



The Voter

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GUN SAFETY – It’s a Public Health Issue

by Pat Griffith

Gun violence has killed more than 6,000 people in Washington State over the last decade. Over half have been suicides. Gun violence is now the leading cause of death for young men ages 15-24. In 2009 more people in Washington died by guns than in traffic accidents.

King County recently released its own study concerning the impact of firearms on children under 18 from 1999-2012. During that period 68 children under 18 died from gun violence – homicide and suicide – with 125 children requiring hospitalization for injuries. 37% were suicides and 62% homicides. Black children were six times more likely than white children to be firearm homicide victims. In the US, five children die every day because of guns.

A recent analysis of state laws concerning guns compiled by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence rates Washington as a “one star” state (using a scale of zero to four stars), meaning that Washington has weak gun laws that help feed the illegal gun market and lax controls on the sale of guns and ammunition.

Just now, Washington State is a focal point in the discussion of gun safety. Two rival initiatives concerning background checks have been filed; they will probably both appear on the 2014 ballot. I-594 would extend criminal background checks now required for guns purchased through federally licensed dealers to all gun show sales as well as to private and online sales. Currently, approximately 40% of all guns sold in Washington are not required

to go through the background check system. The League of Women Voters of Washington (LWVWA) has endorsed I-594. I-591 would prohibit background checks until there is a uniform federal standard and would also prohibit confiscation of weapons until a legal conviction has been adjudicated. LWVWA opposes I-591.

Achieving gun safety may require more stringent background checks. Recent mass shootings in Colorado and Connecticut have raised questions about mental health and access to guns. A recent study by mental health and violence prevention experts in the Johns Hopkins University consortium identifies several risk-related factors that are not included in the federal background check system. State laws and reporting mental health records vary widely from state to state, with some states lacking the ability to report on civil commitments. President Obama, in an executive order issued January 3, 2014, expanded the definition of civil commitment to include outpatient commitment and to allow health care facilities to report commitment information to the national background check system.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THE LEAGUE!

The League of Women Voters was established on February 14, 1920 in anticipation of passage of the 19th Amendment which would occur the following August. Our local League was formed the following year. Join with us this month to celebrate 94 years of Making Democracy Work!

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Connecting with the Leadership

The longer I remain involved with the League the more in awe I am of the membership and the organization as a whole. Although I had nothing to do with its making, I am now responsible for the voter registration and speakers bureau piece of the voter services activities, along with chairing the education committee. The reality is that this work is accomplished only through collaborating with other Board members, League members, and dedicated volunteers. The Seattle League's exceptional office staff cannot be left out of this mix. I simply picked up, hoping to build on and not to break, what had been created by those who came before me.

League members are exceptionally well-informed and dedicated volunteers. The breadth and depth of their knowledge can be intimidating. Honoring and understanding the history of voting rights, gender equality, social justice, environmental policy, and many other public policies while actively seeking a deeper understanding of the issues of today is just business as usual for the League. The organization continues to be relevant and strong because the League understands that new members and new connections are essential to the vitality and effectiveness of the organization.

I have been both heartened and humbled by the willingness of volunteers to come forward sometimes on very short notice. Committee members do much of the work on forums, and volunteers especially play a crucial role in voter registration and speakers bureau needs. Without volunteers it would be impossible for the


League to accomplish this part of its mission. A larger number of active volunteers also increase the number of opportunities the League has to be of service to our members and to the community. The Seattle-King County League voter services especially needs to build stronger relationships county-wide. Identifying and training voter service volunteers in each area is one strategy that we will pursue to accomplish this goal. Feel free to contact the Seattle-King County office or email me at jfoxcullen@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer or help in planning and coordinating this effort.

I look forward to working with all to continue to build on the foundation that we inherited.



Joanna Cullen
Voter Services Co-Chair

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.
2	3 Int'l Relations Committee 12:45 p.m. Voter Deadline	4	5	6 Forum: Gun Safety 7:30 p.m.	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 	15
16	17	18 Transportation Committee 10:00 a.m.	19	20	21	22 Econ. & Tax. Committee 11:30 a.m.
23	24	25	26	27 Education Committee 10:00 a.m.	28	March 1 Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.
2	3 Int'l Relations Committee 12:45 p.m. Voter Deadline	4	5	6 Forum: Is THAT Safe to Eat? 7:30 p.m.	7	8

Units meet during shaded period

FEBRUARY

Board Meeting
Saturday, February 1
9:00 a.m.
League Office

International Relations
Committee
Monday, February 3
12:45-2:45 p.m.
League Office

The Voter Deadline
Monday, February 3

Forum: Gun Safety
Thursday, February 6
7:30 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church

Transportation Committee
Tuesday, February 18
10:00 a.m.
League Office

Economics & Taxation
Committee
Saturday, February 22
11:30 a.m. *Special Time
909 E Newton #D-9, Seattle

Education Committee
Thursday, February 27
10:00 a.m.
League Office

MARCH

Board Meeting
Saturday, March 1
9:00 a.m.
League Office

International Relations
Committee
Monday, March 3
12:45-2:45 p.m.
League Office

The Voter Deadline
Monday, February 3

Forum: Is THAT Safe to Eat?
Thursday, March 6
7:30 p.m.
Seattle First Baptist Church

Forum Schedule

February 6 - Gun Safety
March 6 - Nat'l Agriculture Update
April 3 - Living Wage
May - TBA/Annual Meeting
October 2 - Ballot Issues

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC) presents a public forum most months between September and May, generally on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. Most forums are held at the Seattle First Baptist Church, but occasionally they are scheduled in other locations and times. The tentative schedule of upcoming forums for 2014 appears at left; check *The Voter* each month or the LWVS-KC website, seattlelwv.org, for up-to-date information.

Board Briefs by Amanda Clark, Secretary

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County Board met on Saturday, January 4, 2014. This is a summary of their work.

Treasurer's Report. Our bank balance is healthy. The treasurer recommended combining our two money market funds into one, which was approved. One of the funds, named in honor of Shirley Bridge some years ago and intended to support operations, is not a restricted fund and therefore a separate account is unnecessary. The idea of resurrecting this fund for something special, such as scholarships, and using it as a fundraising tool, was discussed and is under consideration.

Program Planning. Planning for the February forum on gun safety is well under way. This forum promises to be interesting and provocative, taking a public health approach to gun violence. Topics for upcoming forums will include agriculture in March and the living wage in April. We contemplated holding one of the forums in

a different location, but it was decided that people would not want to go to an unfamiliar place, especially in the dark of winter, so that idea has been temporarily shelved.

Membership. The Membership Committee has revised the membership "about you" form to better reflect new members' interests and skills and will also revise the membership renewal notice. Bottlenecks in office work flow delayed sending thank you letters and membership renewals, but a new calendar will keep tasks moving along.

Fundraising. The Board looked at two creative suggestions for more effective fundraising. One suggestion is to ask each elected official listed in the TRY—and there are lots of them!—to donate one cent for each of their constituents.

Since TRY provides a service in telling citizens how to contact their elected officials, it's hoped the officials will see the benefit of maintaining this service. It was agreed to explore this idea further, to see if a number of officials could be persuaded to join the effort.

The other suggestion is to hold a breakfast in a downtown hotel with an interesting and provocative speaker. In the past we held a "political party" shortly before voting day, but mail in voting now means that candidates are busy until the last minute and don't take time out for a social event. But the political party was considered fun and an opportunity for politicians of all parties to mingle in a nonpartisan atmosphere. This breakfast, to be held in the spring, would replace that party. Again, the Board approved the idea of exploring this further to see if it was feasible for this year.

Administrative Matters. The Board appointed a small task force to research best practices in regard to staffing issues as the work increases in the office. The Board expects the task force to report its results at the February Board meeting.

The next meeting will be Saturday, February 1 at 9:00 a.m.

Diversity Policy

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County (LWVS-KC), in both its values and practices, affirms its beliefs and commitment to diversity and pluralism, which means there shall be no barriers to participation in any activity of the League on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

LWVS-KC recognizes that diverse perspectives are important and necessary for responsible and representative decision-making. LWVS-KC subscribes to the belief that diversity and pluralism are fundamental to the values it upholds and that this inclusiveness enhances the organization's ability to respond more effectively to changing conditions and needs.

LWVS-KC affirms its commitment to reflecting the diversity of Americans in its membership, board, staff and programs.

Committees

Meetings can sometimes be subject to last minute changes. Call the LWVS-KC office at 206-329-4848 to confirm.

Economics and Taxation Committee

DATE: Saturday, February 22
TIME: 11:30 a.m. ***Special Time**
PLACE: 909 E. Newton #D-9, Seattle

Our focus is on the issue of a “living wage.” Anyone interested in attending please call Jeannette Johnson, 206-724-3392.

Education Committee

DATE: Thursday, February 27
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: League Office

If you have questions or comments, please leave a message for committee chair Joanna Cullen, at info@seattlelwv.org or 206-329-4848.

International Relations Committee

DATE: February 3
TIME: 12:45 – 2:45 p.m.
PLACE: League Office

Transportation Committee

DATE: Tuesday, February 18
TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
PLACE: League Office

Subject: Engaging the Legislature
Speaker: Mike Lindblom, Seattle Times
Transportation Reporter.



A new committee is forming on the issue of Climate Change - read more about it on page 8.

We encourage participation by all interested members in our committees. It's a great opportunity to meet and talk to community leaders, stakeholder organizations, and experts where you can have direct input on local issues that affect you.

Don't see a committee that covers your issue? Call the office and let us know. Sometimes people are working in a more informal manner without regularly scheduled meetings. If so, we may be able to help connect you with them or help you start your own.



Mission Statement

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

King County Connects — Announcements

CLIMATE CHANGE STUDY AND ACTION COMMITTEE IS FORMING

By Judy Bevington

Judy Bevington and Raelene Gold, with the expert help of long term climate change activist Toni Potter, are forming a new LWVSKC Climate Change Committee.

We are currently gathering study materials for the Committee which may begin meeting in the fall. If you are interested in learning more and taking action on climate change, please consider joining the committee.

In the meantime, we can all get up to speed. There is a terrific series of lectures at the University of Washington on *The Future of Ice*. James Blalock, who did the amazing photography for the movie *Chasing Ice*, gave the one I went to. The DVD is available through Amazon and Netflix. It documents the retreating glaciers. It was heartening to see Kane Hall filled to the brim and to hear about new, interdisciplinary programs being developed at the University that focus on changes in the Arctic.

