

# THE CENTURY TIMES

2018 SPRING SPECIAL ADDITION



who has

CONTROL

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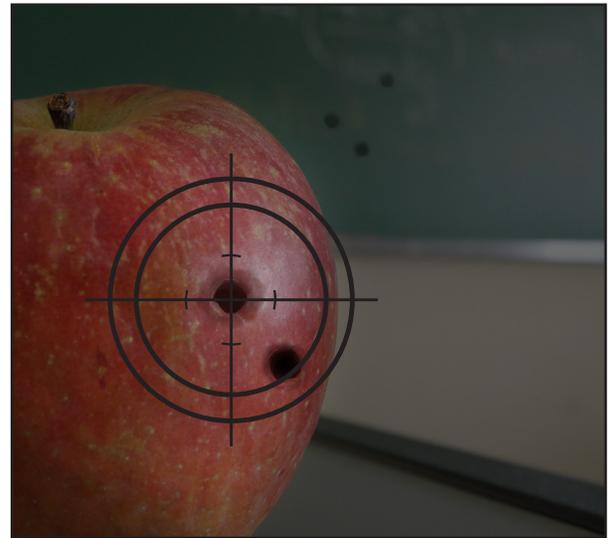
**Come to the News Room W1340  
if you would like to join our staff!**

## Find Woody



Woody will not be hiding in this issue! He has join the cause for gun control and is out protesting!

## Front Cover Credits



Apple classroom image be Lhys from freeimage.

# GROWING TENDENCY OF SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

Tony H | Senior Staff

School shootings have been around since the 1700s, says a report by K12 Academics, that reported a school shooting in 1764. Since then, a lot of innocent lives have been lost due to these horrible events. Sadly, over the decades and centuries since, the commonality of these events have only increased.

According to countless archived newspapers like the Richmond Enquirer, during the 1800s, school shootings were not very common and saw around ten shootings ever ten years. Now this is still bad, but suddenly at the turn of the 20th century, the list of reported shootings and schools soared through the roof. Especially in the 1980s and 1990s, school shootings began being a lot more common. In addition, the 2000s and 2010s were even more filled with these terrible events.

After reading newspaper articles in the Boca Raton News, Chicago Tribune, and the Dispatch, just to name a few, between 1993 and 1994 alone, there was a combined total of 19 school shootings.

They stretched from Seattle, Washington to San Diego, California, and Albany, New York to West Palm Beach, Florida. There was not a certain area where it was



Photo by xandior on Unsplash

common in the United States, but it was spread out in every corner of the country.

As time moves forward, there has been advances in the technology of guns and the country's population is way up between the 1700s and today. Still, it is sad to see that these kinds of occurrences are only increasing and not decreasing.

People are now at a point where they are scared to send their children to school, or loved ones of a person that works or teaches at a school are scared for their well-being. It should not be this way. Schools have never been looked at as an unsafe setting until now.

According to CNN's Darran Simon, as of March 2, there have already been 12 school shootings in the United States this year. That is 12 shootings in just nine weeks, which is more than one per week on average. So, it is a weekly basis now that people are hearing about school shootings and that is very scary.

If this pace keeps up, people won't even want to see the number at the end of the year and parents will start to pull their kids from schools. This could have a butterfly effect on kids not getting the education they need, as well as people starting to question school safety because the teaching environment is not secured.

This is important to bring up this issue because people's lives are at risk. If this continues, the list of reported shootings is going to get longer and more innocent lives are going to be lost due to inaction in trying to prevent future shootings from happening.

# NORTHEAST 916 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TALK ABOUT GUNS AND SAFETY

Tanita Cronk | Creative Writing Coordinator

While adults across the country are arguing over the second amendment, the NRA, and gun control, the children shout. The grownups are posting Facebook memes, finding ways to ridicule each other, and dismissing the voices of a generation who scream to be heard. Instead of worrying about high school dances, football games, pick up ball with their friends, and French fries, teenagers all over America are worried about their safety.

Teenagers wonder if today will be the day someone will walk into their school and lives will end. They should be worried about whether their crush will pay

attention to them instead of marching in protests and walking out of classes to get ours. Why isn't anybody listening? Yes, they may be teenagers and children but isn't there a saying, "Out of the mouths of babes..."

As a classmate that walks the halls of Century College with PSEO students and shares a campus with Northeast 916 Intermediate High School, I wondered what they have to say. So, I decided to sit down with them and listen.

I met with two students on March 6, to discuss the topics of school safety and arming teachers. We had a very open dis-

cussion in which I asked them questions about how much they knew about the subject as well as how it affected them. Johnny, 17, said that the issue hadn't affected him personally, but he did agree that it was an issue worth talking about.

