

The Pass Democrat

Newsletter of the Pass Democratic Club—April 2018

Visit the Pass Democratic Club website: www.passdems.org
and the Pass Democratic Club on Facebook and Twitter (@DemocraticPass)

A GENERATION OF STUDENTS TO BE PROUD OF!

Remy Altuna, an impressive and personable Beaumont High School student and new Pass Democratic Club member, spoke at the March general meeting reiterating her speech to fellow students as follows:

"As the next generation entering into the real world, we have more power than we may think. We have seen tragedy strike again and again, children our age being targeted and shot with weapons of mass murder. The walkout is to project the message that we will not allow this fearful disaster to become a normality. It isn't right for students to be afraid. It is unfair that this is a possibility, and for some a traumatizing reality. We need background checks, and thorough ones. A person should not be able to buy an automatic weapon in a single day, with just a driver's license as identity. The policy that Trump removed, that mentally ill people cannot buy guns must be reinstated and strictly enforced. We also need to be kinder to one another. Everyone experiences hardships in life and it is important to keep in mind the feelings of others before opening your mouth and spewing hate. We are a community, not a war zone. Thank you for supporting the movement for gun control. We are the change. We are the future. Exercise your right to vote in all upcoming elections!"



**COMING UP!
WATCH FOR IT!
JUNE 9th PDC FUNDRAISER**



A big shoutout to those who donated stamps or \$ for the postcardstovoters.org campaigns. We are grateful!

April Meeting

Wednesday, April 18th

175 W. Hays St., Banning
(10 freeway, exit 8th St N, right Ramsey, left 2nd, right Hays)

Doors open at 6:00pm
Meeting begins at 6:30pm

Special Presentation
Anita Rufus

The "Loveable Liberal"
Nationwide Radio/Podcast

2018 Official Endorsements

State Controller
Betty Yee

Insurance Commissioner
Ricardo Lara

Secretary of State
Alex Padilla

Superintendent of Public Instruction
Tony Thurmond

State Treasurer
Fiona Ma

Prop. 68 Support
Prop. 69 Support
Prop. 70 Oppose
Prop. 71 Support
Prop. 72 Support

State Assembly AD 42
DeniAntoinette Mazingo

US Congress
CD 36 Dr Raul Ruiz

CADEM Passes Most Progressive Platform in the United States

Here are the highlights:

Return to tuition-free public college for all Californians

Universal Basic Income/ Housing to address poverty

Abolition of the electoral college

Full public financing of campaigns

Repeal "Authorization for the Use of Military Force"

Municipal Internet

Full Platform at:

www.cadem.org/our-party/standing-committees/body/CDP-Platform-2018.pdf

20 Signs of Impending Tyranny

As tyrants take control of democracies, they typically:

Demand personal loyalty from all appointees.

Organize military parades and other choreographed shows of force.

Threaten to fire independent prosecutors who get too close to the truth.

Spread conspiracy theories about "deep state" forces seeking to oust the tyrant.

Refer to top-ranking military leaders as "my" generals.

Threaten to jail political opponents.

Claim to have won an election by a landslide even after losing the popular vote.

Stoke tensions abroad, even the specter of nuclear war, to distract from the tyrant's efforts to consolidate power at home.

Circumvent the independent press and communicate directly with followers.

Vilify legislators and judges who are critical of the regime.

Repeatedly claim massive voter fraud in the absence of any evidence, in order to restrict voting in subsequent elections.

Turn the public against journalists or media outlets that criticize the regime, calling them "deceitful" and "scum."

Repeatedly tell big lies, causing the public to doubt the truth and to believe fictions that support the tyrants' goals

Blame economic stresses on immigrants or racial or religious minorities, and foment public bias and hatred against them.

Threaten mass deportations, registries of religious minorities, and the banning of refugees.

Attribute acts of domestic violence to "enemies within," and use such events as excuses to beef up internal security and limit civil liberties.

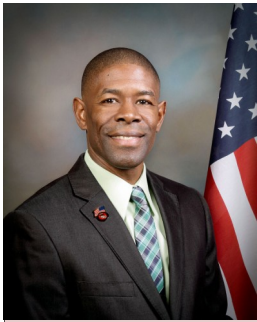
Appoint family members to high positions of authority. Draw no distinction between personal property and public property, profiteering from public office.

