Gun Violence – A Call to Action

Mass shootings occur regularly in this country with no signs of stopping. People of all ages and walks of life are killed in mass shootings at schools, churches, supermarkets, shopping malls and other places where people are simply going about their daily lives. In 2020, there were 45,222 firearm-related deaths in the United States, which translates to 124 or so people dying from a firearm-related injury each day.  And in 2020, the top five leading causes of death for people ages 1-44 included firearm-related deaths. [Fast Facts: Firearm Violence Prevention |Violence Prevention|Injury Center|CDC](https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/firearms/fastfact.html).

We recognize that the LWVUS and the LWVMI have positions on gun violence and we support those positions. The LWVUS Position Statement on Violence Prevention recognizes the active role of government and social institutions in preventing violent behavior. On Gun Violence, the LWVUS believes that the proliferation of semi-automatic/automatic weapons in the United States is a major health and safety threat to its citizens, and supports strong federal measures to limit the accessibility and regulate the ownership of firearms.  [LWV\_ImpactOnIssues2022-2024.pdf](https://www.lwv.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/LWV_ImpactOnIssues2022-2024.pdf). The LWVMI supports the firearm safety bills recently introduced in the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate that provide greater safety for the residents of this state. [Take Action | League of Women Voters of Michigan (lwvmi.org)](https://lwvmi.org/take-action/#/TakeAction/Go/LetterGroupID/9/publicGRRecID/6FFA79EA-B2FF-449A-B6FAD00E7DAD91A3/EID/QUVGJYUKCN).

We also recognize that there is an urgent need for the League to mobilize on a local level around stopping gun violence. The League of Women Voters of Dearborn-Dearborn Heights urges all members of the community to stand up and speak out now against gun violence. We ask citizens to reach out to all elected officials to insist they continue to push for gun laws and enforcement of existing laws and to hold people accountable when a gun they sold or bought illegally in used in a crime. Ways you can do this include asking our legislators to work for passage of gun safety bills, and supporting causes and organizations that seek to end gun violence.