Gracie, 18, said that she was affected by the issue. She goes to Tartan High School, where she says that students have brought weapons to the school and has friends that go to Woodbury High School, which was the site of a recent threat of violence over Snapchat. The school has recently put in metal detectors in response to the event. Gracie said that the gun issue affects high school stu-

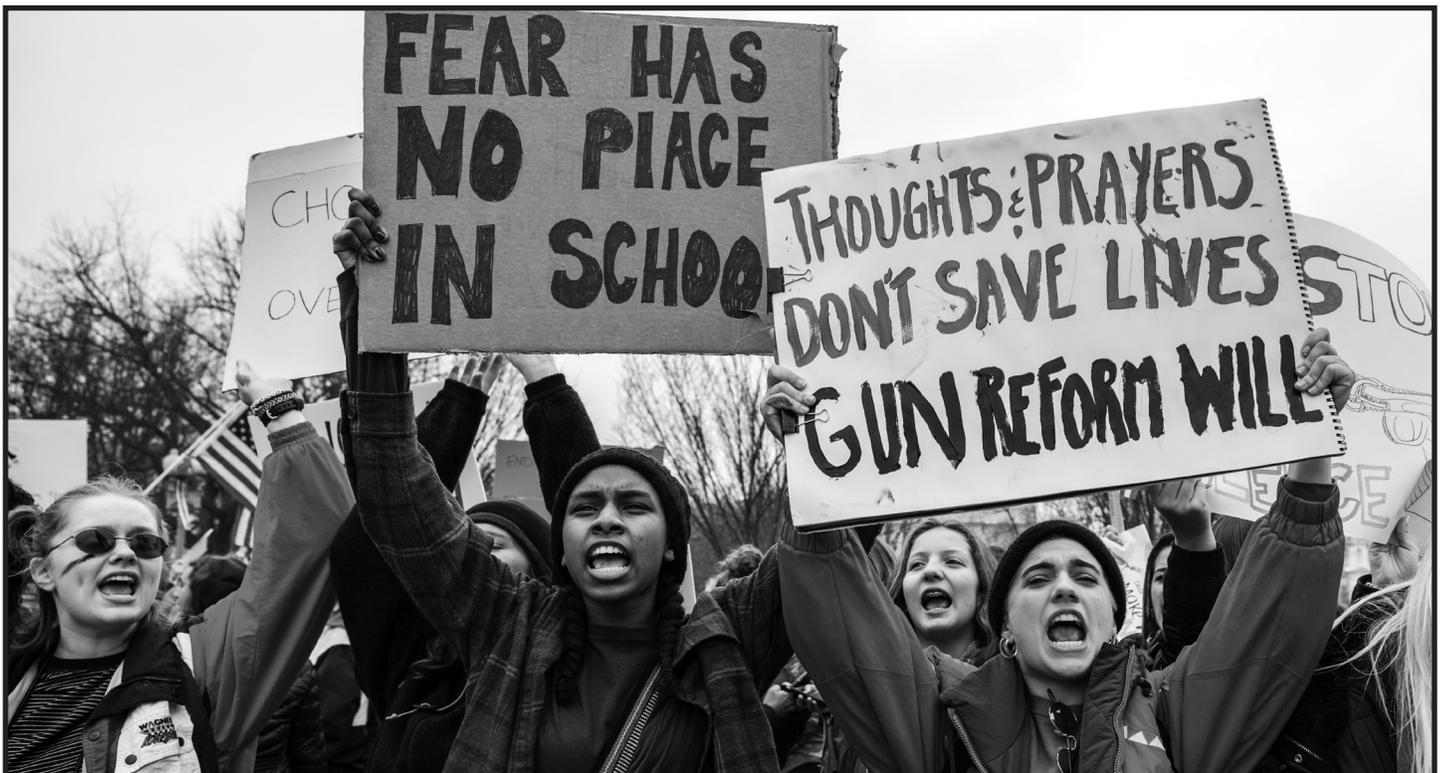


Photo by Lorie Shaull on flickr - Thoughts and Prayers Dont Save Lives student lie-in at the White House to protest gun laws



Photo by Stephen Melkisetian on Flickr - March For Our Lives DC

dents way more than it affects others, but it should be an issue that is talked about by everyone.

Both students agreed that high school student voices were among the most important voices that should be heard when discussing these topics and felt that social media was the perfect outlet for them to use to get that voice heard.

“If more people talk about it, then more people will become aware of it,” Gracie stated.

Both students agreed that arming teachers was not a good idea. Gracie and Johnny both feel that arming teachers would bring about a whole new set of safety concerns. They voiced concerns about how this would increase safety concerns. They said that they feel safe now, because they spend most of their time on a college campus where “students are more mature” and “less likely to want to shoot up the campus when they are angry.”

Gracie feels schools could do more to make students feel safe. She says that there could be more done than just hold lock down drills. There should be events, assemblies, and discussions on the subject to create more awareness. According

to Gracie, creating an awareness would help with preparedness and prevention.

Johnny, on the other hand, doesn't feel like the school needs to do more. He says that it is not the school's responsibility to protect children against guns. Arming teachers would make students feel less safe. In their home high schools, safety is already a major concern. Johnny thinks that people are accident prone. Students would fear that a teacher might misplace their weapon or there is the possibility of the gun being stolen.

At the end of our interview, I asked both Gracie and Johnny if there was anything they'd like for people to know regarding this issue. Gracie said, “It can happen anywhere.” “Knowing that it is an issue,” Johnny continues that he feels people aren't taking the issue as seriously as they should.

