

12/26/24 According to Federal law, persons “convicted in any court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year” cannot possess firearms ([18 USC 922g](#)). But in an *en banc* ruling, [the Federal Third Circuit just found](#) that this provision conflicts with the Second Amendment. Its decision focuses on the absence of a requirement that the possessor poses a “credible threat” to physical safety. That, the Circuit noted, is the key component of the Supreme Court’s decision in [U.S. v. Rahimi](#). (See 2/12/25 update)

12/2/24 Joe Biden issued pardons as to all Federal crimes Hunter Biden might have committed between January 1, 2014 and December 1, 2024. That will bar his son’s sentencing for two Federal convictions: a gun case in Delaware, where jurors found him guilty, and a tax case in California, in which he ultimately pled guilty. Hunter’s lawyers protested that the prosecutions were politically motivated. During his aborted campaign, the President assured voters that he would not pardon his son. (See 12/13/23, 6/3/24, 6/7/24, 6/11/24, and 7/3/24 updates)

11/22/24 According to the Gallup poll, a slim majority of Americans (52%) favor prohibiting the possession of assault rifles. That’s fewer proponents for a ban than in past surveys. And at guns’ opposite extreme, only a small minority of respondents (20%) favor banning handguns. That percentage has also shrunk over time. As for gun sales, a slim majority (56%) of adults would regulate them more strictly; one-third would keep things as they are, and ten percent would loosen things up.

11/11/24 Enacted in January, Illinois’ assault-weapons ban survived a cursory glance by the Supreme Court. But East St. Louis-based Federal judge Stephen McGlynn just issued a “168-page opinion” that concludes it violates the 2nd. and 14th. Amendments. “What is particularly disturbing is that the prohibition of weapons that are commonly owned and used by citizens are now banned, depriving citizens of a principal means to defend themselves and their property in situations where a handgun or shotgun alone would not be the citizen's preferred arm.” He stayed his decision for 30 days. And the fight is on. (See 12/15/23 update)

8/7/24 In an 8-5 decision, the U.S. 4th. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Maryland’s ban on assault-style weapons such as the AR-15. Citing [District of Columbia v. Heller](#), which excepted “dangerous and unusual weapons” from the protections of the 2nd. Amendment, the majority ruled that “excessively dangerous weapons” can be banned. Maryland’s ban was enacted in the wake of the 2013 Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre, which took the lives of twenty children and six adults. [Bianchi v. Brown](#)

8/2/24 Citing its purported conflict with the Supreme Court’s [Bruen](#) decision, New

Jersey U.S. District Judge Peter Sheridan ruled the state's ban on AR-15 rifles unconstitutional. However, he allowed its ban on magazines that hold more than ten rounds to remain in effect. He stayed his ruling for thirty days while the firearms advocates who pressed the lawsuit and the State file their anticipated appeals.

7/3/24 In the 1984 [*Chevron*](#) case the Supreme Court unanimously ruled that judges must defer to Federal regulatory decisions that reasonably interpret the law. That decision was just overruled by [*Loper Bright v. Secretary of Commerce*](#). According to the Court, even when statutes are "ambiguous," courts must "exercise their independent judgment" when deciding whether an agency acted legally. So far, the Court has returned gun-law challenges to lower courts for more work. But gun-control advocates fear that *Loper Bright* will foster moves to invalidate State and Federal gun laws and ATF regulations. (See 12/2/24 update)

6/21/24 In an 8-1 decision, with Justice Thomas dissenting, the Supreme Court rejected a challenge to the Federal law that prohibits persons subject to a restraining order from possessing guns or ammunition. According to the Court, "when an individual has been found by a court to pose a credible threat to the physical safety of another, that individual may be temporarily disarmed consistent with the Second Amendment." That "disarming," the Justices explained, is consistent with a regulatory tradition whose objective has always been to keep persons from misusing guns to hurt others. [Federal law Court decision](#)

6/11/24 After three hours of deliberations, jurors convicted Hunter Biden of falsely asserting on a gun purchase form that he was neither addicted to nor using illegal drugs. While Biden's lawyer insisted there was no evidence of either when Biden bought the gun, former intimates testified about Biden's drug use (which he detailed in an autobiography) during the period preceding and following the purchase. Biden still faces a Federal trial for falsifying tax returns and evading \$1.4 million in taxes from 2016-2019.

