

All The Right Stuff

The League of Women Voters' Public Policy Position on Gun Control has all the right stuff needed to stem gun violence in America. It has been carefully reviewed and updated over and over again since the 1990's. Here's a teaser to get you to look it up and read it yourself:

The League of Women Voters believe that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens...

I call your attention to this now because of the renewed pressure that the survivors of the massacre at the Parkland school have brought to bear on our legislators to pass gun laws to help end the senseless shooting deaths of children and adults.

The proliferation of guns in our society as a result of the repeal of gun control laws and the passing of pro-gun laws over the last 40 years has resulted in some frightening statistics:

- The number of guns manufactured in the U.S. nearly doubled in 3 years to almost 11 million from 2010 to 2013.
- There are roughly twice as many guns per capita in the United States as there were in 1968: more than 300 million guns in all.
- Americans are 25 times more likely to be murdered with a gun than people in other developed countries.
- On an average day 96 Americans are killed with guns.
- In an average month 50 US women are shot to death by intimate partners.
- Guns are now the third-leading cause of death for all Americans under 18.
- 91 percent of children under 15 who were killed by bullets lived in the United States.
- More than 208,000 students attending at 212 schools have experienced a shooting at school since the Columbine High School massacre.
- In the 20 years ending in 2012 there was an average of 3 school shootings per year in California.

Right here in San Diego County there have been three school shootings since the year 2000 and just last year there was a mass shooting at an apartment complex. Many of our fellow citizens in San Diego feel enough is enough and are looking for ways to reduce the risk of gun violence in their community. They have gone to city councils and school boards and requested resolutions that call for stronger gun control laws and call for the end of gun shows at the fairgrounds.

The 22nd District Agricultural Association, a nine member board appointed by the governor has the authority to end the hosting of gun shows at the fairgrounds and section 6.25 of their governance manual states: Whether or not a fair rents out their facilities for gun shows is a policy decision to be made by the fair board and their community.

The 22nd DAA has been targeted by NeverAgainCA to receive numerous appeals by letter and in person asking them to vote to end the gun shows. We want to encourage you to express your opinion on this issue and get involved because the NRA is expressing their opinion en masse. Even just to write one letter, go to one board/council meeting or go to one rally will help. You can't sit on the sidelines, because no one expects a shooting to happen to them or to their community until it does. Contact the Fair Board members by email or phone care of Donna OLeary doleary@sdfair.com, 858-755-1161 x2200 or write to the Board Members at 2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd, Del Mar, CA 92014.

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