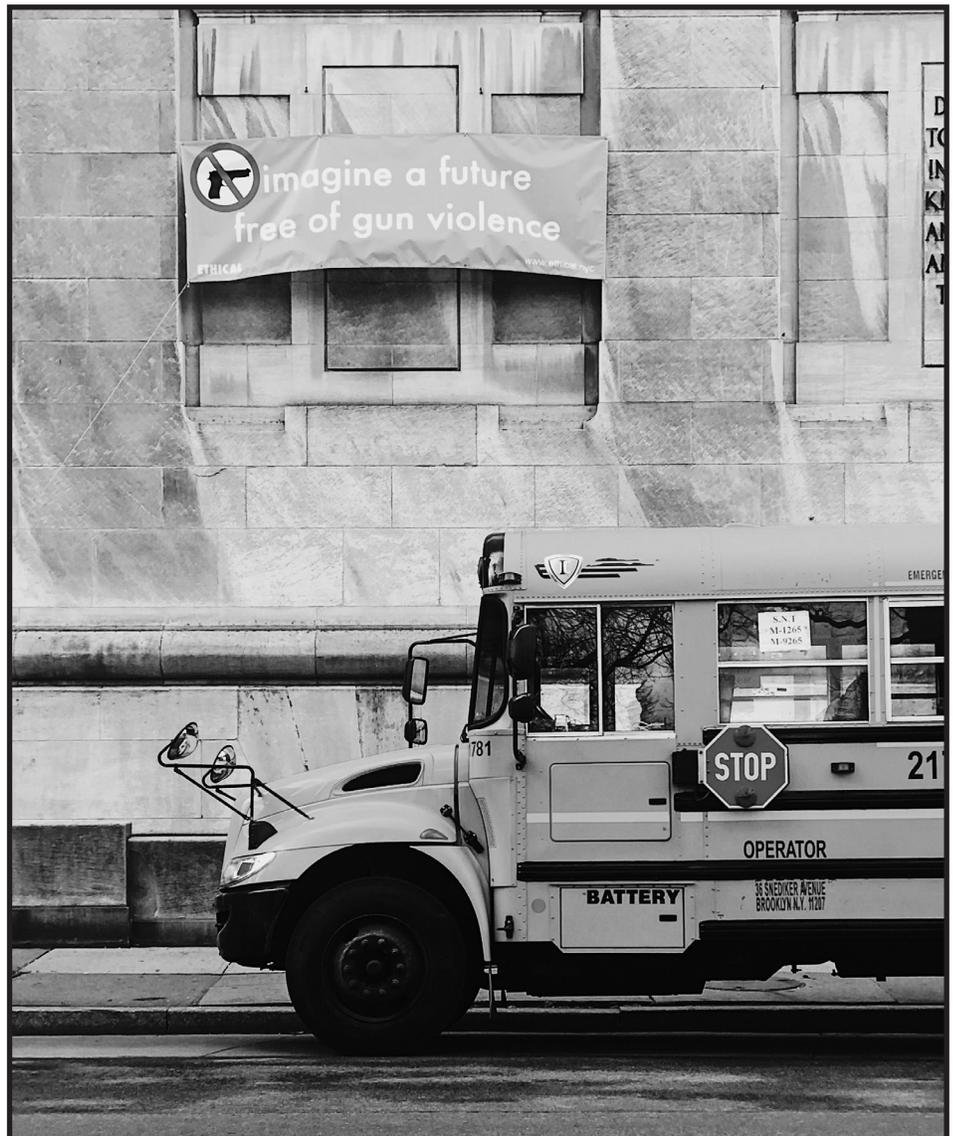


Photo by Jose Alonso on Unsplash

# THE CENTURY TIMES HOSTS PANEL ON

Kyle O'Connor | Staff Writer

Gwenita Haireston and Tanita Cronk | Photographers

On March 21, The Century Times hosted an event titled “Aiming for Safety: Reducing School Shootings.” The event involved an incredible panel of guests to discuss guns and schools. This allowed for some great conversations to take place in the nest and hopefully inspire students to continue talking about it. The discussion and questions stemmed from both Century students as well as from the highly respected professionals who shared some of their thoughts on stage.

The panel of guests had years of experience in many different public safety roles as well as countless years of experience on college campuses. The panel included Century College Faculty, Richard Kuss and Eric Harmon, Century College Campus Security Officer Lead, Nate Mens, Century student and veteran, Jesse Rodriguez Solorzano, and finally, Metro Transit Police Officer Gwen De-Groff-Gunter. The moderators for the event were Vladimir Cruz-Ramirez, the

Editor in Chief of The Century Times, and Sara Romanoski, the managing editor.

Before getting into the conversation with the panelists, the moderators started the event by playing two very important videos to put the event into perspective. The first was titled “RUN. HIDE. FIGHT. – Surviving an Active Shooter Event” by the University of Texas. It was an important video that portrayed an active shooter situation in a public place. Not only was it informational but it also connected back to Century as this video is mandatory for Century faculty to watch.