Make personal alliances with foreign dictators, but express indifference if not defiance toward leaders of democracies.

Maintain a powerful propaganda arm that claims to be "fair and balanced" but only amplifies the tyrant's lies and accusations.

RCDP Chair, Steve Ruth, March General Meeting Speaker





Altie HOLCOMB

COUNTY SUPERVISOR
5TH DISTRICT

VOTE on JUNE 5th

SPRING INTO ACTION FOR ALTIE

JOIN US!!!

April 13 6pm—9 pm

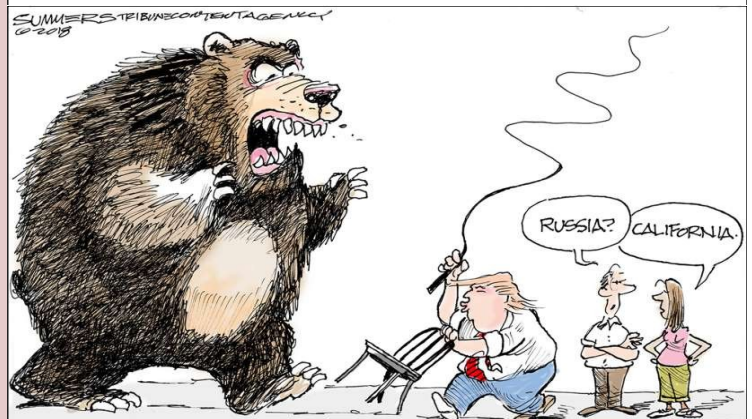
Hosted by:

**Robert and Jackie Atwood
2384 North Murray Street
Banning CA 92220**

**RSVP @ 951.392.1459 or
holcombforsupervisor@gmail.com**



YOUR SECRET SERVICE DETAIL HAS THE DAY OFF, MR. PRESIDENT. BUT, NO NEED TO WORRY, SIR... MARGARET THISTLEWACKER, SEVENTH-GRADE MATH TEACHER, PACKING HEAT, REPORTING FOR DUTY AND READY TO SERVE.



POLITICAL ACTION by Sylvia Carrillo

Top 10 Trusted Websites and email subscriptions

abcnews.com—free & emails you breaking news

latimes.com—free political section online & thru email

indivisible.org—organizing efforts

front.moveon.org—national protests

marchforourlives.com

#NeverAgain #Enough movements

nextgenamerica.org—organizing CA protests—sign up

oag.ca.gov—CA Attorney General Xavier Becerra keeps you informed of all lawsuits in CA

couragecampaign.org—SoCal local protests/fundraisers

unitedwedream.org—#heretostay network, protect immigrant youth/dreamers now!

democraticheadquartersofthedesert.org/progressivenews



**JOIN THE DEMOCRATS OF THE DESERT IN
SUPPORTING
CONGRESSMAN RAUL RUIZ, M.D.**

STUDIO ONE 11, 67-555 EAST PALM CANYON DR.
CATHEDRAL CITY

MONDAY, APRIL 9TH | 4:30 PM



Give what you can. Donations are accepted. RSVP not required.
All attendees must be of 21 years of older.
Studio One 11 and the DOD comply with all ADA regulations.
For more information, visit: www.desertdemocrats.org



PAID FOR BY DR. RAUL RUIZ FOR CONGRESS

What Explains U.S. Mass Shootings? International Comparisons Suggest an Answer

By Max Fisher and Josh Keller Nov. 7, 2017

When the world looks at the United States, it sees a land of exceptions: a time-tested if noisy democracy, a crusader in foreign policy, an exporter of beloved music and film.

But there is one quirk that consistently puzzles America's fans and critics alike. Why, they ask, does it experience so many mass shootings?

Perhaps it is because American society is unusually violent. Or its racial divisions have frayed the bonds of society. Or its citizens lack proper mental care under a health care system that draws frequent derision abroad.

These explanations share one thing in common: Though seemingly sensible, all have been debunked by research on shootings elsewhere in the world. Instead, an ever-growing body of research consistently reaches the same conclusion.

The only variable that can explain the high rate of mass shootings in America is its astronomical number of guns.

