



Policy Suggestions

To Reduce Violent Gun Crime in
California and Bring the Real Issues
to Light

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Policy Statement

This initiative aims to curtail gun violence in California specifically by providing services to groups most affected by gun violence and remove historically racist gun control laws that were previously used to oppress individual groups and to provide insight on how poverty and education disparities affect gun violence.

Introduction

Gun control is amongst the most heavily divided topics in America, and historically blue states have been most motivated to restrict firearms to maintain course with an increasingly regressive, progress agenda. However, gun control across the nation, but more specifically in California, solely focuses on cosmetic features of a firearm and attacking gun culture while ignorantly dismissing valid voices of concern and purposely keeping the racist and socioeconomic disparity implications of gun control from the near past, in the dark.

History and Purpose

Few things are clear: homicide by discharge of firearm¹ are a significant issue that account or about fourteen thousand (14,000) deaths annually. To many, the number is staggering and easily preventable with “common sense” gun reform and others even going as far as calling gun violence a “pandemic.”² Yet, when compared to other preventable forms of deaths, such as vehicular accidents which accounts for about one hundred and sixty thousand (160,000) deaths annually*, the response is to unanimously blame the party at fault and not the medium, or tool, used to cause the harm.

What is not clear about gun control is that historically, just as other laws have been in the past (e.g. Jim Crow laws and segregative voting, schooling, and housing regulations)³, racist laws are still in effect in California. Examples of gun control involving systemic racism can be seen as old as amendments to Article XI 26 of the Tennessee constitution specifying that only free white men are able to keep and bear arms⁴, and more recent examples are the continuation of *may-issue*. The most prominent case of may-issue having racist implications is to look at Martin Luther King Jr. who attempted to carry and conceal after the firebombing of his residence, and was ultimately denied despite meeting Alabama requirements of good standing moral character and cause of issuance.

Another area of importance is to understand that gun violence in California dispositionally affects young men, latinos, and blacks. Coincidentally, these groups are most subjected to poverty⁵

Public discourse on the matter of gun violence does not need to maintain this level of ignorance, and with this outline, I intend to bring the real issues of gun violence to light to reduce the impact of gun violence on (using language outlined by the CDC) latinos and non-hispanic blacks, and bringing down overall gun violence.

¹ www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr67/nvsr67_05.pdf

² www.preventioninstitute.org/focus-areas/preventing-violence-and-reducing-injury/preventing-violence-advocacy

³ www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/jim-crow-laws

⁴ <https://www.firearmsandliberty.com/cramer.racism.html>

⁵ www.ppic.org/publication/poverty-in-california/

*Previously cited

Outline

- Policy one
 - Remove *may-issue* carry and conceal (CCW) permit regulations within the California county wide.
- Policy two
 - Reevalue collection and distribution of state funding on education.
- Policy three
 - Increase mental health and peace services available to the demographics most likely to be affected by gun violence.
- Policy four
 - Do away with the assault weapons ban.

In-Depth

Policy one

California is among one of five states with may-issue laws pertaining to carry and conceal licensing. Along with is are requirements for mandatory training, good moral character, and a cause for issuance including, but not limited to, a career with high quantifiable risk or specific documentation of threats against oneself. However, as seen with Martin Luther King Jr, even this was not enough.

In San Francisco, one carry and conceal permit was issued since 2010, and California as a whole has a of the nations lowest CCW permit issuance accounting for about 0.5% of Americas CCW permit holders. The county sheriff should have no say on issuance.

Policy two

State funding on public education is derived from property tax of properties within the district of a given school. This leads to the logic that impoverished areas with low

socioeconomic status would lead to less educational funding and would be to blame for the root cause of poor education. However, in recent times, it has been well documented that impoverished areas often lead to *more* public education funding than areas with more wealth⁶. For this exact reason, serious consideration into allocations of funds within the public education system need to be reevaluated.

Poor schooling in inner cities is not a funding problem, but rather a spending problem. The root cause for many issues, but more specifically likelihood of violence by a youth, stems from where a child is influenced in the maturing process⁷. It is an undeniable fact that school has influence on children⁸, and although the extent to which it does varies, the fact of the matter remains the same.

What should be done about the spending problem is that educators and more elite staff need to be held more accountable for the curriculum, interaction, and discipline of the students or face punishments including, but not limited to, funding and wage penalties and legal repercussions. Turning around the poor and troubled youth in America is a major step in cutting off the supply of potentially violent criminals.

Policy three

The demographic most affected by gun violence is men at a staggering disproportion of about four to one to women*. With limited publicity on mentally strengthening and supporting young men and little to no emphasis on bringing peace to gang violence in high traffic, inner cities (such as outskirts of Los Angeles county), there is no reason for these areas to experience anything other than high levels of gang violence and gun violence as a whole.

More funding for groups such as Advance Peace⁹ and programs such as Summer Jobs¹⁰ needs to be allocated. These simple, yet effective, solutions to the gun violence have proven themselves to curb crime, yet publicity on them are trumped over by immediate fingers being pointed at the tool rather than the problem.

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www.usnews.com/news/best-states/articles/2018-02-27/in-most-states-poorest-school-districts-get-less-funding

⁷ www.nber.org/books/grub07-2

⁸ birbhum.gov.in/DPSC/reference/57.pdf

⁹ ramh.org/guide/gender-differences-in-mental-health/

¹⁰ science.sciencemag.org/content/346/6214/1219

Policy four

Gun control is driven purely by cosmetic features of firearms and does not look at the disparities in crime rates among socioeconomic classes and race. It is quite apparent that cosmetics over features and caliber of a firearm are under far more scrutiny when looking at the assault weapons ban¹¹ regulations as outlined by the The State of California Department of Justices' official website. Some nuances include thumbhole stocks, flash suppressors, and threaded barrels on pistols. None of these arbitrary restrictions on individual freedom have proven to alter violent crime statistics¹².

The simple fact is cosmetic restrictions *do not* reduce lethality of a firearm. All semi-automatic firearms on the “ban list” of the current assault weapons ban in California utilize the same caliber (excluding those classified as .50 BMG) as every other firearm that is commercially available today. 9mm parabellum remains the preferred cartridge for handguns, and lightweight, semi-automatic, rifles continue to use the NATO standard 5.56 mm or universally adorned 7.62 mm.

Another recently coined buzzword by gun control advocates is the idea that rifles and handgun crimes are spiraling out of control due to high capacity magazines (10+1 cartridges able to be fired off before reloading). However, nearly all semi-automatic rifle platforms from manufacturers are produced with 30 round magazines. This capacity is a near universal standard with few exceptions. Most handguns utilize a double stacked method, similar to rifles, in their manufacturing of magazines creating 12, 15, and even 20 round capacity in a standard, unmodified, magazine. Yet the term high capacity aims to diminish a standard with no empirical backing. The current, unconstitutional, assault weapons ban needs to be done away with.

Conclusion

Further gun control regulations are misguided at best and infringements on individual rights to self preservation and safety at worst. There are far greater influences on gun violence in California, and some historically racist measures are still in place today. Beyond that, the demographics most prone to the violence are the ones more demonized, despite poor guidance from the public education system and lack of resources for troubled young men to blame. The realities of gun violence are not unknown, rather hidden for a more favorable, and easy to regurgitate, narrative.

¹¹ oag.ca.gov/firearms/regagunfaqs

¹² <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2004/aug/16/20040816-114754-1427r/>