

## President Obama Unveils Proposals For Toughening Laws On Guns

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President Obama called upon Congress to toughen America's gun laws to confront mass shootings and everyday gun violence, betting that public opinion has shifted enough to support the broadest push for gun control in a generation. Mr. Obama announced plans to introduce legislation by next week that includes a ban on new assault weapons, limits on high-capacity magazines, expanded background checks for gun purchases and tougher gun trafficking laws to crack down on the spread of weapons across the country. Without waiting for Congress, the president also acted on his own authority, signing nearly two-dozen executive actions designed to increase the enforcement of existing gun laws and improve the flow of information among federal agencies in order to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and others who shouldn't have them.



In an emotionally charged event, Mr. Obama stood on a stage with four young children who he said had written to him asking for stronger gun laws. Invoking the memory of a young girl named Grace McDonnell who was killed in the Newtown shootings, the president vowed not to let the momentum for new, tougher gun laws fade. Speaking to a room packed with gun control advocates and family members of shooting victims, Mr. Obama said that a painting by Grace, hangs in his private study in the White House which serves as a reminder of his obligation to protect "the most vulnerable" members of society. The president and Mr. Biden described their plan as a comprehensive effort that includes four major legislative proposals and 23 separate executive actions ultimately geared towards strengthening American gun laws.

Senator Marco Rubio of Florida quickly made it clear that Mr. Obama's proposals will face intense opposition in Congress. "Nothing the president is proposing would have stopped the massacre at Sandy Hook. President Obama is targeting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens instead of seriously addressing the real underlying causes of such violence." The N.R.A. appeared ready for the fight. It said it would work with Congress on efforts to secure schools, fix the mental health system and prosecute criminals but criticized Mr. Obama's proposals. "Attacking firearms and ignoring children is not a solution to the crisis we face as a nation," the group said in a statement. "Only honest, law-abiding gun owners will be affected and our children will remain vulnerable to the inevitability of more tragedy." On Tuesday, it posted a video mocking Mr. Obama for opposing armed guards at the nation's schools even as his own daughters have Secret Service protection. The video calls the president an "elitist hypocrite."

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the pros and cons synonymous with Obama's proposals for strengthening gun laws. Do you believe the implementation of proposed legislation will equate to a safer America? Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence limited solely to passage above to support your response. Create and illustrate Venn Diagrams to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. **(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)**
2. In light of the recent implementation of President Obama's 23 executive actions regarding gun control, a private educational institution administrator is actively engaged in acquiring a school resource officer to ensure safety of all students, faculty, and staff presently enrolled. Multiple bids were submitted; however, two armed private security organizations have presented appealing offers. The officer contracted will work 8 hours daily for 180 school days. Arsenal Security Forces charges an initial \$15000 retainer coupled with \$23.50/hour whereas their competitor, Red Dawn Investigations, LLC charges \$2500 monthly and an additional \$20/hour. Define a variable. Write and solve an equation for each situation. Create a table and determine specifically from which organization would you recommend contracting security services? When is the cost of both organizations the same? Explain your reasoning to determine the reasonableness of the solution. **(MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.3.5; MA.912.A.3.2)**
3. The President serves as Commander-In-Chief exercising supreme command authority of a nation's military forces. The Pentagon is the headquarters of the U.S. Department of Defense. The word pentagon is a derivative from the Greek root word *pente*. Perhaps the most notable is a five-sided polygon structure located in Arlington County, Virginia. Sketch a pentagon that is equilateral but not equiangular. One side of a pentagon measures  $(7x - 3)$  inches whereas another is  $(4x + 6)$  inches. Find a side length and evaluate one of the expressions with the value of  $x$ . What is the perimeter of this pentagon? Can you find the circumference? Explain. **(MA.912.G.2.3; MA.912.G.2.5; MA.912.G.8.2; MA.912.G.8.6)**
4. Using contextual clues only, define the following italicized terms: *advocates*, *inevitability*, *elitist*, *vulnerable*, and *invoking* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. **(LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1)**
5. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above using the following italicized word: *Writhe* (*ryth*) (v.) To cause to twist or bend; to suffer acutely, as in pain or embarrassment. **(LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5)**

**Next Generation Sunshine State Standards** adapted from [floridastandards.org](http://floridastandards.org). Standards specifically addressed in this edition are strategically aligned with state standards and annotated adjacent to the respective inquiry.

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