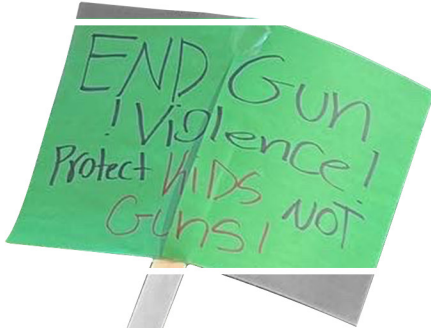


# 2022 ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY ANNUAL REPORT

**ALLIANCE**  
FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY



# LETTER TO OUR SUPPORTERS

We began 2022 with a child being shot within the first hour of the new year. The victim was 14 years old. She was standing outside to watch the holiday fireworks in St. Louis when a bullet hit her in the arm. This is the reality we all are facing. The chance to get shot outside our homes, in our schools, while shopping for milk, watching a movie, or attending a church service.

The scourge of gun violence has only continued to expand across this nation. This undeniable fact proved evident on May 14th when a self-described white supremacist opened fire at Tops Friendly Market grocery store in Buffalo, New York killing 10 people, all of whom were Black, and wounding three others. This racially-motivated mass shooting came the same week as two shootings targeting AAPI individuals. Just 10 days later, 19 elementary school students and two teachers were killed in a mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. 17 others were injured but survived.

Unthinkable tragedies such as these are becoming more and more predictable across America due to our elected leaders continuing to protect guns over people. Fortunately, this is not the reality here in Washington. During the 2022 Legislative Session, local lawmakers prioritized gun responsibility by passing six vital gun violence prevention bills, including restricting high-capacity magazines. A victory years in the making. Here in Washington, high-capacity magazines have been used in mass shootings in Mukilteo, Burlington, Seattle, and Spokane. They've fueled the everyday gun violence that harms all communities across our state.

Additional progress made this past year included closing the ghost gun loophole, extending protections against armed intimidation by prohibiting open carry at public government meetings, and restricting firearms at school board meetings and election-related offices. Protections for survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence were also prioritized by updating language to incorporate coercive control into the definition of domestic violence.



This historic and lifesaving progress comes amidst a record year of gun violence. The nation experienced 646 mass shootings. 332 people were shot on K-12 school property in 2022. This number increased by 46 percent this year. This reality is unacceptable. And like so many societal hardships, this epidemic is not equitable. Communities of color are asked to hold the brunt of this trauma and Washington is no exception. The challenges faced surrounding gun violence impact BIPOC more prominently and directly than any other marginalized group. 76 percent of shooting victims in King County alone were people of color. Gun violence is deeply rooted in racism and white supremacy and cannot be solved without an intentional focus on dismantling all systems of oppression.

It's easy to become discouraged or to tell yourself the story that nothing can end the epidemic of gun violence. And while this work is heart-wrenching, it is also feasible to create a world where the latest shooting doesn't scroll across our newsfeeds because it never even had the chance to happen. Saving lives requires effective leadership and champions at every level of government.

This year, more than \$8 million was advocated for the Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention here in Washington. Our team celebrated—at the White House—the passage of the first federal gun safety bill in nearly 30 years! The Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (S. 2938), is the first significant piece of legislation addressing gun violence Congress has made in nearly three decades. This work is heavy and tiresome and heartbreaking. What this work is not, is hopeless.

