

# Year in Review 2019

  
**EVERYTOWN**  
FOR GUN SAFETY

**MOMS**   
**DEMAND**  
**ACTION**  
FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

  
**STUDENTS**  
**DEMAND**  
**ACTION**  
FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

**In 2019, a year that included mass shooting tragedies and countless moments of daily gun violence that never made the headlines, Americans made a simple demand of their political leaders: Protect us or we will replace you.**

Nowhere was that message sent louder or clearer than Virginia. In the state's election this November, Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund was the largest outside spender, investing \$2.5 million and flipping both chambers of the legislature, creating a Gun Sense Majority. In the process, we solidified gun safety's status as a winning issue, particularly in the suburbs and among key swing demographics that will be critical for any 2020 candidate to win.



But Virginia was just the latest example of a seismic shift in the political and cultural landscape around gun safety. For further proof that gun safety has become an issue that is increasingly uniting Americans from across the country, just consider:

- The early stages of the 2020 presidential campaign, where gun violence prevention is already a marquee issue;
- The U.S. House of Representatives, which passed major, bipartisan gun safety legislation for the first time in 20 years. Their colleagues in the Senate are now hearing from Americans who are demanding action;
- Eighteen red, blue and purple states (and Washington, D.C.) passed common-sense gun safety legislation, and for the fifth year in a row, NRA priority bills were defeated more than 90 percent of the time;
- Business leaders from some of America's leading companies took a stand on gun safety;
- The NRA, an organization in crisis, is increasingly losing its grip on political power amid infighting, investigations and allegations of millions of dollars in self-dealing and lavish spending.

Here's a deeper look into what happened in 2019, and what's ahead for the gun safety movement.

**VICTORY!**  
**VICTORY!**  
**VICTORY!**



## Gun Safety Sweep in Virginia's Elections Is a Preview of 2020

Heading into November 2019, polls showed that gun safety was the number one issue for Virginia voters. Virginians cast their ballots accordingly, **flipping control of both the state Senate and House of Delegates to Gun Sense Majorities for the first time in nearly 25 years.**

The election came in the wake of the mass shooting at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center, in which 12 people were shot and killed and four more were wounded. Four days after the tragedy, Gov. Ralph Northam called a special legislative session on gun violence. Yet the Republican-led majority gaveled out after just 90 minutes without taking a single vote on gun safety legislation.

**Clearly, it was time to replace officials who were more loyal to the NRA than the people they were elected to represent and keep safe.**

Everytown for Gun Safety (via both our Action Fund and Victory Fund) helped Virginia voters achieve this goal through \$2.5 million in contributions and expenditures across the most competitive Senate and House districts in Virginia—making us the largest outside spender in the Commonwealth. At the same time, Moms Demand Action, a grassroots arm of Everytown, flexed its muscle, knocking on tens of thousands of doors, making more than 100,000 phone calls, and working closely with candidates and campaigns to flip key districts. In all, **16 Everytown-endorsed candidates won their races in Virginia.**

A post-election poll of Virginia's most competitive swing legislative districts found that gun safety was the **number one issue among Virginia voters, an increase over 2017's Virginia elections, in which gun safety also played a key role.** What's more, the poll found that voters who ranked guns as their most important issue supported Democratic candidates by a **two-to-one margin**, decisively shifting the intensity gap in favor of gun safety.

## Most Important Issues Impacting Voters' Decision (Top 3)

Issue	% All 2017 Voters	% All 2019 Voters
Positions on Gun Issues	<b>19%</b>	<b>28%</b>
Jobs & Economy	<b>37%</b>	<b>24%</b>
Health Care	<b>34%</b>	<b>24%</b>

## 2019 Virginia Assembly Vote Among Gun Issue Voters

	% Gun Issue Voter
Voted Democrat	<b>66%</b>
Voted Republican	<b>32%</b>

Perhaps even more telling, several NRA A-rated Republican candidates tried to obscure their records and portray themselves as gun safety champions in an effort to win over critical suburban voters. Voters didn't buy it, and instead elected a new Gun Sense Majority. Savvy politicians, particularly those who need to win over suburban swing voters, will hear the message from Virginia loud and clear: Standing up to the gun lobby isn't just the right thing to do—it's also smart politics.

The electoral wins in Virginia will save lives. Gov. Northam now has legislative partners who are eager to **pass legislation, including background checks on all gun sales and a red flag law.**

Make no mistake: Virginia is a bellwether for 2020. In 2017, gun safety candidates won races for Virginia's statewide offices in what turned out to be a preview of the 2018 midterms. It's therefore reasonable to **expect that Virginia's 2019 election results will reverberate around the country in 2020.**





## Gun Safety Already a Defining Issue in 2020 Presidential Campaign—With Much More to Come

Democratic presidential candidates are competing like never before to be the most aggressive on gun safety, proving that the issue is no longer the third rail of American politics. On the contrary, it is an issue to run—and win—on. In fact, the issue has been featured in nearly all of the Democratic presidential primary debates to this point.

