

# GUN CONTROL LEGISLATION TIMELINE

A timeline of significant federal legislation and landmarks reached by the U.S. related to gun control and the Second Amendment.

## 2nd Amendment Ratified

The Constitution states, "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

## National Firearms Act

Spurred by the lawlessness and gangsters during prohibition, President Franklin D. Roosevelt hoped this act would eliminate automatic-fire weapons like machine guns from America's streets.

## Gun Control Act

The assassination of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy inspired this major revision to federal gun laws. License requirements were expanded, handgun sales over state lines and by mail were restricted, and the act also defined persons who were banned from possessing firearms.

## Law Enforcement Officers Protection Act

Made it illegal for anyone to manufacture or import armor piercing ammunition, or "cop-killer bullets," which are capable of penetrating bulletproof clothing.

## Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act

Imposed, a five-day waiting period and a new National Instant Criminal Background Check System, run by the FBI, before a licensed gun importer, manufacturer or dealer can sell or deliver a handgun to an unlicensed individual.

1791

1871

1934

1938

1968

1972

1986

1990

1994

2013

## The NRA is Founded

The National Rifle Association is created to "promote and encourage rifle shooting on a scientific basis."

## Federal Firearms Act

Congress aimed this law at those involved in selling and shipping firearms through interstate or foreign commerce channels. The selling of firearms required a Federal Firearms License from the Secretary of Commerce (\$1 annual fee).

## Bureau of ATF is Created

Enforcement of the Gun Control Act was given to the Dept. of the Treasury's Alcohol and Tobacco Tax Division of the Internal Revenue Service. The organization replaced "tax" with "firearms," nearly doubled in size, and became the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF).

## Crime Control Act

Directed at establishing "drug-free school zones," with criminal penalties for possessing or discharging a firearm in a school zone. Outlawed the assembly of illegal semiautomatic rifles or shotguns from legally imported parts.

## President Obama Tightens Gun Control

In response to recent mass shootings, President Barack Obama introduces proposals to tighten gun-control laws. His plan includes universal background checks, reinstating and strengthening the assault weapons ban, limiting ammunition magazines to a 10-round capacity, and other measures.

## Sources

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/guntime1.html>

<https://www.ultius.com/ultius-blog/entry/research-paper-on-gun-control.html>