

**12/16/24** Grocery stores in Texas, Oklahoma, Alabama and Colorado now feature vending machines that sell ammunition. American Rounds, a Federally-licensed distributor, stocks them with a variety of brands. Buyers have to scan their I.D.'s to confirm they are of age ([18 for long-gun ammo; 21 for handgun](#).) But the process is quick and simple. "We're super excited" glowed Fresh Value executive Terry Stanley. "There is no doubt that foot traffic will increase based on the feedback that we've gotten."

**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 [1/2/24](#) and [1/9/24](#) updates).

**10/30/24** D.C. has long banned ammunition magazines that can accept more than ten rounds. And a legal challenge to that law was just rejected, 2-1, by a three-judge D.C. Circuit Court panel. The majority agreed that a magazine falls within the protection granted to "arms" by the Second Amendment. But they also held that this restriction is consistent with the historical test imposed by [Bruen](#), as laws dating back to Prohibition have barred weapons "that are particularly susceptible to, and were widely used for, multiple homicides and mass injuries." [D.C. law](#)

**3/19/24** In 2019 El Cajon (Calif.) police discovered an arsenal of firearms, including many that were illegal, while conducting a probation search of a misdemeanor gun offender. John Fencel was charged with possessing illegal firearms, and a judge ordered him to give up all his guns while awaiting trial. Fencel sued, citing the Supreme Court's [Bruen](#) decision, which requires that gun laws follow legal "history and tradition". But a three-judge Ninth Circuit panel unanimously ruled that prohibiting potentially dangerous persons awaiting trial from having firearms complies with *Bruen*. [U.S. v. Fencel](#)

**1/9/24** Gun regulations continue to ride a roller coaster. California's new gun law, [which expanded restrictions on where guns can be carried](#) to include public transit and a host of public places, is off again. A Ninth Circuit panel had let the law stand despite a challenge by gun-rights groups, which complained that it essentially made licensed carry meaningless. But another panel just placed a hold on the bill. So it's now up to the full Circuit to decide. Meanwhile [the Supreme Court declined to hear an](#)

[appeal](#) to Illinois' new gun law. It bans scores of rifles and pistols by make and model and prohibits possessing semi-auto rifles that can accept removable magazines and have any of a host of features. (See below and 11/11/24 and 1/17/25 updates)

**1/2/24** Illinois' wide-ranging "assault weapons" ban has taken effect. It bans scores of rifles and pistols by make and model. In addition, it prohibits the possession of any semi-auto rifle that can accept a removable magazine and has one or more of a list of features, such as a pistol grip or a thumbhole stock, or has a fixed magazine with a capacity that exceeds ten rounds. Pistol magazines are limited to fifteen rounds. Present owners can keep their guns and magazines but must register them with police. [Illinois law \(720 ILCS 5/24-1.9\)](#) (See above and 11/11/24 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.

**11/9/23** Going against the current grain, a three-judge panel of the 7th. Circuit Court of Appeals let stand, by a 2-1 vote, Illinois' ban on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines, which was enacted in response to the Highland Park massacre. But the dissenting jurist cited the "historical" rationale that undepinned the Supreme Court's [Bruen](#) decision, and an appeal to the full Circuit, then perhaps to the Supreme Court, seems likely.

**10/2/23** Will the Supreme Court approve lawsuits against gun makers? Or does the 2005 "Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act", which shields the industry from litigation over gun misuse, allow the unfettered production and marketing of unusually lethal weapons? Lawyer Josh Koskoff, who got Remington's insurer to settle a lawsuit over the AR-15 used by Adam Lanza at Sandy Hook, is planning a lawsuit over the Daniel Defense AR-15 style rifle used by Robert Crimo III in Highland Park.

**8/14/23** By a one-vote margin Illinois' Supreme Court upheld the State ban on assault weapons and large-capacity magazines (limits are ten rounds for rifles and fifteen for pistols.) There are exemptions for current owners and for active duty and retired police and military. [Governor Pritzker also signed a law](#) that enables lawsuits for recklessly marketing weapons, knowingly transferring them to dangerous persons, and knowingly selling them to "straw buyers" who are acting on behalf of unqualified persons. (See 1/19/23 update)

**8/11/23** Suicide in the U.S. hit a reported all-time high last year. [According to the CDC](#), 49,449 persons took their lives in 2022. That's an increase of 2.6 percent over the 48,183 suicides in 2021 and 2.3 percent over the 48,344 suicides in 2018. Firearms are reportedly "the most common method" of committing suicide, responsible for more than fifty percent. Suicide rates have steadily climbed over the past decades, a factor that experts attribute to the growing availability of guns.

**5/18/23** Prompted by the 2022 4th. of July massacre in Highland Park, Illinois and the city of Naperville banned assault weapons and high-capacity magazines. Challenges to these laws are coursing through the state's appellate courts. Meanwhile, the 7th. Circuit, and now the US Supreme Court, have turned aside, without comment, a Naperville gun store's petition that it enjoin the laws. [Petition](#)

**5/1/23** On April 25, an Illinois Federal judge appointed by President Biden refused to enjoin Illinois' new assault-weapons ban, ruling that "the overwhelming interest in public safety" outweighed the law's possible harms (*Herrera v. Raoul*). Three days later, in *Harrel v. Raoul*, an Illinois Federal judge appointed by President Trump enjoined the law, ruling that it improperly interfered with citizens' ability to "exercise their right to self-defense in the manner they choose."

**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. (See 8/14/23 update)

**8/20/22** A three-month long inquiry into the manufacture of assault weapons that have been used in mass shootings led the House Oversight Committee to propose two pieces of legislation. One would impose a 20 percent tax on the makers of assault rifles, and another would require them to track the weapons' misuse. [Committee report](#)