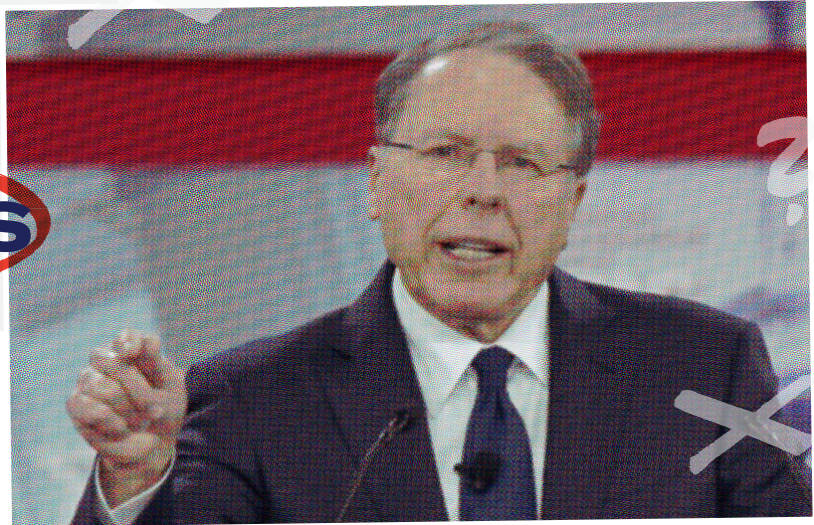
The **prominence of gun safety this cycle is no accident**—it is the result of years of grassroots activism and political work. In August, Everytown for Gun Safety and its grassroots arms, Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action, hosted a **Presidential Gun Sense Forum** in Des Moines, Iowa.

With less than a week's notice, sixteen Democratic presidential candidates and former Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg joined about 700 members of the Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund, including volunteers with Moms Demand Action, Students Demand Action and the Everytown Survivor Network. At the forum, **candidates discussed their commitment to gun safety and plans to keep Americans safe from gun violence**. Additionally, six Democratic presidential candidates addressed members through video messages.

**In addition to hosting the first presidential forum on gun safety, Everytown:**

- Announced its inaugural Gun Sense Candidate program for presidential candidates, following the creation of the Gun Sense Candidate program for state lawmakers and congressional candidates during the 2018 cycle. Find more at [GunSenseVoter.org](https://GunSenseVoter.org).
- Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund and Moms Demand Action released an online tracker: In Their Own Words, Where the 2020 Candidates Stand on Gun Safety. It details where all major 2020 candidates stand on gun safety based on their public statements and policy proposals released in connection with their 2020 candidacies.
- Additionally, Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action volunteers are a constant presence on the campaign trail, so far attending **more than 140 candidate events in 19 states** and pressing candidates for their plans to address America's gun violence crisis.

# The NRA in Crisis



## NRA in Crisis, Wracked by Scandal and Financial Challenges Heading into 2020

While our movement has never been stronger, the NRA has never been weaker. In 2018, Everytown significantly outspent the NRA in the midterms and the organization's favorability rating sunk to its lowest level in nearly two decades. But things have only gotten worse for the NRA in 2019, with credible allegations of self-dealing by association insiders and executives, widespread infighting within their senior leadership and board, and regulatory investigations into their alleged financial mismanagement—all capped by a crushing defeat in Virginia's 2019 elections. Throughout the year, we've continued to shine a spotlight on the NRA's downward spiral. Some lowlights:

- There were shocking allegations of self-dealing and financial mismanagement across the NRA, which exploded into the open in a bombshell report by The New Yorker/The Trace. Specifically, they reported how, “a small group of N.R.A. executives, contractors, and vendors has extracted hundreds of millions of dollars from the [NRA's] budget, through gratuitous payments, sweetheart deals, and opaque financial arrangements.”
- The revelations included CEO Wayne LaPierre billing the association's now-former public relations firm, Ackerman McQueen, for hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of high-end clothing; lavish overseas trips to locales like the Bahamas, Italy and Hungary; and the contemplated purchase of a \$6 million mansion in Dallas that was to be used by LaPierre and his wife. In a court filing, Ackerman stated “LaPierre would specifically instruct [Ackerman] not to disclose certain information to certain auditors” and that “throughout his tenure with the NRA, LaPierre has routinely used third-party vendors like [Ackerman] to conceal his penchant for personal spending, seemingly with the NRA's blessing.”
- Facts surrounding the NRA's use of charter planes also came to light, including *The Wall Street Journal's* reporting that they “used unorthodox means to arrange [LaPierre's] travel, including his use of private jets for almost every trip.”

**Secrecy,  
Self-Dealing,  
and Greed  
at the N.R.A.**

*The New Yorker*

## **NRA Awarded Contracts to Firms with Ties to Top Officials**

*The Wall Street Journal*

- It wasn't just Wayne LaPierre: The Washington Post reported that nearly a quarter of NRA board members (whose positions are unpaid) have "collected money from the [NRA] during the past three years."
- There was a made-for-TV fight between LaPierre and the NRA's then-president Oliver North that erupted during their annual convention and included allegations of "extortion." It culminated with North ending his time as NRA president before a customary second term and the NRA suing North in New York state court over its obligation to pay legal fees.
- Speaking of TV, the NRA was forced to shutter NRATV in 2019 among low viewership and disputes with Ackerman McQueen. The association itself, in a court filing in Texas, candidly acknowledged "NRATV often became viewed as a dystopian cultural rant that deterred membership growth" and that "some NRA leaders found [NRATV's messaging] distasteful and racist."
- Multiple NRA executives later resigned their positions or left the NRA board, including former president Pete Brownell and chief lobbyist Chris Cox.
- The NRA's most recent financial disclosures show it increased compensation for top officials by 41 percent while slashing spending on core organizational programs for hunters and sportsmen and going deeper into debt, all while spending \$33.5 million on legal and audit fees last year.
- The New York and Washington, D.C. attorneys general offices launched ongoing investigations into whether the NRA has violated non-profit laws. Multiple congressional investigations have also centered on the NRA, including its ties to Russian operatives. In April 2019, the Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund filed a complaint about the NRA's tax-exempt status with the IRS, and called for federal and state investigations into the NRA's tax-exempt status.
- To conclude the year, Everytown dramatically outspent the NRA in Virginia's 2019 elections, where the NRA is headquartered. Gun lobby-backed candidates lost control of both legislative chambers in Virginia, further demonstrating the NRA's diminished political sway.

