



Protecting Constitutional Rights While Reducing Gun Violence

A Public Safety Framework for Colorado

Executive Summary

Coloradans deserve safe neighborhoods, safe schools, and safe communities while preserving the constitutional rights of responsible gun owners. Public safety and the Second Amendment are not opposing values—they can and must coexist.

As a veteran, longtime public servant, and candidate for the Colorado House, I support a practical, evidence-based approach to reducing gun violence that focuses on prevention, accountability, mental health, suicide prevention, domestic violence intervention, and responsible firearm ownership.

My approach rejects political extremes. I do not support fear-based rhetoric or attempts to divide Coloradans. Instead, I support commonsense policies that help keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals while respecting the rights of law-abiding citizens.

My Guiding Principles

1. Constitutional Rights Matter

I support the Second Amendment and responsible gun ownership. Millions of Americans safely and responsibly own firearms for self-defense, hunting, recreation, and sport.

2. Public Safety Matters

Colorado families deserve protection from preventable violence, including domestic violence, suicide, illegal firearm trafficking, and mass shootings.

3. Prevention Saves Lives

Reducing violence requires more than criminal penalties after tragedy occurs. We must focus on early intervention, mental health support, safe storage, and community-based prevention programs.

4. Local Communities Need Flexibility

Different communities face different public safety challenges. State and local governments should have the ability to respond appropriately to local conditions.

Policy Priorities

Universal Background Checks

Colorado has already taken important steps to close loopholes in firearm sales, but we must continue protecting these safeguards.

I support:

- Universal background checks
- Enforcement against illegal straw purchases
- Closing loopholes that allow prohibited individuals to acquire firearms without screening

Background checks help keep guns away from violent offenders while preserving lawful ownership for responsible citizens.

Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs)

Colorado's ERPO law—sometimes called a “red flag” law—is an important suicide prevention and violence prevention tool.

I support:

- Maintaining Colorado's ERPO law
- Strong due process protections
- Temporary firearm removal when a judge determines someone poses a clear danger to themselves or others

As a veteran, I recognize the importance of addressing mental health crises before tragedy occurs.

Preventing Domestic Violence

Domestic violence situations become far more deadly when firearms are involved.

I support:

- Firearm relinquishment requirements for convicted domestic abusers
- Closing loopholes involving abusive dating partners
- Strong enforcement of protection orders
- Support services for victims and families

Protecting victims of domestic violence is one of the clearest ways to reduce gun-related deaths.

Safe Storage and Child Safety

Responsible gun ownership includes responsible firearm storage.

I support:

- Safe storage requirements
- Education programs for firearm owners
- Measures that help prevent accidental shootings, suicides, theft, and unauthorized access by minors

Safe storage laws protect families without infringing on responsible ownership.

Addressing Ghost Guns and Illegal Trafficking

Unserialized “ghost guns” undermine law enforcement and make violent crime investigations more difficult.

I support:

- Background checks for firearm assembly kits
- Serialization requirements
- Efforts to combat illegal firearm trafficking

Law enforcement should be able to trace firearms used in crimes.

Preventing Gun Violence

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Gun violence prevention must include mental health and suicide prevention strategies.

I support:

- Expanding mental health care access
- Veteran suicide prevention programs
- Youth mental health services
- Crisis intervention resources
- Community-based violence prevention programs

Too many Colorado families have experienced preventable tragedy because mental health care was unavailable, delayed, or unaffordable.

Community Violence Intervention

Law enforcement alone cannot solve every public safety challenge.

I support evidence-based programs that:

- Interrupt cycles of violence
- Support at-risk youth
- Help victims recover
- Build trust between communities and law enforcement

These programs improve public safety while reducing long-term costs to taxpayers.

Public Safety in Sensitive Locations

People should be able to vote, attend school, seek medical care, and participate in civic life without intimidation.

I support reasonable protections for:

- Schools and college campuses
- Polling locations

Preventing Gun Violence

- Government meetings
- Healthcare facilities
- Certain public demonstrations and events

These policies should focus on preventing intimidation and protecting public safety while respecting lawful ownership rights.

Responsible Public Carry Standards

Public carry of firearms should come with responsibilities.

I support:

- Background checks for concealed carry permits
- Firearm safety training
- Reasonable standards for carrying firearms in public spaces

Responsible ownership includes training, accountability, and safety.

A Balanced Approach for Colorado

Colorado does not need political extremism on this issue. We need practical leadership focused on keeping communities safe while respecting constitutional freedoms.

As your representative, I will continue supporting:

- Evidence-based public safety policies
- Mental health investments
- Responsible gun ownership
- Suicide prevention
- Domestic violence prevention
- Community trust and accountability

Colorado families deserve thoughtful leadership that focuses on solutions—not slogans.

About Michael Pierson

Michael Pierson is a retired U.S. Air Force officer, longtime public servant, and candidate for Colorado House District 22. He served more than 30 years in military and government service, including work supporting U.S. Space Command and the U.S. Space Force.

Michael believes public safety, constitutional rights, and strong communities can—and must—work together.

Campaign Website:

[Pierson for Colorado](#)

Approved by Pierson for Colorado. Registered Agent Addison Hill.

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