



**GOVERNOR  
GAVIN NEWSOM**

## California's strong gun safety laws save lives

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### California leads in gun safety, ranking #1 again

Year after year, **California ranks #1 in the nation for strong gun safety laws** — and, as a result, consistently has one of the nation's lowest gun death rates — according to the [Giffords Law Center](#) and [Everytown for Gun Safety](#). The connection is clear: states with stronger gun safety laws have **fewer gun deaths**. By contrast, Texas and Florida — ranked **32nd and 23rd** respectively — have firearm mortality rates more than **50% higher than** California.

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### Gun safety laws save lives

Strong gun laws save lives. If the rest of the country had matched California's gun death rate over the past decade, nearly **140,000 lives could have been saved** — along with potentially hundreds of thousands fewer gunshot injuries, according to the [California Department of Justice's Office of Gun Violence Prevention](#).

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### 10 years of protection orders to prevent gun violence

California was the **first state in the nation** to adopt a "**red flag law**" in 2016. Ten years later, that law has expanded into a broader system of **9 protection orders** that temporarily restrict firearm access in situations involving risks such as domestic violence and workplace harassment. These tools are proven to prevent tragedy — there have been **significant increases in utilization of GVROs** and, in the first three years of their existence, these protection orders were used to prevent **58 cases of threatened mass shootings**. Between 2021 and 2024, the number of longer-term GVROs issued each year in California more than doubled. In 2024 alone, California courts issued GVROs against 1,727 individuals found to pose a significant danger of firearm violence toward themselves or others.

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### California's youth gun violence rate down, U.S. rate up

Nationwide, firearms are the leading cause of death for children and adolescents. California is moving in the right direction: **CDC data showed** that in 2022, California's firearm homicide rate for youth under 25 was about **50% below the rate recorded for the rest of the U.S.** By contrast, nationwide youth gun **homicides increased** over 46% from 2019-2021.

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### Weak laws in other states undermine public safety

California's gun laws stop at our borders — but **illegal guns do not**. In 2021, just **over half (50.4%) of the firearms** recovered by law enforcement during criminal investigations in California and successfully traced to a final dealer of record were traced to dealers located in other states. Weak gun laws elsewhere put Californians at risk.

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**Learn more about California's nation-leading laws and how to keep your family safe at:**  
[GunSafety.ca.gov](https://www.gunsafety.ca.gov)

March 2026