

The 2nd Amendment

The Augusta County Democratic Committee supports efforts to keep our communities safe while respecting the rights of responsible gun owners. While the Supreme Court has affirmed gun ownership as an individual right, they have also held that common sense regulation in the interest of public safety is appropriate. We believe in balancing 2nd Amendment rights with an emphasis on public safety and support the following measures:

- Universal background checks on all transactions, no excuses, no exceptions
- Restricting the private ownership of military style, high velocity weapons to those obtaining a federal license, similar to the current requirements for fully automatic weapons
- Restricting the private ownership of high capacity magazines to those obtaining a federal license
- Banning bump-stocks
- Empowering the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms to shut down “Bad Apple” gun dealers who comprise 5% of gun dealers yet are responsible for selling 90% of the guns used in crimes
- Strengthening education of law enforcement, care givers, teachers, health care professionals and the general public to be better able to identify warning signs and take actions to prevent violent incidents – “if you see something, say something”
- Strengthening enforcement of existing laws concerning entering data into the national background check system in a timely manner
- Strengthening enforcement of existing laws concerning gun ownership restrictions (domestic abusers, felons, “straw” purchases, etc.)
- Reinstating funding to the Centers for Disease Control to resume investigation into the causes of gun violence as a public health issue
- Starting a public/private funded public education program to reverse the disturbing trend of this casual attitude towards gun ownership in much of our population. Gun ownership is serious business and should be treated as such.