



CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER

Protecting Second Amendment Rights

Executive Order #14206

Date Issued: February 7, 2025

Topic: Civil Rights, Criminal Justice, Health

WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?

- This order directs the Attorney General to conduct a comprehensive review of all government actions, policies, regulations, and agreements from the past four years that may have infringed upon Americans' Second Amendment rights.
- Within 30 days, the Attorney General must present a proposed plan of action to the President, through the Domestic Policy Advisor, to protect and uphold the right to keep and bear arms. The review includes examining rules from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), enforcement policies related to firearms, White House reports on gun violence prevention, litigation affecting gun rights, and firearm classification and licensing processes. Once the plan of action is submitted, the Attorney General is to collaborate with the Domestic Policy Advisor to finalize and implement it, ensuring federal policies align with the constitutional right to bear arms.



HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- The enforcement of this order begins with the Attorney General's review of all relevant presidential and agency actions from January 2021 to January 2025, focusing on policies that may have restricted Second Amendment rights. The Attorney General will evaluate rules issued by the ATF and the Department of Justice, examine firearm classifications, assess litigation positions that could impact gun rights, and analyze regulatory enforcement policies affecting firearm manufacturers and sellers.
- After compiling findings, the Attorney General must submit a proposed plan of action to the President, outlining necessary changes to protect Second Amendment rights. The Domestic Policy Advisor will work with the Attorney General to finalize and implement the plan, ensuring all government agencies adjust their policies accordingly. The implementation process will be guided by existing laws and budgetary constraints, with all executive departments and agencies expected to comply with the finalized plan.





HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- The impact of this order on Black communities will largely depend on how revised gun policies affect access to firearms, self-defense rights, and public safety. If the order results in the removal of regulatory barriers, law-abiding Black gun owners may find it easier to obtain firearms for self-protection. However, changes in gun laws might also alter law enforcement strategies, potentially impacting how gun-related crimes are policed in Black communities. These shifts could affect broader conversations about gun violence prevention, community safety, and interactions with law enforcement.
- In addition, the unequal application of Second Amendment rights raises concerns about whether Black gun owners are truly protected. Historical and contemporary cases, such as those of Emancipator Bradford Jr., Jemel Roberson, and Philando Castile, underscore a troubling double standard. While white gun owners are often celebrated as defenders of freedom, Black gun owners face deadly consequences, often without support from major gun rights groups like the National Rifle Association (NRA). This inconsistency reflects historical struggles for Black Americans' right to bear arms, as laws in the 1600s and 1700s systematically prohibited Black people from owning firearms, solidifying racial divisions. Even after the Civil War, the Supreme Court failed to ensure that the Second Amendment applied to Black Americans.
- Research also shows that White Americans' attitudes toward gun rights are shaped by racial biases. White individuals with strong anti-Black sentiments tend to oppose gun control, but their support weakens when they learn that Black Americans are obtaining gun permits at higher rates. These racial dynamics contribute to the ongoing marginalization of Black gun owners. In fact, the legacy of the Second Amendment has often been one of exclusion and racial inequality. Systemic biases continue to shape public attitudes and policies, complicating the ability of Black Americans to exercise their rights fully.



HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

- The Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has worked tirelessly to prevent gun violence in Black communities, which is jeopardized by this executive order. In 2022, then-CBC Chair **Rep. Joyce Beatty** issued the following statement on the [Bipartisan Safer Communities Act](#) that former President Joe Biden signed into law: “This bipartisan legislation is the culmination of strategic efforts and leadership from the Congressional Black Caucus and underscores the historic nature of our efforts to stem the tide of gun violence in our communities. There are many CBC Member-led provisions included and we accept this bipartisan, common-sense legislation to better protect America’s children and families, keep our schools safe and reduce the threat of violence across our country.” [Full Statement](#)
- After a 2023 shooting at a hospital in Atlanta, GA, **Sen. Raphael Warnock** made the following [statement](#): “We can’t wait another 30 years for Congress to pass meaningful common sense gun safety legislation. And we can’t wait for the next headline, the next tragic flashpoint, because there is a profound way in which these tragedies are happening every single day. The message is clear today: that gun violence is not the cost of freedom. This is not the cost of freedom. This is the cost of blind obstinance.”