

97Percent Roadmap

FINDING THE COMMON GROUND IN GUN SAFETY



Our Goal

Our goal was to create a research-backed* package of policies that would meaningfully reduce gun deaths and be supported by gun owners and non-gun owners alike.

We were guided by three main criteria:

*To learn more read [Research Part 1](#) and [Research Part 2](#).

01

To focus on the core principle shared by gun owners and non-gun owners:

Gun policies should ensure that people who are at high risk for violence cannot access guns.

02

To identify a limited set of policies, that when combined, were demonstrated to have the greatest impact on reducing gun violence.

03

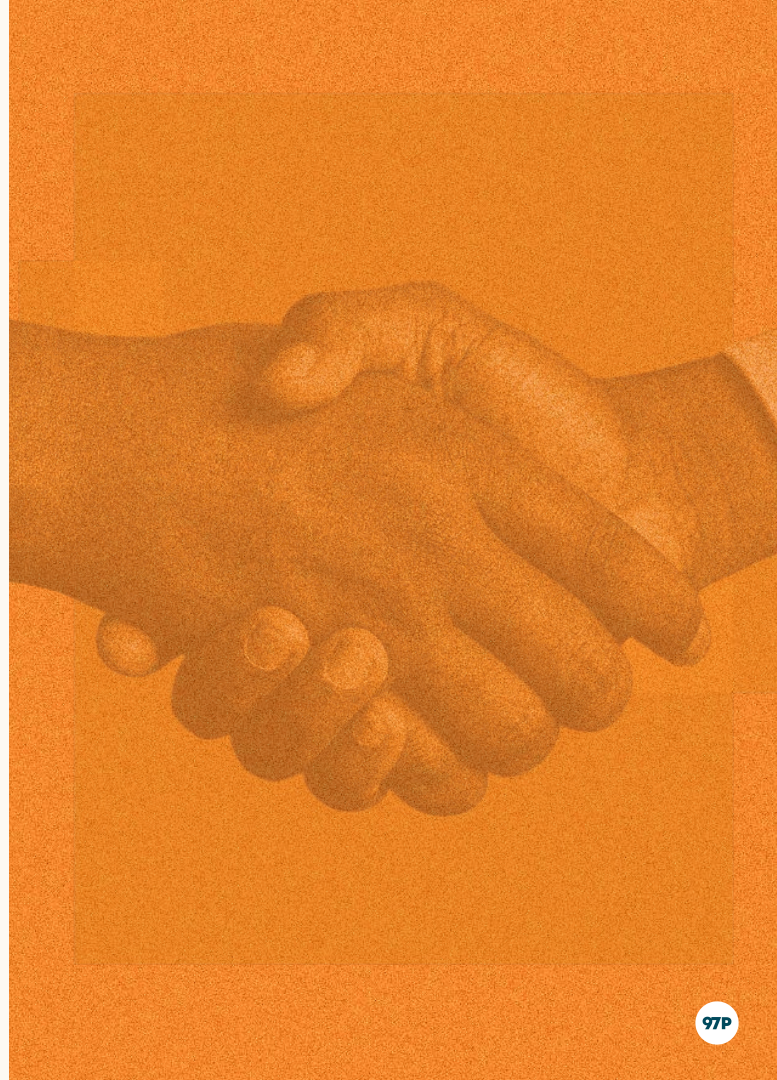
To respect the rights of law-abiding citizens to purchase and possess guns.

Our Road Map

What follows is a limited package of policies that work holistically to reduce gun-related deaths. Each policy is not a stand-alone, but rather all are required in order to effectively implement a system that will accomplish our goals.

From an execution standpoint, the policies laid out below are most effective when implemented and enforced at the state level. However, the federal government has a critical role to play by:

- Enacting a violent misdemeanor law to create a uniform, national requirement for gun ownership that excludes people who, by virtue of having committed a crime of violence or threatened violence, are at high risk of future violence.
- Enacting a universal background check requirement to set a minimum, universal standard for all states.
- Continuing to incentivize states to enact firearm permit laws and red flag laws.





POLICY 01

Violent Misdemeanor Laws

POLICY 1

Set violent misdemeanor crimes as the threshold for exclusion from gun purchase and possession.

What is it?

- Closes the current loophole in federal and state law that allows convicted violent criminals to purchase and possess guns as long as their crime wasn't prosecuted as a felony.
- Creates a new standard at the federal and state level that would disallow gun possession for people who are convicted of violent misdemeanors or felonies.
 - Violent misdemeanors are crimes of violence that do not rise to the level of a felony, or weren't prosecuted as a felony.

Why is it here?

- The current felony threshold for excluding someone from gun ownership does not capture many violent crimes including, but not limited to, assault, battery, stalking, cyberstalking, and threats of violence – whether in-person or on social media.
- Because being convicted of a violent misdemeanor does not prohibit a person from owning a gun according to current federal law, many states have cited their "may issue" laws as a way to screen concealed carry applicants for violent misdemeanors. The Supreme Court's Bruen decision will likely cause these laws to be struck down, and there will be no mechanism in place to prevent violent criminals who have been convicted of violent misdemeanor crimes from not only possessing guns, but also from carrying them in a concealed manner.

Set **violent misdemeanor crimes** as the threshold for exclusion from gun purchase and possession.

How is this new?

- As of today, only 4 states have violent misdemeanor laws.

Why is it effective?

- Research suggests that violent misdemeanor laws are very effective in preventing firearm homicide. Our research estimated that these laws may reduce overall firearm-related homicide rates by as much as 19%.

What are the specifics?

- Would disqualify people for a period of 10 years.

How does it respect rights of law-abiding gun owners?