## **NRA money flowed to board members amid allegedly lavish spending by top officials and vendors**

*Washington Post*



# U.S. House Passed Major Gun Safety Legislation for the First Time in 20 Years—But the Senate and the White House Refused to Take Action

After voters elected a Gun Sense Majority to the U.S. House of Representatives in the 2018 midterms, the legislative results were immediate. Almost as soon as the 116th Congress was gaveled in, the House started working on a number of gun safety measures, **passing major gun safety legislation for the first time in 20 years**. Highlights:

- In February, the House **passed the Bipartisan Background Checks Act (H.R. 8)**, which would require background checks on all gun sales, by a vote of 240-190 that included support from eight Republican legislators. This was the first major piece of gun violence prevention legislation to pass either chamber of Congress in two decades.
- The House also **passed the Enhanced Background Checks Act (H.R. 1112)**, a bipartisan measure that would address the Charleston Loophole, which allows a gun sale to move forward after three business days, even if a background check has not been completed.
- In April, the House **passed the bipartisan Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (H.R. 1585)** with support from 33 Republicans, despite the NRA scoring the vote. It included life-saving measures to keep guns away from domestic abusers and ensure that law enforcement is informed when domestic abusers fail a background check and are stopped from purchasing a firearm. Unfortunately, Senate Republicans have refused to support VAWA reauthorization with those critical provisions.
- In June, the House **passed legislation to provide \$50 million in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health** to research the root causes of gun violence and solutions that could prevent it.
- Looking ahead, four additional pieces of gun safety legislation advanced through House committees in the fall and are expected to receive a floor vote in 2020: the Extreme Risk Protection Order Act (H.R. 1236), the Disarm Hate Act (H.R. 2708), the Keep Americans Safe Act (H.R. 1186) and the School Shooting Safety and Preparedness Act (H.R. 4301).

In contrast to the House's speedy action, the Senate has refused to allow a single vote on bipartisan, House-passed gun safety legislation. **Those elected leaders who have put the gun lobby ahead of public safety should expect voters to hold them accountable in 2020.**

**CHANGE  
GUN LAWS** **OR** **CHANGE  
CONGRESS**



## ...But States Continue to Lead the Way on Gun Safety

While much attention was focused on Capitol Hill in the wake of this summer's mass shootings, the truth is that states have always led the way when it comes to gun violence prevention and this year was no exception. Gun violence survivors and volunteers with Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action passed strong gun safety laws and defeated dangerous bills across the country.



# LOCAL ACTION MATTERS

- **Four states**—Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada and New York, along with the District of Columbia—**enacted red flag laws this year**, bringing the number of states with this life-saving policy to 17.
- After years of groundwork and the pivotal 2018 elections, both **Nevada and New Mexico's governors signed background check laws**, bringing the total number of states that require a background check on all handgun sales to 21.
- In addition to enacting background checks on all gun sales and a red flag law, **Nevada** Governor Steve Sisolak signed legislation requiring responsible storage of firearms and prohibiting the sale and possession of bump stocks. Governor Sisolak also signed legislation requiring evidence-based threat assessment programs in schools to help schools identify and deescalate dangerous situations, making Nevada a national leader on comprehensive school safety reform.
- Lawmakers in **Connecticut** passed two responsible gun storage laws to keep guns out of the hands of children—one requiring firearm owners to keep their guns securely stored in the home, and another requiring handguns remain in a locked container when they're left unattended in a vehicle.
- Gov. Phil Murphy of **New Jersey** signed an executive action that created public safety standards for gun dealers, manufacturers and banks that do business in the state.
- **Connecticut** state Treasurer Shawn Wooden, who oversees the State's public pension funds, announced he would divest from firearm manufacturer securities, while creating incentives for banks and financial institutions to enact gun-related policies.

At the same time that proactive gun safety bills were passing across the country, NRA priority bills were blocked in red, blue and purple states. In hearing room after hearing room, Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action volunteers wearing their signature red t-shirts, gun violence survivors, law enforcement leaders, and other gun safety advocates urged lawmakers to reject gun lobby priorities that would have jeopardized public safety. Highlights:

- Lawmakers in **17 states**—Alaska, Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Washington and Wyoming—**rejected bills that would have allowed guns into K-12 schools.**
- Lawmakers in **11 states**—Arkansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, West Virginia and Wyoming—**blocked bills that would have forced guns onto college and university campuses.**
- Lawmakers in **nine states**—Alabama, Georgia, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia—**rejected bills that would have allowed people to carry a hidden, loaded handgun in public without a permit.**
- Lawmakers in **four states**—Arkansas, Maine, Minnesota and North Dakota—**stopped Stand Your Ground bills** that would have upended traditional self-defense law and encouraged armed vigilantism by allowing a person to kill another person in a public area even when they can clearly and safely walk away from the perceived danger.



# Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action Grow, Expanding Our Movement and Reach

Not only did Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action notch significant victories in 2019, but the **size and scope of our movement kept growing**.

In August, nearly 2,000 Moms Demand Action members, Students Demand Action members and members of the Everytown Survivor Network gathered in Washington, D.C. for our annual conference, Gun Sense University, and were together when we heard the news of the mass shooting at an El Paso, Texas Walmart. Volunteers quickly organized a march to the Capitol to demand that Congress pass meaningful gun safety legislation.

In just over two years, **Students Demand Action has grown from a pilot program into a full-fledged, student-led grassroots movement**, with more than 350 chapters in communities, high schools and on college campuses.