A Look at the Numbers

The top-line numbers suggest a correlation that, on further investigation, grows only clearer.

Americans make up about 4.4 % of the global population but own 42 % of the world's guns. From 1966 to 2012, 31 % of the gunmen in mass shootings worldwide were American, according to a 2015 study by Adam Lankford, a professor at the University of Alabama.

Adjusted for population, only Yemen has a higher rate of mass shootings among countries with more than 10 million people — a distinction Mr. Lankford urged to avoid outliers. Yemen has the world's second-highest rate of gun ownership after the United States.

Worldwide, Mr. Lankford found, a country's rate of gun ownership correlated with the odds it would experience a mass shooting. This relationship held even when he excluded the U. S., indicating that it could not be explained by some other factor particular to his home country. And it held when he controlled for homicide rates, suggesting that mass shootings were better explained by a society's access to guns than by its baseline level of violence.

Factors That Don't Correlate

If mental health made the difference, then data would

show that Americans have more mental health problems than do people in other countries with fewer mass shootings. But the mental health care spending rate in the United States, the number of mental health professionals per capita and the rate of severe mental disorders are all in line with those of other wealthy countries.

A 2015 study estimated that only 4 percent of American gun deaths could be attributed to mental health issues. And Mr. Lankford, in an email, said countries with high suicide rates tended to have low rates of mass shootings — the opposite of what you would expect if mental health problems correlated with mass shootings.

Whether a population plays more or fewer video games also appears to have no impact. Americans are no more likely to play video games than people in any other developed country.

Racial diversity or other factors associated with social cohesion also show little correlation with gun deaths. Among European countries, there is little association between immigration or other diversity metrics and the rates of gun murders or mass shootings.

A Violent Country

America's gun homicide rate was 33 per million people in 2009, far exceeding the average among developed countries. In Canada and Britain, it was 5 per million and 0.7 per million, respectively, which also corresponds with differences in gun ownership.

Americans sometimes see this as an expression of deeper problems with crime, a notion ingrained, in part, by a series of films portraying urban gang violence in the early 1990s. But the United States is not actually more prone to crime than other developed countries, according to a landmark 1999 study by Franklin E. Zimring and Gordon Hawkins of the University of California, Berkeley.

Rather, they found, in data that has since been repeatedly confirmed, that American crime is simply more lethal. A New Yorker is just as likely to be robbed as a Londoner, for instance, but the New Yorker is 54 times more likely to be killed in the process.

They concluded that the discrepancy, like so many other anomalies of American violence, came down to guns.

More gun ownership corresponds with more gun murders across virtually every axis: among developed countries, among American states, among American towns and cities and when controlling for crime rates. And gun control

legislation tends to reduce gun murders, according to a recent analysis of 130 studies from 10 countries.

Suggesting that the guns themselves cause the violence.

Comparisons in Other Societies

Skeptics of gun control sometimes point to a 2016 study. From 2000 and 2014, it found, the United States death rate by mass shooting was 1.5 per one million people. The rate was 1.7 in Switzerland and 3.4 in Finland, suggesting American mass shootings were not actually so common.

But the same study found that the United States had 133 mass shootings. Finland had only two, which killed 18 people, and Switzerland had one, which killed 14. In short, isolated incidents. So while mass shootings can happen anywhere, they are only a matter of routine in the U.S.

As with any crime, the underlying risk is impossible to fully erase. Any individual can snap or become entranced by a violent ideology. What is different is the likelihood that this will lead to mass murder.

In China, about a dozen seemingly random attacks on schoolchildren killed 25 people between 2010 and 2012. Most used knives; none used a gun.

By contrast, in this same window, the United States experienced five of its deadliest mass shootings, which killed 78 people. Scaled by population, the American attacks were 12 times as deadly.

Beyond the Statistics

In 2013, American gun-related deaths included 21,175 suicides, 11,208 homicides and 505 deaths caused by an accidental discharge. That same year in Japan, a country with one-third America's population, guns were involved in only 13 deaths.

This means an American is about 300 times more likely to die by gun homicide or accident than a Japanese person. America's gun ownership rate is 150 times as high as Japan's. That gap between 150 and 300 shows that gun ownership statistics alone do not explain what makes America different.