We hope that we can piggyback on some of the current efforts that are underway to control carbon. We expect to have speakers from various organizations such as Climate Solutions talk to us and then focus on efforts that we think will make the most difference: New technologies? Carbon tax? Coal trains? Individuals on the committee could have their own areas of interest, e.g. water supply, acidification, and sea level changes, beyond what the group might decide to focus on. Let us know if you are interested in joining the committee, what your particular interests are, and what you consider important sources of information. We could announce lectures and activities to our members through our weekly all member emails.

We consider this the most important issue of our time and would like LWVSKC to have a role in addressing it. If interested, please contact judybevington@q.com

Fascinating ... Enthusiastic ... Dedicated... Knowledgeable ... New....

These describe some of the many facets of Seattle-King County League Board members. Does “new” surprise you? Maybe you think Board members have years of experience working on topics that interest them or previous Board experience. Many do, but how did they get that experience? Right! They were once interested and enthusiastic but just starting out. League has a long history of encouraging and mentoring people who want to become involved in educating members and making a difference. Please consider joining the Board; we have valuable opportunities available.

And if you have experience and are interested, we would love to talk with you also! If you would like to find out more about how the League can make a difference for you, please contact a Nominating Committee member listed on the inside back cover of *The Voter* or call the League office.

Voter Services

TRY 2014 is here!

Once again our volunteers have tracked down all the newly elected and appointed mayors, councilmembers, legislators, and other officials for King County and Washington and updated our directory of elected officials. Print copies are in the mail to all members and our website has an electronic version available. Please thank Amanda Berry, Becky Cox, Julie Anne Kempf, Rita Lee, Pat McCann, Betty Sullivan, and Amelia Woolley for putting it all together and all of our office volunteers who handle the requests for pick up and mailing from the community.



Election? What Election?

It's a special election day on **February 11th** and many King County voters have gotten a ballot in the mail. Every school district except Seattle, Highline, Renton and Tukwila has a measure on the ballot. In addition, the city of Issaquah is considering a plastic bag ban and annexation of the Klahanie area. Our stalwart team at the state League office has once again updated our Vote411 website so that information about these issues and all others across the state are available to voters in Washington.



Speakers Bureau and Voter Registration by Joanna Cullen

The beginning of the year is a good time to build the core group of presenters and volunteers and 2014 has arrived. Please expect some invitations to join Voter Service activities in the next few months and don't be shy about contacting me to let me know your interests.

During the week of January 6 through 10 Seattle-King County League and Lake Washington High School PTSA volunteers registered voters at Lake Washington High School. The immediate challenge was that much of the organizing had to be done during the busy holiday season; nonetheless, it proved to be very fun. I enjoyed meeting the PTSA members and having the opportunity to work with Eastside volunteers. Thank you to League members Sheila Hoff, Gerry Williams, and Marilyn Knight, along with Lake Washington High School PTSA members Sandy Helgeson and Meredith Goldstein for making this a fun and successful event.

I also led a conversation for Crone of Puget Sound on "How to Make a Difference." They already are making a difference.

Getting Connected Membership News

WHY RENEW YOUR LEAGUE

MEMBERSHIP?

By Susan Jones, Membership Chair

We each have our own reasons for joining the League of Women Voters, reasons which may deepen or change over the years as we renew and pay our dues every year. The motivations fill the spectrum from wanting to be a better-educated voter to seeking new friends and/or business connections from among like-minded people.

In my position as membership chair, I often have the opportunity to hear some of those reasons firsthand and unsolicited. On a monthly basis, I make phone calls to “lapsed members,” people who are a couple of months or more behind on renewing their dues, and I am frequently moved and inspired by the spontaneous conversations I have with some of these folks. Not surprisingly, most people are surprised to learn that they are delinquent and are eager to renew. We are all busy people and renewal notices have a habit of falling through the cracks or slowly making their way to the bottom of our “To Do” piles.

It is the comments offered during these phone conversations that continue to inspire me. I almost always hear praise for the League’s unflagging nonpartisanship, long a trademark of our organization, but now more a beacon of hope for safeguarding our democracy in today’s highly partisan and polarized political climate. Others tell me what they personally have gained from their continued membership, i.e., the close camaraderie of their neighborhood units, the educational value of the monthly forums, the thoroughness of ballot issue summaries, etc. When I stop to think about how well educated and intellectually curious our typical member is already, I am even more impressed. Then there was this, just a couple of weeks ago, from one of our long time members reflecting on her 40 plus years of League involvement:

“The League has done more for me than any other educational institution or civic organization ever. I have learned so much and it has given me the confidence to speak in front of others that I never had before.”

Pretty powerful stuff. So what is it about the League that makes you willing to renew your membership each year? The following members probably have another good story of their own!

Thank You!

Thank you to all who have renewed in the past few months and an especial thanks to those who contributed a bit extra along with their dues: Mary Coltrane, Jayne Freitag, Kathleen Hinson, Gunbjorg Ladstein, and Boots Winterstein; Booster members Fam Bayless, Lael Braymer, Karen Brunner, Naomie Bulloch, Lucy Copass, Nancy Debaste, Mary Lee Gowell, Cynthia Howe, Mariette O’Donnell, Sue Papcun, Laura Parma-Veigel, Barbara Reid, Nick Smith, Betty Sullivan, Tijtske van der Muelen, Elizabeth Waddell and Jane Worthen; Contributing members Vicky Downs and Pamela & Don Mitchell; and Supporting member Gail Katz.

Recognizing long-time members

Each year at annual meeting we recognize our “lifetime” members, those who’ve been with the League for 50 years or more and this year four more will be joining the list. Unfortunately, some will not have the opportunity to make that mark so we thought we’d take our anniversary month as a time to recognize those members who’ve reached some significant milestones with the League.

Celebrating 40 years with League this past year are Hazel Schiffer and Gail Winberg (Hazel still renews with us after moving to Iowa where she’s active in her local League). 30 year members include Joan Paulson and Jane Stevens and 25 year members are Joan Peterson and Rainer Storb.

(Continued on page 32)

Features

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE CENTRAL WATERFRONT UPDATE by Charles and Nancy Bagley

On December 17 the Transportation Committee heard from Nathan Torgelson, one of four lead City staffers for the Central Waterfront Project. This article includes both the discussion at the meeting and some more recent information. See our article in the October 2013 *Voter*, p.14, for background.

Viaduct Replacement is underway. The drill, “Big Bertha,” has been stuck since December 6 after 800-1000 feet of drilling. The obstruction is an 8-inch steel pipe that was placed there in 2002 as part of the research by Washington DOT in preparation for the viaduct replacement. Big Bertha cannot cut through steel. Seattle Tunnel Partners, the private contractor, acknowledges that it was informed about the pipe before contract bidding, but “...presumed that it had been removed.” The total \$2 billion project budget includes \$145 million in contingency funds, just 8% of the bid amount.

Seawall Construction plans are underway, pretty much on schedule, but seawall cost estimates have risen 10% to \$330 million (*The Seattle Times*, Jan. 1). The bond passed by the voters raised \$290 million in 2012. Of the recent increase, \$4.6 million is for salmon protection and \$4.2 million is for historic preservation of some existing structures. Some waterfront businesses have elected to close temporarily during the work. The City will be paying them some compensation.

During construction, Alaskan Way will be diverted to pass totally under the viaduct as far as Virginia Avenue. After completion, it will be moved back to its present route while the viaduct is torn down. Then, it will move back permanently to the “under viaduct” route. The existing street along the waterfront will become a pedestrian walk/bike route. The draft Environmental Impact Statement is now expected in late 2014.

Public Amenities and Parks along the waterfront include trees, a bike route, and benches, but designs are only about five percent complete. Mr. Torgelson stated that no public lands will be privatized.

Waterfront Park’s views are threatened. This park (titled in the Plan as “Union Street Pier” to distinguish it from other Parks Department waterfront properties nearby) is bordered on the south by Pier 57 and on the north by the Aquarium, both of which have plans to expand into waters in front of the park, blocking views. Both are to be built over water belonging to the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR), from which they need leases. The Pier 57 owners have applied to move the pier edge northward and moor “tall ships” there. If both the Aquarium and Pier 57 projects are allowed, maps show that about 50% of Waterfront Park’s view will be blocked.

There are several groups opposing the Pier 57 expansion. The LWV-Seattle/King County wrote to the Corps of Engineers, the DNR, and the City urging that permits be denied. Waterfront Seattle and the Seattle Parks Department also are opposed. The Muckleshoot and Suquamish tribes have objected on the basis of harm to salmon spawning. This, the Pier 57 owners can mitigate by paying the County to fund salmon spawning improvements elsewhere that have been identified but not funded. We, the authors, have also written for the record that Pier 57 owners are in obvious violation of their current lease (May 2012) from the DNR, as they are substantially blocking free public access to the pier end, access that they are required to keep open “at all times.”

Funding for the public amenities in the Waterfront Plan is not assured. The City has suggested a Local Improvement District (LID) assessment on downtown owners to raise \$200-\$300 million. The City Council is planning to create the LID by statute, which will be rescinded if owners of over 60% of the property value in the LID reject it.

BOOK REVIEW by Vicky Downs

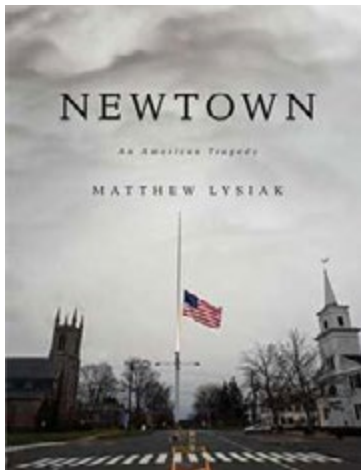
NEWTOWN: AN AMERICAN TRAGEDY

By Matthew Lysiak

Matthew Lysiak, a journalist for the *New York Daily News*, wrote this comprehensive account of the massacre that took place at the Sandy Hook Elementary School on December 14, 2012. It is impossible not to be moved by the deaths of innocent young children and their teachers. It is also impossible to find clear and unambiguous ways to prevent this from happening again.

Much of the book focuses on Adam Lanza, the troubled twenty-year old killer, who took his own life after shooting 27 others. He suffered not only from Asperger's Syndrome but also from sensory perception disorder (SPD), which made light and noises unbearable at times. Though he excelled academically, his mother Nancy said when he turned six, "He struggled in so many ways." He "flinched at sudden movements, recoiled from touch, sought seclusion, and preferred the dark." He had "an uncanny ability to process information quickly, but the sound of running bathwater could drive him mad" and he "always seemed so angry."

Nancy devoted herself to her son's health, reaching out to pediatricians who usually suggested he "would grow out of it," and to psychiatrists who prescribed pills that didn't work. In high school, Adam joined the Tech Club run by Richard Novia, who called him "a natural" in the world of robots and computers. Adam thrived under Novia's tutelage, but in less than two years the tech teacher left and once again there was no one who could help Adam. He turned almost full time to focusing on action filled video games and became fascinated by violent killings. The author makes it clear it was then only a question of time before the shootings took place.



