

# The Supreme Court is Poised to Upend Gun Violence Prevention Laws

The Supreme Court is poised to gut state gun violence prevention laws against the democratic will of most Americans. The Republican Party has long aligned itself with gun manufacturers and lobbyists, pushing an aggressive agenda to remove common-sense protections that curb gun violence — even as gun violence reaches all-time highs.

## This Case Threatens Long-Standing Safeguards That Curb Gun Violence

For more than 100 years, New York has maintained a permit system that requires those seeking to carry concealed weapons in public to demonstrate a special need for self-protection — in line with the U.S. legal tradition of “proper cause” laws grounded in nearly 200 years of precedent.

In *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*, a case brought by a gun lobbyist group, the Court may strike down laws governing concealed-carry permit systems in New York and similar laws in nine other states, all of which [have among the lowest gun death rates in the country](#). A more expansive ruling could strike down public-carry restrictions in areas like subways and crowded stadiums — and may even go as far as abandoning public safety frameworks for future decisions, opening the floodgates to litigation challenging restrictions on assault weapons, large magazines, age requirements and [“every gun law on the books.”](#)

## The Hyper-Partisan Court is Poised to Align Itself with the Gun Lobby

Despite the urgency of preventing gun violence, the Supreme Court’s conservative supermajority seems eager to strike down this and similar laws across the country. The circuit court histories of [Justices Barrett](#) and [Kavanaugh](#), and the NRA’s million-dollar investment in the confirmation of [Justice Gorsuch](#), suggest that the three Trump justices are poised to dismantle New York’s gun violence prevention laws.

All six conservative justices showed hostility toward the law during oral arguments, objecting to “the idea that you need a license” to conceal-carry [dangerous weapons](#). Taking this case suggests that the conservatives are set to upend precedent, seizing an opportunity to put the interests of gun manufacturers and lobbyists over our lives, safety, and freedoms.

## We Must Expand the Court to Prevent Gun Violence.

Public safety and democratic freedoms require a Court that recognizes the human costs of gun violence and respects both legal precedent and the will of the people, not one that sides with gun manufacturers and special-interest groups. We must expand the Court today to prevent gun lobbyists from further tightening their grip on our country’s legal institutions and implementing their agenda over the will of the people.

## Gun Violence is a Direct Threat to Public Safety and Democracy

**45,222 people died in the U.S. from gun violence in 2020 — a sharp increase over the previous five years.**

In the first four months of 2022, **there were 170 mass shootings.**

**85 percent** of all Americans do not want gun restrictions to be loosened, and a majority actually wants *more* protections.

Armed events at state legislatures and polling places designed to intimidate lawmakers and voters have shown that unrestricted public carry poses a threat to First Amendment expression, political protest, voting, and the electoral process.

***New York State Rifle & Pistol Assoc. v. Bruen* threatens the safety of all Americans and poses a direct threat to democratic participation and institutions.**

To learn more about the stolen Supreme Court’s role in enabling gun violence visit: [takebackthecourt.org](https://takebackthecourt.org)