- Students Demand Action has more than 1,000 student leaders and more than 4,000 active student volunteers who took over 10,000 volunteer actions, including hosting more than 60 voter registration drives, recess rallies, state legislative campaigns, local school safety campaigns, local city gun violence initiatives and electoral work in states like Virginia.

- More than 240 students participated in Gun Sense University, and Students Demand Action has hosted 11 regional summits around the country.

The dedication of Moms Demand Action volunteers remains remarkable. Across the country, there are more than 750 Moms Demand Action local groups, in rural areas, suburbs and major cities. Each devastating shooting brings new activists into the movement.

As Moms Demand Action grows, the work continues to expand into new and notable areas. In 2019, Moms Demand Action volunteers resolved to take their advocacy to the next level by running for elected office. This year alone, 12 volunteers ran for and won office.



**In just over two years, Students Demand Action has grown from a pilot program into a full-fledged, student-led grassroots movement, with more than 350 chapters in communities, high schools and on college campuses.**



# Supporting Efforts to Address City Gun Violence

In 2015, half of all gun homicides in the U.S. took place in just 127 cities, which together contain less than a quarter of the country's population. In other words, reducing city gun violence is essential to reducing American gun violence. That's why Everytown is working closely with elected officials, community-based organizations, and volunteer leaders in neighborhoods that are experiencing high rates of gun violence to support local solutions, while continuing to push our elected officials to pass stronger laws. Highlights:

- **Grassroots Action in Cities:** In over 100 cities, Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action **volunteers collaborated with more than 1,200 local partners to support local solutions to prevent gun violence.** That includes meeting with city and state leaders to advocate for more funding for local gun safety efforts, and working directly with community-based organizations on their street-level efforts to prevent gun violence.
- **Funding Effective Community Organizations:** In 2019, the Everytown Support Fund also committed more than \$1 million to directly **fund 11 community-based organizations fighting gun violence in innovative, effective ways:** [Advance Peace](#) (Richmond, Stockton & Sacramento, Calif.); [Urban Peace Institute](#) (Los Angeles and national); [KC Mothers in Charge](#) (Kansas City); [Metropolitan Family Services](#) (Chicago); [Inner City Innovators](#) (West Palm Beach, Fla.); [Growing Kings](#) (Birmingham, Ala); [No More Red Dots](#) (Louisville, Ky.); [South Pittsburgh Coalition for Peace](#) (Pittsburgh); [Philadelphia CeaseFire](#) (Philadelphia); [Cure4Camden](#) (Camden, N.J.); and [Life Camp, Inc.](#) (New York). Many of these groups use a violence interruption model, which enlists trusted community members to anticipate where retaliatory violence might occur and interrupt it before shots are fired.

In August, the Everytown Support Fund brought these 11 groups together in Hampton, Virginia, in partnership with [Cities United](#). Attendees shared their implementation experiences, best practices and received training on storytelling and data collection.

Partnering with [MIT's SOLVE](#), the Everytown Support Fund also awarded a \$100,000 gun violence prevention prize in September to Shape-Up, a web application for prioritizing and coordinating municipal cleaning and greening efforts, which [research](#) shows can reduce gun violence by addressing environmental factors that are correlated with crime, like poor lighting and empty lots.

**Working closely with partners, Everytown and Moms Demand Action volunteers worked on campaigns to increase state and local budgets for community-led violence intervention work and helped unlock a total of \$64.7 million in funding.**

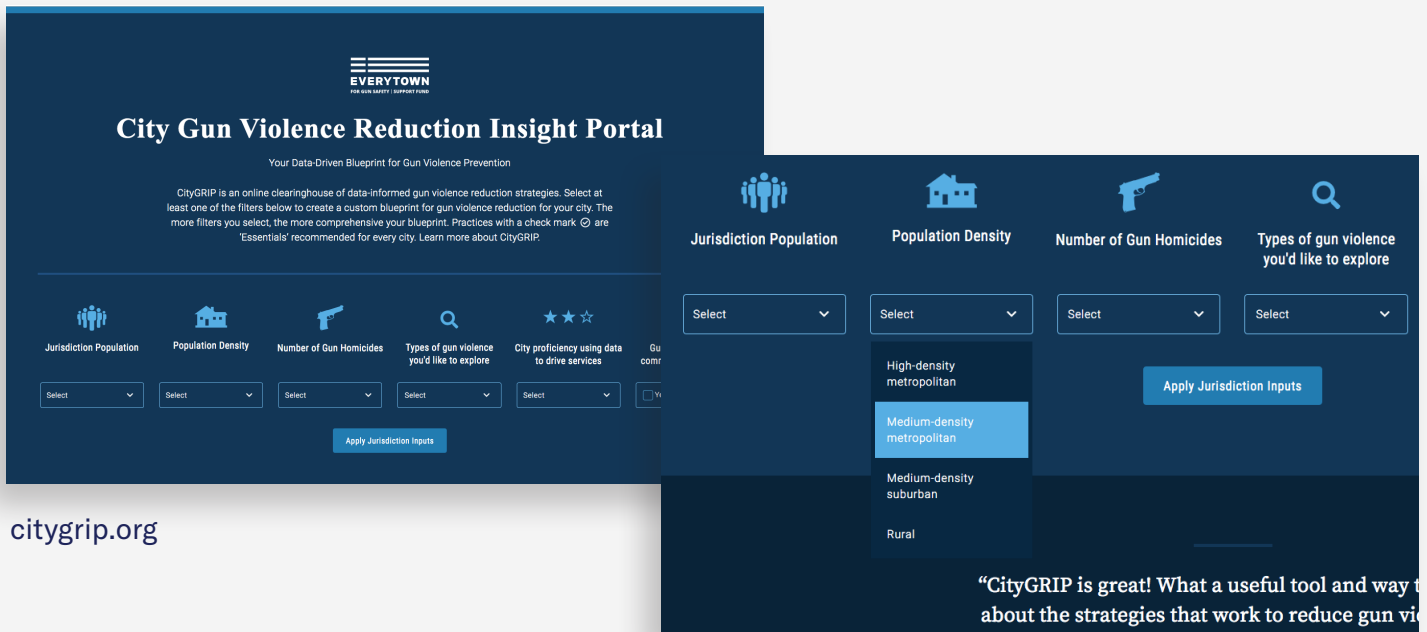
## **Helping Organizations Unlock State and Local Funding:**

