

Foolish politicians and police now seek to ban semi-automatic "assault rifles." They ignore fact only honest citizens will comply; criminals will still have these weapons. Such a ban will only increase criminals' ability to victimize the innocent.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Guns are not the problem. Gun control advocates want you to believe guns, not the criminals, are responsible for violent crime.

Let us put the responsibility where it belongs: on the owner and user of the gun. If he or she acts responsibly, without attacking others or causing injury, no crime or harm has been done. Leave gun owners in peace. But if a person commits a crime with a gun, then impose the severest penalties for the injury done to the victim. Similarly, hold negligent gun users fully liable for all harm his or her negligence does to others.

Instead of banning guns, the politicians and the police should encourage gun ownership, as well as education and training programs. A responsible, well-armed and trained citizenry is the best protection domestic crime and the threat of foreign invasion. America's founders knew that. It is still true today.

Law-abiding, responsible citizens do not and should not need to ask anyone's permission or approval to, engage in peaceful activity. Gun ownership, by itself, harms no other person and cannot morally justify criminal activities.

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**EQUAL RIGHTS
FOR AMERICA'S
GUN OWNERS**

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WHY LIBERTARIANS SUPPORT EQUAL RIGHTS FOR AMERICA'S GUN OWNERS

Libertarians, like other Americans, want to be able to walk city streets safely and be secure in their homes. We also want our Constitutional rights protected and to guard against the erosion of civil liberties. In particular, Libertarians want to see all people treated equally under the law, as our Constitution requires. America's millions of gun owners are people, too.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS

America's founders fought the Revolutionary War to throw off British tyranny. Most of the revolutionaries owned and used their own guns in that war. After the war, beginning in 1789, the 13 American States adopted the Constitution, creating the federal government. Before ratifying the Constitution, the people demanded a Bill of Rights to prevent our government from depriving them of their liberties as the British government did.

One of the most important protections we have against government tyranny is that we are presumed innocent of any crime until proven guilty, before a jury, in a proper trial.

However, gun control advocates seem to declare all gun owners guilty without trial, simply for owning guns, even though millions of them have never used their guns to harm other people. Such blanket condemnation is immoral, unfair, and contrary to the principles on which America was founded.

THE PROHIBITION LESSON

Gun control advocates are much like the prohibitionists of the early 20th century. By making liquor illegal, they spawned organized crime, caused blood violent turf wars and corrupted the criminal justice system.

Prohibition didn't stop the use of alcohol. Making gun ownership illegal will not stop gun ownership.

The primary victim of these misguided efforts is the honest citizen whose civil rights are trampled as frustrated legislators and police tighten the screws.

Banning firearms will make them more expensive and give organized crime a great opportunity to make profits in a new black market for weapons. Street violence will increase. Criminals will not give up their guns. Unfortunately, many law abiding citizens will, leaving them defenseless against armed bandits.



THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Supports Equal Rights for Gun Owners.

THE RIGHT OF SELF DEFENSE

Libertarians agree with the majority of Americans who believe they have the right to decide how best to protect themselves, their families, and their property. Millions of Americans have guns in their homes and sleep more comfortably because of it. Studies show that where gun ownership is illegal, residential burglaries are higher. Someone with a gun in their home is no threat if you aren't breaking into it.

The police do not provide security in your home your business or the street.

The show up after the crime has been committed to take reports and do detective work.



The poorer the neighborhood, the riskier it is for peaceful residents.

Only an armed citizenry can be present in sufficient numbers to prevent and deter violent crime before it starts or reduce its spread. Interviews with convicted felons indicate that fear of armed citizens significantly deters crime. Private gun ownership is a better deterrent to crime than the threat of imprisonment. Widespread gun ownership will actually make neighborhoods safer.