The U.S. also has some of the weakest controls over who may buy a gun and what sorts of guns may be owned. Switzerland has the second-highest gun ownership rate of any developed country, about half that of the United States. Its gun homicide rate in 2004 was 7.7 per million people — unusually high, in keeping with the relationship between gun ownership and murders, but still a fraction of

the rate in the United States.

Swiss gun laws are more stringent, setting a higher bar for securing and keeping a license, for selling guns and for the types of guns that can be owned. Such laws reflect more than just tighter restrictions. They imply a different way of thinking about guns, as something that citizens must affirmatively earn the right to own.

The Difference Is Culture

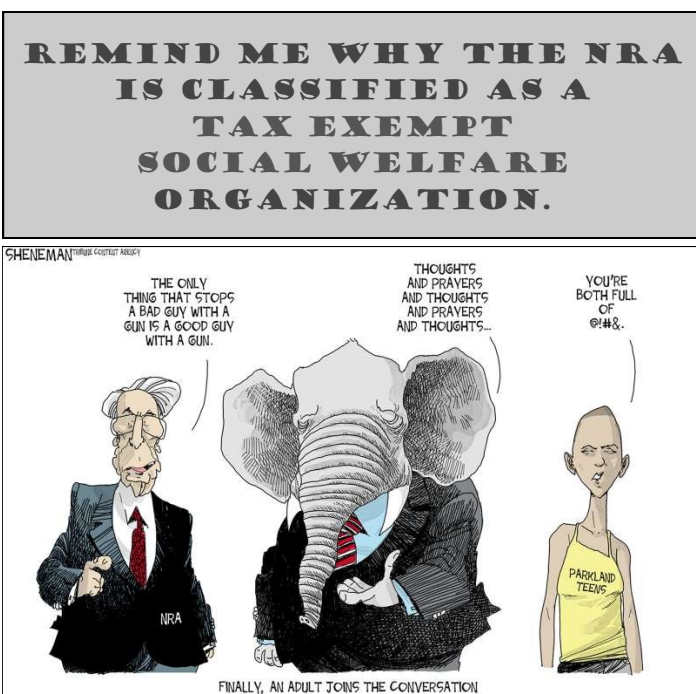
The U.S. is one of only three countries, along with Mexico and Guatemala, that begin with the opposite assumption: that people have an inherent right to own guns.

The main reason American regulation of gun ownership is so weak may be the fact that the trade-offs are simply given a different weight in the United States than they are anywhere else.

After Britain had a mass shooting in 1987, the country instituted strict gun control laws. So did Australia after a 1996 shooting. But the United States has repeatedly faced the same calculus and determined that relatively unregulated gun ownership is worth the cost to society.

That choice, more than any statistic or regulation, is what most sets the United States apart.

"In retrospect Sandy Hook marked the end of the US gun control debate," Dan Hodges, a British journalist, wrote in a post on Twitter two years ago, referring to the 2012 attack that killed 20 young students at an elementary school in Connecticut. "Once America decided killing children was bearable, it was over."