6/7/24 Hunter Biden's crack use is no secret - after all, he wrote about it in his autobiography. [But his lawyer insists](#) that his client was not using drugs during the time period when he bought the gun whose purchase and possession are at issue. Thus, his assertion on the gun purchase form that he was *not* an illegal drug user was not a lie. But only two days after the purchase, he texted his sister-in-law, Hallie Biden, that he hadn't promptly responded to her message because "I was sleeping on a car smoking crack on 4th street and Rodney." [President Biden has announced](#) that he would not pardon his son should he be convicted.

6/3/24 Hunter Biden's Federal trial for lying on a gun purchase form begins today. President Joe Biden's son is accused of falsely denying that he was a drug addict. His brother Beau's widow is expected to be a prosecution witness. She and Hunter were having a stormy relationship, and when she came across his newly-purchased gun she threw it in the trash. That set off a flurry of text messages, and their content supposedly confirms that Hunter Biden was indeed struggling with addiction.

5/21/24 Acting on a lawsuit filed by the Texas Attorney General, a Texas-based Federal judge enjoined ATF from enforcing, within Texas, a recently-enacted Federal rule that expands who must be Federally licensed to deal in guns. According to the rule, it includes persons who transact in guns, including stolen guns, on an irregular or part-time basis, use "any medium of exchange", including drugs, and conduct their activities at any venue, including gun shows and the Internet. [ATF rule \(89 FR 28968\)](#)

5/20/24 A commercial website, [ffl123.com](#), helps private persons set up licensed gun businesses at home. And even, if they wish, to become licensed gun *manufacturers*. According to ATF, there were more than eighteen-thousand such licensees in 2022. Licensed gun dealers and gun manufacturers have phenomenal privileges. Personnel constraints leave them largely unsupervised. According to [ffl123.com](#), ATF inspectors will visit once every twenty *years*. In FY 2021 ATF inspected five percent (6,643) of its 134,516 licensees (dealers, makers and importers.) "Less than one percent" had their licenses revoked.

2/28/24 To help prevent gun misuse, the White House wants gun owners to lock up guns kept at home. Oregon and Massachusetts have passed such laws, and several other States, including California, have proposed legislation to that effect. But while the move is supposedly to help keep children safe, opponents counter that it would make guns harder to access in emergencies, such as break-ins. So far, [California SB 53](#) lacks the support to pass. And a proposed Federal gun-storage law seems permanently stalled.

2/2/24 Calling him a "fanatic", California Governor Gavin Newsom blamed "personal politics and fealty to the gun lobby" for San Diego Federal judge Roger Benitez's decision to overturn State laws that require ammunition buyers submit to a background check and not turn to out-of-State sources. As he did when throwing out other California gun-control laws, including the State's assault-weapons ban, Judge Benitez based his ruling, in part, on the [Supreme Court's Bruen decision](#).

1/8/24 In October 2022 the [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act](#) enhanced the process of conducting Federal gun purchase checks for prospective buyers under 21. Among other things, it extended the time frame for reviewing offense, drug use and mental health

histories to allow review of local agency and juvenile records. According to DOJ, the additional outreach resulted in the prohibition of 527 firearms sales to young persons that would have otherwise gone through.

1/2/24 Overruling a Federal district judge's recent ruling that placed it on hold, the Ninth Circuit announced that California's ban on licensed and unlicensed handgun carry aboard transit and public places such as parks, schools and bars can take effect, as scheduled, on January 1st. Arguments by both sides will be filed during the next two months, and a decision by the full court is expected thereafter.

12/22/23 A new California law would have forbid persons licensed to carry handguns from bringing them on public transit or taking them to a host of public places, including parks, playgrounds, medical facilities and wherever liquor is sold or consumed. But [Senate Bill 2](#) is now on hold. Criticizing it as "repugnant to the Second Amendment, and openly defiant of the Supreme Court," U.S. District Judge Cormac J. Carney issued a thumbs-down. California's A.G. has promised to appeal. (See 9/27/23 and 1/2/24 updates)

12/15/23 After a three-judge panel left Illinois' ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines in place, the Seventh Circuit turned away a review by the full court. And the Supreme Court just refused to place a temporary hold on the law. So its challengers are left with one option: submit a full-bodied appeal to the nation's high court. That's the next and final step. (See 11/11/24 update)

