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A Good Guy with a Gun Isn't Going to Save Us

Gun violence descended on a Trump Rally in Butler, PA leaving two dead and nearly assassinating former President Trump. It's a tragedy reminiscent of the many mass shootings we have endured as a country. There seems to be no end to gun violence or toxic politics. Many have failed to do their part to maintain civil discourse. A good guy with a gun isn't going to save us.

In the wake of this harrowing shooting, Democrats and Republicans quickly condemned political violence. [Biden made a strong statement](#) saying, "there is no place for this kind of violence," and an Oval Office address echoing the same message. Everyone is urged to turn down the temperature. Is this a glimmer of hope that our political governance will get better? Probably not.

While our politicians are not perfect, Republicans have proven time and time again they are incapable of tamping down on violent speech or taking action to curb gun violence. They immediately [blamed Biden's](#) rhetoric for the shooting while Republicans let Trump's incendiary speech fester for years which inspired the January 6th insurrection, the attack on Paul Pelosi, and [many individuals](#) who planned or perpetrated terrible acts of violence. Musk and other [right-wing billionaires are feeding conspiracy theories](#) which blame security breaches on DEI initiatives and Antifa for the shooting.

Republicans have also created a gun culture that gave the 20-year-old registered Republican access to an AR-15 — a weapon no one should have — to carry out the shootings at the Trump Rally. This shooter is like the others of Newtown, Uvalde, Parkland, and Las Vegas.

The killing of children at schools and people at concerts and Steve Scalise and Gabbi Giffords almost dying at the hands of a gunman have not moved the needle on gun reform. The attempted assassination of Trump will not either. We can't count on Republicans to do the right thing. Let's beat Trump at the ballot box and not with bullets. Only we can save ourselves to restore civility to our political process and make gun safety reform possible.

Kristin Battista-Frazee, McLean, VA