

AN AMERICAN UNION WILL REDUCE NEEDLESS GUN DEATHS



In 2020, more than 45,000 gun deaths were recorded – the highest number on record, symptomatic of larger societal problems. The three planks of the **Blueprint for a Better America** – a crowdsourced legislative package with dozens of progressive policies – will address root causes and:

- **End Poverty**
- **End Mass Incarceration**
- **End the Endless Wars**

REDUCE CAUSES OF SUICIDES

Most gun deaths are suicides, sometimes sparked by depression, relationship woes, financial insecurity, or addiction. Poverty can exacerbate all of these conditions. Ensuring every American some economic stability with \$1,300/month universal basic income (UBI) will reduce deaths of despair.

DEESCALATE POLICE VIOLENCE

In 2020, police shot and killed more than 1,000 people. Included in the Blueprint's many police reforms are restrictions on no-knock warrants, an end to military surplus on city streets, and a requirement for police training in deescalation.

DIMINISH MILITARY GLORIFICATION

Decades of endless wars have influenced our culture by teaching that killing makes us strong. Reducing the size and scope of our military adventures will shift our society towards more peaceful principles.

ADDRESS WEALTH INEQUALITY

The United States first experienced a wave of mass shootings during a period of wealth inequality in the 1930s, as some individuals gave up on a broken social contract. A 12% value added tax coupled with UBI will ensure that those who benefit most from our economy pay it forward through higher taxes.

ENACT UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS

Political parties use guns as a wedge issue to keep Americans polarized. The American Union of swing voters (people willing to vote for both Republicans and Democrats) offers a legislative truce.

84% of voters support requiring a background check for all gun sales.



COOPERATION, NOT CONFISCATION

The Blueprint for a Better America includes the text of HR 8, the **Bipartisan Background Checks Act**. After passage, Congress would be barred from introducing new gun prohibitions for 10 years while we address the root causes of gun deaths. The legislative package contains an equivalent truce on the wedge issue of abortion, to allow all sides to get and give concessions.

By offering a single set of legislative demands to Congressional candidates across the country, a union of swing voters has oversized influence on the national political landscape. When 3.5% of Americans unionize as voters, we can win us all a better social contract.

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