12/13/23 On June 6 the Third Circuit Court of Appeals interpreted the Supreme Court's [Bruen](#) decision to mean that it bars lifetime gun possession bans on persons convicted of non-violent crimes ([Bryan Range v. U.S.](#), no. 21-2835). According to Hunter Biden's lawyers, that in effect throws out the Federal law [[18 USC 922\(g\)\(3\)](#)] that bars gun acquisition and possession by users of illegal drugs. Such as Hunter Biden, whose admitted marijuana use led the U.S. to prosecute him for having acquired and possessed a gun in Delaware, which is covered by the Third Circuit, for eleven days.

11/22/23 Citing the Supreme Court's [Bruen](#) decision, the U.S. 4th. Circuit Court of Appeals invalidated Maryland's ten-year old handgun licensing law. Going above and beyond the regular background check, it imposed a State licensing requirement that called for fingerprinting, specialized training, and a waiting period of up to thirty days. An appeal by the State is possible. (See 10/2/23 update)

11/17/23 In the prosecution of a five-time convicted felon who used a gun during an armed robbery, a New York Federal judge ruled that the Supreme

Court's [Bruen](#) decision rendered the Federal law that bars felons from possessing firearms unconstitutional. But he agreed that it was "a close question." His decision is now in the hands of the Seventh Circuit, which set a December 19 deadline for prosecutors to file their objection.

10/31/23 San Diego U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez's ruling throwing out California's assault weapons ban was stayed in a 2-1 decision by a Ninth Circuit panel. That follows another panel's grant of a stay on Benitez's prior overthrow of the state's ban on large capacity ammunition magazines. Both challenges are now in the hands of the state's Supreme Court, and decisions are soon expected.

10/20/23 Continuing a series of anti-gun law rulings, San Diego U.S. District Court Judge Roger Benitez ruled in [Miller v. Bonta](#) that California's assault-weapons ban was unconstitutional. Rifles such as the AR-15, he held, are commonly-possessed everyday firearms "which every law-abiding responsible individual citizen has a constitutionally protected right to keep and bear...for lawful purposes." But he allowed California's ban to remain in effect while his decision is appealed. Calling AR-15 style rifles "weapons of war," [California AG Rob Bonta promptly announced](#) his intention to appeal.

10/16/23 California's on-again, off-again ban on ammunition magazines that hold more than ten rounds is on again as a Ninth Circuit panel placed a hold on a [Federal District judges' ruling](#) that high-capacity magazine bans violate the [Supreme Court's 2022 Bruen decision](#), which requires that gun control laws be historically justified. San Diego U.S. District Judge Roger Benitez had also ruled against the ban in 2019, when he objected that it turned "law-abiding people trying to protect themselves into criminals."

10/2/23 Connecticut, the site of the [2012 Sandy Hook elementary school massacre](#), enacted a wide-ranging gun-control law. Among other things, it prohibits the "open carry" of firearms, limits the number of handgun purchases to three a month, tightens definitions of outlawed assault weapons, bans high-capacity magazines, and bans the sale of semi-auto weapons to persons under 21. [HB 6667 text](#)

10/2/23 In another example of the effects of the [Supreme Court Bruen decision](#) on gun lawmaking, a Federal judge invalidated prohibitions of gun carry in "private buildings, public gatherings and locations that sell alcohol" that are part of a new Maryland gun law. But its ban on handguns in schools and parks will stay on the books. (See 11/22/23 update)

9/27/23 California's Governor signed two new gun control measures into effect. [Senate Bill 2 \(SB 2\)](#), a response to last year's [Bruen decision](#), in which the Supreme Court

invalidated New York's gun-carry licensing law, makes issuing a CCW non-discretionary. But gun carry remains prohibited in a host of places, including schools and public transit. [Assembly Bill 28 \(SB 28\)](#) imposes an 11% tax on gun sales. Proceeds are earmarked for violence prevention, school safety measures and gun violence victims. (See 12/22/23 and 1/2/24 updates)

9/21/23 A newly-published study in *Criminology and Public Policy* examines whether loosening state restrictions on gun carry and CCW licensing affected gun crimes, injuries and deaths between 1981-2019. Findings suggest that gun assaults increased significantly in states that did away with "live firearm training" requirements for a license, and by a smaller but still substantial amount in states that abolished a prohibition against issuing CCW permits to violent misdemeanants.