Government funding for community-based intervention programs has been scarce, despite research showing its effectiveness. Working closely with partners, Everytown and Moms Demand Action volunteers worked on campaigns to increase state and local budgets for community-led violence intervention work and **helped unlock a total of \$64.7 million in funding:**

- Everytown, California Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action volunteers worked with a coalition of more than 30 partners on a campaign to **increase funding for the California Violence Intervention and Prevention (CalVIP) Grant program**. CalVIP supports community-based violence intervention programs that apply a localized approach to address gun violence in California's hardest-hit neighborhoods. Our work helped to more than triple the budget for these programs, increasing funding from \$9 million to \$30 million. The campaign also successfully passed legislation to require that the funding prioritize those neighborhoods that are experiencing the highest rate of gun violence.
- Connecticut Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action volunteers campaigned to **increase funding for Project Longevity, a group violence intervention program** in New Haven, Bridgeport and Hartford, from \$573,000 to \$998,000.
- Volunteers in St. Louis, Missouri, **helped secure \$7 million in funding to launch Cure Violence** in the city, and joined our local partners in calling for strong community oversight and involvement to ensure transparency in how the funding is administered and provide local officials with a on-the-ground perspective on how the program is working.

# Providing Cities with Evidence-Based Solutions:

In October, the Everytown Support Fund unveiled CityGRIP, an interactive online platform that helps mayors, city officials, reporters and advocates explore solutions to city gun violence. The content available on CityGRIP is based on on-site interviews with mayors, police chiefs, sheriffs, and community members in more than 60 diverse communities nationwide, conducted over the course of two years. Leaders can use CityGrip to identify and implement data-informed gun violence prevention strategies that are tailored to their city's unique needs and resources.



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# Passing Local Gun Safety Ordinances

Historically, Everytown has emphasized state legislation, but in 2019 the organization expanded its focus to include local city ordinances.

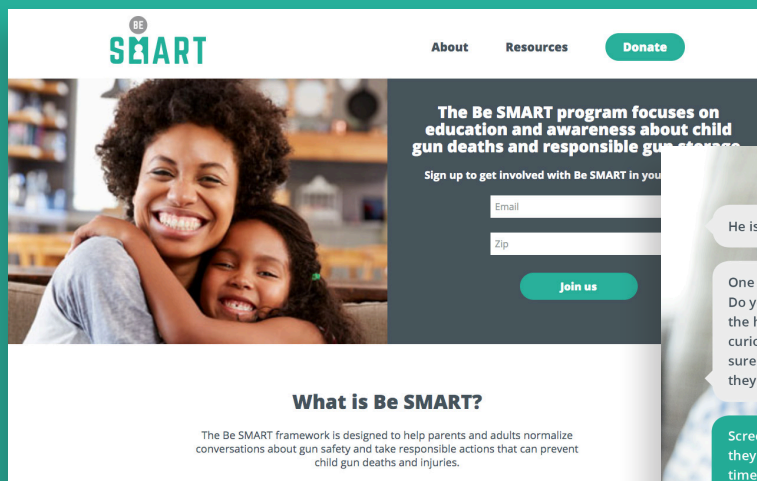
- The New York City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting unfinished firearm receivers, which are the frame around which a firearm is built. Due to dangerous gaps in the law, unfinished receivers can be purchased without a background check and used to build untraceable “ghost guns.”
- In November, the St. Louis Board of Aldermen approved an ordinance that requires gun dealers to report failed background checks to law enforcement, which will provide law enforcement with the information they need to investigate people who try to illegally purchase firearms. St. Louis is the first city in the United States to pass such an ordinance.
- Following years of inaction in the state legislature, Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney introduced, and the Richmond City Council passed an ordinance that requires the reporting of lost and stolen firearms.
- The Tacoma City Council passed a tax on ammunition and firearms to fund programs that promote public safety, prevent gun violence and help offset the impacts and costs of gun violence in the city.

