

Gun Safety Resolution - Adopted by the Iosco County Democratic Party - September 4, 2019

Whereas full recognition should be accorded the Second Amendment Right to Bear Arms; and full recognition should be given to the cultural importance to residents of this community for exercising this right for seasonal hunting, for activities at rifle ranges, and also for the protection and defense of one's own house and property.

And Whereas, there are, nevertheless, well established limitations on the private possession of arms so that the Second Amendment right can be well regulated and exclude certain levels of armament : tanks, bazookas, machine guns, grenade launchers, rocket/missiles, and others, etc.; and also so that there are restrictions on who qualifies for ownership status : age, mental health, background qualifications , and others etc.;

And Whereas our nation is experiencing a growing and acute public danger as every day an estimated 100 lives are taken by guns; and our citizens have been placed at unnecessary and unacceptable risk as mass shootings have occurred in our children's schools, places of worship, theatres, government facilities, parks, places of business etc., and these have resulted in hundreds of unnecessary and tragic deaths each year;

And Whereas , this community is not immune to the danger of gun violence, a reality which was recently recognized through a series of public agency cooperative drill exercises in preparing to respond to an active shooter; these exercises involved local and state police, fire personnel, our children's schools, hospitals, and ambulance services and others. The third of these training exercises to protect the public was held just a month ago.

And Whereas , the Congress of the United States, and many state and local governments are currently considering measures to require more effective background checks, and possibly to restrict the purchase of automatic rifles, and other weapons of war, said actions partly prompted by the national outrage at recent shootings in El Paso, Texas, Dayton, Ohio and the Garlic Festival in California, and Odessa, Texas: and further also in response to recent polls showing that over 70% of Americans favor stricter gun laws.

Now, therefore the Iosco County Democratic Party hereby resolves as follows:

Resolved, that we advocate the passing of legislation that would require a waiting period; and that there be mandatory background checks for any purchaser, including those purchasing through a private sale, mail order, gun show etc; and for any person receiving a gun as a gift, or without payment or other compensation.

Resolved, that we advocate the passing of legislation that would prohibit the purchase of military style assault firearms, including bump stocks and high capacity magazines, by anyone except law enforcement, military personnel, or licensed firearms dealers.

Resolved, that a national data base be established to support a full study of the incidence of gun violence in this nation, with consideration of all related issues; and that gun violence be considered not just as a criminal act, but as a public health crisis.

Resolved, that we advocate that leaders of our community and of communities across the nation, adopt and support as general goals the six step CHANGE agenda promoted by the March for Our Lives organization established by the young generation of school students after tragic mass shootings at the Parkland school, said agenda includes the following:

- 1 C Change the Standards of Gun Ownership.
- 2 H Halve the Rate of Gun Deaths in 10 years
- 3 A Accountability for the Gun and Lobby Industry
- 4 N Name a Director of Violence Protection
- 5 G Generate Community Based solutions
- 6 E Empower the Next Generation

and Be it finally Resolved , that our public schools, as well as schools across this state support student activities in support of school safety, including demonstrations and walkouts, and to refrain from punishing or disciplining students who participate in such activities.