8/23/23 Even in an era of mass shootings, legal responses to gun violence continue to be politically driven. Bolstered by the Supreme Court's [Bruen](#) decision, "Red" states have deregulated gun carry. Most recently, Alaska prohibited local jurisdictions from restricting gun rights during natural disasters. Meanwhile "Blue" states have tightened background checks, banned some assault weapons and moved against unserialized "ghost guns." Illinois just enacted a law that prohibits marketing weapons in a way that increases their appeal to underage persons or those who intend to harm others.

7/31/23 One of California's few "Red" enclaves, Shasta County originally intended to prohibit all gun law enforcement within its borders. But after objections from legal counsel and its own sheriff, who feared that it would encourage felons to walk around armed, supervisors passed a watered-down measure. It's in the form of a resolution that criticizes gun-control laws and disputes the notion that they help stem violence. "Evil people kill the innocent and do damage with all kinds of instruments," it reads.

7/26/23 California law allows sharing gun purchase information with accredited researchers. In one example, this data was used to compare persons convicted of violent misdemeanors who bought guns before the law changed to prohibit it, and those who tried to buy a gun after but were denied. (Members of the latter, prohibited group were less likely to reoffend.) But last October a State judge overseeing [a lawsuit](#) by gun-rights groups seeking to annul the sharing law [enjoined its use](#). And researchers remain stuck while the matter continues to be litigated.

6/15/23 Just released by DOJ, a "fact sheet" boasts about its vigorous implementation of last year's "Bipartisan Safer Communities Act" (BSCA). Among other things, it reports greatly augmented efforts to combat gun trafficking, the scourge of "ghost guns", and illegal gun dealing. FBI gun purchase background checks now include juvenile mental

health records and criminal convictions. Agents and lawyers are getting special training on the expanded definitions of straw purchase and illegal gun dealing, and prosecution of these crimes has substantially increased.

6/9/23 A Twenty-Eight Amendment. California Gov. Kevin Newsom is proposing a Constitutional remedy to address unremitting gun violence. It would create a waiting period and require background checks for all gun purchases, whether or not through a dealer, absolutely ban assault weapons, and set the minimum age for buying any gun to 21. Newsom indicates he will take his proposal to other states and try to assemble the 33 necessary to call for a constitutional convention.

6/5/23 Tennessee does not have a “Red Flag” law. And Governor Bill Lee insists that his proposal, drafted in response to the March 27 massacre at Nashville’s Covenant Christian School, isn’t one. Still, it’s intended “to address unstable individuals who suffer from mental health issues but do not qualify for involuntary commitment to a facility.” Governor Lee characterized NRA’s opposition to the measure as an endorsement of involuntary commitment, which he feels is far more invasive of privacy.

6/5/23 Nevada-based Polymer80 is paying Los Angeles \$5 million to settle a lawsuit that it sold unserialized parts kits from which guns could be assembled (i.e., “ghost guns”) without running criminal records checks. “More than seven-hundred” such guns were recovered by LAPD that year. Filed in 2020, the lawsuit actually predates an [August, 2022 Federal rule](#) that defines such kits such as “firearms”. And ATF and San Diego police [just announced the arrest](#) of 29 persons for illegally assembling, making and possessing eighty-two “ghost guns”. (See 3/15/23 update)

5/15/23 “Blues” are hoping that “Red” states, where gun violence has disproportionately increased, will consider gun control measures. And after the [March 27 shooting](#) at Covenant school in Nashville, Tennessee legislators dropped plans to arm teachers and let 18-year olds carry guns without a permit. But other “Red” states continue loosening gun laws. In North Carolina, [background checks are no longer required](#) for private-party handgun sales. And South Carolina’s governor, who backs stronger penalties for illegal gun possession, favors a bill that would allow carrying a gun without a permit.

5/12/23 Federal law prohibits persons under twenty-one from buying handguns. But eighteen-year olds can buy long guns. On May 10, a Federal judge in Richmond, Virginia ruled in [Fraser v. ATF](#) that the age restriction on handgun purchases is unconstitutional. According to District Judge Robert E. Payne, “eighteen to twenty-one year olds fall within ‘the people’ that the Second Amendment protects.” As this decision was made at

the lowest rung of the U.S. court system, it is certain to be appealed.

