every year than are murdered with rifles.
- A person is more likely to be bludgeoned to death with a blunt object or beaten to death with hands and feet than to be murdered with a rifle.

3. A small number of factors significantly increase the likelihood that a person will be a victim of a gun-related homicide.

- Where do you live? Murders in the United States are very concentrated. According to the Crime Prevention Research Center, [over 50 percent of murders](#) occur in 2 percent of the nation's 3,142 counties. Moreover, gun-related homicides are heavily concentrated in certain neighborhoods within those counties: 54 percent of U.S. counties had zero murders in 2014.
- Who is your partner? According to a recent scholarly article in the Hastings Law Journal, people recently or currently involved in an [abusive intimate relationship](#) are much more likely to be victims of gun-related homicide than is the rest of the population, especially if the [abuser possesses firearms](#).
- Are you in a gang? According to the Department of Justice's National Gang Center, particularly in urban areas, [significant percentages](#) of gun-related homicides (15 percent to 33 percent) are [linked with gang](#) and drug activity. Gang-related homicides are [more likely to involve firearms](#) than non-gang-related homicides are.

Here Are 8 Stubborn Facts on Gun Violence in America

By John G. Macolm and Amy Swearer

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- Are you a male between 15 and 34? The majority of standard gun murder victims are men between the ages of 15 and 34. Although black men make up roughly 7 percent of the population, they account for [almost two-thirds](#) of gun murder victims every year.
- [Women and children](#) are more likely to be the victims of mass shootings and homicide-suicide shootings than they are to be the victims of a “typical” gun-related homicide.

4. The perpetration of gun-related murders is often carried out by predictable people.

- According to studies, almost all mass public shooters have [extensive histories of mental health issues](#) (whether delusional/psychiatric or depression/anger), [disturbing behaviors, or interpersonal violence](#).
- Intimate partner conflict and domestic violence history [are major risk factors](#) for homicide-suicides, even for those not involving intimate partners.
- Especially in urban areas, [a small number of recidivist violent offenders](#) are typically responsible for the majority of gun violence.

5. Higher rates of gun ownership are not associated with higher rates of violent crime.

- Switzerland and Israel have [much higher gun ownership rates](#) than the United States but experience far fewer homicides and have much lower violent crime rates than many European nations with strict gun control laws.
- While some will argue that the guns carried by Swiss and Israeli citizens are technically “owned” by the government in most cases, this does little to negate the fact that many citizens in those countries have ready access to firearms.
- Canada is ranked 12th in the world for the number of civilian-owned guns per capita and reports one of the world’s lower homicide rates—but even then, some provinces have [higher homicide rates than U.S. states](#) with less restrictive laws and higher rates of gun ownership have.
- Although many gun control advocates have noted that “right to carry” states tend to experience slight increases in violent crime, other studies have noted the [opposite effect](#).
- [Higher rates of concealed carry permit holders](#) are even more strongly associated with reduction in violent crime than are right-to-carry states. The probable reason for this is that right-to-carry studies often include “open carry” states, which have not been shown to correlate with more people actually carrying or even owning firearms. Rates of concealed carry permit holders are better indicators of the number of people who actually possess and carry firearms within a given population.
- Further, as with most correlations, there are many other factors that can account for increases in concealed carry permits—including the fact that people who live in already dangerous neighborhoods seek out means of self-defense. The Huffington Post noted that the rate of concealed carry permit requests in Chicago [has soared](#) in recent years after the city loosened restrictions, in large part, according to the Chicago Tribune, because [law-abiding residents](#) are increasingly worried about rising rates of violent crime in the city.
- The rate of gun ownership is higher among whites than it is among African-Americans, but the murder rate among African-Americans is significantly higher than the rate among whites.
- Similarly, the rate of gun ownership is higher in rural areas than in urban areas, but urban areas experience higher murder rates.

6. There is no clear relationship between strict gun control legislation and homicide or violent crime rates.

- The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence [ironically makes this clear with its ratings](#) for states based on gun laws. “Gun freedom” states that score poorly, like New Hampshire, Vermont, Idaho, and Oregon, have some of the lowest homicide rates. Conversely, “gun control-loving” states that received high scores, like Maryland and Illinois, experience some of the nation’s highest homicide rates.
- The Crime Prevention Research Center notes that, if anything, the data indicate that countries with high rates of gun ownership [tend to have lower homicide rates](#)—but this is only a correlation, and many factors do not necessarily support a conclusion that high rates of gun ownership cause the low rates of homicide.
- Homicide and firearm homicide rates in Great Britain [spiked in the years](#) immediately following the imposition of severe gun control measures, despite the fact that most developed countries continued to experience a downward trend in these rates. This is also pointed out by noted criminologist John Lott in his book “The War on Guns.”
- Similarly, Ireland’s homicide rates spiked in the years immediately following the country’s 1972 gun confiscation legislation.
- Australia’s National Firearms Act appears to have had [little effect on suicide and homicide rates](#), which were falling before the law was enacted and continued to decline at a statistically unremarkable rate compared to worldwide trends.
- According to research compiled by Lott and highlighted in his book “The War on Guns,” Australia’s armed and unarmed robbery rates both increased markedly in the five years immediately following the National Firearms Act, despite the general downward trend experienced by other developed countries.