Lysiak writes, "According to the FBI, violent crime has been steadily declining," down over 15% between 2002 and 2011. However, the number of "random mass shootings may be a rising trend."

In the final chapters, the author explores many citizens' suggestions for ways the Newtown killings could have been prevented, but not one of the ideas alone would have done so. What if Nancy Lanza had not owned guns? What if Richard Novia had stayed at the high school? What if Adam had not had access to violent video games?

My take, after finishing the book, is that Nancy and the others who tried to help did everything they thought they could. The one idea that did seem hopeful, though no solution, is to institute emergency call facilities for people dealing specifically with mental illness. It seems that virtually all mass killings have been caused by "troubled" people. This would have helped Nancy and probably Adam himself, when either was feeling especially stressed. It would also have allowed for statistics to be gathered to help in research leading to better understanding of psychiatric issues and eventually to help prevent more troubled people from turning to mass murder. A fellow Leaguer suggested that something like this in Seattle could build on the already existing Crisis Clinic.

The opinions in this article are personal and do not represent those of the LWV.

February Program:

GUN SAFETY & PUBLIC HEALTH

Policy Recommendations
for a More Secure America



Note for facilitators and recorders: Because this is not a study there are no consensus questions and you are not required to reach consensus. Nevertheless, please discuss the following and record the gist of your discussions. These notes help guide the Board and the program planning committee in developing future activities on this topic.

Discussion Questions:

1. What makes a responsible gun owner?

2. Are there changes that need to be made to the background check system?

3. How has a public health approach contributed to the drop in vehicle fatalities? Can similar actions be taken to decrease firearm deaths and injuries (including suicide)?
What measures would you recommend for a public health approach to gun safety?
Are there impediments to this approach that do not apply to automobile safety?

4. Funding has been cut to the Centers for Disease Control's efforts to conduct studies on firearm injury/fatalities. Are there any impediments to collecting data and conducting studies in this arena from a public health perspective?

5. What are the issues in reporting by law enforcement and the health care system at the local, state and national level? Are the reporting requirements uniform across jurisdictions?

6. Many mass shootings seem to have been committed by someone with mental health issues. Often there were plenty of warning signs that were either ignored or not considered important. The shooter at the Navy facility in D.C. had been involved in an incident in our area that involved vandalism with a firearm, yet he was still able to purchase a firearm from a gun dealer. What additional efforts by the legal system could be taken to flag these individuals so that they could be denied access to firearms?

7. Are the League Positions on Gun Control adequate? If not, what is missing? Is there a need for positions on the local level?

Editor's Note: The following report is reprinted by permission. To save space, we have omitted the table of contents and the appendices, including notes. The full text may be found at <http://smartgun-laws.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/gunsafety-and-publichealth.pdf>

GUN SAFETY & PUBLIC HEALTH: Policy Recommendations for a More Secure America

GUN VIOLENCE: A PHYSICIAN'S CALL FOR PUBLIC HEALTH SOLUTIONS

In the late 1990s, while working a shift in a pediatric emergency department, I was called in to see an infant who had been involved in a serious car accident. The car had been totaled. The parents, who were lucky to have survived, were terrified that their baby girl had been riding in the part of the car most damaged in the crash. I braced myself for the worst, and went to examine the child. What I found amazed me. The baby, still nestled snugly in her car seat, greeted me with a smile. I examined her carefully. Not a single bruise. She was completely unharmed. Despite the wreckage around her, she had been spared from injury. Her car seat: her salvation.

When I talk to parents and grandparents who have lost children and grandchildren, spouses and siblings to gun violence, I think about this beautiful baby. The United States has made unbelievable progress in the area of injury prevention. From 2000 to 2009, the Centers for Disease Control report that while the number of vehicle miles traveled on the nation's roads increased by 8.5%, the death rate related to that travel declined. Sadly, during the same years, we did not see parallel implementation of safety efforts to reduce the number of deaths from gun violence. Instead, due to pressure from National Rifle Association (NRA) leaders and lobbyists, we saw Congress muzzle public health research related to gun violence and its prevention. We saw academic paralysis on one of this country's major public health crises. The cost of our inaction has been astounding.

As we contemplate the deaths of young children at Sandy Hook, of movie-goers in Aurora, of those at prayer in Oak Creek, of those meeting with their elected officials in Tucson—of the 30,000 annual deaths from gun violence in this country—we need to ask ourselves what it will take to achieve effective public health strategies to end this bloody epidemic. Someday soon, we should hear the stories of parents thankful for the chamber indicators and the safety locks that saved their children, just as the infant I so well remember was saved by her legally mandated car seat. To get to that future, it is critical that physicians have the freedom and determination to educate patients about safe gun storage, about the risks of keeping a gun in the home with young children, and about the importance of considering family members' mental health before bringing a gun into the home. It is critical that research proceed. And it is critical that physicians share their stories with Congress and other policy makers. Solutions to this grim public health crisis require a view from the front lines of medical care.

Cheryl Bettigole, MD, MPH
President, National Physicians Alliance
2012 - 2013

The National Physicians Alliance has partnered with the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence to produce this report, which describes the public health approach to reducing gun violence, including policy recommendations.

BASIC FACTS ABOUT GUN OWNERSHIP IN THE U.S.

On December 14, 2012, a young man with serious mental health issues entered Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, with an assault weapon. He shot and killed 26 people, including 20 young children. Americans from all walks of life have struggled to put this horrific event in perspective, another in a string of gruesome mass shootings which steal the headlines but barely reference the core problem: gun violence has reached epidemic proportions in the United States. Each year in the U.S., approximately 30,000 people die from gunshot wounds; more than 60,000 people suffer nonfatal injuries from guns. In 2010, firearms were the third-leading cause of injury-related deaths nationwide, trailing only poisoning and motor vehicle accidents.

Americans own an estimated 310 million firearms—approximately 90 guns for every 100 people. Yet research has shown time and time again that the presence of firearms in a home makes its residents less safe. A national study of those who died from accidental shootings showed that victims were more than three times more likely to have had a gun in their home as those in the control group. Compared to states with the fewest guns, states with the most guns have, on average, nine times the rate of unintentional firearm deaths. The danger of unintentional shootings is especially acute for homes with children. 89% of unintentional shooting deaths of children occur in the home—and most of these deaths occur when children are playing with a loaded gun in their parents' absence.

Having firearms in the home also plays a role in an individual's risk of suicide. One study found that homes in which a suicide had oc-

curred were 4.8 times more likely to contain a firearm than similarly situated neighborhood homes that had not experienced a suicide. Average suicide rates are higher in states with higher rates of household firearm ownership. That relationship persists even after controlling for differences among states in poverty, urbanization, unemployment, mental illness, and alcohol or drug abuse. States with the highest prevalence of household firearm ownership had suicide rates about 60% higher than states with the lowest level of firearm ownership; that result holds true for men, women, and children. Another study found that more than 90% of all suicide attempts with a firearm, if serious enough to require hospital treatment, result in death. Suicide attempts by jumping,

by comparison, carry a 34% fatality rate; suicide attempts by drug poisoning carry a 2% fatality rate. About 90% of people who have lived through a suicide attempt do not go on to die by suicide.

The presence of firearms in the home also increases the risk that domestic violence will turn fatal. Women in the United States are murdered by intimate partners or former partners approximately nine times more often than they are murdered by strangers. An abusive partner's access to a firearm increases the risk of homicide eightfold for women in physically abusive relationships. Domestic violence incidents involving firearms are twelve times more likely to result in a death compared to non-firearm abuse incidents.

Given the overwhelming risks and harm to the population associated with firearms, advocates for public health must search for solutions. As described below, an examination of the legal background reveals that, while absolute bans on all kinds of firearms are not an option, there is

89% of unintentional shooting deaths of children occur in the home—and most of these deaths occur when children are playing with a loaded gun in their parents' absence.

much that can be done to reduce the risk and frequency of gunshot injuries and deaths.

THE LEGAL LANDSCAPE: THE SUPREME COURT AND THE SECOND AMENDMENT

Opponents of gun legislation frequently cite the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which 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.” Courts have universally agreed, however, that the right provided by the Second Amendment is not absolute and that many kinds of gun legislation designed to protect public safety remain valid.

In 2008, the law regarding the meaning of the Second Amendment changed dramatically, when the U.S. Supreme Court held for the first time that the Second Amendment guarantees a law-abiding, responsible individual a right to possess a firearm in the home for self-defense. In *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the Court struck down Washington, D.C.’s decades-old ban on handgun possession and the requirement that firearms in the home be stored unloaded and disassembled or bound by a locking device (a requirement which had no exception for self-defense).

The Supreme Court explicitly cautioned, however, that the Second Amendment should not be understood as conferring a “right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose.” The Court identified many examples of “presumptively lawful” firearm laws, including laws prohibiting firearm possession by felons and the mentally ill, forbidding firearm possession in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, and imposing conditions on the commercial sale of firearms. The Court noted that this list is not exhaustive, and concluded that the Second Amendment is also consistent with laws banning “dangerous and unusual weapons” not in common use at the time, such as M-16

rifles and other firearms that are most useful in military service. In addition, the Court declared that its analysis should not be read to suggest “the invalidity of laws regulating the storage of firearms to prevent accidents.”

Then in 2010, the Supreme Court held in *McDonald v. City of Chicago* that the Second Amendment applies to state and local governments in addition to the federal government and invalidated handgun bans in Chicago and Oak Park, Illinois. Again, however, the Court reiterated that a broad spectrum of gun laws remain constitutionally permissible.

Since the decisions in *Heller* and *McDonald*, the courts have been inundated with a flood of lawsuits claiming that the Second Amendment has been violated. These claims have been almost universally rejected, as courts across the country have upheld many types of regulations to reduce gun violence. Those who cite the Second Amendment as an obstacle to each and every proposed regulation affecting firearms misrepresent the law on this issue and wrongly stand in the way of laws that are constitutional and, as described below, life-saving.

PREVENTING HIGH-RISK INDIVIDUALS FROM ACCESSING GUNS

Public health researchers have identified certain risk factors that make people more likely to misuse firearms, such as prior violent crimes and the abuse of alcohol. The federal law that prohibits the purchase and possession of firearms by certain individuals does not include all individuals with these risk factors, however. Some states have filled in these gaps, preventing firearm access by people known to be dangerous. Studies have shown that the following groups are at a significantly higher risk than the general population of committing violent or firearms-related crimes, yet are not prohibited by federal law from purchasing guns:

- Those who have been convicted of violent or firearms-related misdemeanors;

Those with a history of abusing alcohol;
Those convicted of juvenile offenses.