5/9/23 A bill to raise the minimum purchase age for semi-automatic rifles from 18 to 21 reportedly has “no chance” to be enacted in Texas. But in the wake of the mass shooting in Allen, it was nonetheless moved along from committee with votes from House “Reds”. Allen’s shooter, though, was in his thirties, so the bill actually relates to Uvalde, whose gunman bought an AR-15 type rifle when he turned eighteen.

5/1/23 With a legacy of gun massacres, including the 2022 shooting at “Club Q” that killed five, the 2012 Aurora theater massacre, where 12 were killed, and the 1999 Columbine High School attack, which left 15 dead, Colorado Governor Jared Polis signed new laws that increase the minimum age to buy a gun to 21, create a 3-day waiting period, expand the roster of who may petition under the state’s Red Flag law, and ease the path for suing the gun industry. Naturally, each measure is already under challenge.

4/3/23 In 2021, while pending trial for felony battery, Indiana resident John Holden falsely stated on a Federal gun purchase form that he was not facing felony charges. He later guilty to lying on the form but then moved to have the case dismissed because of the Supreme Court’s ruling in [Bruen](#). And the Federal judge agreed. In February 2023 the Government appealed to the Seventh Circuit. It reasoned that persons under charges are not the “ordinary, law-abiding adult citizens” referenced by the 2nd. Amendment, and that there is historical precedent for taking guns away from dangerous persons.

[Florida Governor Ron DeSantis got his wish](#), as legislators overwhelmingly approved a law making the “Sunshine State” the 26th. to allow concealed carry without a permit, training or background check. “You don’t need a permission slip from the government to be able to exercise your Second Amendment rights” said the Guv. to a cheering crowd. In, natch, a gun store.

3/15/23 President Biden’s March 14 “Executive Order on Reducing Gun Violence and Making Our Communities Safer” directs the Attorney General to take steps to assure that gun dealers comply with Federal firearms laws, that background checks are properly performed on all gun sales, and that “rogue” licensees are weeded out and kept from returning to the gun business. His order also addresses “modernizing” the definition of “ghost guns” and expanding State and local use of “Red Flag” laws. (See 6/5/23 update)

2/20/23 In [New York State v. Bruen](#), the Supreme Court held that “to justify a firearm regulation the government must demonstrate that the regulation is consistent with the

Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation." Those words have led some Federal courts to declare that a wide variety of State and Federal gun laws, ranging from prohibitions on "ghost guns" to the possession of firearms by felons, are in fact unconstitutional. And that's occasioned a great deal of "legal turmoil" across the land.

2/10/23 Despite concerns about "14-year-olds walking down the middle of the street in the city of St. Louis carrying AR-15s," the Missouri House voted along party lines to strip a forthcoming crime bill from a provision that would have forbid unsupervised minors from carrying guns in public areas. Missouri has allowed permitless concealed carry since 2017. [According to Giffords](#), in 2020 the State "had the fourth-highest gun death rate" in the U.S.

2/8/23 The January 21 massacre at a Monterey Park dance studio that took eleven lives spurred L.A. County Supervisors to propose a package of gun control measures to supplant California law. Most likely to take effect are a ban on .50 caliber handguns and prohibiting gun possession on County property, including beaches and parks. Other laws would require gun owners to carry liability insurance and lock up guns in a home. But pro-gun groups have labeled the proposals as "outrageous" and promise a fight.

[Making fond reference](#) to the mother of Tyre Nichols, who attended his State of the Union speech, President Joe Biden praised police efforts against crime but lamented that "what happened to Tyre in Memphis happens too often." He urged that localities consider measures from the Floyd Act such as "banning chokeholds" and "restricting no-knock warrants," which he already imposed on Federal agencies. And after warmly greeting another guest, Brandon Tsay, the young man who wrested the gun from the Monterey Park shooter, President Biden urged a renewed ban on assault weapons.