**OUR  
STUDENTS  
DESERVE  
TO FEEL  
SAFE  
IN CLASS.**

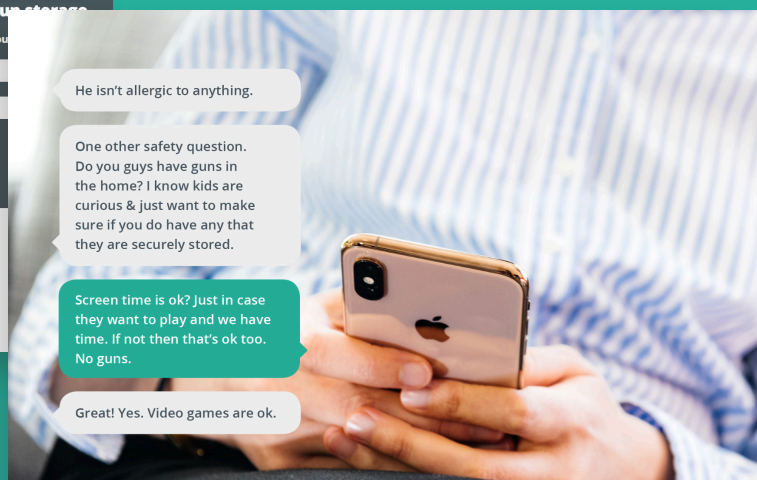


## Preventing Gun Violence in Schools

- In February, the Everytown Support Fund collaborated with the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association to **release a landmark report that gives clear guidance for school officials and lawmakers at every level of government on how to keep schools safe from gun violence.**
- After Florida passed an arming teachers bill, Florida Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action volunteers went district-by-district to urge school districts to opt out of arming teachers. The results were astounding: **94 percent of Florida school children currently attend a school where teachers are not allowed to be armed.**



[besmartforkids.org](https://besmartforkids.org)



## Encouraging Secure Storage of Firearms

Moms Demand Action volunteers continued to work with their communities on the Everytown Support Fund's BeSmart program, which encourages Americans to practice secure firearm storage. Highlights:

- Local officials in Bexar County, Texas, committed \$40,000 to advertise Be SMART on its buses, and the county's health system also committed to distribute 17,000 gun locks in partnership with the county sheriff's office.
- Nebraska Moms Demand Action volunteers worked with law enforcement, a local gun range and other community partners in the city of Lincoln to produce a PSA about responsible gun storage.
- In Pittsburgh, Cinemark theaters partnered with Be SMART to air a 30-second PSA ahead of movie screenings, bringing the program to more than 350,000 people.

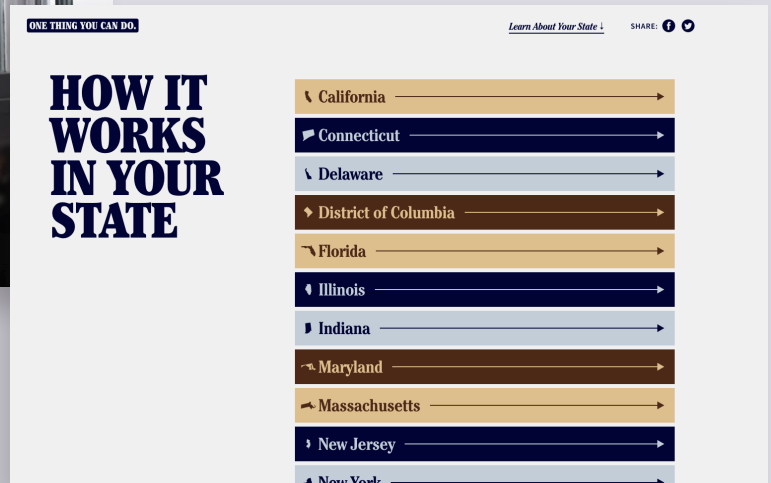
- In California, Moms Demand Action volunteers urged the Los Angeles Unified School District, which is the largest district in the country with more than 700,000 students, to **approve a resolution that requires parents to be provided with information on their responsibility under the law to securely store their firearms.** Parents or guardians must sign and return a form acknowledging they have read the information.



**4.6 million American children live in homes with guns that are both loaded and unlocked.**



[onethingtodo.org](https://onethingtodo.org)



## Intervening to Stop Gun Suicides

In the wake of the Parkland shooting, Moms Demand Action volunteers helped pass a dozen red flag laws, bringing the total number of states with this essential tool to 17 and D.C. These laws can help prevent gun suicides, gun homicides and mass shootings by empowering families and law enforcement to ask a court to temporarily keep guns out of the hands of a loved one who is showing warning signs that they are a risk to themselves or others. But these types of laws only work if the public knows about them.

The Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund is working to ensure that the laws legislatures pass are fully implemented. In February, the Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund **launched the One Thing You Can Do campaign, a first-of-its-kind program designed to educate communities on how to use the state-level red flag laws** that Moms Demand Action volunteers worked to pass. While red flag laws are often passed in the wake of mass shootings, they are also **an important tool to address gun suicide.**

The One Thing You Can Do campaign educates families in states that have a red flag law on how to use the law if they fear that a loved one poses a risk to themselves or others. The campaign included a 12-week run with billboards, digital ads and radio ads in four pilot markets and volunteers in states with a red flag law held nearly 170 events to educate communities on this essential tool.



## Court Monitoring to Protect Survivors of Domestic Violence

In 2017, volunteers with Rhode Island Moms Demand Action worked to pass the “Protect Rhode Island Families Act”—legislation that protects women and families by prohibiting domestic abusers from possessing firearms and requiring abusers to turn in their guns once they become prohibited from possessing them. To ensure the law was being implemented, the Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund worked with volunteers, after extensive training, to monitor domestic violence cases in Family Court. From October 2018 to May 2019, 22 trained volunteers attended and watched 289 hearings in domestic violence order of protection cases in Rhode Island.

In November, the Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund released a report based on the observations of attorney-trained volunteers in Rhode Island that documented substantial gaps in the implementation of the 2017 law. The findings were alarming—the Rhode Island Family Court **ordered firearm surrender from domestic abusers only one-third of the time**. The court-monitoring program was the first of its kind for Everytown, and led to improvements in the court’s position and practices with respect to domestic violence firearms surrenders.

As the program has evolved, interest among volunteers has increased. In June 2019, the Everytown Support Fund expanded the court monitoring program to Tennessee. To date, approximately 40 trained volunteers have monitored nearly 800 domestic violence order of protection cases in Nashville, Tennessee.