Specifically, a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* looked at 5,923 authorized purchasers of handguns in California and found that handgun purchasers with at least one prior misdemeanor conviction were more than seven times as likely as those with no prior criminal history to be charged with a new offense after handgun purchase.

Similarly, numerous studies have associated alcohol abuse with a person's tendency to engage in violent behavior. One randomized trial found that, perhaps not surprisingly, alcohol consumption reduced shooting accuracy and impaired judgment about when it might be appropriate to use a gun. Another study found that firearm owners are more likely to drink and drive than those with no firearms at home, and to have more than 60 drinks per month. The same study also showed that heavy alcohol use was more common among firearm owners who also regularly carry the firearm for protection and who keep their firearm unlocked and loaded.

Research also indicates that individuals convicted of offenses at a young age are very likely to commit further acts of violence as adults. For example, a study analyzing a cohort of low-income, minority youth in Chicago found that those who were arrested before age 18 had a 38% higher likelihood of a subsequent felony conviction by age 26 compared with those who had not been arrested.

Some, but not all, states have expanded their firearms eligibility criteria:

- 23 states prohibit gun possession by at least some violent or firearms-related misdemeanants;
- 20 states prohibit gun possession by at least some alcohol abusers;
- 27 states prohibit gun possession by at least some juvenile offenders.

In addition, federal law prohibits people with certain kinds of mental health histories from purchasing or possessing firearms, but this law misses many individuals who have been identified by mental health professionals as dangerous. As a result, several states have broadened the category of mentally ill persons who are prohibited from purchasing or possessing firearms. California law, for example, includes an extensive list of temporarily disqualifying factors relating to mental illness, including: communicating a serious threat of violence against an identifiable individual to a licensed psychotherapist during the last six months, or being held for treatment for mental illness for 72 hours within the last five years.

Of course, simply prohibiting firearm possession by high-risk individuals is not enough to prevent them from obtaining dangerous weapons if a comprehensive background check requirement is not in place. Because federal law does not require universal background checks, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, "individuals prohibited by law from possessing guns can easily obtain them from private sellers and do so without any federal records of the transactions." One study has observed that the private-party gun market has long been recognized as a leading source of guns used in crimes." As a result, recent discussion aimed at strengthening gun laws has focused on extending the background check requirement to all private sales. While federal bills on this issue have stalled, 17 states have enacted laws that require a background check before at least some private firearm sales. In fact, in 2013 alone, five states, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, and New York, adopted "universal background check" laws which require a background check for every sale of a gun. Such laws have enormous potential for reducing gun deaths and injuries. States with such laws should be the rule, rather than the exception.

PUBLIC HEALTH SOLUTIONS

DOCTORS, GUNS, AND MEDICAL GAG LAWS

As described above, studies have repeatedly shown that the presence of firearms in a home makes the residents less safe. Research has also shown that doctors' advice regarding the proper storage of firearms and ammunition is heeded, and that proper storage can save lives. Yet, federal and state legislators have recently moved to prevent doctors from even talking to their patients about this critical safety issue.

Many gun owners improperly store their firearms, significantly increasing the chances that a child or unauthorized person will obtain it. Approximately one of three handguns is kept loaded and unlocked and most children know where their parents keep their guns. In one 2006 study, 73% of children under age 10 reported knowing the location of their parents' firearms, and 36% admitted they had handled the weapons; 39% of parents who reported that their children did not know the storage location of household guns and 22% of parents who reported that their children had never handled a household gun were contradicted by their children's reports. Many young children, including children as young as three years old, are strong enough to pull the trigger on a firearm. More than 75% of guns used by youth in suicide attempts and guns causing unintentional injuries were kept in the home of the victim, a relative, or a friend.

The proper storage of firearms can reduce these dangers. The U.S. General Accounting Office has estimated that 31% of accidental deaths caused by firearms might be prevented by the addition of two devices: a child-proof safety lock (8%) and a loading indicator (23%). Another study found that the practices of keeping firearms locked and unloaded, and of storing ammunition in a locked location separate from firearms have a "protective effect" and may assist in reducing youth suicide and unintentional injury in homes with children and teenagers where guns are stored.

When they encourage the proper storage of firearms, doctors do make a difference. One study found that 64% of individuals who received verbal firearm storage safety counseling from their doctors improved their gun safety practices. Despite this promising statistic, state legislators have moved to make it harder, rather than easier, for doctors to provide this counseling. In 2011, Florida Representative Jason Brodeur introduced a bill sponsored by the National Rifle Association (NRA) that subjected health care practitioners who inquired into gun ownership to disciplinary action. The debate on the bill was based heavily on anecdotal information rather than studies, research or statistics. Nevertheless, the bill was signed by Governor Rick Scott and went into effect on June 2, 2011.

One month after the bill was signed into law, a challenge was filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida, Miami Division. The challengers were six individual physicians and the Florida chapters of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American College of Physicians.

The District Court granted a permanent injunction against the law finding that it violated the First Amendment's free speech guarantee and that it limited "the free flow of truthful, non-misleading information within the doctor-patient relationship." The court also rejected the NRA's argument that the law was necessary to protect Second Amendment rights, stating: "A practitioner who counsels a patient on firearm safety, even when entirely irrelevant to medical care or safety, does not affect nor interfere with the patient's right to continue to own, possess, or use firearms." The ruling has been appealed to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

At the urging of the NRA, nine other states have introduced physician gag rule legislation in various forms since 2011. Most of these bills have died. Only Montana has enacted similar legislation.

The gun lobby's efforts to stifle physicians' discussion of guns are not limited to state legislation. The Affordable Care Act, otherwise known as Obamacare, which was signed by the President in March 2010, also contains NRA-backed provisions intended to shut down the conversation about guns. Specifically, the law prohibits a wellness and health promotion activity from requiring the disclosure or collection of information about gun ownership. The Act also limits the use of this information by insurance providers. However, President Obama's Executive Actions in response to the Newtown tragedy clarified that requests about firearms and the reporting of threats of violence are not prohibited by federal law (although they cannot be required by certain entities).

These censorship provisions undermine the independent, evidence-based practice of medicine as well as clinical free speech; gag-laws prevent honest and open communication between patients and health care providers, and they deny patients access to vital clinical data. Doctors must defend their right to speak freely about any subject that affects the health and safety of their patients, as well as for the right of patients to receive this critical information.

SYSTEMATIC BLOCKS TO RESEARCH, ANALYSIS & DATA COLLECTION: REMOVING IMPEDIMENTS

As with other public health approaches to reducing product-related deaths and injuries, research findings are critical to developing effective, protective interventions and public policy regarding firearms. Only by evaluating the circumstances and aggregating the data on this issue can we expect to make evidence-based decisions to address this public health issue.

Yet, at the behest of the NRA, federal funding for research into gun violence has been significantly restricted. In 1996, Congress approved an amendment to an appropriations bill stripping

the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) of its budget for firearm injury research (\$2.6 million) and forbidding the CDC from using any funding "to advocate or promote gun control." This language has continued to be included in appropriations bills ever since, and has significantly chilled research on gun violence.

The NRA's determination to hinder this research arose from a study published in 1993 in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The article, authored by Dr. Arthur L. Kellerman and colleagues, was entitled "Gun Ownership as a Risk Factor for Homicide in the Home." It showed that keeping a gun in the home was strongly and independently associated with an increased risk of homicide. The article concluded that rather than confer protection, guns kept in the home are associated with an increased risk of homicide by a family member or intimate acquaintance.

The Kellerman article clearly stated that the studies weren't published as briefs for gun control, but rather to provide data to help people make evidence-based decisions about whether to keep a weapon at home. Since then, the NRA has taken every action in its power to hinder any attempt to study gun violence as a public health problem. The same language stripping all funding used for gun injury research and forbidding "advocacy" was added to the NIH funding bill in 2011.

In 2004 the National Research Council issued a report, *Firearms and Violence*, assessing the state of knowledge in the field. The report stated:

...the inadequacy of data on gun ownership and use is among the most critical barriers to a better understanding of gun violence... if policy makers are to have a solid empirical and research base for decisions about firearms and violence, the federal government needs to support a systemic program of data collection and research that specifically addresses this issue.

Significantly, the NRA's self-described "point person" Congressman Jay Dickey (R-AR) has completely changed his position from 1996 and recently wrote in favor of funding scientific research into firearm injuries. In a 2012 Washington Post op-ed co-authored by former director of the CDC's National Center for Injury Control and Prevention Mark Rosenberg, Dickey emphasized his "strong agreement now that scientific research should be conducted into preventing firearm injuries and that ways to prevent firearm deaths can be found without encroaching on the rights of legitimate gun owners."

As part of the response to the Newtown tragedy, President Obama issued a Presidential Memorandum directing the CDC and scientific agencies to conduct research into the causes and prevention of gun violence. That Memorandum is based on a legal analysis that concludes that such research is not prohibited by any appropriations language. However, the absence of funding continues to impede research.

Where research has been completed, it has indicated that solutions to our nation's epidemic of gun violence do exist. Gun violence may not be altogether "curable," but it is treatable. There are policies that can reduce the currently unrelenting toll it has taken on our country. Research can help identify which policies work best.

RESTRICTING UNUSUALLY DANGEROUS FIREARMS

The features and designs of the available makes and models of firearms vary greatly. While certain firearms are designed with legitimate uses in mind, such as hunting, target practice, and self-defense, other firearms have been equipped with particular features intended solely to increase the number of casualties in a shooting. These features, such as pistol grips, barrel shrouds, and thumbhole stocks, allow a shoot-

er to fire the weapon repeatedly without losing control of the firearm. They have no purpose outside of a combat situation. Firearms with these features are commonly known as assault weapons.

In 1994, Congress enacted a law banning the sale or possession of certain assault weapons and large capacity magazines, the feature that, when attached to a firearm, supplies a firearm with numerous bullets ready to be expelled without reloading. This federal law was allowed to expire in 2004. Nevertheless, seven states (California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland,

Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York) have enacted their own laws restricting the sale or possession of assault weapons, and eight states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York) have also restricted the sale or possession of large capacity magazines.

When assault weapons and large capacity magazines are used in a shoot-

ing, more people suffer from injuries and more people die. A review of 56 mass shootings (incidents in which at least four people were murdered with a gun) between January 2009 and January 2013 found that incidents where assault weapons or large capacity ammunition magazines were used resulted in 135% more people shot and 57% more killed, compared to other mass shootings. Another study found that after the federal ban expired, there was a 40% increase in homicide rates in areas in Mexico along the Texas, New Mexico and Arizona borders (states that do not ban assault weapons) compared to areas along the California border (where assault weapons are banned). This finding also supports the conclusion that restrictions on assault weapons and large capacity magazines can reduce the number of injuries and fatalities that result from a shooting.

