



# LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF FLORIDA

June 20, 2016

**PRESIDENT**

Pamela Goodman

The Honorable Rick Scott, Governor  
The Honorable Andy Gardiner, Senate President  
The Honorable Steve Crisafulli, Speaker of the House

Hand Delivered

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**

Patricia Brigham

**RE: FLORIDA COALITION TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE**

Dear Governor Scott, Senate President Gardiner, and House Speaker Crisafulli:

**TREASURER**

Theresa Francis-Thomas

We applaud your immediate statements to the LGBT and Hispanic communities, and to all citizens and visitors to the State of Florida, that you will not tolerate the targeting of any community with hatred or gun violence. But more must be done. This is a public safety issue. We urge you to put actions behind your words. The deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history occurred in Orlando, Florida. Accordingly, the undersigned coalition partners call on you to convene a special legislative session within fourteen days to implement the following legislative measures:

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**First, we call upon you to enact legislation making it a crime to knowingly import, sell, manufacture, transfer, or possess a semiautomatic assault weapon or large capacity ammunition feeding device.** There is simply no reason for private citizens to have access to weapons like the MCX Carbine firearm used to murder the 49 people in the Pulse Night Club in Orlando on June 12, 2016. These weapons have immense destructive power and do not belong in civilian hands. Florida should follow the lead of the seven states – California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Hawaii, Maryland, New Jersey and New York, – which already ban assault weapons.<sup>1</sup> In addition, Florida should join the other eight states – California, Colorado, Connecticut, Hawaii, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York, – that already prohibit large capacity ammunition feeding devices that hold over 10 rounds.<sup>2</sup>

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Penny Walker Bos  
540 Beverly Court  
Tallahassee, FL  
32301-7530  
(850)224-2545

**Second, we call upon the state to implement comprehensive, universal background checks.** Both nationally and in Florida, legal access to guns is still too easy – and this tragedy is only the latest in a long line of examples. In particular, the state should require private parties (i.e., non-federally or state licensed dealers) to conduct a background check before selling any firearm.<sup>3</sup> Simultaneously, the state of Florida should ensure that all relevant records are provided to the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check (NICS).<sup>4</sup>

Any harm to any one of us is harm to *all of us* and must be addressed by the entire state. The undersigned coalition represents the broad spectrum of Florida citizens who share this conviction. And so we call on you, Governor Scott, President Gardiner and Speaker Crisafulli, to convene a special session within fourteen days and pass these measures to prevent gun violence in Florida.

We await your response on behalf of the Florida Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence. Please contact me by calling our office at (850) 224-2545, or via email to PamelaSGoodman@gmail.com.

Respectfully,



**Pamela S. Goodman, President, League of Women Voters of Florida**

**Alachua County Public Schools, Dr. Owen Roberts, School Superintendent**  
**Alachua County School Board, Eileen Roy, Chair**  
**Amnesty International, Chapter 519 Orlando, Jeannine Walsh, Urgent Action Coordinator**  
**Association of Florida Colleges, Michael Brawer, CEO**  
**Campaign to Keep Guns Off Campus, Andy Pelosi, Executive Director**  
**City of Naples, FL, Linda Penniman, Vice-Mayor**  
**Congregation I'Dor Va-Dor, Rabbi Barry Silver**  
**Council on American Islamic Relations, Orlando Region, Rasha Mubarak, Regional Coordinator**  
**District 45 Florida House of Representatives, Randolph Bracy**  
**Equality Florida, Nadine Smith, CEO**  
**Faith in Florida, Jabari Paul, North Florida Regional Director and Political Director**  
**First Unitarian Church of Orlando, Unitarian Universalist, Pastor Kathy Schmitz**  
**Florida Parent/Teacher Association, Angie Gallo, Legislative Liason**  
**Florida Alliance of Planned Parenthood Affiliates, Anna Eskamani, Senior Director of Public Affairs and Field Operations**  
**Florida Council of Churches, Russell Meyer, Executive Director**  
**Florida Immigrant Coalition, Maria Rodriguez, Executive Director**  
**Florida Keys Outreach Coalition, Inc., Dr. Stephen E. Braddock, President & CEO**  
**Friends Talking Faith, WMFE 90.7 Public Radio, Orlando, Rabbi Steve Engel, The Rev. Bryan Fulwider, & Imam Muhammad Musri, The Three Wise Guys**  
**Gay Key West/Key West Business Guild, Matt Hon, Executive Director**  
**Global Peace Film Festival, Nina Streich, Executive Director**  
**Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc., Tammy Greer, COO**  
**Hispanic Federation, Zoé Colón, MPA, Director of Florida and Southeast Operations**  
**Islamic Society of Central Florida, Imam Muhammad Musri, Sr.**  
**Mi Familia Vota, Esteban Garces, Florida State Director**  
**National Action Network, Central Florida Chapter, Lawanna Gelzer, President**  
**National Congress of Black Women, Beverly Colson Neal, National Board Member Representing Florida**  
**National Council of Jewish Women, Linda Geller-Schwartz, Florida State Policy Advocate**  
**National Organization of Women, Brevard County, Vicki Impoco, President**  
**National Organization of Women, Florida Keys, Robin O'Grady, President**  
**National Organization of Women, Palm Beach County, Arlene Ustin, President**  
**Newtown Acton Alliance, Po Murray, Chair**  
**One Island Family, Southernmost Universalist Unitarian Congregation, Joy Brown Taylor, Treasurer**  
**Orange County Public Schools District 6, Nancy Robinson, Vice Chair**  
**Organize Now, Stephanie Porta, Executive Director**  
**Pastor with Interfaith Council of Central Florida, James Coffin**  
**Peace & Justice Institute, Valencia College, Orlando, Rachel Allen, Coordinator**  
**Pensacola Coffee Party, Ray Hudkins, Founder**  
**Prism Youth Manatee Pride, Valerie Fisher, President & Chairman**  
**Progress Florida, Ray Seaman, Online Director**

**Reverend Bryan Fulwider, Interfaith Council of Central Florida  
Space Coast Progressive Alliance, Philip Stasik, President  
States United Against Gun Violence, Julia Wyman, Executive Director  
Women's Foundation of Palm Beach County, Judith Selzer, President**

cc: Florida Senate  
Florida House of Representatives  
Florida Cabinet

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<sup>1</sup> *Assault Weapons Policy Summary*, LAW CENTER TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE (Jun. 19, 2013), <http://smartgunlaws.org/assault-weapons-policy-summary>.

<sup>2</sup> *Large Capacity Ammunition Magazines Policy Summary*, LAW CENTER TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE (May 21, 2013), <http://smartgunlaws.org/large-capacity-ammunition-magazines-policy-summary>.

<sup>3</sup> Federal law on background checks does not cover private parties, and Florida currently has no law covering the gap. *See* 18 U.S.C. § 922(s).

<sup>4</sup> *See* 18 U.S.C. § 922 (t) (regarding NICS).