

# CeaseFirePA

Taking a stand against gun violence in Pennsylvania



## Pennsylvania Gun Laws

The regulation of firearms is in part based on federal law, but there is also a lot left to each individual state. Pennsylvania has weaker gun laws than many of our neighboring states, and we have failed to enact many commonsense laws and policies. Although there is strong support for gun rights in PA, neither the federal or state constitutions prohibit the types of policies we advocate for. We believe adopting new policies will reduce the toll gun violence takes on Pennsylvania and will make Pennsylvania safer.

### Access to Firearms

- It is very easy to buy a gun in Pennsylvania
- There is no waiting period.
- There is no license or permit to purchase required.
- There is no training required before or after purchasing a firearm.
- The minimum age to purchase a long gun (rifle, shot gun, semi-automatic rifle) is 18. The minimum age to purchase a handgun is 21.
- There is no limit on the number of guns one may purchase at a time.
- There are virtually no regulations on the sale of ammunition.
- Private sales (by unlicensed dealers) of long guns (rifles, shot guns, semi-automatic rifles) do not require background checks.

### Carrying Firearms in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania is an open carry state (except for the city of Philadelphia). This means, once you buy your gun, you can carry it openly (on your hip, or across your shoulder) without any additional license.

To carry concealed in PA (or to carry openly or concealed in the city of Philadelphia) requires a concealed carry license. These are obtained through each county's sheriff (in Philadelphia, the Police Dept.). This requires an application, payment of a fee, a background check, and provision of two non-family member references. There is no safety training required, no proficiency standards, and no proficiency training required.

### Gun Ownership

- There is no requirement to report to law enforcement that a gun has been lost or stolen.
- There are no child access prevention laws to encourage safe storage or to educate gun owners to take steps to keep guns secure from children or others who are prohibited from possessing firearms.