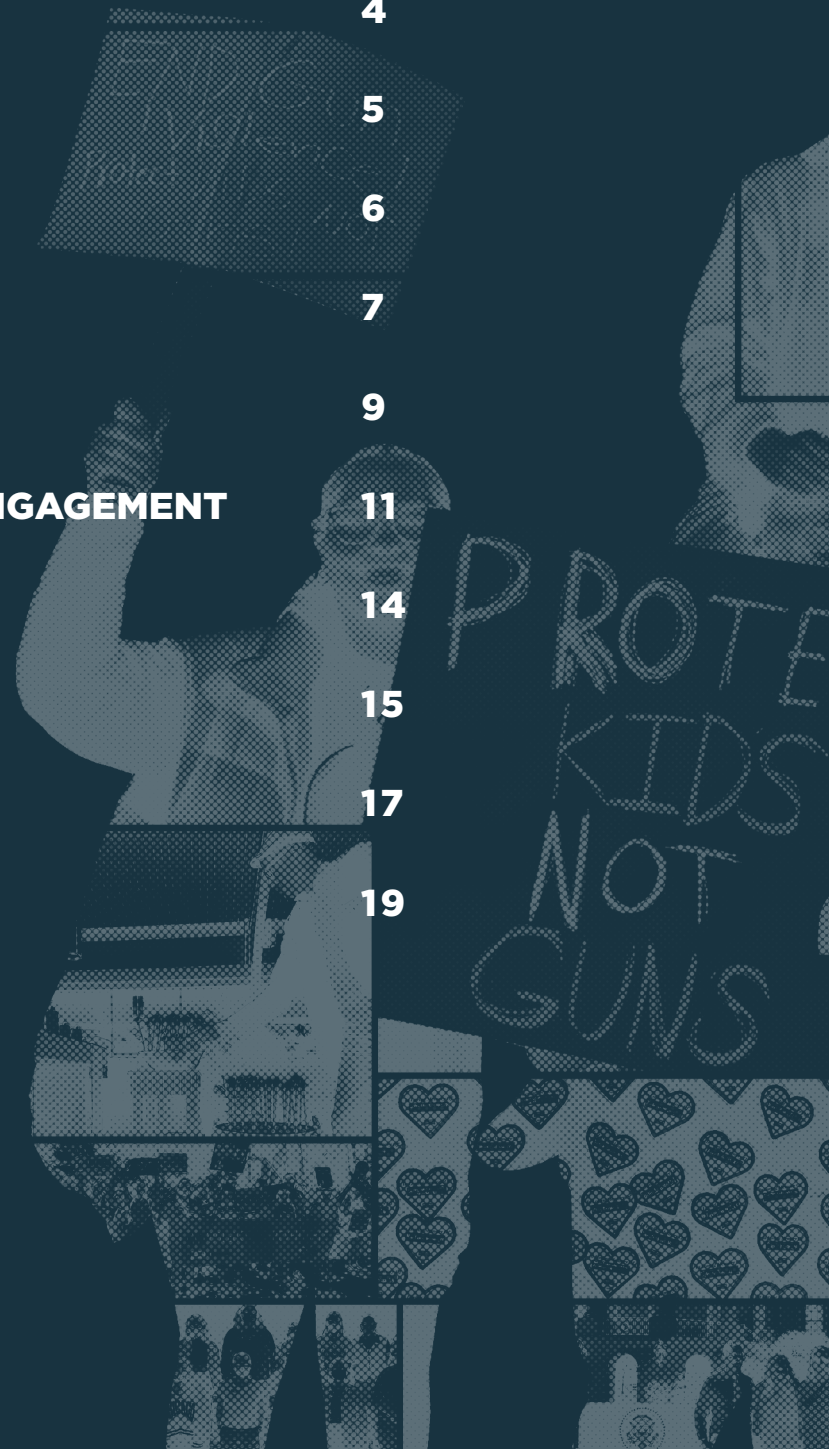
With the support of each of you, we've made momentous strides to reduce gun violence and we will craft a world where all of us feel safe to go anywhere we please without the risk of a gun permanently changing the course of our lives.



- Renée Hopkins | CEO,  
Alliance for Gun Responsibility

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# ORGANIZATION & BOARD



## ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY

501(c)(4) nonprofit organization: Conducts legislative advocacy and has helped pass three ballot measures and more than 30 gun safety bills in Olympia.

## ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY FOUNDATION

501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization: Responsible for research, program and public education work, implementation of laws, summit education series, and grassroots advocacy.

## ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY VICTORY FUND & ALLIANCE FOR GUN RESPONSIBILITY FEDERAL VICTORY FUND

Washington state and federal Political Action Committees: Endorse municipal, state, and federal gun responsibility candidates.