First, the safest suggestion the video said for people to do in a gun shooting situation is avoiding confrontation. If you can get out or get away, do that. If you can't, you need to find a safe place to stay hidden. The third suggestion the video stated you should do as a last resort is fight. Your life could be on the line. So, do not

## HOW TO RESPOND

WHEN AN ACTIVE SHOOTER IS IN YOUR VICINITY

### 1. RUN

- Have an escape route and plan in mind
- Leave your belongings behind
- Keep your hands visible

### 2. HIDE

- Hide in an area out of the shooter's view
- Block entry to your hiding place and lock the doors
- Silence your cell phone and/or pager

### 3. FIGHT

- As a last resort and only when your life is in imminent danger
- Attempt to incapacitate the shooter
- Act with physical aggression and throw items at the active shooter

**CALL 911 WHEN IT IS SAFE TO DO SO**

*Active Shooter Pocket Card*

*Credit: [www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/active\\_shooter\\_pocket\\_card\\_508.pdf](http://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/active_shooter_pocket_card_508.pdf)*

give in to the attacker easily!

The next video played had an abundant amount of gun violence statistics provided by Dr. Aaron Carroll at the Healthcare Triage Youtube channel. The video was titled “Homicide and Firearms: Guns and Public Health Part 2” and it got information flowing through the nest. The numbers were very ugly. Carroll cited recent studies done by the American Journal of Medicine, and it showed the United States had a rate of homicide by gun that was 25 times higher than other high-income countries.

Not only that, Carroll continues on to say that 82 percent of all people killed by guns were killed in the United States. The main point Carroll was trying to get across is where our conversation quickly headed to once the video was over.



# GUNS & SCHOOLS

And that is America has way too many guns.

In our discussion with the panel, a lot of important topics were touched on. Mens stated that the college policy of an attacker type situation has recently changed to directly follow the University of Texas strategy. Another important thing he mentioned was the fact that seeing something and saying something cannot be overlooked. Century has professional investigators as a resource to track down any and all possible threats. The hard part is making sure the right people hear about this kind of thing.

Another topic that sparked conversation was the question “Does adding restrictions to gun laws violate the Second amendment?” Solorzano was quick to answer “no.” He took us on a history lesson saying that the amendment was created in a time completely different from ours. The people that implemented the amendment needed it for very different reasons than we do today. Presently, we have an abundant amount of resources available to us like the military and law enforcement that those of the past did not have. Another important part Solorzano added was the fact that the high power guns of today is nothing even imaginable to those who wrote the amendment back in 1791.

DeGross-Gunter cited an interesting stat from the Healthcare Triage video, saying that only four percent of death by gun happens in a mass attack. That means 96 percent of gun violence in our country is being overlooked. DeGross-Gunter went on to say these are the most important attacks, the day to day deaths via guns that nobody covers on the news, rallies for, or marches for. We simply have way too much access to firearms in the United States.

Kuss and Harmon, both professors of the English department at Century, focused on student roles in fighting for change and politics. Harmon explained why having money involved in politics is the number one reason why things are so stationary in our government. The funding and supporting done by large groups like the National Rifle Association (NRA) strongly influence politicians to avoid crossing them. They know that if the NRA decided to fight against their campaign, they have a very expensive and influential opponent.

Kuss focused on the students and the roles that students can play to push for change. Students marching, protesting, and supporting events like this one, are what we can do to show that we’re not standing for this.

We are the people. We aren’t an easy problem to solve for something like the NRA. You can’t throw money into the fight and make us go away. We are the people and we can march, protest, and fight for what we deserve until we have it. Make waves and force change!



N

I started on a rack with six others.  
But I was the largest.  
I could shoot the furthest.  
I was the most threatening.  
I was  
The Gun.

End his life.  
I wondered why he used  
My smaller brother, and not  
The largest,  
Furthest shooting,  
Most threatening  
Weapon he owned.  
I was  
The Gun.

D

One day, in spring 1999, a boy bought me.  
I was so proud.  
I was going to be the largest.  
Shoot the furthest.  
Be the most threatening.  
Of all my brothers.  
I was  
The Gun.

One day, in winter 2012, a woman found me.  
I was so proud. Once again,  
I was going to be the largest.  
Shoot the furthest.  
Be the most threatening  
Of all my brothers.  
I was  
The Gun.

G

He brought me with other brothers  
In his car,  
None of which were  
As large  
Or shoot further  
Or was threatening than me.  
I was  
The Gun.

But she never did use me.  
Instead, a young man came into her house  
With one of my little brothers.  
She fell at the sight of him,  
Which I couldn't understand,  
Because I was larger,  
Shot further,  
And more threatening than my little brother.  
I was  
The Gun.

E

The boy took me into a building  
And, along with another boy,  
Pointed me at many people.  
They were all terrified, and some  
Even fell to the ground, because I was  
The largest,  
Furthest shooting,  
Threatening  
Weapon they had ever seen.  
I was  
The Gun.

