

CeaseFirePA

Taking a stand against gun violence in Pennsylvania



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About Us

Our Mission

CeaseFirePA is a statewide coalition of mayors, police chiefs, faith leaders, community organizations and individual Pennsylvanians working together to take a stand against gun violence. Through outreach, education, coalition building and advocacy, we work to reduce gun violence in our communities, stop the flow of illegal guns onto our streets and keep guns out of the hands of people who should not have them.

Our Work

Elevating the Issue of Gun Violence Prevention in Pennsylvania

CeaseFirePA is a trusted voice and resource for the public, the media and policy makers on gun violence and gun violence prevention. Our goal is for Pennsylvanians to consistently identify gun violence prevention as among their top concerns and to have leaders and public policy makers give this issue the attention it deserves.

Creating a Strong Coalition of Citizen Advocates

There is a widespread belief that only "experts" or people in positions of power or who possess great wealth can affect policy. We are teaching Pennsylvanians that they possess the power of a mass of voting citizens who together can raise their voices for change. We hold educational programs to demystify the citizen activism process and teach the basics of advocacy. We empower coalition members to share their own opinions and stories and make their voices heard on the issues of gun violence and gun violence prevention.

Our Programs

CeaseFirePA provides engagement opportunities for our volunteers to enable them to take a stand against gun violence. From vigils to community meetings, to telephone town halls to our Courtwatch and Where Did the Gun Come From? programs, our goal is to offer the right opportunity to engage and empower every Pennsylvanian who wants to join the effort.

Courtwatch

CeaseFirePA brings volunteers from affected communities to attend sentencing hearings and present testimony about the impact of illegal guns. As a result, in those hearings, the judge has direct evidence of community impact to weigh in the sentencing calculation. Citizens are empowered and given a voice in a critical arena, and the message is sent --to judges, to offenders and to the broader community --that illegal possession and trafficking will have serious consequences. This program began in Philadelphia and is now expanding to Allegheny County.

Where Did the Gun Come From?

This simple question is a logical extension of our mission to educate the public about the sources of crime guns. Our objectives are to educate the media, to engage communities, and to encourage law enforcement to participate in delivering answers to this crucial question publicly, each and every time an illegal gun is recovered. Again, communities are empowered, and the information developed as a result of the program will help better inform policies aimed at reducing the flow of illegal guns into our communities.