## 501(c)(3) BOARD MEMBERS

Matt Bellew, President  
Ben Carr, Vice President  
Cheryl Berenson, Secretary  
Sally Clark, Treasurer

Stacy Andersen  
Niko Battle  
Kevin Brannon  
Emily Cantrell  
Sue Cary  
Adrian Diaz  
Meredith Goldstein  
Rory Graves  
Marcus Green

David Hackney  
Shalisa Hayes  
Drew Johnston  
Regina Malveaux  
Linda Parrish  
Alina Santillan

April Schentrup  
Zach Silk  
Daniel Weiner  
Jane Weiss

## 501(c)(4) BOARD MEMBERS

Sally Clark, President / Treasurer

Steve Kessel  
Leesa Manion  
Zach Silk  
Scott Wang  
Caleb Weaver

I SHOULDN'T  
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IN MATH.



# FINANCIALS

Our community is composed of partners, volunteers, faith and community leaders, public health advocates, survivors, donors, and elected officials who all play a vital role in creating safer environments for everyone.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the numerous partner organizations that collaborate with us on a daily basis, and to the hundreds of devoted and passionate advocates who generously give their time and share their personal stories. We are also immensely grateful to the thousands of volunteers who show up day in and day out, as well as to our many donors who make our work possible. By working together, we will continue to advance lifesaving legislation and support initiatives that aim to reduce gun violence in our communities.

The Alliance is built on a foundation of supporters from across the state and country who financially support our work every year. We are proud that in 2022 we had more than 6,454 donations with a median donation of \$25 and an average donation of \$250. Every donation, of every size, is critical to our work. **THANK YOU!**

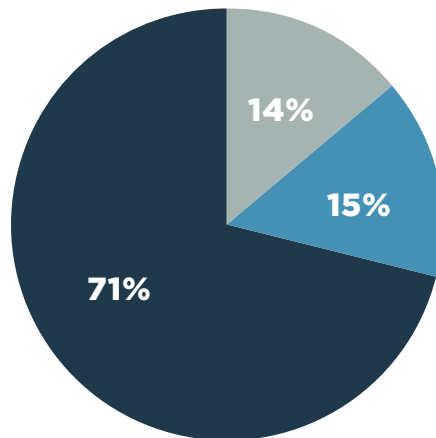
## EXPENSES

71% Programs  
\$1,597,525

15% Management  
\$342,021

14% Fundraising  
\$318,584

**TOTAL:**  
**\$2,049,564**



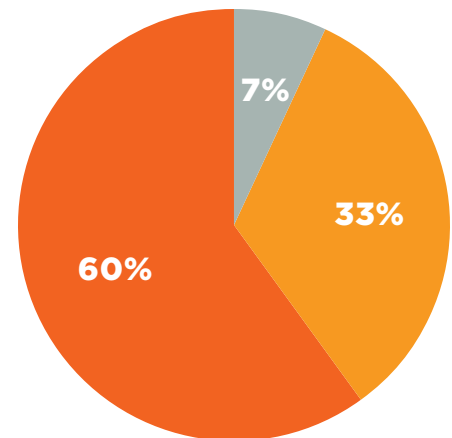
## REVENUE

60% Major Donors  
\$1,221,116

33% Individual  
\$685,448

7% Grants  
\$143,000

**TOTAL:**  
**\$2,258,131**



# REPLICATION UPDATE

Over the years the Alliance has been held up as the model for creating and sustaining state-based advocacy and legislation to prevent gun violence. In the last year, we have expanded our work into two states, supporting the gun violence prevention movement in growing and ultimately saving lives.

In Oregon, we helped pass **Measure 114**, a universal licensing system that closes the Charleston Loophole and requires an enhanced background check and safety training for the purchase of all firearms. The Alliance supported Measure 114 strategically and financially, helping to raise well over half of the campaign's paid voter contact and advertising.

Additionally, we were able to immediately step in to help fund the legal defense of the new measure in federal court. With technical, political, and policy assistance we have also helped guide and fund the Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety, to grow its impact as a state-based gun violence prevention organization.