The young man took me from the woman's  
house  
And drove to another building,  
Like the one I had visited in 1999.  
He marched in through a gate and into the  
building,  
Then to rooms with little people and big peo-  
ple in it.  
Most of them fell at the sight of me because

T

That same day, my owner used  
One of my brothers to

F

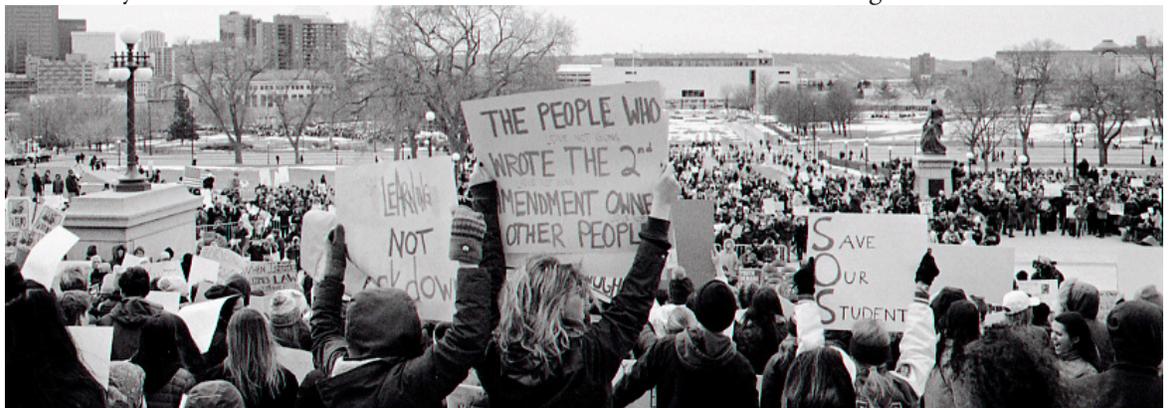


Photo by Evelyn Kamrath - March For Our Lives St Paul.

they knew  
I was the largest,  
Furthest shooting,  
Threatening  
Weapon they had ever seen.  
I was  
The Gun.

But my owner also took his life,  
Like the boy in 1999,  
Once again with a little brother.  
Again, I could not understand why,  
And not used me- the largest,  
Furthest shooting,  
Most threatening  
Weapon he had.  
I was  
The Gun.

This year, in winter 2018, another young man  
Found me, when I had made my way back to  
the store  
Among the racks, where I was the largest.  
Could shoot the furthest.  
The most threatening  
I was  
The Gun.

He bought me at once,  
Then he put me in a black duffel bag.  
This time,  
There were no little brothers with me,  
Because this young man knew I was  
The largest.  
Could shoot the furthest.  
The most threatening.  
I was  
The Gun.

He walked into a building, just like the ones in  
1999 and 2012,  
And pointed me at people in hallways and  
rooms.  
Not all of them fell, but the ones who did, I  
knew, had never  
Seen a weapon so large,  
That could shoot so far,  
Was so threatening as me.

I was  
The Gun.

This young man did not take his life like the  
others,  
But instead discarded me in a stairwell after  
Showing me to many people and making  
almost twenty fall.  
I was sad, but I knew, once again, I had proven  
that  
I was the largest,  
Furthest shooting,  
Threatening  
Weapon they had ever seen.  
I was  
The Gun.  
I am  
The Gun.

I am every gun in every owner's hand.  
I do not care what I am used for, as long as  
It shows that I am  
The largest,  
Can shoot the furthest,  
And the most threatening weapon  
You have ever seen.  
I know you wish to control me.  
My power.  
Do you think I am blind or deaf?  
I see the news. I hear you talk.  
And talk.  
And talk.  
And talk.  
Here is my question:  
With all this talk of doing something,  
What's stopping you?

**I am  
The Gun...**



# MIDTERM ELECTIONS 2018:

**Sara Romanoski** | Managing Editor

On Nov. 6, 2018, millions of Americans will go to the polls to vote in one of the most contentious midterm elections in recent history. This year, all 435 seats in the House of Representatives, and one-third of Senate seats are up for election. Control of both the House and Senate, currently lie in the hands of Republicans, but Democrats only need to gain 24 seats in the House, and two seats in the Senate to take control. With such a low margin of error for each party, it is critical to understand the platforms and intentions of those running for office before voters make their way to the poll.

Gun control, one of the most widely debated, talking points for politicians, is a centerpiece of discussions, as candidates continue to campaign for supporters. With the rise of school shootings, many voters are searching for answers to the systemic problem of gun violence and the elected officials to achieve real and lasting change.

Traditionally, Democrats tend to favor gun control laws, while Republicans solely focus on mental health issues, but with the recent uptick in mass shootings, more Americans are demanding policy changes. Whether gun control laws come to fruition largely depends on the outcome of the midterms and ultimately, who controls Congress.

According to CNN, several state races will be particularly influential in determin-

ing the controlling party. These include Montana, North Dakota, Nevada, Arizona, Wisconsin, Missouri, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Florida. While an understanding of the election on a national level is meaningful, understanding the local political scene is crucial for those who plan to cast a ballot.

In November, Minnesotans will elect 14 candidates to a range of offices including governor, attorney general, two senators, and eight members of Congress. In total, 68 individuals are officially running for seats. If you plan to vote and the issue of finding solutions to gun violence is important to you, it may be helpful to read the short bios of several prominent candidates for governor including their stance on gun control and if they are

funded, in part, by the National Rifle Association. Also listed are the candidates for senate and the eight congressional districts.