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DESIGN SAFETY STANDARDS FOR FIREARMS

In addition to reducing the casualties in an intentional shooting, laws regulating the design of firearms have the potential to greatly reduce the risk of unintentional injuries. Unlike other consumer products, guns are not generally subject to consumer product safety standards, and gun makers and the NRA oppose such standards, just as car makers opposed seat belts and airbags. As a result, from 2005-2010, almost 3,800 people died and more than 95,000 people were injured in the U.S. from unintentional shootings. More than 42,000 victims of unintentional shootings for this period were under 25 years of age, and more than 1,300 of these children and young adults died.

As stated in an October 2012 study from the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research: “Although unintentional or accidental shootings account for a small share of firearm related mortality and morbidity, these deaths and injuries are highly preventable through proper design of firearms.”

For example, on September 13, 2012, a 22-year-old man named Marcus Dixon in Stamford, Connecticut, was joking around with friends when he took out his gun. His friends say he pulled the magazine out of the gun and believed the weapon was unloaded when he put it towards his head and fired. His friends tried to revive him, but he soon died.

Marcus Dixon didn't have to die. Many firearms are equipped with a feature known as a “magazine disconnect mechanism” that prevents a firearm from discharging when the magazine is not attached. Other firearms are equipped with a “chamber loading indicator” that indicates whether a gun is loaded. Either one of these devices could have potentially saved the life of Marcus Dixon by either preventing the gun from discharging as it did (with the magazine detached), or clearly indicating that the gun was

loaded.

Furthermore, poorly constructed guns can fire even when the trigger hasn't been pulled, or do not fire when the trigger has been pulled. Guns of this kind are commonly referred to as “junk guns” or “Saturday Night Specials.” These low-quality handguns are often composed of inferior metals or plastic and designed in ways to unreasonably reduce the costs of manufacture. Broadly speaking, these handguns are cheap, easily concealed, and more likely to misfire or malfunction than other firearms.

Unlike its response to other hazardous products, federal law imposes no health or safety requirements on the design of domestically produced firearms. In fact, the federal Consumer Product Safety Act, which imposes health and safety standards on other consumer products from baby cribs to clothing and office chairs to hair dryers, specifically exempts firearms and ammunition from its requirements. Furthermore, while federal law prohibits the importation of junk guns through a ban on importation of firearms not suited for “sporting purposes,” this standard does not apply to domestically produced firearms. The result is that, except in a handful of states that impose their own standards, firearm manufacturers are not required to consider the safety of the products they make.

In response to the lack of federal design safety standards for domestically produced handguns, seven states have adopted laws addressing this issue: California, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, and New York. The laws in California, Massachusetts, and New York are the strongest. These laws require handguns to include certain specific safety features and to undergo certain kinds of “testing” prior to their sale in the state. These design safety tests are intended to ensure the structural integrity of the firearm and to prevent the firearm from misfiring or malfunctioning. Examples of design standards include drop testing (to confirm that a handgun does not fire when dropped) and

firing testing (to ensure that a handgun does not malfunction when fired). The strongest state laws require handguns that have these features and have passed these tests to be listed on a roster of handguns approved for sale in the state.

LOCKING DEVICES AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES TO REDUCE CHILD AND UNAUTHORIZED ACCESS TO GUNS

As noted above, gun owners frequently do not store their firearms properly, greatly increasing the risk that young children and other unauthorized individuals will obtain access. This problem is exacerbated by the fact that gun locking devices and gun safes are not held to high standards. New technologies are being developed that may reduce this problem, however.

In October 2005, as part of the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, Congress passed and the President signed into law legislation making it unlawful for any licensed importer, manufacturer or dealer to sell or transfer any handgun unless the transferee is provided with a secure gun storage or safety device. However, the Act does not apply to transfers by private sellers, and does not require that transferees use the device. Furthermore, even when a gun owner attempts to properly store a handgun, a child or other unauthorized person may still have access to it because not all gun locking devices and gun safes are effective. The ineffectiveness of certain gun safety devices has recently caused President Obama to call upon the Consumer Product Safety Commission to evaluate the necessity of standards for such devices. As stated by the President: "We also need to make sure that gun locks and gun safes work as intended. Several gun locks have been subject to recall due to their failure to function properly; that is not acceptable."

Eleven states have laws concerning firearm locking devices, although many of these laws go no further than the federal law and only require that such devices accompany the sale of a hand-

gun. California has the most comprehensive standard regarding firearm safety devices. California law requires the Department of Justice to set standards for locking devices and gun safes through administrative rules and requires testing of these devices to ensure conformity with these rules. Locking devices found to meet these standards are listed in a roster of approved devices that may be sold in the state. Maryland and Massachusetts also maintain rosters of approved locking devices.

In addition, technology is currently being developed that would prevent a gun from being operated except by an authorized user. Guns that incorporate such technology are known as "personalized" or "owner-authorized" guns. While these guns are not yet commercially available, prototypes are being created using biometric, magnetic, and radio frequency identification technology. If the use of such technologies was mandated, it could significantly reduce access to guns by children, as well as criminal trafficking in firearms. The medical profession can play a role in encouraging the development of these technologies, and when they are available, gun manufacturers should be required to incorporate them into the design of firearms.

Laws imposing standards for the safety of firearms and gun safety devices fill critical gaps in our nation's gun laws. An awareness of these gaps and a determination to close these loopholes and encourage even stronger technologies will reduce gun deaths and injuries.

RESPONSIBLE GUN OWNERSHIP: TRAINING AND LICENSING

Soon after motor vehicles became popular in the early twentieth century, almost every European country and every state in the U.S. adopted a law requiring drivers to undergo testing and obtain a license before they got behind the wheel. Like motor vehicles, firearms require certain knowledge and skills in order to be handled with minimal risk to self or others. Yet there is no national

requirement that firearm owners be trained or that they demonstrate any knowledge about the safe handling of firearms. Only six states have enacted laws of this kind so far.

Laws that require an individual to obtain a license or permit for purchase or possession of a firearm can facilitate responsible firearm use by ensuring that an applicant knows how to safely load, fire and store a gun, and has knowledge of relevant firearms laws. These laws can utilize written and performance-based tests to determine whether an applicant for a license has these qualifications. These laws can also prevent access to firearms by unqualified individuals by requiring firearm sellers to ensure that buyers have the appropriate license.

Massachusetts, for example, currently requires an applicant for a firearm license to receive training in: (1) the safe use, handling and storage of firearms; (2) methods for securing and childproofing firearms; (3) the applicable laws relating to the possession, transportation and storage of firearms; and (4) knowledge of operation, potential dangers and basic competency in the ownership and usage of firearms. Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, and Rhode Island have similar requirements. In California, anyone purchasing a handgun must obtain a Handgun Safety Certificate (HSC) prior to purchase. To obtain a HSC, the applicant must pass a written safety test. In addition, subject to limited exceptions, all handgun purchasers are required to perform a safe handling demonstration with the handgun being purchased in the presence of a certified instructor. California law specifies various safe handling tasks the prospective purchaser must perform based on the type of handgun to be purchased.

HOLDING INDUSTRY ACCOUNTABLE

REGULATING GUN DEALERSHIPS

Firearms initially enter the consumer market through gun dealers, who are the critical link be-

tween manufacturers or importers of firearms, and the general public. Research has found that the practices of gun dealers can significantly affect whether guns sold by those dealers end up in the hands of criminals. Law enforcement oversight of these businesses is therefore crucial.

Federal law requires a person or company to obtain a federal firearms dealer license to engage in the business of dealing in firearms. More than 60,000 individuals and companies are currently federally licensed firearms dealers and pawnbrokers. Dealers' access to large numbers of firearms presents a serious risk to public safety if they fail to monitor their inventory. Between 2004 and 2011, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), discovered nearly 175,000 firearms missing from dealer inventories during compliance inspections. Although most gun dealers comply with the law, ATF has found that scofflaw gun dealers represent a major source of illegally trafficked firearms.

Despite these risks, federal oversight of dealers is minimal. ATF, which is charged with enforcing federal gun laws, is prohibited from conducting more than one unannounced inspection of each dealer per year; the burden of proof for prosecution and revocation are extremely high and the prescribed penalties for violations are low; and ATF has historically been underfunded and understaffed. A 2013 report by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of the Inspector General found that 58% of dealers had not been inspected within the past five years due, in part, to a lack of resources.

Because federal oversight of gun dealers is weak, state and local governments can play an important role in regulating gun dealers. About half of the states impose some regulations on firearms dealers, although only a handful of states comprehensively monitor these businesses. The states with the strongest laws require gun dealerships and ammunition sellers to obtain a state license, utilize security systems, conduct back-

ground checks on employees, maintain records of sales, submit to regular inspections, and fulfill other requirements.

A 2009 study found that cities in states that comprehensively regulate retail firearms dealers and cities where these businesses undergo regular compliance inspections have significantly lower levels of gun trafficking than other cities. As stated by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, state and local governments should enact their own dealer licensing requirements because they can respond to specific community concerns, and because state and local oversight of licensees helps reduce the number of corrupt dealers.

THE GUN INDUSTRY'S IMMUNITY FROM LAWSUITS

Tort liability plays an important role in injury prevention. In circumstances where legislators have been unwilling to enact regulations to improve safety, dangerous products and careless industry practices are normally held in check by the possibility of civil litigation that enables injured individuals to recover monetarily. As noted above, policies designed to hold gun sellers accountable can curtail the diversion of guns to criminals. Litigation can do the same thing. The firearms industry, however, has recently obtained unprecedented immunity from this long-standing system of accountability.

A series of lawsuits in the 1990s held certain members of the firearms industry liable for particularly reckless practices. As a result, the industry began to push legislation in statehouses that limited this avenue of relief. Then, in 2005, after intense lobbying from the gun industry, Congress enacted and President Bush signed a law that gives gun manufacturers and sellers unprecedented nationwide immunity from lawsuits. This law, known as the "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act," requires the dismissal of almost any lawsuit brought against a member of the gun industry for irresponsible

or negligent behavior in the business of making or selling guns. This law enables gun makers and sellers to market their products in ways that are intended to appeal to criminals and other ineligible purchasers without facing any legal consequences. It also allows the industry to make available increasingly dangerous weapons and to fail to monitor inventory, even in the face of evidence that thousands of guns are being stolen from dealerships and end up in the hands of criminals.