## Changing the Culture to Prevent Gun Violence: Business Leaders Taking a Stand

Corporations are stepping up in new and innovative ways to address gun violence. This shouldn’t come as a surprise—in order to succeed, businesses need to have their finger on the pulse of what Americans want. In September, 145 business leaders representing some of the nation’s leading corporations sent a joint letter to the U.S. Senate urging lawmakers to pass a bill to require background checks on all gun sales and a strong red flag law. Since the letter went public, over 220 companies have signed on to the letter.

Recent polling from Edelman Intelligence showed that a strong majority of Americans feel favorably towards businesses that support gun safety measures. In fact, Edelman Intelligence advised that businesses “have more to gain than they put at risk” by advocating for gun violence prevention.

## Major Businesses Respond to Calls for Prohibiting Open Carry

Albertsons Companies, ALDI, Cub, CVS, Kroger, Giant Eagle, Meijer, Publix, Wegmans, Walgreens and Walmart all announced new restrictions on open carry in their stores. Moms Demand Action volunteers have been urging corporations to prohibit open carry in stores since 2013, when volunteers successfully convinced Starbucks to change its open carry policy.

In 45 states, it is legal for civilians to openly carry loaded, semiautomatic rifles in public—and in 41 of those states a person can openly carry without a permit or safety training.

## Wear Orange

During Wear Orange, which happened in conjunction with the **fifth annual National Gun Violence Awareness Day** in June, more than 2,500 partner organizations, influencers, corporate brands and elected officials united around a call to end gun violence, marking a 200 percent increase in participation from 2018. At least **13 presidential candidates, 34 U.S. Senators and 148 U.S. House Members took part in Wear Orange**. Additionally, more than 850 events took place across the country, with at least one in every state. There were more than 200,000 social media posts throughout Wear Orange Weekend, helping #WearOrange trend nationally.

we can  
**end gun  
violence**

### Major Athletes from the NFL, WNBA and NBA Band Together in the Fight for Gun Safety

The Everytown Athletic Council launched on the 5th anniversary of Wear Orange with athletes from the NBA, NFL and WNBA, and the Olympics. The members of the Council have worked with Everytown to support gun safety initiatives both in their communities and on a national scale.



**the W  
wears  
orange**

**wear  
orange**

I wear orange in honor of my son Tommy and for the voiceless and underrepresented victims and survivors of gun violence.

Marsha Lee



[wearorange.org](http://wearorange.org)

# National Gun Violence Survivors Week

Gun violence in any form leaves an enduring mark on the lives of those who are personally impacted. And we are a nation of survivors: Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund research shows that **58 percent of American adults** or someone they care for have personally experienced gun violence. In February, Everytown **launched the inaugural National Gun Violence Survivors Week**, which focused on sharing and amplifying the stories of gun violence survivors who struggle with the impact of gun violence every day. The centerpiece is **Moments That Survive**, a year-round digital storytelling site and campaign in which Americans across the country share defining details of their experiences, in their own words. Survivor stories were shared thousands of times on social media and at more than 100 events throughout the week.



**A single moment can change a life forever. Together, we lift up our moments that survive.**

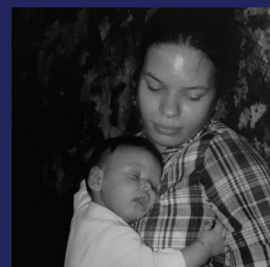
**So many decisions have to be made by teachers after a school shooting: Keep teaching? I am a teacher. It's what I was trained to do, so I keep doing it.**

— Abbey Clements



**My mom had easier access to a gun than to mental health care. I wish she would've held me rather than that gun.**

— Khary Penebaker



[everytown.org/moments thatsurvive](http://everytown.org/moments thatsurvive)

## Launch of the Gun Violence Memorial Project

The Gun Violence Memorial Project launched at the Chicago Architecture Biennial Chicago in September, in partnership with the creative team behind the National Memorial for Peace and Justice (artist Hank Thomas Willis and architecture firm MASS Design) and Purpose Over Pain. The installation is scheduled to run through January 5, 2020 and move to the National Building Museum in D.C. in April 2020.



## Advancing Gun Safety in the Courts

No major social movement has succeeded without engaging in the courts. That's why the Everytown Support Fund launched **Everytown Law, an in-house law firm and the largest team of litigators in the country dedicated to advancing gun safety and pushing back against the gun lobby**. With the Supreme Court now considering its first Second Amendment case in nearly a decade (*New York State Rifle and Pistol Association v. City of New York*), the need to elevate and strengthen the voice of gun safety in the courts has never been more urgent.

- Everytown Law won a [major federal court ruling](#) in August that overturned the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives' refusal to produce data from its firearms tracing database that Everytown Law asked for in a Freedom of Information Act request. The decision was the first in the nation to determine that the ATF could not withhold firearms trace data by using a gun-lobby backed law known as the Tiahrt Rider. "For more than a decade, the gun lobby relied on the Tiahrt Rider to stymie gun violence investigations and hinder research into firearms used in crimes and suicides," said Alla Lefkowitz, Everytown Law Director of Affirmative Litigation. "Americans have the right to know where firearms are coming from and how they're being used."
- In another first-of-its-kind decision, Everytown Law joined forces with Florida cities and counties to win a Florida Circuit Court ruling that struck down the state's [NRA-backed firearms preemption law penalties as unconstitutional](#). The court decided that Florida's local officials cannot be removed from office and personally penalized for passing local gun safety regulations.
- Everytown Law represents survivors of gun violence in several cases filed this year that could have broad implications for gun safety:

In Kansas City, Everytown Law represents the parents of Alvino Dwight Crawford in their lawsuit against an alleged gun trafficker, a manufacturer and a dealer who contributed to the shooting death of their son in 2016.