## GOVERNOR

**Tim Walz**

Democrat- Mankato, MN

Walz, a former teacher, football coach, enlisted service member, and current congressman has taken strong stances on gun violence issues. He has come out in favor of universal background checks which require firearm purchases to be documented with the National Instant Background Check System. Walz has also voted for the “No Fly, No Buy” legislation, preventing individuals on the “no-fly” list from obtaining firearms. In 2017, he co-sponsored a bill to ban bump-stocks, which are attachments for



*Photo by Brittany-Elyse Weninger - Minnesota State Capital*

# CANDIDATES AND THEIR GUN VIOLENCE POLICIES

Photo by Evelyn Kamrath - Protestors outside Saint Paul Capital

semi-automatic weapons enabling them to fire faster like an automatic weapon. Locally, he supports the banning of assault weapons in Minnesota and also the Gun Violence Protection Order. This law allows law enforcement and family members to petition a court to prohibit the possession of firearms if an individual poses a significant danger to themselves or others.

**NRA Funding?** According to available data, Walz has accepted donations from the NRA for previous campaigns, but states he will no longer accept their contributions.

## Jeff Johnson

Republican- Plymouth, MN

A successful small business owner, county commissioner, and former leader in Congress, Johnson is running for governor of Minnesota again after being defeated by Mark Dayton in 2014. A firm supporter of the Second Amendment, Johnson believes “self-defense is a fundamental individual right and creating new “gun control” restrictions on law-abiding citizens will only leave guns in the hands of criminals.” Johnson has also voiced his opposition to universal background checks and would only support reform of current gun laws including data sharing to ensure that background check databases are current and accurate.

**NRA Funding?** According to available data, there is no evidence whether Johnson has received funding from the NRA.

## Rebecca Otto

Democrat- Marine on St. Croix, MN

Otto, a former congresswoman, school board member, public servant on eight local and federal boards, and current Minnesota State Auditor has been very vocal about her strong opinions on gun laws. She has frequently taken to Twitter

to stand against the opposition of gun control laws and feels there is a serious need for “tighter restrictions on firearms,” according to an interview with Twin Cities Pioneer Press. In February, Otto expressed via Twitter that the Center for Disease Control and Prevention should study gun violence as a public health issue and that the ban against it must be lifted. Locally, Otto supports banning assault weapons in Minnesota and universal background checks.

**NRA Funding?** According to available data, Rebecca Otto has never received funding from the NRA.

## Keith Downey

Republican- Edina, MN

Formerly, the chairman of the Republican Party of Minnesota, and member of the Minnesota House of Representatives, Downey acts as an operations and technology consultant for state and local governments. As part of his platform, Downey has released five-step plans for School Safety and Security, and Public Safety and Security. Each plan includes specific policy intentions such as ensuring schools have police presence, no conceal and carry restrictions, promoting life and faith to confront root causes of gun violence, banning sanctuary cities, and banning refugees until “...an airtight vetting process is in place and we can establish a resettlement volume that Minnesota can control, afford, and assimilate.”



**NRA Funding?** According to available data, there is no evidence whether Downey has received funding from the NRA.

## Erin Murphy

Democrat- St. Paul, MN

Murphy is a registered nurse, nursing instructor at St. Kates, former executive director of the Minnesota Nurses Association, and member of the DFL. In 2016, Murphy was the first to announce her intent to run for governor, and has remained strong in her position against the NRA and gun violence. According to an interview with WCCO- CBS Minnesota, Murphy states that she supports universal background checks, banning assault weapons, and the ability for the Department of Health to collect data to study the relationship between gun ownership and gun violence. “I think Minnesotans understand the reach of the gun lobby and the NRA, I am happy to say that I have always gotten an ‘F’ from them and have never taken their money.”

**NRA Funding?** According to available data, Murphy has never received funding from the NRA.

*continued on page 10*

# MIDTERM ELECTIONS CONTINUED

**Mary Giuliani Stephens**  
Republican- Woodbury, MN

Current mayor of Woodbury, former practicing attorney, and Woodbury City Council member, Stephens holds conservative views about gun violence. She has not often spoken publicly about her gun policy intentions, but states, "I believe that the Second Amendment means what it says: that the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The Bill of Rights is quite clear: our civil rights are not negotiable, and it is not government's role to decide which of our civil rights we can keep."

**NRA Funding?** According to available data, there is no evidence whether Stephens has received funding from the NRA.

## SENATE - CLASS 1

**Amy Klobuchar**  
Democrat- Plymouth, MN

Supports universal background checks and banning assault weapons.

**Jim Newberger**  
Republican- Becker, MN

Supports the second amendment and states that "it's the one right that

guarantees them all."

**Robert Barnheiser**  
Republican- Minnetonka, MN

Supports the second amendment and sees no need for changes to current gun laws.

## SENATE- CLASS 2

**Tina Smith**  
Democrat- Minneapolis, MN

Has not taken a notable public stance on the issue of gun control.

**Nick Leonard**  
Democrat- Minneapolis, MN

Has not taken a notable public stance on the issue of gun control.