In 2012, the gun industry made an estimated \$11.7 billion in sales and \$993 million in profits. There is no good reason for the firearms industry to receive special treatment in the hands of the law or to be immune from the same kind of civil lawsuits that are used to hold business practices accountable for the injuries they cause.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS

Medical professionals have always played a central role in solving public health crises. As witnesses to the traumatic nature of gunshot injuries, doctors and other health care providers can movingly testify to the physical severity of gun violence—and just as importantly, they can see this epidemic of violence through the lens of public health. Just as the medical community has historically championed substantive injury prevention policies in other areas, it is time again for health care providers to demand concrete actions to reduce gun violence. Examples include:

- Extending gun purchase and possession prohibitions to people known to be at a high risk of committing firearms-related or violent crimes, such as violent misdemeanants, alcohol abusers, and serious juvenile offenders;
- Banning assault weapons and high capacity ammunition magazines;
- Establishing of a universal system of back-

ground checks for anyone buying a firearm or ammunition;

- Regulating guns and gun safety devices as consumer products by requiring the inclusion of product safety features, such as loading indicators and magazine disconnect mechanisms, and testing these products for safety prior to sale;
- Encouraging the development of new technologies that will increase gun safety, such as personalized guns;
- Removing all gag rules that apply to clinical encounters, because patients and providers must be free to discuss any issue, including gun safety;
- Building an evidence-based approach to gun violence prevention, which includes restoration of robust funding and training for epidemiological research in this area (e.g. through the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and gathering data that tracks gun-related deaths and injuries, safety interventions, and the impact of measures to reduce the incidence of gun violence over time;
- Requiring law enforcement oversight of gun dealerships and ammunition sellers, who should be held accountable for negligence in the marketing or sale of these products; and
- Ensuring that violence prevention including gun safety is a core part of the training and continuing professional education of doctors, nurses, social workers, chaplains, teachers, and other professionals.

We call on the medical community to give strong, vocal support to these powerful, life-saving interventions.

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The National Physicians Alliance is a non-partisan, 501(c)3 organization. The NPA creates research and education programs that promote health and foster active engagement of physicians with their communities to achieve high quality, affordable health care for all. The NPA offers a professional home to physicians across medical specialties who share a commitment to professional integrity and health justice. Believing that the best way to win public trust is to earn it, the organization accepts no funding from pharmaceutical or medical device companies.

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Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence is a non-profit organization focused on ending the epidemic of gun violence in America. Formed in the wake of the July 1, 1993 assault weapon massacre at a law firm in San Francisco, the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence is now the premier clearinghouse for information about federal and state firearms laws and Second Amendment litigation nationwide.

Our trusted and in-depth legal expertise, analysis, and comprehensive data tracking are relied upon by legislators seeking to enact smart gun laws, advocates working to educate others on how to make communities safer, and journalists seeking to uncover the truth about America's gun laws.

Learn more at smartgunlaws.org or call 415.433.2062

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Consortium for Risk-Based Firearm Policy. *Guns, Public Health and Mental Illness: An Evidence-Based Approach for State Policy*. Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research. Dec 2, 2013. www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/johns-hopkins-center-for-gun-policy-and-research/publications/GPHMI-State.pdf

Videos

Seattle Town Hall Forum, “Gun Violence – A Public-Health Crisis,” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wzr2escjb88>

Recent League of Women Voters forums on gun violence:

- ◆ “Gun Violence – All Sides of the Conversation,” February 27, 2013, Centre County, PA
<http://cnet.pegcentral.com/player.php?video=c304e2c39e022c57183a5fa5af393e1f>
- ◆ “Keeping Our Children Safe From Gun Violence in Our Schools,” February 2, 2013, Saratoga County, NY <http://www.lwvsaratoga.org/videos.html>
- ◆ “How Can Responsible Gun Ownership Contribute to Reducing Gun Related Incidents? A Civil Discussion on the Freedoms and Responsibilities of Gun Ownership” September 21, 2013, Bellingham, WA <http://vimeo.com/75357872>

Personal stories of people affected by gun violence and of people working to make it less prevalent: “Gun Violence: Victims and Voices for Change,” WQED, Pittsburgh
<http://www.wqed.org/tv/gunviolence/?id=14>

Video clip shown at Washington Alliance for Gun Responsibility fundraiser, May 30, 2013
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Znwf4xWs7Zk&feature=youtu.be>

FIREARMS AND CHILDREN IN KING COUNTY

In his State of the County address in January 2013, County Executive Dow Constantine declared gun violence a public safety and public health crisis. He proposed a public health approach to prevention, and directed the county Public Health department to implement such an approach.

On November 25, 2013, Public Health – Seattle & King County released a report entitled *The Impact of Firearms on King County’s Children: 1999 – 2012*. Based on data from the Medical Examiner’s Office and Child Death Review, the report finds that gun violence among children consists of two separate problems, homicide and suicide. It notes that more data is needed, from different sources, in order better to understand the nature of the incidents and design appropriate interventions.

The report concludes that improvement to the county’s information system is necessary for successful implementation of a public health approach to preventing gun violence. It also recommends an emphasis on storing firearms safely.

Four graphs included in the report are **reprinted on the following pages**. They represent the data on homicides and suicides affecting children, by age, ethnicity and gender, and by region. The entire report is available at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health/injury.aspx>

The Impact of Firearms on King County's Children: 1999-2012

Figure 1.

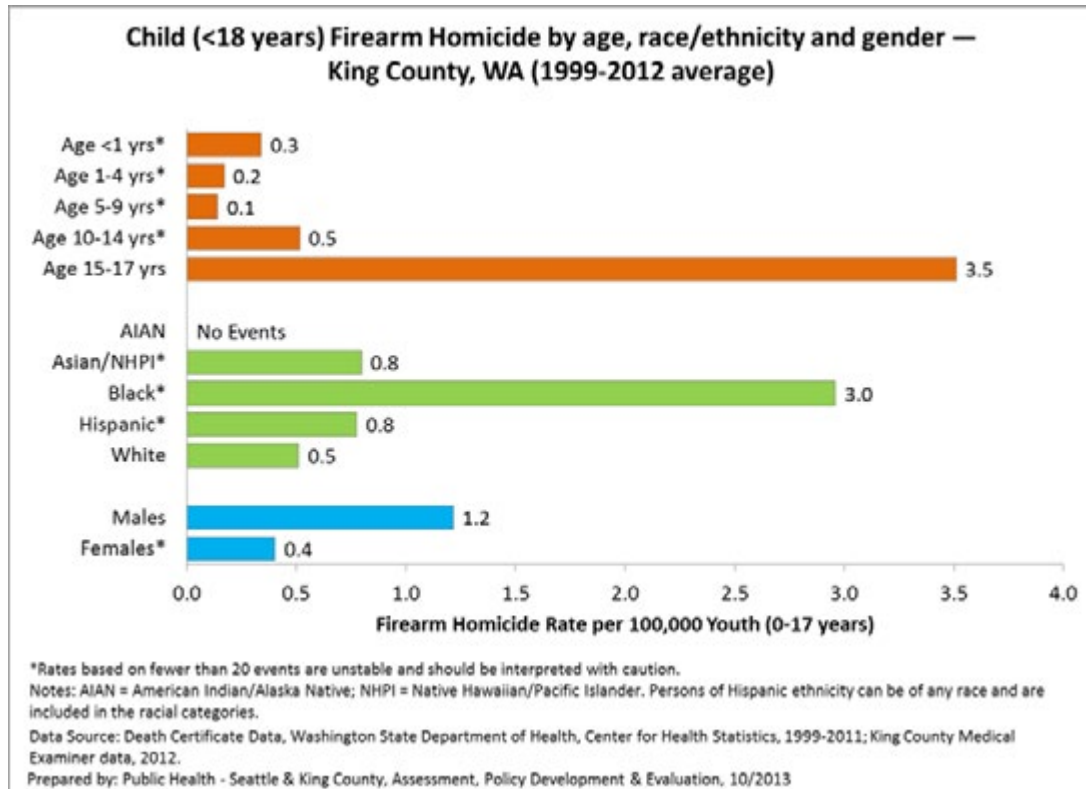
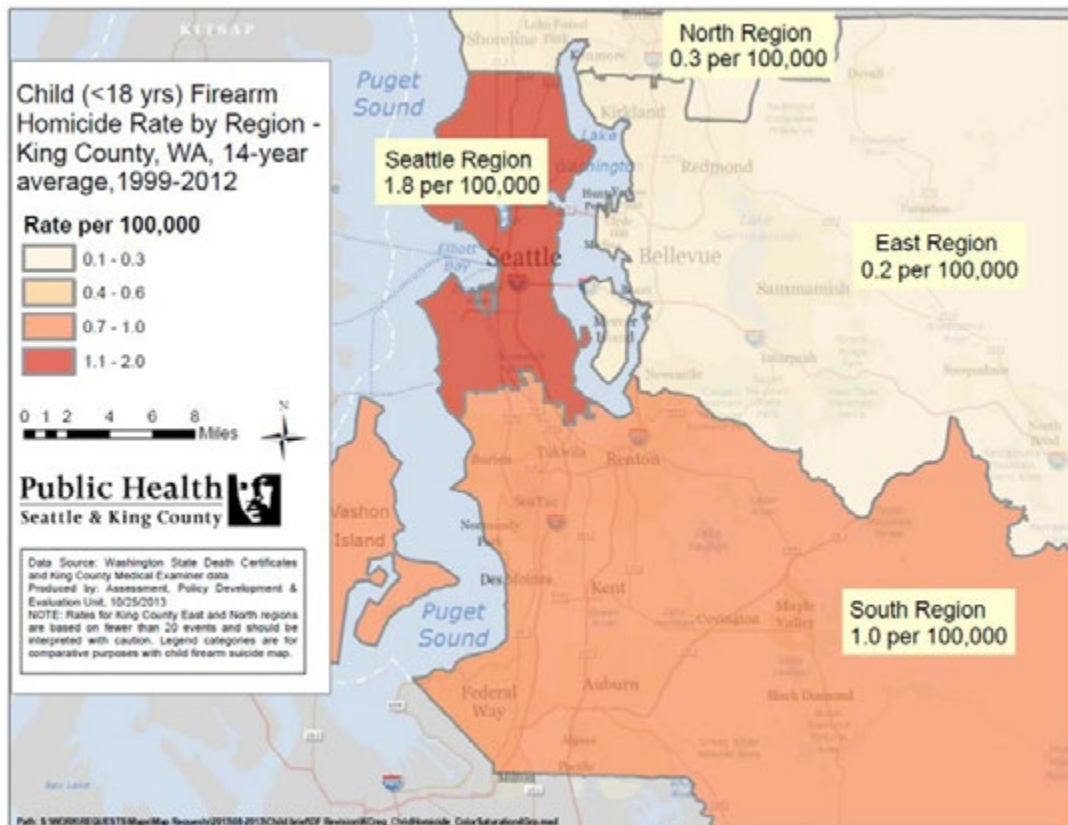


Figure 2.