In Michigan, the Alliance helped to build and expand on the GVP movement. In July, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed her budget, which included investments in community-based intervention programs, and research into gun violence solutions. Additionally, the **Campaign for a Safer Michigan** was officially formed. In November, Michigan democrats made history by taking back control of both chambers of the state Legislature. This new makeup opened up new opportunities for progress on gun violence prevention policies that were previously shut out.





# IMPLEMENTATION

Preventing gun violence requires a multi-faceted approach that goes beyond exclusively enacting stricter laws. While passing stronger legislation is a crucial step, it's important to recognize that the effectiveness of a law depends on its implementation. By working together with stakeholders across 39 counties, we are helping to develop safer communities and promote responsible gun ownership.



## **INITIATIVE 1639:**

**I-1639**, passed by Washington voters in 2018, raised the purchasing age for semi-automatic assault rifles, encouraged safe firearm storage, and more. This year, we began working on a bill in the Washington State Legislature for safe storage education in schools to expand on the access prevention piece of I-1639, which addresses safe storage.

## **CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS:**

Civil protection orders are vital tools that keep guns out of dangerous situations. Washington's protection order system is complex and the Alliance has been working for years to improve and strengthen firearm surrender orders within the system. Our implementation work with systems partners informed legislative changes we began working on in 2021 to modernize and standardize civil protection orders and to make permanent some pandemic-related changes such as remote filing. In December, we hosted a protection order convening with participants from Whatcom, Snohomish, Yamika, Spokane, Pierce, Thurston, and Clark counties. Going forward, these convenings will take place quarterly as we continue to explore methods to improve access and efficiency of civil protection orders.

## **OFFICE OF FIREARM SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION:**

The Alliance sits on an advisory council for the newly-formed Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention. On this council, we continue to push for additional funding for the full implementation of the grant program.

## **POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY:**

This year, we were among dozens of organizations joined by the Washington Coalition for Police Accountability to conduct advocacy with the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission for police accountability. This is an extension of our police accountability work to ensure the proper implementation of legislation passed in 2021.

## **LEGAL LANDSCAPE:**

Nationwide, the gun lobby and its supporters are persistent in their efforts to undo progress on gun responsibility. Pushing back against their attacks requires coordination among leaders in the GVP movement. In 2021, we held a strategic convening concerning the future of gun violence prevention policy, law, and litigation. In this convening, we brought qualified litigators, constitutional law experts, policy specialists, and public health researchers to discuss current federal court system dynamics and future tactics to mitigate risks as new and existing GVP laws are challenged in courts. This convening featured a keynote address and Q&A session by Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson.



# LEGISLATIVE WINS

The 2022 legislative session in Washington was truly remarkable! Despite facing numerous obstacles during the second virtual session, lawmakers worked tirelessly for 60 days to address pressing issues such as the ongoing challenges of the pandemic and crafting a budget. One major highlight of the session was the prioritization of gun responsibility, with the passing of six crucial gun violence prevention bills, including the long-awaited ESSB 5078 which aims to restrict high-capacity magazines. Additionally, legislators allocated significant funding to support gun violence prevention efforts through the newly-established Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention, showcasing a commitment to creating safer communities.

## HERE'S A BREAKDOWN OF OUR LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES:

### **ESSB 5078:** RESTRICTING HIGH-CAPACITY MAGAZINES

This bill in Washington restricts high-capacity magazines holding over 10 rounds, aiming to reduce gun violence. It prohibits the manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of such magazines, but does not ban possession. A significant victory after six years of effort!

### **HB 1630:** REJECTING ARMED INTIMIDATION

In 2021, the legislature acted to combat armed intimidation by banning open carry at the Capitol, protests, and demonstrations. HB 1630 now extends this protection by also prohibiting open carry at public local government meetings and banning firearms at school board meetings and election-related offices/facilities.

### **HB 1705:** CLOSING THE GHOST GUN LOOPHOLE

HB 1705 in Washington aims to address the issue of ghost guns, unserialized and untraceable firearms that can be easily obtained online, at gun shows, or from local dealers. This bill restricts the manufacture, assembly, sale, transfer, purchase, possession, transport, and receipt of ghost guns, which are accessible to prohibited purchasers, children, domestic abusers, and gun traffickers.



