



ROUTT COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Garrett Wiggins, Sheriff

Ray Birch, Undersheriff

From the office of sheriff

"Gun Control"

Routt County Sheriff, Garrett Wiggins

The question has been asked of me on many occasions and a lot more often since the recent shootings around our country, **"What is your position regarding gun control?"** The following paragraphs document my personal belief and position as an American citizen and also in my official capacity as the Sheriff of Routt County regarding gun control or any new or proposed legislation.

- I will support new state and federal legislation and enforce laws under my authority that will; **"keep firearms out of the hands of criminals, the mentally ill, any person addicted to controlled substances, individuals convicted or under a restraining order, and convicted felons"**.
- I support legislation and laws that establish greater or enhanced penalties and minimum sentencing standards for criminals convicted of crimes which use a firearm and other dangerous weapons to commit criminal behavior.
- I support legislation which holds accountable, an individual illegally in possession of a firearm, who sells a firearm to someone who commits an illegal or criminal act with said firearm. (Black market sales)
- I support legislation which gives access to data regarding mentally ill or mentally unstable individuals who present a danger to themselves or others, to those officials responsible for conducting background checks for firearm sales.
- I support Colorado's concealed carry laws and other states that support concealed carry rights for law abiding citizens.
- I fully support enhancements to our schools which provide preventative and security measures that prevent school violence to include building and structure upgrades, technological security advancements and fulltime, P.O.S.T certified school resource officers stationed in individual schools.
- I fully support and have taken an oath to protect and honor the Constitution of the United States of America including the Second Amendment which reads; 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.

As a citizen of the United States of America and in my official capacity as the elected Sheriff, I will breathe my last breath defending this constitutional right that belongs to me, my family and all the people I serve from terrorism, both foreign and domestic, so help me God!!!

- I will **not** support any new legislation that infringes on the rights of law abiding citizens or in any way takes away their ability to defend themselves and their families from an imminent threat or act of violence.
- I will **not** support legislation that prohibits law abiding citizens from purchasing or which limits products and goods to include firearms, accessories and ammunition, or new legislation which punishes law abiding citizens for the criminal acts of a few.
- In my official capacity as Routt County Sheriff, I will defend our law abiding citizens against any unlawful or unconstitutional intrusion or enforcement action which clearly violates the constitutional rights of our citizens.

Over the past two hundred years, millions of Americans have died, many of them our own family members, defending this country in times of war, from terrorist attacks, and protecting our freedoms and constitutional rights afforded to every American citizen. To sit idle and do nothing while politically biased and agenda motivated individuals try to tear our US Constitution apart is not something we should allow to happen.

I share a common belief with the majority of Americans from both sides of the political aisle, that when it comes to human initiated acts of violence we should not blame the tool or piece of equipment used to conduct the horrible act but place the blame where it **really belongs, on the “person”** committing the act.

For instance; there are thousands of automobile related deaths every year in this country contributed to texting while driving. Have we seen legislation to ban cell phones, texting ability or vehicles? Hundreds of thousands of lives have been lost to automobile related deaths in this country related to DUI and DUID (pharmaceutical drugs and illegal drugs). Have we seen legislation requesting to ban alcohol, pharmaceutical drugs or vehicles? Were the jets blamed for 9-11? These questions **seem ridiculous but the answer is “NO”**. **Some people might argue that laws have been passed that prohibit drinking and driving, texting while driving and now we have strict security measures at airports. Yes, this is true but the fact is that people still use these common everyday things carelessly causing 100s of deaths around or nation. The common factor in all these scenarios is “Human behavior”. That’s right, human actions**

cause death and destruction. We as a society should hold humans accountable for their actions and not try to find blame in material objects. These beneficial tools are used every day for lawful purposes but unfortunately they are also used to cause accidents and planned acts of violence. Firearms, jets, cell phones, drugs and alcohol, and so on **don't have minds of their own or decision making ability. They can't fire themselves, fly themselves, text themselves or digest themselves into someone's body.** The fact is that humans and personal decisions are responsible for their use.

Regardless of the number of new laws we pass, it is impossible to prevent all human caused accidents or acts of violence. Horrible acts are committed around the globe every day by criminals, the mentally ill and evil minded people. To counter this evil, society has crafted laws to try to prevent bad things from happening to good people. Law abiding citizens typically honor and obey laws but most criminals see laws as nothing more than ink on a piece of paper. The creation of additional laws, as it relates to gun control, accomplishes nothing more than restricting the rights of law abiding citizens and provides a false sense of security for those who oppose gun rights. **Criminals don't care how many laws are on the books as they have no intention of following them anyway.** In fact, many criminals want more gun restrictions as this creates an easier, target rich environment of defenseless victims for them to rob, burglarize, rape and pillage. **People** do ignorant and evil things causing harm, destruction and death. We cannot and should not penalize millions of law abiding citizens for the horrible acts of just a few.

It is time to face the realization that none of these material objects can cause death or destruction without human manipulation.

The fact is: people kill people, let's hold humans responsible.

Garrett Wiggins, Routt County Sheriff