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Here Are 8 Stubborn Facts on Gun Violence in America

By John G. Malcolm and Amy Swearer

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- Great Britain has some of the strictest gun control laws in the developed world, but the violent crime rate for homicide, rape, burglary, and aggravated assault is [much higher](#) than that in the U.S. Further, approximately [60 percent of burglaries](#) in Great Britain occur while residents are home, compared to just 13 percent in the U.S., and British burglars admit to targeting occupied residences because they are more likely to find wallets and purses.
- It is difficult to compare homicide and firearm-related murder rates across international borders because countries use different methods to determine which deaths “count” for purposes of violent crime. For example, since 1967, Great Britain has [excluded from its homicide counts](#) any case that does not result in a conviction, that was the result of dangerous driving, or in which the person was determined to have acted in self-defense. All of these factors are counted as “homicides” in the United States.

7. Legally owned firearms are used for lawful purposes much more often than they are used to commit crimes or suicide.

- In 2013, President Barack Obama ordered the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to assess existing research on gun violence. The report, compiled by the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council, [found](#) (among other things) that firearms are used defensively [hundreds of thousands](#) of times every year.
- According to the CDC, “self-defense can be an important crime deterrent.” Recent [CDC reports](#) acknowledge that studies directly assessing the effect of actual defensive uses of guns have found “consistently lower injury rates among gun-using crime victims compared with victims who used other self-protective strategies.”
- Semi-automatic rifles (such as the AR-15) are [commonly used as self-defense weapons](#) in the homes of law-abiding citizens because they are easier to control than handguns, are more versatile than handguns, and offer the advantage of up to 30 rounds of protection. Even Vox has [published stories](#) defending the use of the AR-15.
- AR-15s have been used to save lives on many occasions, including:
- [Oswego, Illinois](#) (2018)—A man with an AR-15 intervened to stop a neighbor’s knife attack and cited the larger weapon’s “intimidation factor” as a reason why the attacker dropped the knife.
- [Catawba County, North Carolina](#) (2018)—A 17-year-old successfully fought off three armed attackers with his AR-15.
- [Houston, Texas](#) (2017)—A homeowner survived a drive-by shooting by defending himself with his AR-15.
- [Broken Arrow, Oklahoma](#) (2017)—A homeowner’s son killed three would-be burglars with an AR-15 (the man was later deemed to have acted in [justifiable self-defense](#)).
- [Ferguson, Missouri](#) (2014)—African-American men protected a white man’s store from rioters by standing outside armed with AR-15s.
- [Texas](#) (2013)—A 15-year-old boy used an AR-15 during a home invasion to save both his life and that of his 12-year-old sister.
- [Rochester, New York](#) (2013)—Home intruders fled after facing an AR-15.

8. Concealed carry permit holders are not the problem, but they may be part of the solution.

Lott found that, as a group, concealed carry permit holders are [some of the most law-abiding people](#) in the United States. The rate at which they commit crimes generally and firearm crimes specifically is between one-sixth and one-tenth of that recorded for police officers, who are themselves committing crimes at a fraction of the rate of the general population.

Between 2007 and 2015, murder rates dropped 16 percent and violent crime rates dropped 18 percent, even though the percentage of adults with concealed carry permits rose by 190 percent.

Regression estimates show a significant association between increased permit ownership and a drop in murder and violent crime rates. [Each percentage point increase](#) in rates of permit-holding is associated with a roughly 2.5 percent drop in the murder rate.

Concealed carry permit holders are often [“the good guy with a gun,”](#) even though they rarely receive the attention of the national media. Concealed carry permit holders were credited with saving multiple lives in:

[Rockledge, Florida \(2017\)](#); [Antioch, Tennessee \(2017\)](#); [Arlington, Texas \(2017\)](#); [Lyman, South Carolina \(2016\)](#); [Winton Hills, Ohio \(2015\)](#); [Conyers, Georgia \(2015\)](#); [New Holland, South Carolina \(2015\)](#); [Chicago, Illinois \(2015\)](#); [Philadelphia, Pennsylvania \(2015\)](#); [Darby, Pennsylvania \(2015\)](#); [Chicago, Illinois \(2014\)](#); [Portland, Oregon \(2014\)](#); [Spartanburg, South Carolina \(2012\)](#).

