

Local Politics Matter

Guns In America

Enough Already



This is a sore topic for me. One that just gets my blood boiling. I am fortunate in that I have no personal experience with gun violence, but I saw the effects of it first hand

when I worked in an inner-city hospital. I didn't know the victims, but I saw the toll that guns in the hands of the wrong person took on the victims, their friends and their families.

The sad thing about it was that I believed that the deaths and injuries were all so unnecessary. It was easy for me to imagine an alternate outcome if people didn't have easy access to a gun. They'd have to use their hands, or some other instrument which may give them that needed moment to think before committing a senseless act of violence destroying so many lives including their own.

I place America's inability to develop sensible gun laws squarely on the NRA and the GOP. It is one of this country's greatest failures. If it were a disease that was killing and injuring so many people, we'd be using every resource at our disposal to cure it. However, in the case of guns, Congress has made it unlawful for the CDC to conduct any study that would promote gun control. The [number of shooting incidents](#) both accidental and intentional should have us all marching in the streets demanding that our elected officials do something to combat the gun epidemic. According to an August 2017 article in [Newsweek](#) by [John Haltiwanger](#), there have been more mass shootings than days in 2017. So why won't we act to bring an end to or at least slow down this carnage?

Polls indicate that a majority of Americans are in favor of sensible gun safety laws. But gun advocates support-

ed by the NRA and the GOP site the 2nd Amendment of the Constitution as a prohibition to restrictions on gun ownership. Most Americans disagree with their interpretation of the Amendment, even the late [Justice Antonin Scalia](#) believed that restrictions could be placed on gun ownership. Given the magnitude of the problem, you'd think that Congress would work on aspects of gun safety that most Americans agree on, like universal background checks, bans on automatic and semiautomatic weapons, limits on ammunition purchases and bans on gun ownership for individuals convicted of domestic violence. But the GOP won't bring any form of gun legislation up for a vote, not even in the wake of one of the worse mass shootings in the country's history.

The GOP stands between Americans being able to live freely without the constant threat of domestic terror and the "so called" rights of any Tom, Dick or Harry to buy and wield a gun any place, anytime. Could it be that the GOP won't vote on legislation regarding gun safety and gun control because it would expose the fact that the numbers are not on their side?

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