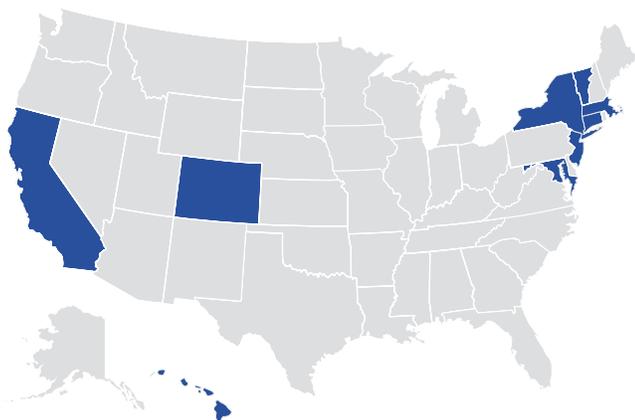


LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES

Large capacity ammunition magazines (LCMs) have been used to perpetrate devastation on a massive scale in many high-profile mass shootings. **Because shooters with these magazines can fire at large numbers of people without pausing to reload, these dangerous devices are used to maximize casualties.** In the absence of federal legislation regulating large capacity magazines, states must take it upon themselves to protect their residents from these deadly devices.

States that Ban Large Capacity Magazines



Nine states—**California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Vermont**—and the **District of Columbia** ban large capacity magazines.

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Large capacity magazines were used in the **ten** deadliest mass shootings in the past decade.

The share of recovered crime guns equipped with large capacity magazines increased by **50%** or more in several major cities—and an estimated **33%** nationally—after the 1994 federal ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines expired.¹



After the federal assault weapons and large capacity ammunition ban lapsed in 2004, there was a **183% increase** in high-fatality mass shootings and a **239% increase** in deaths from such shootings.²

67% of Americans—including half of all Republicans—support a ban on large capacity magazines.³

What Is a Large Capacity Magazine?

A magazine is a device that holds ammunition and feeds it into a firearm. Some magazines are fixed within the body of a firearm, and others are detachable, allowing for them to be quickly removed and replaced with another fully loaded magazine. The number of ammunition cartridges, or rounds, that a magazine can hold determines its capacity. In most states with large capacity magazine restrictions, a magazine is considered “large capacity” when it can hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition, though in some cases, the cutoff is 15 rounds.

The Dangers of Large Capacity Magazines

Large capacity magazines are a common thread in high-casualty mass shootings because they allow a shooter to fire many rounds without having to stop to reload—a period which can be critical in enabling victims to escape and law enforcement or others to intervene. Using an assault weapon and a drum magazine that held 100 rounds, the shooter in Dayton, Ohio, was able to fire at least 41 rounds of ammunition in under 30 seconds, killing nine and wounding 26 others.

Federal Ban on Large Capacity Magazines 1994–2004

As part of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, magazines that could hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition were banned under federal law. However, the ban contained a loophole that allowed for sales and transfers of large capacity magazines manufactured before the law was enacted. Despite this dangerous loophole, evidence suggests that the federal ban still helped to prevent mass shootings⁴ and reduce the use of large capacity magazines in crime.⁵

State and Federal Legislation

Nine states (California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, and Vermont) and the District of Columbia have enacted laws banning large capacity ammunition magazines. In 2019, legislation to ban large capacity magazines was introduced in an additional 11 states, and a federal bill to ban such magazines (H.R. 1186) was introduced by Congressman Ted Deutch on February 13, 2019. As of August 15, that bill has 121 co-sponsors.

Additional federal bills to ban large capacity magazines include S. 66, an assault weapons and large capacity magazine ban introduced by Senator Dianne Feinstein on January 9, 2019; H.R. 1296, an assault weapons and large capacity magazine ban introduced by Congressman David Cicilline in February 2018; and S. 447, a standalone large capacity magazine ban introduced by Senator Robert Menendez on February 12, 2019.

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For more details and underlying research, visit giffordslawcenter.org/large-capacity-magazines

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280+

Lifesaving gun safety laws have been enacted in 45 states and DC since the tragedy at Sandy Hook.

136,000

Americans are shot each year—over one million in the past decade.

25X

Americans are 25 times more likely to be killed in a gun homicide compared to people in other high-income countries.

WE'RE ON A MISSION TO SAVE LIVES

For over 25 years, the legal experts at Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence have been fighting for a safer America by researching, drafting, and defending the laws, policies, and programs proven to save lives from gun violence. Founded in the wake of a 1993 mass shooting in San Francisco, in 2016 the Law Center joined with former Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to form a courageous new force for gun safety that stretches coast to coast.

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Large Capacity Magazines Citations

1. Christopher S. Koper et al., “Criminal Use of Assault Weapons and High–capacity Semiautomatic Firearms: an Updated Examination of Local and National Sources,” *Journal of Urban Health* 95, no. 3 (2018): 313–321.
2. In this analysis, researchers defined high-fatality mass shootings as those in which six or more individuals were killed. Louis Klarevas, *Rampage Nation: Securing America from Mass Shootings* (Amherst, New York: Prometheus Books, 2016). See also, Christopher Ingraham, “It’s Time to Bring Back the Assault Weapons Ban, Gun Violence Experts Say,” *The Washington Post*, February 15, 2018, <https://wapo.st/2TARTva>.
3. “Gun Policy Remains Divisive, But Several Proposals Still Draw Bipartisan Support,” Pew Research Center, October 18, 2018, <https://pewrsr.ch/2P8uH5t>.
4. Louis Klarevas, *Rampage Nation: Securing America from Mass Shootings* (Amherst, New York: Prometheus Books, 2016). See also, Christopher Ingraham, “It’s Time to Bring Back the Assault Weapons Ban, Gun Violence Experts Say,” *The Washington Post*, February 15, 2018, <https://wapo.st/2TARTva>.
5. Christopher S. Koper et al., “Criminal Use of Assault Weapons and High–capacity Semiautomatic Firearms: an Updated Examination of Local and National Sources,” *Journal of Urban Health* 95, no. 3 (2018): 313–321; David S. Fallis, “Data Indicate Drop in High–capacity Magazines During Federal Gun Ban,” *The Washington Post*, January 10, 2013, <https://wapo.st/2ZvwJ7c>.