

Gun Reform and Firearms Safety Policy Statement

The issues of gun violence and common-sense gun reform are paramount in creating a criminal justice system that promotes community safety.

I support red flag laws, also called “Extreme Risk Protection Orders,” which allow our law enforcement to temporarily remove firearms or block access to them from individuals who may pose a danger to themselves or others. This law will also allow domestic violence victims to secure protection from armed or potentially armed abusers. This policy has received bipartisan support on the federal level already and is a simple solution to prevent access to weapons from those who pose immediate risk.

I support comprehensive background checks that extend to *all* gun sales. Closing loopholes to necessary background checks—particularly those at gun shows—is fundamental to promoting common sense gun reform. All gun sales should be subject to the same scrutiny.

Fully automatic and assault-style weapons are designed for military intervention, not civilians. I am against the sale of fully automatic weapons, bump stocks, and high capacity magazines to private individuals. Semi-automatic rifles should not be easily converted to fully automatic firearms, and I support existing regulations that prohibit fully automatic conversion.

I also support gun safety education and reasonable regulations, and I look forward to aiding the state legislature to arrive at common sense gun reform that protects our communities and accurately reflect the needs of our criminal justice system.

Finally, I support responsible and informed gun ownership. While current gun safety laws provide some level of protection against guns falling into the wrong hands, those laws are not equally enforced. Gun safety laws are often used as a pretext to prevent the sale of weapons to people of color, regardless of their experience or competency with gun ownership and safety. As Maricopa County attorney, I will advocate for increased gun safety policies, and for those policies to be equally applied to all gun sales, regardless of the race of the purchaser.

I oppose the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act (PLCAA) and Arizona Revised Statute § 12-714, which absolve negligent gun sellers of liability for selling firearms to individuals who would use them to commit mass shootings. As County Attorney, I will respond appropriately to merchants who sell firearms knowing that they will be used in acts of violence.

ABOUT WILL KNIGHT

Will Knight is a Latino immigrant, a U.S. citizen and a trial lawyer with experience in prosecution, civil rights and indigent defense. He graduated second in his class at Arizona State University’s Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law, where he was awarded the prestigious Truman Young Fellowship in 2012. Knight lives in Phoenix with his wife, Lauren, and their rescue dogs Mackenzie and Pee-Wee. Learn more at knight2020.com.