John G. Malcolm is the vice president of the Institute for Constitutional Government and director of the Edwin Meese III Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, overseeing The Heritage Foundation’s work to increase understanding of the Constitution and the rule of law.

Amy Swearer is a visiting legal fellow at the Meese Center for Legal and Judicial Studies at The Heritage Foundation.

Caring For America

Marvelle Ditto, Caring For America Chair

“Caring for America” is one of the NFRW/TFRW programs that our club supports. The donations that you place in the “Pause for Paws” jars that are placed on each table at the meetings supports one of the projects that we do for our “Caring for America” program. We have donated around \$500 each year that we have been doing this to this great organization.

Another project that we do is cutting out coupons that will then be sent to military bases so that service men and women may use the coupons in the commissary. Over the years PRW has donated around \$800,000 in coupons to military bases.

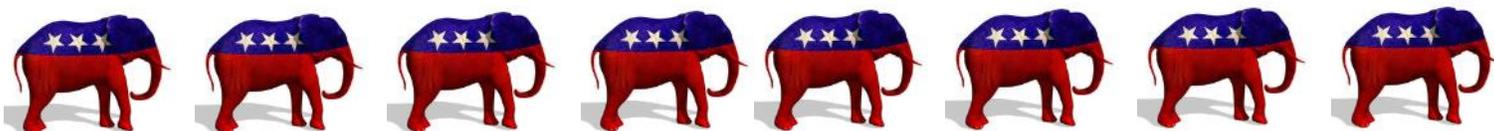
New projects may be coming up in the future, but please help us now by cutting out product coupons and bringing them to our monthly meetings. We are all busy, but this project takes little time and has great rewards for our servicemen and women.

Please sort your coupons into two categories: food and non-food items. Out of date coupons are acceptable. (The manufacturers give an extra 6 months to our service members.)

There will a basket, located inside the door at Reflections for you to place your coupons each month. You may count your time helping with this project as volunteer hours.

We will have some "Coupon Clipping" events to be announced in the future as well.

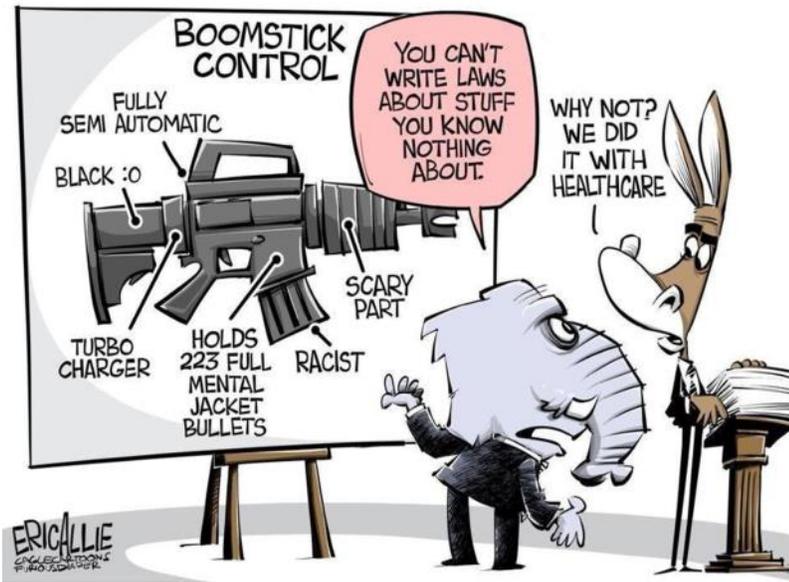
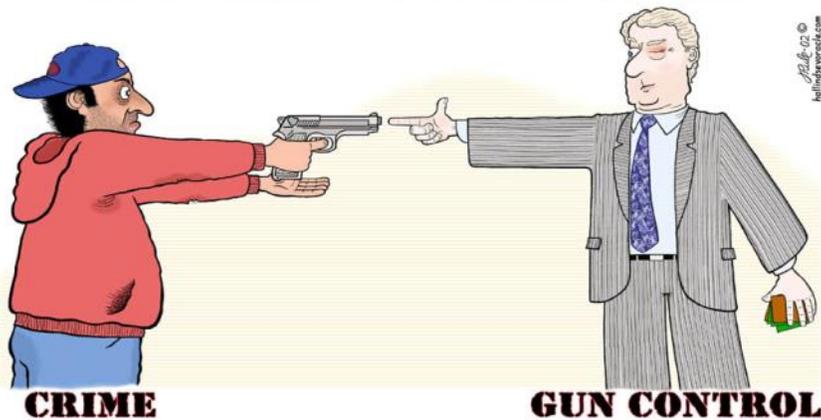
Thank you for supporting these “Caring for America” projects!



