



Post-Election Results and Gun Control Impact

Author: L. Briggeman

To first understand what legislation will be implemented under the Trump administration, we must consider the actors pressuring him and those trying to appeal to him for bill passage.

Trump will likely cater to his voter base, which is largely concerned with lax gun control. As such, he may not only sign legislation loosening gun laws but also use his platform to encourage House and Senate Republicans to advocate for further relaxation of existing gun laws.

In addition to his voter base, Trump will need to respond to both NRA and Project 2025-approved legislation.

School Safety Legislation

Author: G. La Rota

President-elect Donald Trump has appointed Linda McMahon as Secretary of Education as part of his plan to “bring education back to the States.” This plan includes defunding the Department of Education, which could lower the quality of education in public schools and cripple various programs like special education.

Year in Review: March For Our Lives

Author: D. Zhang

2024 has been a chaotic year filled with ups and downs in the fight against gun violence. At the beginning of the year, the

Perry School Shooting was the latest in a long line of devastating Iowa school shootings. March For Our Lives Iowa organized one of the biggest walkouts in state history, with 300 students marching to the Capitol in protest against gun violence.

Just a few weeks later, we were back at the Capitol for Day On The Hill to introduce Red Flag Laws and Universal Background Checks to legislators. Hopefully, with continued support, these laws will make it onto the floor for legislative approval.

In April, we returned to the Capitol. This time to protest HF 2586, which allowed teachers to be armed, further threatening the safety of students. Unfortunately, the bill passed, but MFOL Iowa will continue fighting bills that threaten the safety of students.

This election cycle, MFOL organized voting drives in schools across the state, encouraging youth involvement and civic engagement in a vital election cycle. Students deserve the right to feel safe in schools, and MFOL will continue fighting for legislative change until this happens.

3D Printed Guns

Author: C. Ramirez-Chavez

You’re walking in downtown Manhattan, out on a successful day, and BAM. While the talk of the monopoly insurance industry and class disparities rage on, one of the most concerning aspects of the alleged murder of UnitedHealthcare CEO Brian Thompson was the weapon of choice: a

3D-printed gun wielded by suspect Luigi Mangione. This incident highlights a growing danger that has emerged from the intersection of technology and criminality—3D-printed firearms, often referred to as ghost guns.

3D-printed guns, which can be manufactured from readily available blueprints and parts, present several alarming challenges. They are often untraceable, lacking serial numbers that would typically allow law enforcement to track their origins. This anonymity is appealing to criminals and raises significant public safety concerns. Since their first documented use in crime in the UK in 2013, these weapons have proliferated. U.S. law enforcement reports indicate that tens of thousands of ghost guns have been seized in recent years, with a notable increase in criminal activity linked to these firearms.

The implications are dire. As technology advances, the ability to produce firearms at home becomes easier and more accessible, undermining existing gun control measures. Criminals increasingly exploit this loophole, making it essential for policymakers and law enforcement to adapt to this evolving threat.

Tackling the issue of 3D-printed guns requires a multifaceted approach:

Stricter Regulations: Governments can implement stricter regulations surrounding the sale and distribution of 3D printers

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and related materials. This could include requiring licenses for purchasing printers capable of producing firearms.

Enhanced Tracking Systems: Developing a robust tracking system for 3D-printed gun components can help law enforcement trace these weapons back to their origins, even if they lack serial numbers.

Public Awareness Campaigns: Educating the public about the dangers of 3D-printed guns and the legal implications of manufacturing them can deter potential offenders. Awareness campaigns can highlight the risks associated with these firearms, particularly among vulnerable populations.

International Cooperation: Since the issue of ghost guns transcends borders, international cooperation is essential. Countries can share intelligence and best practices for regulating 3D-printed firearms, creating a unified front against this growing threat.

Research and Development: Investing in research to understand the implications of 3D printing technology in firearm production is crucial. By staying ahead of technological advancements, lawmakers can create informed policies that address potential risks before they escalate. The incident involving Brian Thompson is a stark reminder of the dangers posed by 3D-printed guns. As this technology continues to evolve, it is imperative that we take proactive steps to address the challenges it presents. By implementing

stricter regulations, enhancing tracking systems, raising public awareness, fostering international cooperation, and investing in research, we can work towards a safer society that mitigates the risks associated with these untraceable weapons. The time to act is now.

Overall Summary of the Year

Author: M. Taylor

School shootings have become an epidemic that has sickened this country for decades. Since the school shooting at Columbine High School in 1999, more than 338,000 students have experienced gun violence within their school day. Witnessing school shootings alone has had a lasting impact on not only the individual but also their family, friends, and communities. According to CNN, there have been 83 school shootings as of December 16, 27 of which were on college campuses and 56 on K-12 campuses. In total, from the year 2024, there were 34 deaths and 114 severe injuries. The worst school shooting of 2024 came on September 4 at Apalachee High School in Georgia. This shooting killed 2 teachers and students and injured 9 others.

The year 2024 has had more school shootings than any year prior, and that number is set to only get worse as the new administration is set to start in 2025. President Trump has continued to make unreliable statements on his plans to

decrease school shootings. According to PBS NewsHour, "Trump backpedaled on his support for raising the minimum age to buy assault weapons from 18 to 21 after facing pressure from the National Rifle Association (NRA), which is against the idea. The Administration's plan does not expand background checks." It is of vital importance to find a way to reduce the number of school shootings to keep all children and staff members within schools safe from the violence that can come from guns.

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