Photo by Tammy Ljungblad/ Kansas City Star

**In Kansas City, Everytown Law represents the parents of Alvino Dwight Crawford in their lawsuit against an alleged gun trafficker, a manufacturer and a dealer who contributed to the shooting death of their son in 2016.**

# **In Texas, Everytown Law represents the family of Sabika Aziz Sheikh, a 16-year-old exchange student murdered at Santa Fe High School in May 2018.**

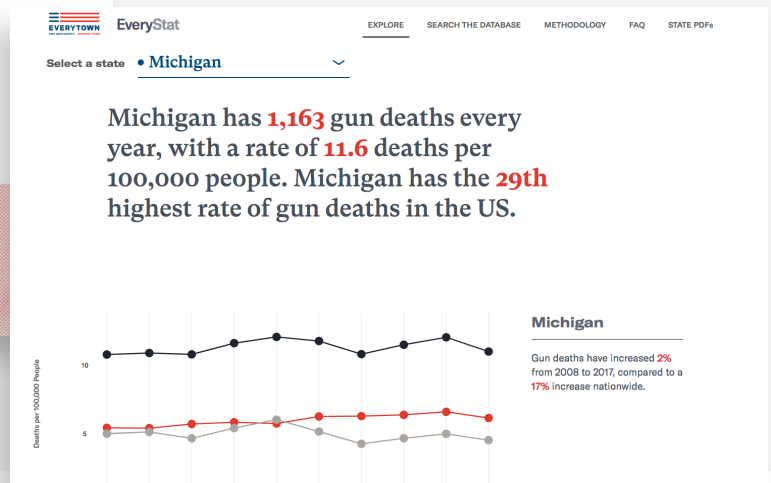


AP Images

In Texas, Everytown Law represents the family of Sabika Aziz Sheikh, a 16-year-old exchange student murdered at Santa Fe High School in May 2018, in litigation seeking accountability against those who supplied or allowed access to the firearms and ammunition used in this mass shooting.

Everytown Law represents the West Virginia Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which sued the state over its “guns in parking lots” law, which forces domestic violence shelters and other private businesses to allow people to bring firearms into the businesses’ own parking lots.

- Everytown Law’s Second Amendment litigators filed over 10 amicus or “friend of the court” briefs, and presented oral argument to a federal district court in Hawaii, helping states and localities across the country defend their gun safety laws against Second Amendment and related state constitutional challenges—including the successful defense of laws prohibiting large-capacity magazines and assault weapons, and laws limiting who can carry concealed firearms in public.
- This year, Everytown Law’s municipal litigators have assisted over 10 cities—including Pittsburgh, PA; Albuquerque, NM; Boulder, CO; Seattle, WA; and Columbus, OH—in defending their common-sense gun safety laws against gun lobby-funded opponents and others in the courts.
- The Supreme Court agreed to hear its first gun case in nearly a decade: *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. City of New York*—a lawsuit brought by the NRA’s New York state affiliate. Everytown Law filed an amicus brief and urged the court not to issue a broad decision on the Second Amendment that could put hundreds of gun safety laws in legal jeopardy. On December 2, hundreds of gun safety advocates, gun violence survivors and members of Congress rallied in front of the Supreme Court during oral arguments to make sure the Court knows that the public rejects the NRA’s attacks on common-sense gun safety laws.



## Conducting Innovative Research to Inform Solutions

Since its inception, Everytown has sought evidence-based solutions to the gun violence that kills an average of 100 Americans a day and wounds hundreds more. Given gaps in existing research on gun violence, in 2019 the Everytown Support Fund produced **a number of innovative research products to guide policymakers in addressing this public health crisis.**

In early November, the Everytown Support Fund unveiled EveryStat, a first-of-its-kind interactive platform that lets users easily look up gun violence data for states and counties, and by racial and ethnic group. The site is a one-stop shop for gun violence statistics at the federal, state and local level. Other highlights included:

- Unchecked, a major investigation into the online firearms market that found more than one million gun ads on a single website in 2018 that would not require a background check. It also found that 1 in 9 people looking to buy guns online from unlicensed sellers would fail a background check.
- Research on the impact of red flag laws, background check laws, permitless carry laws and Stand Your Ground laws.
- Research on firearm suicide and firearm suicide among veterans, including recommendations on how to prevent these tragedies.
- New analyses of mass shootings and intimate partner violence.
- Research on the toll of gun violence and its devastating impact on American children and teenagers.
- Research on secure firearm storage detailing how secure gun storage practices can reduce gun violence, including gun suicides and unintentional shootings among children.
- An analysis of nonfatal shootings using hospital discharge data, which estimated that approximately 73,000 people are wounded in nonfatal shootings each year in the U.S.
- Research on gun violence in cities and the impact of local violence intervention programs, like Crime Prevention through Environmental Design.

**Americans are energized  
to create the change we all need  
to help save lives from gun  
violence, and we're ready  
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## **So, what's next?**

As the 2020 elections approach, the gun safety movement has never been stronger. Everytown for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action are all-in when it comes to making gun safety a defining issue this coming Election Day up and down the ballot—and poll after poll shows that Americans from across the political spectrum stand with us in that effort.

There's no question that 2020 will be the most pivotal year in the history of our movement. Beyond the ballot box, we will continue to create change from statehouses to courthouses to boardrooms and beyond.

Americans are energized to create the change we all need to help save lives from gun violence, and we're ready to turn that energy into action.