2/3/23 Federal law ([18 USC 922\[g\]\[8\]](#)) prohibits persons subject to restraining orders barring them from stalking or harassing an intimate partner from having guns. But thanks to a recent ruling by a three-judge panel of the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, that law conflicts with the Supreme Court's 2021 [Bruen decision](#), which requires, among other things, that gun laws be "consistent with the Nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation." Until the full Fifth Circuit and/or the Supremes sort it out, the Texas man who was subject to a restraining order, got caught with guns, and got indicted, is off the hook. [AG statement](#)

1/19/23 Denouncing Illinois' new gun laws, which outlaw assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, "dozens" of County Sheriffs have vowed not to enforce the measure. Inspired by the July 4th. massacre in tony Highland Park, it was signed into effect by Governor J.B. Pritzker on January 10. Conservative activists and gun groups complain

that the restrictions are an unwarranted intrusion into the Second Amendment and have vowed to challenge them in court.

1/10/23 Ruling that its breadth of coverage made carrying a gun “a veritable minefield,” a New Jersey-based Federal judge sharply narrowed provisions of a new State law that prohibits guns in sensitive places. It’s again OK to carry guns in “nightclubs, theaters, arenas, concert halls, racetracks and museums.” But “schools, day care centers and hospitals” are still out. In contrast, New York State’s highly restrictive gun law remains fully in force as it moves through appeals.

1/3/23 On March 24, 2021, two days after the Boulder supermarket massacre, Atlanta police arrested Rico Marley, 22, after he was spotted with six loaded guns, including an AR-15 style rifle, in the bathroom of a Publix supermarket. But Georgia permits open carry, and Marley insisted he meant no harm. Felony charges were ultimately dismissed and he was released. But the times have changed. Two months later the homeless man was indicted for misdemeanor reckless conduct and he remains locked up without bail.

1/2/23 California’s new law authorizing private citizens to sue firms and individuals who sell or furnish California-illegal firearms or parts kits to a State resident has gone into effect. Maximum recovery is \$10,000 per weapon plus reimbursement of legal costs (see 9/29/22 update). [SB 1327](#)

12/7/22 Oregon’s tough new gun laws are on hold while court challenges proceed. If the law survives, buyers will have to pass fingerprint and background checks and complete a training course. Magazines with more than ten round capacity will also be prohibited, but existing ones may continue to be used. Unlike Federal law, there is no “loophole” that mandates gun transfers if a background check takes too long. With such restrictions on the horizon, gun sales have soared.

12/2/22 A Johns Hopkins study found that the adoption by thirty-four States of permissive (“shall-issue”) gun carry laws led to a near-10 percent increase in firearm assaults during a ten-year study period. That increase more than doubled if violent misdemeanants were also made eligible. Within the shall-issue States, the consequences were far worse if they did not require live-fire training or did not screen out applicants that were “unstable or immoral” or had a history of violence.

11/30/22 Gun-rights groups are suing to overturn California restrictions on, among other things, assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, home-made “ghost guns,” and age restrictions. These actions, which have been filed in San Diego’s assertedly gun-friendly Federal court, are based on the Supreme Court’s recent decision in [New York](#)

[State v. Bruen](#), which held that gun laws must be “consistent with the Nation’s historical tradition of firearm regulation.” In the Justices’ predominant view, New York’s requirement that gun-carry applicants show “good cause” wasn’t, so it didn’t survive.

11/8/22 New York State tried to fine tune the Supreme Court’s ban on requiring gun carry applicants to show a special need with new rules that required them to demonstrate “good moral character.” But a Federal judge quashed the move. New York appealed, and now the judge has reissued the order. It also prohibits New York’s attempt to ban guns in “sensitive locations” such as bars and movie houses.

10/27/22 Texas has allowed permitless handgun carry for a year. When Alabama joins the group in January, half the States will allow it. But there are downsides. Harris County (Houston) D.A. Kim Ogg complains that minor offenders are now armed. Arguments between ordinary citizens and episodes of road rage have also turned lethal. Good intentions are no cure. A Grand Jury recently rejected charges against a well-meaning citizen who fired at a fleeing bandit but wound up killing a nine-year old girl.

10/13/22 Overruling the lower-level judge who quashed New York State’s new gun law (see 10/10 update), a Federal circuit court temporarily allowed it to take effect until the matter can be heard by an appellate panel.