## **HB 1735:** UPDATING USE OF FORCE STANDARDS

In 2021, legislators passed a historic package of police accountability bills that made a series of changes to standards of police conduct. HB 1735 clarifies when police can use physical force, including to help transport people to mental health treatment.

## **HB 1941:** PROHIBITING LIVE-SHOOTER DRILLS


This bill prohibits schools from conducting lockdown drills that include live simulations of or reenactments of active shooter scenarios that are not trauma-informed and age and developmentally appropriate.

## **HB 1901:** UPDATING CIVIL PROTECTION ORDERS

This bill makes updates to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Washington's civil protection order system. Notably, it expands the definition of domestic violence to include coercive control, a common and dangerous form of intimate partner violence. Coercive control often escalates into physical, even deadly, violence. And guns are often used as a tool of coercive control, adding weight to manipulative or threatening behavior.

## **\$\$\$:** INVESTING IN GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

The legislature approved \$8.41 million in funding for gun violence prevention programs through the Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention in Washington. This funding will support grants to community-based violence prevention groups, establish a Healthy Youth & Violence Prevention Initiative, improve firearm removal in domestic violence situations, and establish community reinvestment grants, among other initiatives. While gun violence remains a pressing issue in Washington, this session demonstrated significant progress toward a safer future. Gratitude is expressed to legislative champions and supporters for their dedication to creating a safer state.



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# PUBLIC EDUCATION & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Alliance for Gun Responsibility prioritizes **public education and community engagement** as a necessity in achieving our goals. These focus points are essential in cultivating a well-informed following. Last year, the Alliance's foundation actively participated in various local, state, and national conferences, all while conducting workshops that emphasized the significance of gun violence prevention through a public health lens. As part of our annual programming, the Alliance has incorporated several additional opportunities this year.



## #ENOUGH PLAYS

The **#ENOUGH!** plays aim to bring attention to the devastating impact of gun violence on the youth of America. The program achieves this by commissioning fresh theatrical works from young writers, which are then simultaneously presented in staged readings across the country on the same evening. Last year's event was part of a nationwide reading initiative, with performances taking place in 23 states. In 2022, The Alliance had the honor of being the sole producer in Washington as well as serving as a proud #ENOUGH ambassador. This program is set to continue annually and is expected to expand to more cities across the state.



## **TOGETHER WE END GUN VIOLENCE SYMPOSIUM**

In November of 2022, the Alliance established a new partnership with Community Passageways, King County, the City of Seattle, and the Office of Firearm Safety and Violence Prevention with the goal of organizing the **Together We End Gun Violence Symposium**. This formed in acknowledgment of the need for a comprehensive and collective approach towards addressing gun violence on a regional level. The symposium brought together thought leaders, community members, and government officials working towards identifying and executing long-term solutions to combating gun violence here in Washington.



## **CONFERENCES & SUMMITS**

The Alliance engaged in four conferences facilitating conversations throughout intersecting community spaces and realities: Schools Out Washington Bridge Conference, NAMI Washington Conference, BOOST Conference, and Washington State Directors Association Annual Conference. The Alliance led workshops that incorporated crucial information regarding the significance of gun ownership accountability, the role of diverse spaces in effecting change, and the importance of treating this problem as a public health emergency.

Special attention was given to safeguarding the most vulnerable communities that bear a disproportionate burden of gun violence. Through these conferences, the Alliance was able to engage with a diverse set of stakeholders—including educators, mental health professionals, youth advocates, and community leaders—to explore new ways of addressing the issue of gun violence within our society.



The Alliance also recognized the urgent need to address the issue of gun violence among young people in America. In response, the Alliance created its first **Youth Summit**, organized and managed by students from our Intern & Fellow program. The Youth Summit provided an opportunity for youth from the greater Seattle area to come together and share their experiences, ideas, and solutions for creating a safer future.