Gun Control Cartoons



How Gun Control Works



The Real Reason We Have Mass Shootings

By Walter E Williams, March 21, 2018

One of the unavoidable tragedies of youth is the temptation to think that what is seen today has always been. Nowhere is this more noticeable than in our responses to the recent Parkland, Florida, massacre.

Part of the responses to those murders are calls to raise the age to purchase a gun and to have more thorough background checks—in a word, to make gun purchases more difficult. That's a vision that sees easy gun availability as the problem; thus, the solution is to reduce that availability.

The vision that sees “easy” availability as the problem ignores the fact of U.S. history that guns were far more available [yesteryear](#). With truly easy gun availability, there was nowhere near the gun mayhem and murder that we see today. I'm tempted to ask those who believe that guns are today's problem whether they think that guns were nicer yesteryear.

What about the calls for bans on the AR-15 so-called assault rifle? It turns out that, according to 2016 FBI statistics, rifles accounted for 368 of the 17,250 homicides in the U.S. that year. That means restrictions on the purchase of rifles would do little or nothing for the homicide rate.

Leaders of the gun control movement know this. Their calls for more restrictive gun laws are part of a larger strategy to outlaw gun ownership.

Gun ownership is not our problem. Our problem is a widespread decline in moral values that has nothing to do with guns. That decline includes disrespect for those in authority, disrespect for oneself, little accountability for anti-social behavior, and a scuttling of religious teachings that reinforced moral values.

Let's examine elements of this decline.

If any of our great-grandparents or even grandparents who passed away before 1960 were to return, they would not believe the kind of personal behavior all too common today. They wouldn't believe that youngsters could get away with cursing and assaulting teachers. They wouldn't believe that some school districts, such as Philadelphia's, employ more than 400 school police officers.

During my primary and secondary schooling, from 1942 to 1954, the only time one saw a policeman in school was during an assembly period where we had to listen to a boring lecture on safety. Our ancestors also wouldn't believe that we're now debating whether teachers should be armed.

There are other forms of behavior that would have been deemed grossly immoral yesteryear. There are companies such as National Debt Relief, CuraDebt, and LendingTree, which advertise that they will help you to avoid paying all the money you owe. So after you and a seller agree to terms of a sale, if you fail to live up to your half of the bargain, there are companies that will assist you in ripping off the seller.

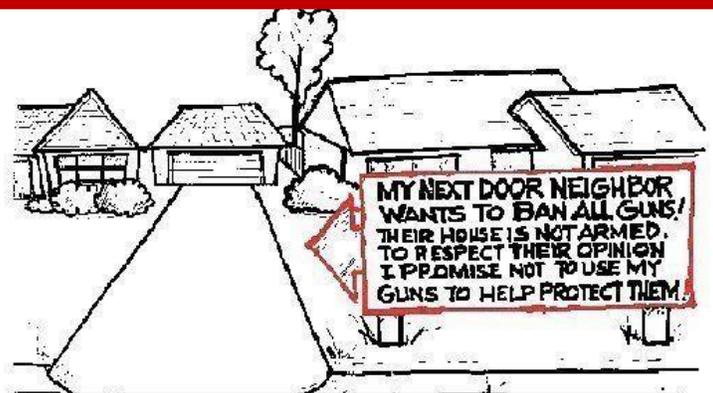
There are companies that counsel senior citizens on how to shelter their assets from nursing home care costs. For example, a surviving spouse may own a completely paid-for home that's worth \$500,000. The costs of nursing home care might run \$50,000 a year.

By selling her house, she could pay the nursing home costs, but her children wouldn't inherit the house. There are firms that come in to shelter her assets so that she can bequeath her home to her heirs and leave taxpayers to foot the nursing home bill.

In my book, that's immoral, but it is so common that most of us give it no thought.

There is one moral failing that is devastating to the future of our nation. That failing, which has wide acceptance by the American people, is the idea that Congress has the authority to forcibly use one American to serve the purposes of another American. That is nothing less than legalized theft and accounts for roughly three-quarters of federal spending.

For the Christians among us, we should consider that when God gave Moses the commandment “Thou shalt not steal,” he probably didn't mean thou shalt not steal unless you get a majority vote in the Congress.



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March 2018

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