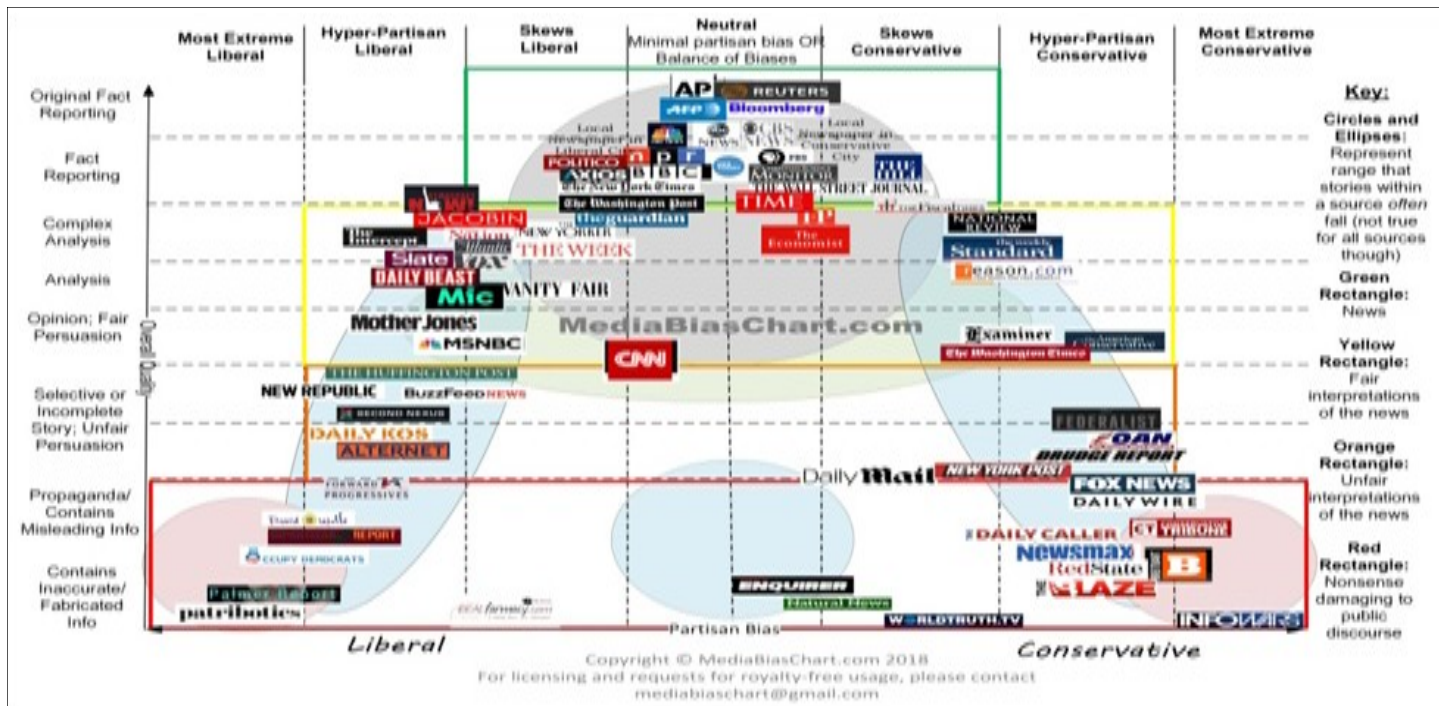


HOW BIASED IS YOUR NEWS SOURCE?

Published: Mar 1, 2018 5:07 a.m. ET

marketwatch.com By Shawn Langlois (chart's creator, patent attorney Vanessa Otero)

If you look at this chart and are convinced your "extreme" source belongs in the middle, you just might be part of the problem plaguing America today.



Join or Renew Invite a Friend

Pass Democratic Club
PO Box 724
Banning CA 92220

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Must be a registered Democrat.
Enclose \$30 individual
or \$50 for two at same address

Important Contacts:

Senator Diane Feinstein: DC Office (202) 224-3841
L.A. Office (310) 914-7300
Senator Kamala Harris: DC Office (202) 224-3553
San Diego Office (213) 894-5000
Congressman Dr. Raul Ruiz (D-36) DC Office (202) 225-5330
Palm Desert Office (760) 424-8888
CA State Senator Mike Morrell (R-23) State Capitol Office (916) 651-4023
Rancho Cucamonga Office (909) 919-7731
CA Assembly Member Chad Mayes (R-42) State Capitol Office
(916) 319-2042 Rancho Mirage Office (760) 346-6342
Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley (5)
Riverside Office (951) 955-1050 Perris Office (951) 210-1300

Executive Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 2, SLCC Atrium 6PM

Executive Board Members:
PRESIDENT - Doris Foreman, doris4man@netscape.net
1st VP MEMBERSHIP - Deb Elmore, debelmore@hotmail.com
2nd VP VOTER REGISTRATION AND
POLITICAL ACTION - Sylvia Carrillo, syllycarr@verizon.net
RECORDING SECRETARY - Nancy Sappington
CORRESPONDING/LOGISTICS - Betty McMillion
TREASURER - Jackie Atwood

Committee Chairs:
COMMUNICATIONS - Leeann McLaughlin, casakel@msn.com
PROGRAM - Shawn Holt, shawn@shawndavidholt.com
PARLIAMENTARIAN - Pelton Teague
SCHOLARSHIPS - Blanche Teague



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