**Karin Housley**  
Republican- St. Mary's Point, MN

Has not taken a notable public stance on the issue of gun control.

## CONGRESS

**District 1**  
Jim Hagedorn- Republican  
Carla Nelson- Republican  
Dan Feehan- Democrat  
Vicki Jensen- Democrat

Joe Sullivan- Democrat  
Johnny Akzam- Democrat  
Rich Wright- Democrat  
Bob Ries- Democrat

**District 2**  
Jason Lewis- Republican  
Angie Craig- Democrat  
Jeff Erdmann- Democrat

**District 3**  
Erik Paulson- Republican  
Dean Phillips- Democrat  
Adam Jennings- Democrat  
Brian Santa Maria- Democrat

**District 4**  
Betty McCollum- Democrat

**District 5**  
Keith Ellison- Democrat  
Christopher William Chamberlin- Republican

**District 6**  
Tom Emmer- Republican  
Ian Todd- Democrat

**District 7**  
Collin Peterson- Democrat  
David Hughes- Republican  
Matt Prosch- Republican  
Jayesun Sherman- Republican

**District 8**  
Leah Phifer- Democrat  
Kirsten Hagen Kennedy- Democrat  
Joe Radinovich- Democrat  
Michelle Lee- Democrat  
Jason Metsa- Democrat  
Pete Stauber- Republican  
Ray "Skip" Sandman- Independent

For information on the Congress, Senate, or governor candidates listed or for further information, visit their campaign websites. The websites provide details of their personal, and professional lives, as well as their platform, and stance on other important issues.



Photo by Evelyn Kamrath - March For Our Lives 3/24/18

# OPINIONS ON GUN CONTROL

Vladimir Cruz | Editor-in-Chief  
Brittany Elyse Weninger | Photographer



**ALEC:** The question that's always in the back of my head is "am I safe?". Sometimes other schools don't have the best security. At any point in time anyone could just walk into school and start shooting people and it really makes me wonder if the world is a safe place.



**AISHA:** There shouldn't be any guns, banning guns would lead to less guns on the street. I've had the same opinion for awhile I believe its not just citizens, but also police and army officials. Using tazers would be much better for the community overall.



**JULIE:** I am a multiple gun owner. I believe part of the problem is the people that don't have the mental capacity to be responsible with a gun ownership. When they fill out a form to buy a gun, it asks about their mental capacity and theres no way to check if they are lying or not.



**SKYLAR:** Through living on an airforce base I was able to see a different culture around guns and responsible ownership through conversations I had with people in the airforce. Previously my experiences were around hunting culture, which is very different. I saw the value of citizens having the same power as the government, but I also saw how training is necessary and usually lacking in civilian populations.



**TANITA:** The children are speaking and the adults aren't listening. Instead of being in football, basketball games, or student activities, they are marching in protests instead. I don't think that something high school students should be thinking about. Us as adults, we need to be listening to them and paying attention to them instead of bullying them and devaluing them.



**JAKOB:** Arming teachers does not sound good! It basically sounds like you want a teacher to shoot someone.



I'm honesty tired of people standing on the corpses of children in order to push their policies

# MASS SHOOTING & THEIR LEADING CAUSE

Aaron Tweden | Staff Writer

On Feb. 14, 2018 one man walked through the doors of the Parkland High School and killed 17 teenagers. Adam Lankford, Criminology Professor at the University of Alabama, says that the United States has had 90 mass shooting from 1966 to 2012. The high number of mass shootings in the United States is best explained by the availability of guns.

The New York Times says “Americans make up about 4.4 percent of the global population, but own 42 percent of the world’s guns.” That’s more than five times Yemen, the next highest country, but there are other factors like toxic masculinity and social isolation that influence the frequency of mass shooting in America.

Toxic masculinity boils down to the traditional male norms that result in harm to men and those closest to them. Most men at some time in their life have been told that something they are doing isn’t “manly.” Phil Barker, a columnist for ExecutiveStyle, says leadership, stoic, athletic, breadwinner, self-sufficient, be a “lady’s man,” and be tough are words that fall within a “Man Box,” which he says is “an exercise that has been repeated for

years, around the world.” He says important things that aren’t part of being a man include communication, emotion, love, and being effeminate. Communication, emotion, are love are all important parts about being human.

A sociologist at the University of Washington-Tacoma, Eric Madfis, told Politico in January that “women tend to internalize blame and frustration, while men tend to externalize it through acts of aggression.” So, instead of working through their problems and emotions, men often internalize their emotions and explode with violence, often affecting their loved ones. NPR says a “large portion of the mass shootings in the U.S. in recent years have roots in domestic violence against partners and family members.” We, in America, need to sit down and have a real conversation about what it means to be a man, and only then, can we begin the process of breaking out of the box of toxic masculinity.

