

POLICY PLATFORM

GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

PROGRESSIVE VALUE

Preventing gun violence is essential to ensuring safety and liberation for all, demanding common-sense regulations to protect lives and prevent senseless bloodshed that undermines true freedom.

ROOTED IN JUDAISM

The supreme Jewish value and commitment is pikuach nefesh, saving a life. Judaism commands not only that we prioritize life above all else, but also that we preserve the dignity of another person. For both reasons, personal violence and murder are forbidden. The Torah tells us we cannot stand idly by the blood of our neighbor. We know that gun ownership, without common sense regulations in place, has led to senseless, indiscriminate and preventable violence, bloodshed, and loss of life at increasing rates.

We cannot stand idly by.

REFLECTED IN ZIONISM

Zionism demands the liberation of the Jewish people, and is intended as a foundation for the liberation of all people. No one who is living in constant fear of potentially deadly violence can be liberated or truly free. For Jews, liberation requires a place where we know we will not be persecuted or subjected to violence. For millions of Americans who go to school, to parades, to malls and shopping centers, to concerts and to the movies—all places that have seen preventable mass shootings in the last several years—there is no freedom without fear of gun violence, or fear of loved ones being injured or killed. There is no liberation for American women and other victims subjected to intimate partner violence by partners who should not have access to firearms. Liberation requires a country with policies that ensure guns are not easily accessible to people intent on inflicting violence against others.

POSITION STATEMENTS

- Gun violence prevention laws do not challenge or undermine any reasonable reading of the Second Amendment, which guarantees a right to keep and bear arms (which, at the time, meant a musket, not an automatic weapon) for those who are part of a “well-regulated militia”.
- Activists for gun violence prevention assert that gun ownership must be well regulated, as are many things in America, and include protections that minimize gun violence.
- **We support Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO) laws, which ensure someone in crisis cannot commit violence against themselves or anyone else using a firearm.**
- We support other policies which limit access to firearms when someone is in crisis, including waiting periods for purchase.
- **We support measures to ensure gun purchasers do not have a history of violent actions or abusive behavior, and that there are no restraining orders against them.**
- We support a requirement that gun owners have information on how to store and use firearms safely and responsibly.
- **We support limiting access to firearms whose sole purpose is to kill or injure groups of people quickly. There is no justification for weapons like these to be on our streets or in our homes, and any of their uses other than violence could also be achieved through less dangerous means.**
- We support safe storage laws which ensure guns are harder to access by anyone other than the gun owner, and at any time other than when they are needed.
- **We support every measure available to prevent the creation of ghost guns, including research into how to address this new area of concern.**
- We support a ban on the sale and transfer of assault rifles among civilians, which are uniquely lethal and have no purpose outside of military action in war zones.