- Along with gun permit laws and background checks, this would eliminate the need for subjective and potentially discriminatory “may carry” laws.



POLICY 02

State Level Gun Permit Laws

POLICY 2

Implement **gun permit laws** at the state level, in conjunction with background checks

What is it?

- States would require a state-issued permit in order to purchase and possess a gun.
- To be most effective, two permits would be issued: one is a general permit that allows gun purchase and possession, and the second would be a concealed carry permit. Both permits could be issued at the same time.

Why is it here?

- Creates a mechanism by which states and local authorities can verify if an individual has committed a violent crime (whether misdemeanor or felony) before accessing a gun (in combination with Policy #3 Background Checks).

How is this new?

- Only 12 states require a permit to purchase a firearm.

Why is it effective?

- Research estimates that permitting laws may reduce overall firearm-related homicide rates by as much as 9.6%.

Implement **gun permit laws** at the state level, in conjunction with background checks

What are the specifics?

- Would include state and local background checks with a violent misdemeanor threshold for possession.
- Would require gun safety training.
- Would ensure concealed carry permits require additional live shooting training.
- Would require gun dealers to verify permits.
- Permits would be valid for 5 years and would be invalidated if someone is convicted of a violent misdemeanor (or felony) crime.
- Permits would be inexpensive and easy to complete (online).
- Permits would not record type or number of guns purchased, and thus, wouldn't lead to creation of firearm registry (a major concern of gun owners).

How does it respect rights of law-abiding gun owners?

- Would eliminate the need for background checks with valid permits (current federal laws waive point-of-purchase background checks in states with gun permits).
- Would eliminate the need for potentially discriminatory "may issue" laws. Law enforcement would not need to have discretion in approving permits. The decision would be based solely on whether a person has a history of violence.
- Would open the door to concealed carry permit reciprocity between states that have permitting systems in place.



POLICY 03

State Level Background Checks

POLICY 3

Ensure **background checks**, at the state and federal level, are part of the gun permitting process

What is it?

- Federal and state background checks would be required as part of the gun permitting process.

Why is it here?

- Background checks are an integral part of verifying if a potential permit holder has been convicted of a violent misdemeanor or felony crime.

How is this new?

- Only 11 states currently search state and local records as part of background checks.

Why is it effective?

- Research has demonstrated that background checks, conducted at the state level, in concert with a robust gun permitting system, are one of the most effective policies to reduce firearm homicides.

POLICY 3 - CONTINUED

Ensure **background checks**, at the state and federal level, are part of the gun permitting process

What are the specifics?

- Background checks must be conducted at both the state and federal levels. Federal background checks alone do not contain the requisite data to determine if someone has been convicted of a violent misdemeanor, including domestic violence crimes.

How does it respect rights of law-abiding gun owners?

- Gun owners would not need a new background check each time they purchased a gun, provided they held a valid gun permit.
- Gun sales or transfers between family members would not require a NICS check or a state background check, as long as the person receiving the gun has a valid gun permit.

Firearms Transaction Record

OMB No. 1540-0020

WARNING: The information you provide will be used to determine whether you are prohibited by Federal or State law from acquiring a firearm. Certain violations of the Gun Control Act, 18 U.S.C. 921 et seq., are punishable by up to 10 years imprisonment and/or up to a \$250,000 fine. Any person who acquires a firearm without a proper authorization from either the Department of Commerce or the Department of State, as applicable, is subject to a fine of up to \$1,000,000 and up to 20 years imprisonment.

Read the Notices, Instructions, and Definitions on this form. Prepare in original only at the business premises (including temporarily conducted from a qualifying gun show or swap) in the State in which the premises is located, unless the statute, under 18 U.S.C. 922(e). All entries must be handwritten in ink unless completed under ATF Rule 201.

Transferor's/Seller's
Transaction Serial
Number

Section A - Must Be Completed

1. Manufacturer and importer of any
(If the manufacturer and importer are
different, include both.)

2. Total number of firearms to be transferred
(and, two, etc. Do not use plurals.)

POLICY 04

Red Flag Laws



POLICY 4

Implement **red flag laws** at the state level.

What is it?

- Family members or law enforcement officials can petition a court to remove firearms from a person who is a threat to themselves or others.

Why is it here?

- Provides a mechanism that prevents those at risk of committing near-term violence to themselves or others from accessing or using their gun.

How is this new?

- Only 19 states have red flag laws, and only 12 of those states allow family members to petition for a protective order.

Why is it effective?

- Red flag laws are the only laws that have demonstrated a reduction in suicide rates. According to research, red flag laws could reduce firearm related suicide rates by ~6.7% (an estimated 1,800 people alone in 2021).

Implement **red flag** laws at the state level.

What are the specifics?

- Would include due process procedures, including the right to a timely court hearing and procedures for the expeditious return of firearms once the order expires.
- Would penalize people for vindictively using red flag laws against a gun owner.
- Must include state-funded mental health examinations.

How does it respect rights of law-abiding gun owners?

- Establishes a procedure that ensures lawful gun owners aren't deprived of their due process.

97Percent Road Map

A research-backed package of policies, supported by non-gun owners AND gun owners, that works holistically to meaningfully reduce gun deaths -- while respecting the rights of law-abiding gun owners.

01

Make sure violent criminals can't access guns.

Set **violent misdemeanor crimes** as the threshold for exclusion from gun purchase and possession.

02

Create a mechanism to assess if someone is a violent criminal, prior to purchasing a gun.

Implement **gun permit laws a the state level**, in conjunction with background checks.

Ensure **background checks, at the state and federal level**, are part of the gun permitting process.

03

Ensure those at high risk of committing violence in the immediate future cannot access gun.

Implement **red flag laws at the state level**.