10/10/22 A Federal judge issued a restraining order enjoining New York State from enforcing provisions of a new law that tightened the licensing process for gun-carry applicants and expanded the list of places where guns could not be possessed to include public venues such as libraries, museums, bars and Times Square. The challenged law was enacted in reaction to the Supreme Court’s recent nullification of a statute that required gun carry applicants to demonstrate “good cause.” [Opinion](#)

9/29/22 Following the example set by Texas, which recently authorized private lawsuits against abortion providers, [California Governor Gavin Newsom signed a law in July](#) that allows private individuals to sue anyone involved in producing or selling prohibited firearms. That includes unserialized “ghost guns” and firearms considered to be illegal assault weapons under State law. Pro-gun groups have in turn filed a lawsuit challenging the law (see 1/2/23 update). [Senate Bill 1327](#)

9/12/22 Visa, American Express and Mastercard announced they will be assigning international merchant (ISO) codes to transactions conducted with their cards at specialty gun and ammunition retailers. Guns used in massacres - the 2016 Pulse nightclub massacre in Orlando is one example - have been bought with credit cards, and coding is thought to be a way to help flag suspicious purchases. Objections from gun

makers and gun rights groups are anticipated.

9/3/22 In reaction to the Supreme Court's recent [Bruen](#) decision that in effect enshrines the right to carry a gun, California legislators crafted a bill that tightened background checks and training requirements for gun-carry permits and expanded the places where guns are barred. But the law's support wasn't enough to pass it under special rules that would make it immediately effective. So the "Blue" state's severely chastened legislators will have to try again next year.

8/31/22 [Bemoaning that the carnage](#) caused by assault weapons made some Uvalde school massacre victims unidentifiable, requiring that families supply DNA, President Biden announced his determination to renew the lapsed Federal assault weapons ban. Such guns, he insists, have no place "outside of a war zone."

[Going into effect tomorrow](#), a comprehensive New York State gun control measure imposes substantial training and licensing requirements on persons who intend to take advantage of [a recent Supreme Court decision](#) that nullified a New York law requiring that applicants for gun-carry permits show a "special need." New York's new law also includes a list of "sensitive places" where guns are *not* allowed, which includes "schools, churches, subways, theaters and amusement parks." And, of course, *Times Square*. [Bill text](#)

8/30/22 Distressed that its home state of Massachusetts was considering banning one of its staples - assault rifles - Smith & Wesson recently relocated its headquarters to more gun-friendly Tennessee. According to the *Washington Post*, favorable tax rates, cheaper wages and, especially, friendlier legal attitudes towards guns have led "at least 20" gun manufacturers, including Beretta and Remington, to shift staff and production facilities from "Blue" to "Red" states. In effect, they're moving "South."

8/12/22 "Everybody is armed" says the leader of a Philadelphia nonprofit. His city is indeed awash with guns. That may part of the reason for its sky-high toll of [338 homicides as of August 11](#). Including nonfatal injuries, [1403 Philadelphians have been shot as of August 7](#). Both counts are higher than last year's, and the number of homicides is the most since at least 2007. According to the *New York Times*, the mayhem is concentrated in the poorest neighborhoods of "the country's poorest big city."

8/3/22 Amidst a spate of massacres, Georgia's permissive gun-carry laws apparently led Atlanta to cancel its yearly Music Midtown Festival. In 2014 Georgia's "[Safe Carry Protection Act](#)" enabled gun carry most everywhere. While a court decision has enabled long-term leaseholders to regulate gun possession on their premises, that privilege is

not extended to short-term events such as the festival.

7/14/22 [Hundreds of persons](#), including survivors of the Highland Park Fourth of July massacre, marched on the U.S. Capitol to demand a new Federal assault weapons ban. Meanwhile, in reaction to massacres in Highland Park, Uvalde and Buffalo, and to a recent U.S. Supreme Court decision limiting State authority to regulate gun carry, several “blue” States including [New Jersey](#), [New York](#) and [California](#) have enacted sweeping new measures to regulate gun possession and sale.

7/12/22 At a gathering of members of Congress, survivors of gun massacres and family members of their victims, President Biden praised the passage of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. “Despite the naysayers, we can make meaningful progress on dealing with gun violence...” Nonsense, yelled Manuel Oliver, whose son was shot dead at Marjory Stoneman High School on Valentine’s Day, 2018. What’s really needed, he insists, is an executive office that’s focused on gun violence. He was escorted away.