

## THE FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW TO MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION

- The proposed Westford weapons ban does **NOTHING** to address and ensure the safety of our children, teachers, and schools.
- This proposal by Robert Jeffries and the Board of Selectmen represents a blatant attack on the civil rights of the town's residents and licensed gun owners who ironically are among the most law-abiding citizens in the community, having been vetted by local and state police as well as the FBI.
- This measure must be soundly defeated and a committee of all affected parties must be formed to study and act on the real issues to create a safer community in our town.
- Increasing laws that only affect law-abiding gun owners does nothing to address life and property safety issues. In fact, these added laws create a more dangerous environment for all citizens.
- The adage: *"If guns are outlawed, only outlaws will have guns"* will never be truer.
- The Commonwealth of Massachusetts already has an assault weapons ban and limits magazines to 10 round capacities.

**The current environment of budget shortfalls in Westford makes Article 30 a frivolous waste of taxpayer time and money. Money that could be better spent actually making our town a better place to live.**

**FACT:** FBI data for 2011 shows that 323 murders were committed with rifles of **any** kind. In comparison, 496 murders were committed with hammers/clubs and 1694 were committed with knives. (<http://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2011/crime-in-the-u.s.-2011/tables/expanded-homicide-data-table-11>)

**FACT:** A study published in the Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy concluded that nations with stringent gun laws generally have substantially higher murder rates than those who do not. (Kates DB, Mauser G, volume 30, number 2, pp 649-694).

**FACT:** U.S. Supreme Court's decisions in District of Columbia vs. Heller and McDonald vs. City of Chicago affirmed that individuals have an enforceable right to possess firearms – including handguns – for self defense and that right is protected against infringement by states and municipalities, as well as the federal government. (Peterson D, Appellate Courts Weigh-In on Right to Carry, JURIST-Sidebar, January 2013). It is estimated that the cost to the City of Chicago will exceed \$3 million dollars in legal fees and awards to the plaintiff.

**FACT:** **An assault weapon is not an assault rifle.** Prior to 1989 the term "assault weapon" did not exist in firearms lexicon. It is a political term coined by anti-gun publicists to expand the category of assault rifles.



The **M16** is a military service rifle and also an assault rifle that is capable of automatically firing 800 rounds/minute each time the trigger is pulled. The M-16 and other fully automatic firearms are also called **machine guns**. In 1986, the Federal government banned civilians from purchasing newly manufactured machine guns



The Armalite Rifle (AR-15) is a **semi-automatic** rifle and fires one round each time the trigger is pulled at a rate of 45 to 60 rounds/minute, depending on the skill of the operator. Proposed bans on these guns is **solely** based on cosmetic features that are similar in appearance to those on assault rifles such as: collapsible stocks, flash hiders, and pistol grips.



All of these guns fire **one round** each time the trigger is pulled.

**FACT:** The AR-15 is chambered in .223 caliber. Compared to rifles used for hunting such as the .30-06, .308, etc, the AR-15 is much less powerful than these others. This rifle is used by small game hunters, competitors, and makes an excellent defense weapon.

**FACT:** Following the expiration of the so-called assault weapons ban in 2004, the Department of Justice concluded that *“the ban’s effect on gun violence is likely to be small at best and too small to reliably measure”*.

**FACT:**

New York, even before it approved the strictest gun control measures in the country was ranked 4<sup>th</sup> by the Brady Campaign for strength of gun laws. But it also ranked in the top 10 in firearm homicide rates in 2011.

South Dakota and Vermont was near the bottom in firearm homicides, firearm robberies, and firearm assaults, yet has some of the more relaxed gun laws in the country. (Sherfinski D, Washington Times,

**SCATTERSHOT**

Tough gun laws don’t always translate into lower levels of gun violence at the state level. A Washington Times survey looked at the states with the most stringent gun laws, based on the Brady Campaign to End Gun Violence’s 2011 scorecard, and compared that with FBI Uniform Crime Reports for 2011, and found the five highest-scoring states did not have comparably low gun-crime rates.

		Firearm murder rate ranking	Firearm robbery rate ranking	Firearm assault rate ranking
<b>California</b>	Brady ranking: <b>1</b>	18	21	21
<b>New Jersey</b>	Brady ranking: <b>2</b>	21	17	31
<b>Massachusetts</b>	Brady ranking: <b>3</b>	38	27	26
<b>New York*</b>	Brady ranking: <b>4</b>	9	31	41
<b>Connecticut</b>	Brady ranking: <b>5</b>	27	26	41

\*Survey conducted before the passage of state’s new guns laws.  
Note: Crime rankings include the District of Columbia; exclude Alabama and Florida.  
Sources: Brady Campaign to End Gun Violence, FBI Uniform Crime Reports.

THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**FACT: Limiting Magazine Capacities:**

an example of the futility of regulating magazine capacities, Eric Harris – Columbine HS 1999 was undeterred by 10 round magazine capacity laws. Harris simply brought more (13) with him and fired 96 rounds before killing himself.

Seung-Hui Choi – Virginia Tech 2007 carried multiple magazines in his backpack as part of a carefully planned massacre. He used 17 magazines and fired approximately 170 rounds from 2 handguns before killing himself.

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