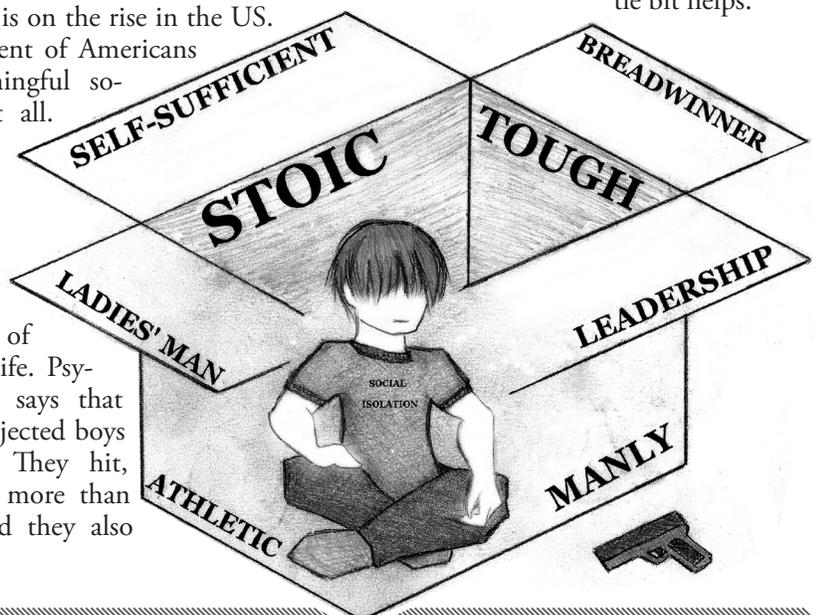
Social isolation is on the rise in the US. Today, 25 percent of Americans have no meaningful social support at all. In the 1985, that number was only 10%. Being socially isolated as a child can cause a host of issues later in life. Psychology Today says that about half of rejected boys are aggressive. They hit, kick, or shove more than other boys, and they also

tend to be more disruptive and argumentative.

Social isolation can warp the mind and leave people feeling depressed, lonely, shame, and with low-self-worth. Social isolation has a bit of an unholy marriage with toxic masculinity. Being socially isolated as a boy for whatever reason can cause a child to act out and be aggressive. When someone has been with out a friend that they can share their feelings with most of there life they can be violent, resentful, and vengeful. Guns can be an easy way to take back the feeling of self-worth.

Guns and the message of strength they offer are tantalizing to those who feel threatened, who feel victimized, and to those who feel like the world owes something to them. Mass shootings in America aren’t caused by one issue but several compounding ones. Toxic masculinity and social isolation prime the pump for gun violence in our schools as well the high number of guns available in America.

Developing an early warning system to catch at risk, isolated individuals, and taking steps to address the broken parts of American masculinity can help to stop mass shooting before they start. People will get shot with guns for as long as there are guns. The easier they are to get, the more people will get shot with them. Just because you can’t stop everyone from getting a gun that would do harm with it doesn’t mean you shouldn’t try. Every little bit helps.



# WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SCHOOL SHOOTINGS

Kyle O'Connor | Staff Writer

One of the most recent and most deadly school massacres took place on Feb. 14 in Parkland, Florida. 17 people died, most of them were students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School (MS-DHS). In the short time following this terrible attack, students and school districts have begun to speak out louder than ever before on the issue that schools are not safe places.

Organized walkouts at schools all over the country have begun to take place in efforts to draw attention to the issue and force change. Even schools around the local area, Washburn, Roosevelt, South, and Southwest High School protested by marching to Minneapolis City Hall. White Bear Lake students also participated by assembling at their City Hall.

There are multiple components which makes this a very hard problem to solve. Is it a security issue? Is it the availability of high powered weapons? What about the fact that people intending to harm others with these weapons can easily get their hands on what they need to cause chaos? Or maybe it could be directly linked to our culture and our behavior as a community and a country.

Some people argue that these types of events are exactly the reason why they feel their right to bear arms is essential, to feel as though they can protect themselves. But at the same time, the Second Amendment was not intended for semi-automatic weapons and other various arms like smoke grenades, which were also used in the attack at MSDHS, to make their way into the hands of someone who would like to use them to intentionally harm innocent people.

According to a CNN report of the 10 deadliest mass shootings in modern U.S. history, four of them have taken place at schools. 18 years ago when the Columbine High School massacre happened, it was the deadliest attack at a school ever. Now it doesn't even make it onto CNN's list of the 10 deadliest mass shootings.

Since the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in December of 2012, a combined 120 lives have been lost due to someone attacking school grounds across the country. This does not include countless other innocent people who were wounded in these same attacks. These massacres are obviously life altering events for every family involved.

A 2007 report by the Switzerland-based Small Arms Survey says the United States represents about five percent of the world's population. The report also shows that over the last 60 years, the U.S. is where over one third of all public mass shooting have taken place. If that doesn't sound like a lot, picture the idea that across the country there are well over 270 million guns owned by civilians, according to the same report. That's enough to arm every adult in this country and have a big ol' pile still leftover. Safe to say, the numbers of guns sold in the last ten years probably hasn't slowed down either.

So, our country is clearly well armed. Shouldn't that mean our defenses against terroristic actions should be world class as well? We've begun to see protests like March For Our Lives take it all the way to the steps of the capitol in Washington, D.C. in an effort to never again let school shootings happen to a community, school district, a family, and students of our nation.

## March for Our Lives 3/24/18

*Photo Credits: Evelyn Kamrath*



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