The Summit brought together legislative speakers, leaders from various youth-focused organizations, and concerned youth to collaborate on strategies to prevent gun violence. The event was designed to create a safe and inclusive space for young people to share their perspectives and engage in meaningful dialogue around the issue of gun violence. Through the Youth Summit, the Alliance aimed to empower young people to become agents of change in their communities and advocate for policies they believed in.



# INTERN & FELLOW PROGRAM

The Alliance's intern and fellow program is aimed at involving and educating young members of the community and students in grassroots advocacy, non-profit organizations, and campaigns. Our recruitment process involves working with schools throughout Washington State and collaborating with partner organizations to attract talented individuals to join our program. By participating in our program, interns and fellows acquire essential skills and knowledge that are crucial for success in political organizing and advocacy, including data management, phone banking, grassroots mobilization, communications, event planning, and video production. Upon finishing the program, the Alliance remains committed to supporting former interns and fellows in securing new career opportunities. Our alumni have pursued diverse career paths, ranging from session aides to business entrepreneurship, underscoring the far-reaching benefits of participating in our program.

The Alliance was lucky to work with 2 talented young fellows and 4 interns in 2022!

**The Alliance was lucky to work with three fellows and five interns in 2022!**

*"The Alliance for Gun Responsibility has been crucial in expanding my role in advocacy and legislative spaces across the state. In the 2022 legislative session, I learned the ropes of how the legislature worked. In November 2022 when an Ingraham High School student was killed due to gun violence, I sprung into action, using the Alliance's network and resources to help support students organizing the protest. These organizing experiences will stay with me throughout the rest of my professional career."*



- Chetan Soni, Legislative Fellow '22

# ADVOCACY

Like the previous year, the COVID-19 pandemic presented challenges in Washington state that made it difficult for residents to travel to Olympia and advocate for stronger gun safety laws.

Despite these challenges, however, the movement for stricter gun laws continued to gain support from volunteers and advocates throughout the state. Many advocates also demanded that

lawmakers take action to protect communities by **restricting high-capacity magazines**. With in-person advocacy limited by the pandemic, many volunteers and advocates turned to other methods to make their voices heard through phone-banking and emails. Although the **COVID-19 pandemic** created obstacles for the gun safety movement in Washington state, the dedication and commitment of volunteers and advocates remained strong.



## 2022 SESSION:

- Session Volunteers Recruited: 165
- Advocate Legislative Sign-Ins: 5,125
- Session Testifiers: 160
- Hearings: 11







The determination of our supporters led to a successful 2022 election season. Many Alliance for Gun Responsibility candidates and gun violence prevention champions won seats which helps make our state safer as a whole. Additionally, hundreds of **Get Out the Vote (GOTV)** actions were taken. We were thrilled to return to in-person for our electoral activities after a challenging year of virtual campaigning in 2021. We remained committed to our mission of promoting common-sense gun safety measures, while also advocating for candidates who bravely stand in support of these lifesaving measures. From staff members to interns, fellows, and Alliance volunteers, everyone worked together to ensure that the voices of the community were heard, seen, and uplifted.

I SHOULDN'T  
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# VICTORY FUND

As the Victory Fund, we participated in four critical law enforcement races in the 2022 cycle including leading an IE effort to elect Leesa Manion to KC Prosecutor, one of our most important implementation partners. With our support, gun violence prevention was used as a key issue in swing legislative contests across the state, which resulted in successfully defending all of our champions running for re-election, flipping two seats for gun violence prevention, and electing over ten new gun violence prevention leaders into office.

## 2022 Overview:

- Total Volunteer Actions: 12,206
- Total Advocate Emails: 15,095
- GVP Volunteer Events: 73

## GOTV:

- Volunteers Recruited: 22
- Voters Contacted: 190+
- Voters Texted: 71,309
- Voters Canvassed: 1197
- Voters Called: 371
- Total GOTV Actions: 72,877

## HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR ELECTORAL WORK

During the 2022 election cycle, the Alliance PAC played a significant role in supporting 12 political campaigns by organizing various "get out the vote" (GOTV) efforts. The Alliance staff and volunteers were actively involved in 15 different events, where they helped to recruit additional volunteers to support the candidates and were responsible for over 350 calls to voters. They also distributed literature throughout Seattle to inform the public about the importance of supporting the candidates that the organization was endorsing. Additionally, the PAC held a roundtable discussion with **Senator Patty Murray** to discuss the critical need for federal gun violence prevention legislation. During the roundtable, Senator Murray discussed the importance of implementing measures that could help to reduce gun violence and protect communities across the country.