The Impact of Firearms on King County's Children: 1999-2012

Figure 3.

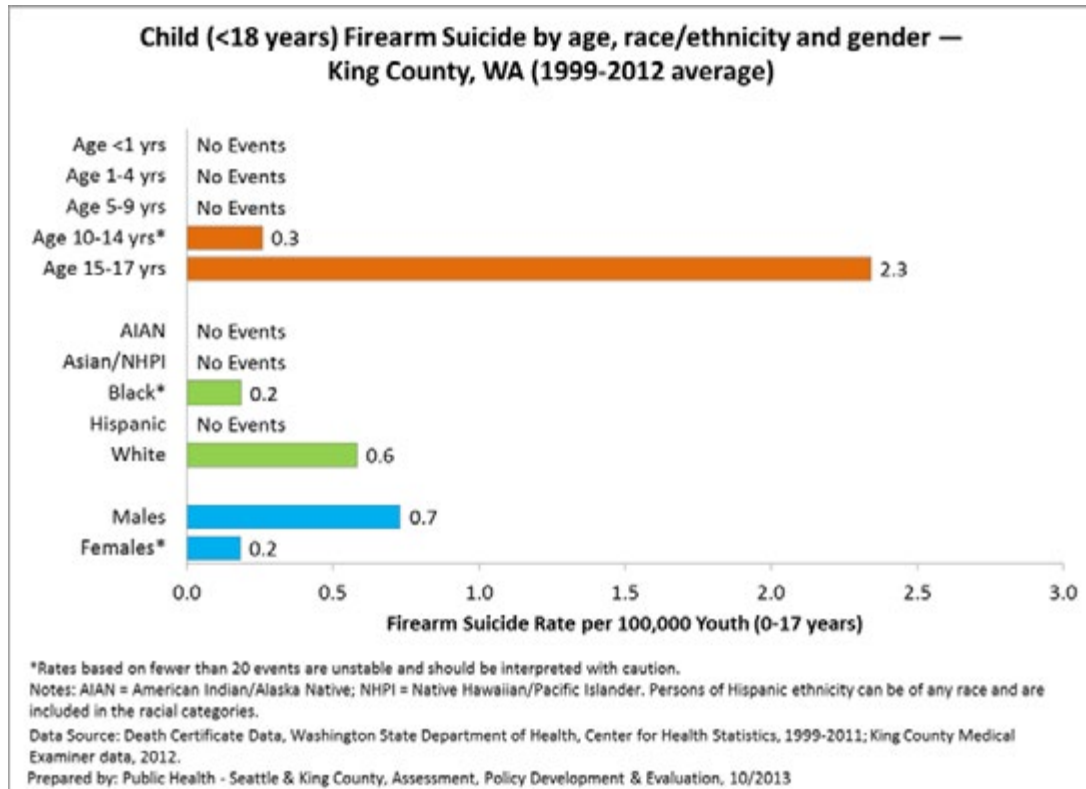
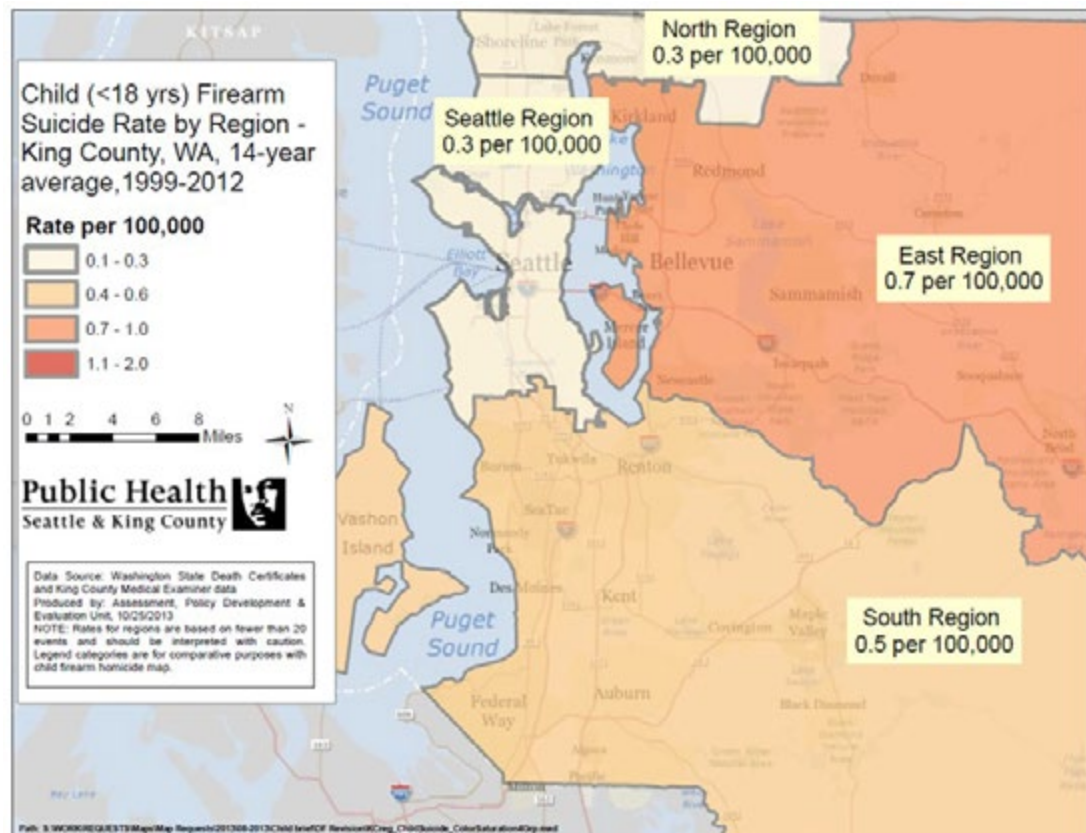


Figure 4.



National Positions on Gun Control From LWVUS Impact on Issues 2012 – 2014

The League's History

The 1990 Convention took the then rare step of adopting the gun control position by concurrence. Proponents had sent two informational mailings to all Leagues before Convention. Spirited debate on the Convention floor persuaded the Convention to concur with the statement proposed by the LWV of Illinois.

Following the Convention action, the LWVUS wrote to all members of Congress, announcing the League's new position on gun control and urging passage of federal legislation to control the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States. In 1991, the League joined with other organizations to support legislation banning semi-automatic assault weapons. In 1992 and 1993, the League supported congressional passage of the Brady bill, to institute a five-day waiting period and background check for the purchase of handguns. Following enactment of the Brady bill in November 1993, the League stepped up its efforts in a successful 1994 House campaign to force inclusion of the assault weapons ban in the final conference report on omnibus crime legislation.

Addressing constitutional arguments affecting gun control, the 1994 Convention voted to amend the position on gun control based on federal court decisions limiting the meaning of the Second Amendment's "right to keep and bear arms." This section of the position was nullified by the Supreme Court decisions in *District of Columbia v. Heller*, 2008 and *McDonald v. Chicago*, 2010.

Throughout 1995-1996, opponents of the assault weapons ban and Brady bill pushed for repeal, but the League and others convinced Congress otherwise.

The 1998 Convention again amended the position with: "The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety."

In the 106th Congress, the LWVUS worked for gun control measures to close major loopholes in current law. Although the Senate passed legislation mandating background checks for all gun show purchases, the House derailed this and other attempts to control gun violence, including child safety locks on guns.

The LWVUS endorsed and League members joined the Mother's Day 2000 Million Mom March that demonstrated citizens' call for common-sense gun control measures.

In 2004, the League voiced strong concern over the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, which would grant special protection for the gun industry by barring city, county or individual lawsuits against gun manufacturers and dismiss pending cases.

The League supported legislation to extend the Assault Weapons Ban, which expired in September 2004. The LWVUS also supported language to close the Gun Show Loophole to require all dealers to run criminal background checks at gun shows.

In the 2000s, the League opposed congressional attempts to repeal District of Columbia gun safety laws because such action interfered with the right of self-government for DC citizens.

The League's Position

Statement of Position on Gun Control, as Adopted by 1990 Convention and amended by the 1994 and 1998 Conventions:

The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the proliferation of handguns and semi-automatic assault weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens. The League supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of these weapons by private citizens. The League supports regulating firearms for consumer safety.

The League supports licensing procedures for gun ownership by private citizens to include a waiting period for background checks, personal identity verification, gun safety education and annual license renewal. The license fee should be adequate to bear the cost of education and verification.

The League supports a ban on "Saturday night specials, enforcement of strict penalties for the improper possession of and crimes committed with handguns and assault weapons, and allocation of resources to better regulate and monitor gun dealers.

State Positions on Gun Control From LWVWA Program in Action, 2013 – 2015

POSITION IN BRIEF: *Government should regulate ownership and possession of firearms and limit their accessibility.*

BACKGROUND: The 1990 League of Women Voters national convention adopted a position on Gun Control by consensus. A study was adopted by LWVWA in 1993 to examine and evaluate existing Washington state gun control laws and their enforcement. The scope of the study further called for a review of current laws in other states and Canadian provinces, and an assessment of gun control issues.

In 1997, after several years of lobbying unsuccessfully for legislation to implement our position, the League endorsed Initiative 676, the Handgun Safety Act, and worked in coalition with Washington Ceasefire and other groups to gather enough signatures to place the measure on the November ballot. The act would require that all handguns be sold with trigger-locking devices for safe storage and that handgun owners be required to obtain a safety license to indicate that they have been trained in the safe operation, handling and storage of handguns.

The Handgun Safety Initiative 676 supported by LWVWA did not pass in 1997. Since

that defeat we have continued to work on legislation regarding the safe-storage of guns and for closing the gun show loophole involving the sale of guns without the regulations required of licensed gun dealers.

The federal assault weapon ban, enacted in 1994, expired in September of 2004 because Congress failed to extend it. However, Washington State could join seven other states by enacting an even more effective ban on assault weapon and high capacity magazines. Other legislative priorities are closing the gun show loophole and to require the safe storage of firearms.

The 108th Congress also passed a bill in 2005 that granted the gun industry immunity from lawsuits although lawsuits are the only means of holding reckless dealers and manufacturers accountable.

In 2005 The Washington State legislature passed HB1687, strengthening provisions concerning the possession of firearms by persons found not guilty by reason of insanity.

THE LEAGUE'S POSITION ON GUN CONTROL (1994): *The League of Women Voters of Washington believes that:*

GC-1: Government should regulate ownership and possession of firearms and limit their accessibility.

