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2013 - Two Colorado state senators are removed from office in September 10 recall election. Democrats Angela Firon and John Morse are replaced with Republicans in an election many observers consider a response to the pair's role in passing stricter state gun control legislation, including expanded background checks and a limit on high-capacity magazines.

2013 - On April 17, the Senate votes on the Manchin-Toomey amendment, a compromise measure to close the loophole allowing people to purchase guns online and at gun shows without undergoing a background check. However the 54–46 vote in favor of the measure is not enough to prevent a filibuster, and the measure fails. President Barack Obama and former representative Gabrielle Giffords are among those that criticize the 46 senators and the NRA for opposing the bill.

2013 - On April 4 the governor of Connecticut signs new gun restrictions into law. The measures, prompted by the school shooting in Newtown, include "universal" background checks, limits on magazine size, and stricter controls on assault weapons. The law also makes the state the first in the nation to create a registry system for people who have been convicted of certain weapons offenses.

2013 - On March 21, Magpul Industries, a gun equipment manufacturer, confirms that it will leave Colorado after the governor signs a bill limiting magazine sizes. The company is not the only one to consider a move in the wake of new state regulations. Three days earlier, the head of iconic gun maker Colt had written in the *Hartford Courant* that state efforts to ban the AR-15 could prompt that company to leave Connecticut.

2013 - On January 16, the White House releases a series of gun control proposals, including universal background checks and a ban on assault weapons. The proposals are based on recommendations of a task force headed by Vice President Joseph Biden formed in response to the December shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

2012 - Citing a right to self-defense, on December 11, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals rules that Illinois's absolute ban on carrying firearms is unconstitutional. The court gives the state legislature 180 days to craft new legislation that provides "reasonable limits" on guns outside the home.

2012 - A report by researchers at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, finds that the value of the legal international trade in small arms and light weapons is \$8.5 billion annually, more than double the 2006 estimate of \$4 billion. The researchers estimate the the combined legal and illegal small arms trade is over \$10 billion.

2012 - In March, Indiana updates its 2006 castle doctrine law to allow one to use deadly force against public servants, including police officers, who illegally enter one's home. The law, the first of its kind, is a response to a recent state supreme court ruling that citizens had "no right to reasonably resist unlawful entry by police officers."

2012 - On February 26, Trayvon Martin, an unarmed African American teenager, is fatally shot by neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman in Sanford, Florida. A national controversy over racial profiling and the state's "stand your ground" law ensues when police initially prove reluctant to investigate the case because Zimmerman

claims to have acted in self-defense.

2011 - An October 6–9 Gallup poll finds that a record number of American women, 43%, report having a gun in their home. Overall, 47% of Americans report having a gun on their property, the highest number since 1993.

2011 - The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives institutes new rules requiring firearms dealers in Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas to report multiple sales of certain semiautomatic rifles. The agency argues that the rule is necessary to prevent the sale of guns to drug cartels while the National Rifle Association and the National Shooting Sports Foundation file suit.

2011 - Congress begins holding hearings into a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives operation designed to thwart gun smuggling on the U.S.-Mexico border. The agency is accused of losing track of hundreds of guns, which later were found at crime scenes including the shooting of a U.S. Border Patrol agent.

2010 - In the months following the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that the Second Amendment's right to bear arms applies to individuals, four states—Arizona, Georgia, Tennessee, and Virginia—enact laws allowing citizens to carry loaded weapons in bars. Such laws had already existed in 18 other states.

2010 - The U.S. Supreme Court rules in *McDonald v. Chicago* that Chicago's ban on handgun ownership—in place for 28 years—is unconstitutional because the Second Amendment's protection of an individual's right to own guns applies to state and local regulations under the Fourteenth Amendment.

2008 - In *District of Columbia v. Heller*, the U.S. Supreme Court rules 5–4 that the District of Columbia's 32-year ban on handguns is unconstitutional. The majority holds that the Second Amendment not only protects the right of the states to maintain militias, but also an individual's right to bear arms.

2008 - Oscar-winning actor Charlton Heston, who headed the National Rifle Association (NRA) from 1998 to 2003, dies at the age of 84 on April 5. A staunch supporter of gun rights, Heston often defended the NRA against criticisms from gun control advocates.

2007 - In early September, Michigan representative David Agema proposes a bill that will allow teachers to carry a concealed weapon so they can defend their students against attacks.

2007 - In early March, a Washington, D.C. court of appeals strikes down a gun control law restricting residents from possessing handguns in their homes, citing the law violated individuals' Second Amendment rights.

2006 - In December, the town of Greenleaf, Idaho, passes Ordinance 208, which strongly urges town residents to own guns in case of emergency.

2006 - In an effort to stop illegal gun sales in New York City, mayor Michael Bloomberg files 27 lawsuits against local and out-of-state gun dealers caught violating background check laws. In December, six stores settle, permitting court-appointed specialists to oversee their operations and allowing the city to conduct investigative spot checks.

2004 - The nation's 10-year federal ban on assault weapons expires, and Congress does not renew it. New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, California, and Hawaii retain laws banning the weapons at the state level.

1999 - The Senate narrowly passes a bill requiring trigger locks on all newly manufactured handguns.

1999 - Students Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris carry out a violent shooting spree at Columbine High School in Columbine, Colorado, killing 12 classmates and a teacher before turning the guns on themselves.

1997 - In *Printz v. United States*, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that the background checks required by the Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act are unconstitutional.

1994 - The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act bans the sale, manufacture, or possession of certain types of assault weapons.

1993 - The Brady Handgun Violence Protection Act requires a criminal background check and a five-day waiting period for customers purchasing handguns.

1990 - Congress passes the Gun Free School Zones Act, which makes it illegal to possess a firearm within 1,000 feet of a school zone.

1989 - California bans semiautomatic weapons after a man opens fire on a school playground in Stockton and kills five children.

1986 - The Armed Career Criminal Act increases penalties for possession of firearms by individuals not permitted to own them.

1972 - The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms is established to enforce federal firearms laws.

1968 - The Gun Control Act broadly regulates the gun industry and gun ownership by placing limitations on the sale and purchase of handguns.

1938 - The Federal Firearms Act is passed to control the sale of weapons in interstate commerce.

1934 - Congress passes the National Firearms Act, requires the registration of certain automatic firearms, rifles, and shotguns.

1871 - The National Rifle Association is established to increase interest in firearms training and shooting sports; it eventually becomes known for its protective stance on gun ownership rights in the United States.

1837 - Georgia passes a ban on handguns, which is ruled unconstitutional and overturned.

1791 - The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution is ratified, which prevents the federal government from infringing on a citizen's right to bear arms.

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