



New Mexico Sheriff's Association

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The members of the New Mexico Sheriff's Association firmly believe that the firearm has a strong and prominent heritage in our nation's history. The founding fathers of our republic were patriots with firearms in their hands fighting against tyranny for the freedom and liberty of which they were denied by England. Upon their victory, they formed a new and innovative government to protect their newfound freedom to include the drafting of a Constitution with accompanying Amendments to protect their rights. This created the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America. It is an Amendment that has often been challenged and interpreted by the highest court of the land and to this day stands as an individual right for each law-abiding citizen to keep and bear arms.

Today firearms have an important role in arming law enforcement and the military for the protection of citizens. Firearms are also tools that are unfortunately often necessary for the preservation of our individual rights and freedoms. Law-abiding citizens are guaranteed the right to freely choose to arm themselves as collectors, to hunt, to compete in shooting sports and/or recreational shooting, as well personal and home defense. Most importantly, and should it become necessary, American citizens have the right to be armed to stand and protect the republic against a corrupt and usurping government once again as the original framers of the Constitution intended.

The sheriff is elected by the people within a sovereign state and county to protect and serve all people within the county at the time of assuming the office. The elected sheriff swears a solemn oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States as well as the Constitution and laws of the state of New Mexico in that order of precedence.

29 out of the 33 New Mexico sheriffs agree that the rush to react to violent crime and atrocities perpetrated by disturbed and/or violent offenders by proposing controls on law-abiding citizen's guns is ill conceived and is truly a distraction to the real problems proliferating violence in our counties and in our state.

These sheriffs encourage the full and complete enforcement of existing gun regulations and oppose any executive order or rule that further restricts the rights of law-abiding citizens to own, possess, keep and use firearms for lawful purposes. As duly elected sheriffs we are committed to take the lead role in facilitating the discussions in our communities and pledge to collaborate at all levels with stakeholders to identify and work toward solutions for the complex issue of violence; specifically, violent crime.

Modern "Red Flag Laws" deny responsible gun owner's notice or a chance to defend themselves against an initial confiscation order. A judge may issue the order after an uncontested hearing. In some states, the person seeking the order is held to a relatively low burden of proof and with no real consequences for false allegations. Citizens have a right to bear arms and we cannot circumvent that right when they have not even committed a crime or even been accused of committing one. "Shall not be infringed" is a very clear and concise component of an Amendment that our forefathers felt was important enough to be recognized immediately following freedom of speech and religion. We sheriffs have sworn to uphold those and other God-given rights for our citizens at all costs.

Sheriff Tony Mace
Chairman
New Mexico Sheriffs Association

Sheriff Tony Mace, Chairman

Sheriff Ron Silversmith, Vice Chairman