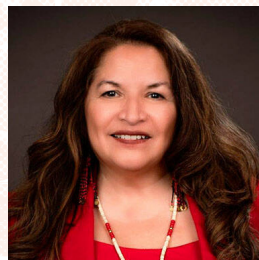




In the 2022 election cycle, the Alliance endorsed over 90 candidates and provided direct support to a number of races. Our volunteers were actively engaged in various forms of voter outreach, including door-knocking, phone-banking, and other efforts to encourage voter participation. The following list includes the candidates who received direct support from the Alliance during the election cycle.

### CANDIDATE RACES WE PARTICIPATED IN

- Mary Fosse (38 LD)
- Darya Farivar (46 LD)
- Lelach Rave (46 LD)
- Chris Vance (31 LD)
- Leesa Manion (KCP)
- Patty Murray (US SENATE)
- Javier Valdez (46 LD)
- Gerry Pollet (46 LD)
- Kim Schrier (8th CD)
- Adam Smith (9th CD)
- Debra Entenman (47 LD)
- Claudia Kauffman (47 LD)





# LEGAL

The Alliance has remained undefeated in defending Washington's common-sense gun violence prevention laws. Despite facing legal challenges, the success of this organization has never wavered. Litigation over Initiative 1639 continues more than four years after it was overwhelmingly adopted by voters in 2018 to raise the minimum age to purchase assault rifles from 18 to 21, prohibit direct sales of assault rifles to out-of-state residents, and promote safe storage requirements for all firearms, among additional safety measures.

The Alliance has consistently prevailed in court despite years of legal battles. In 2020, a federal district court rejected a constitutional challenge brought by the NRA and Second Amendment Foundation, upholding the age and residency provisions of the initiative (*Mitchell v. Atkins*) with the court affirming that these provisions were a reasonable measure to prevent gun violence and protect public safety. In 2021, a state trial court also dismissed a challenge brought by the Gun Owners of America, who claimed that the initiative petition circulated to voters regarding I-1639 violated election laws. The court ruled that the initiative petition had complied with all statutory and constitutional requirements (*Slone v. State of Washington*), further validating the Alliance's defense of the law.

The Alliance's success continued into 2022, when the Washington Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's decision in *Slone*, upholding the constitutionality of the initiative petition. The trial court later dismissed the remaining claims brought by the *Slone* plaintiffs, cementing the legality and validity of Initiative 1639. Despite persistent legal challenges, the Alliance has remained unwavering in its commitment to defending Washington's common-sense gun violence prevention laws. Its track record of success in court demonstrates the Alliance's resilience and determination in upholding the will of the voters and promoting responsible firearm regulations for the safety and well-being of Washington residents.

In addition to its primary work on litigation in Washington State, the Alliance has supported and worked closely with its partner organization, the Oregon Alliance for Gun Safety, in cases challenging Oregon violence prevention laws. In 2022, voters in Oregon overwhelmingly voted in favor of Measure 114, a comprehensive gun safety law that limits the sale of military-style high-capacity magazines and requires a background check, safety training, and a permit to purchase all firearms. The gun lobby filed five lawsuits challenging Measure 114 in state and federal court, and the Oregon Alliance successfully intervened in the federal cases to defend the law. In December 2022, the district court denied the challengers' motion for a temporary restraining order. A bench trial will take place in June 2023, with a final judgment expected by late summer or early fall.

*“In order to have success like we have had here in Washington, we need gun violence prevention champions like the Alliance for Gun Responsibility. The lifesaving legislative victories we’ve seen in our state would not be happening without the Alliance.”*



**- Bob Ferguson, Washington State Attorney General**

# GUN VIOLENCE IS PREVENTABLE



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