GC-2: Firearms should be regulated by government through measures which may include the following.

- Federal: applications to purchase; registration; manufacturers' and dealers' license fees; restrictions on owning, transporting and distributing; prohibition on types and places allowed, extended waiting periods (as consistent with LWVUS Gun Control position).
- State: licensing to purchase; issuance of state and local ID cards; registration; manufacturers' and dealers' license fees; restrictions on owning, carrying, transporting and distributing; prohibition on types and places allowed; extended waiting periods.

- Local: prohibition on places allowed.

GC-3: Taxes and license fees should be increased to help pay for:

- education about firearm safety
- background and verification checks for gun purchasers
- violence prevention programs and measures
- investigation and prosecution of illegal trafficking in firearms.

GC-4: Measures should be taken to limit young people's access to firearms. These should include the following:

- gun-free zones in school areas
- an age limit of 18 for the use and possession of guns
- requirements for safe gun storage

GC-5: civil and criminal parental liability under certain circumstances.

(Continued from page 10)

with 20 years we have Renée Belfor, Neil & Leona Elgee, Allison Feher, Jeremy Freimund, Jana Hobbs, Mary Pease, Lisa Peterson, Norma Shorrock and Peter Wheeler. With 10 years of membership we have Fam Bayless, Eileen Bleeker, Ann Brand, Lynn Felsing, Shirley Gerstenberg, Carol Hannum, Piper Henry-Keller, Edie Hilliard, Fred Hillier, Linde Knighton, Sharon Levy, Deanna Murray, Barbara O'Steen, Alice Paine, Marliss Prasse, Kathryn Shields, Ray Starks, Georgette Valle and Elizabeth Waddell.

We also want to give a warm welcome to the following new members that joined our League this past year: Riley Abel, Nancy P. Abercrombie, William R. Andersen, Jessie Attri, Wendie Berge, Kelly Curts, Barbara Dahl, Roger Flygare, Florence Friedman, Maureen Germani, Bob Hasegawa, Grant Hildebrand, Jill Hill, Jean Hoiland, Barbara Houston, Kimberly Jones, Lori Kessler, Kassie Koledin, Rita Lee, Vanessa Lund, Nancy Luschei, Xochitl Maykovich, Joan O'Reilly, Craig Pfaff, Doris Ray, Steve Rovig, Zoa Shumway, Trudy Soileau, Heather Stark, Dora Taylor, Lisa Tompkins, Anne Turner Superfisky, and Maggie Walker. We hope that they too will become one of our long-time members!

Unit Meetings

(Unit Meeting dates and times are subject to change. If you plan to drop in, please feel free to do so but we highly recommend you contact the unit leader to make sure you have the most current information.)

Unit Leader email	Phone	Time	Location
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Wednesday, February 5

SOUTHEAST KING COUNTY/ENUMCLAW - Cathy Dormaier

clcathy@skynetbb.com	360-802-6799	11:30 a.m.	Kelly's Mercantile 14444 Cole St, Enumclaw
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Monday, February 10

FIRST HILL – Joan Lawson

joanvlawson@gmail.com	206-382-3147	10:00 a.m.	Horizon House, Forum & Social Rm 900 University St, Seattle
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CAPITOL HILL/MONTLAKE

	206-329-4848	7:15 p.m.	Hostess: Linnea Hirst 1602 E McGraw, Seattle 206-322-3076
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SOUTHEND - Marian Wolfe and Vivian Montoya

hedgwolfe@aol.com	206-763-9430	7:30 p.m.	Hostess: Laura Weese
montoyaviv@yahoo.com	206-695-2620		3721 Cascadia Ave S, Seattle 206-722-0868

Tuesday, February 11

BELLEVUE/KIRKLAND/REDMOND - Bonnie Rimawi

bonnierim@aol.com	425-820-7127	12:00 p.m.	The Bellevue Library, Room 6 1111 110th Ave NE, Bellevue
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WEST SEATTLE – Amanda Berry and Ethel Williams

amandamberry@earthlink.net	206-724-7518	1:00 p.m.	The Kenney
etheljw1@q.com	206-932-7887		7125 Fauntleroy Way SW, Seattle

Wednesday, February 12

VIEW RIDGE – Gail Winberg

winbergeng@q.com	206-524-7801	12:45 p.m.	Brig Bldg. (6344) in Magnuson Park 7400 Sand Point Way, Seattle
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Directions: Go into the Park through North entrance at 74th and drive EAST toward water. At the STOP sign, turn LEFT to park in front of the Brig, or RIGHT, for more parking. There will be a speaker.

Unit Leader email	Phone	Time	Location
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Wednesday, February 12			
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QUEEN ANNE/MAGNOLIA/BALLARD EVENING - Teddy Geokezas & Elsie Simon

tgeokezas@msn.com	206-782-5036	7:30 p.m.	Hostess: Bettina Hosler
elsiesimon@comcast.net	206-283-6297		9516 2nd Ave NW, Seattle
			206-784-9541

Thursday, February 13			
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UNIVERSITY HOUSE/WALLINGFORD – Alice Chew

achoo92@q.com	206-547-5395	10:00 a.m.	University House, Auditorium
			4400 Stone Way N, Seattle

NORTH CENTRAL – Jan Orlando

orlanre@aol.com	206-524-0936	7:30 p.m.	Hostess: Jan Orlando
			5026 36th Ave NE, Seattle
			206-524-0936

Saturday, February 15			
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BALLARD/MAGNOLIA/QUEEN ANNE DAY – Joan Peterson

joanmepeterson@gmail.com	206-789-7447	10:00 a.m.	Hostess: Judy Ostrow
			3604 NW 60th St, Seattle
			206-783-7108

Wednesday, February 19			
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NORTH KING COUNTY – Toni Potter

antoniapotter@comcast.net	206-365-8949	9:15 a.m.	Third Place Commons Meeting Room
			17171 Bothell Way NE, Lake Forest Pk

SOUTHWEST KING COUNTY – Mary Ehlers and Kathy Jorgensen

maryehlers@comcast.net	253-941-1930	7:00 p.m.	Foundation House
kjorgensen@juno.com	253-859-8349		32290 1st Ave S, Federal Way

Thursday, February 20			
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ISSAQUAH DAY – Margaret Austin

margaret.austin@comcast.net	425-392-5760	10:00 a.m.	ECHO room, Issaquah City Hall
			130 E Sunset Way, Issaquah

Board & Committee Contacts

Term Executive Committee

2013-15	<i>President</i>	Ellen Barton	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2013-15	<i>1st VP-Action</i>	Janet Winans	206-323-4825	janetwinans@earthlink.net
2012-14	<i>2nd VP-Program</i>	Beatrice Crane	206-783-8485	bscrane@comcast.net
2013-15	<i>Secretary</i>	Amanda Clark	206-236-0517	amandac5@comcast.net
2013-14	<i>Treasurer</i>	Cindy Piennett	206-329-4848	cindypiennett@gmail.com

Term Directors

2012-14	<i>Voter Editor</i>	Marge Baker	206-535-7299	votereditor@seattlelwv.org
2012-14	<i>Program</i>	Carol Burton	206-691-1298	ctburton7@gmail.com
2013-15	<i>Voter Services</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
2013-15	<i>Social Justice</i>	Jayne Freitag	425-922-9501	mjafreitag@comcast.net
2012-14	<i>Membership</i>	Susan K. Jones	206-725-2902	susan@monckjones.com
2012-14	<i>Voter Services</i>	Julie Anne Kempf*	206-329-4848	julie@kempf.com
2013-15	<i>Outreach</i>	Marianne Scholl	206-329-4848	outreach@seattlelwv.org
2012-14	<i>Unit Coordinator</i>	Lindsay Soyer	406-546-9314	lindsaysoyer@gmail.com
2012-14	<i>Development</i>	Lisa Unsoeld-Chang	206-329-4848	lisac@seattlelwv.org
2012-14	<i>Outreach</i>	Mary Jo Vigil*	206-318-6939	mjvigil@starbucks.com

Note: All board members listed above, with the exception of the Treasurer, are also members of the Education Fund Board

Term Education Fund Officers

2013-14	<i>President</i>	Ellen Barton	206-329-4848	president@seattlelwv.org
2013-14	<i>1st VP</i>	Lisa Unsoeld-Chang	206-329-4848	lisac@seattlelwv.org
2013-15	<i>Secretary</i>	Amanda Clark	206-236-0517	amandac5@comcast.net
2013-15	<i>Treasurer</i>	Ginna Owens	206-215-1408	ginnao@earthlink.net
2013-14	<i>Director</i>	Pat McCann	206-878-2799	thomaspa@centurylink.net

Term Nominating Committee

2013-14	<i>Chair</i>	Judy Bevington	206-329-4848	judybevington@q.com
2013-14		Judith Hance	206-329-4848	judithhance2@gmail.com
2013-14		Cynthia Howe	206-329-4848	howe.john@comcast.net
2013-14		Lisa Peterson	206-329-4848	M_K_productions@yahoo.com

**Note: Boardmembers Julie Anne Kempf and MJ Vigil are also serving on the nominating committee.*

Off Board Positions

Campaign Finance	Jean Carlson	206-774-6649	carlson.jean@gmail.com
KC South Liaison	Mary Ehlers	253-941-1930	maryehlers@comcast.net
CIS Coordinator	Cynthia Howe	206-236-0593	howe.john@comcast.net

Committees

<i>Economics & Taxation</i>	Jeanette Johnson		jeanettejohnson10@msn.com
<i>Education</i>	Joanna Cullen	206-329-8514	jfoxcullen@gmail.com
<i>International Relations</i>	see page 7		
<i>Social Justice</i>	Jayne Freitag	425-922-9501	mjafreitag@comcast.net
<i>Transportation</i>	Janet Winans	206-323-4825	janetwinans@earthlink.net

The League of Women Voters of Seattle-King County
1620 18th Ave, Suite 101
Seattle WA 98122

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Moving? Let us know!

Call the League office at (206) 329-4848 or
email info@seattlelwv.org

LWV SEATTLE-KING COUNTY:

GUN SAFETY: A PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGE

Thursday, February 6

7:00 p.m. - Doors open

7:30 p.m. - Forum begins

Seattle First Baptist Church

1111 Harvard Ave (at Seneca)

Seattle, WA

Accessible entrance on Harvard

This forum is free and open to the public

➤ **Pete Holmes**, Seattle City Attorney

➤ **Amnon Shoenfeld**, Director of King
County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse
and Dependency Services Division

➤ **Karen Milman**, MD, MPH, Director of King
County Public Health Office of Prevention

*Speakers will address the current legal
environment concerning gun access, suicide,
mental health issues, and domestic violence,
and what a public health approach involves.*