

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN AND
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Revisiting Options for Gun Control in Los Angeles County

On March 13, 2018, the Los Angeles County (County) Board of Supervisors passed a motion directing, among other things, the County Counsel to provide a confidential report back on potential gun control regulations that the County could pursue to help prevent gun violence. The June 26, 2018, confidential report back analyzes potential gun control regulations according to feasibility and legality. Following this report, the Board did not choose to move forward with pursuing any of the regulatory options that were presented. Now, four years later, Los Angeles County once again faces an increase in gun violence.

Following a national trend, shootings and crimes involving firearms have increased in the County so far in 2022 compared to the same time in the last two years. So far in 2022, the County has experienced 1,272 aggravated assaults with a firearm and 345 unlawful shootings in the area patrolled by the Sheriff’s Department. This is an increase of 71.43% and 68.29%, respectively, compared to the same time period in 2020. The Board has committed to preventing violence by expanding the Trauma Prevention Initiative (TPI) to parts of the County that have experienced the most stark increase in

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violence. Part of the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP), TPI partners with local community-based organizations to implement violence prevention and intervention programs at a local level.

The work that TPI is doing is crucial to intervening in cycles of violence. But there is more that we can do as a County. Too many of our residents have already been victims of gun violence, either directly or indirectly, and too many others are afraid that they will become victims in the future. Gun control measures like age limits, background checks, red flag laws, and banning of certain weapons are correlated with lower rates of gun violence. Thankfully, California has some of the most robust gun control measures in the nation, but there are still some areas that Los Angeles County could expand upon. At the April 19th Board meeting, the Board voted to direct County Counsel to explore options to regulate ghost guns in the County. This is a great first step, and there are other regulatory options that the Board could pursue. It is time to revisit the topic of implementing more stringent gun control measures in Los Angeles County and strengthening the measures that already exist.

WE, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

- 1) Direct County Counsel, in coordination with other relevant departments, to provide an updated legal analysis of the potential Los Angeles County gun control regulations presented in the June 26, 2018, "Gun Control Report" within 60 days. The analysis should take into account any federal, state, or local gun regulations implemented or proposed since then as well as any legal decisions made by courts; and
- 2) Direct County Counsel, in coordination with the Chief Executive Office and other relevant departments, to provide recommendations on how to improve the efficacy of existing gun control and safety measures, within 90 days in writing. These

recommendations should include, but not be limited to, options to amend laws, enhance enforcement, improve collaboration and coordination, and eliminate barriers or loopholes.

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