



OVERVIEW

Any local government effort to improve public safety must be comprehensive. There are far too many guns in the hands of lawless individuals on our streets. We need to do everything possible to reduce the number of guns AND the number of lawless individuals.

Local firearm laws are preempted in almost every respect by the state legislature. We should acknowledge the wisdom in the old saying: "Where you stand depends on where you sit." There should be plenty of room for wide differences of opinion on constitutional regulation of firearms that meet the needs of differing constituencies. To that end, a Shreve Administration will seek home rule on gun regulation for the purpose of restricting the almost unlimited approach presently mandated by the Indiana General Assembly.

Critics may say that Shreve policies on parts of this subject are not different from Mayor Hogsett's. However, the process of approaching the General Assembly matters. The Shreve administration will advocate earnestly and on Day 1, not after session closes, for changes in state law to accommodate the crisis of violence plaguing our city. Political rhetoric designed to inflame emotions will not bring us closer to a deal that can help save lives.

RAISE THE MINIMUM AGE TO PURCHASE ALL FIREARMS TO 21 IN INDIANAPOLIS

WHAT IT MEANS

Under federal law, the minimum age to buy a handgun is 21, so long as it is bought from a federally licensed dealer (11). However, that age drops to 18, when the handgun is purchased through a private sale (12). The age to buy a long gun is also 18 (13). Age restrictions to buy a firearm should be consistent. As mayor, I will proactively advocate to increase the age required to purchase any firearm from 18 to 21, no matter what kind of sale occurs.

WHY?

Both fatal and non-fatal shootings are on the rise in our city and guns are too accessible to young people (14). Indiana mandates 21 years of age to purchase alcohol. However, an 18-year old can purchase a semi-automatic rifle or handgun through a private sale. If we do not trust young people to purchase alcohol, how can we be ok with them purchasing a firearm? Teenagers are more prone to acting on impulse rather than thinking through the consequences. Many of our homicide numbers are attributed to disagreements among teenagers, who then escalate the situation by bringing guns into the mix. I believe that raising the minimum age to purchase any gun to 21 will make it more difficult for these young people to access firearms and reduce the likelihood that a disagreement will result in a shooting. Additionally, there is evidence that those who are 21 and unable to purchase a firearm due to their criminal record may send out their younger friends, with no criminal record, to purchase a firearm for them. Changing the age requirement will inhibit this practice. If a juvenile utilizes a weapon to commit a crime, it is imperative that we go after those that provided the weapon.

11. 18 U.S.C. § 922 (b)(1)

12. 18 U.S.C.A. § 922 (x)(1)

13. § 922 (b)(1)

14. <http://crimegunintelcenters.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Indy-CGIC-Final-Report.pdf>



BAN ASSAULT WEAPONS IN INDIANAPOLIS

WHAT IT MEANS

Defining the term “assault weapon” is itself difficult. Federally introduced legislation provides a start (15). However, coming to the state legislature as the mayor of Indianapolis, to advocate for legislation specifically for Marion County, I want any legislation to contain definitions tailored to our city’s needs. As such, I will meet with law enforcement leaders and determine which weapons criminals are using when committing violent crime and draft the most appropriate definition into our request for home rule.

WHY?

Many assault-style semi-automatic weapons are easily accessible to those with unlawful intent. Their presence alarms law abiding citizens, poses a dire threat to life and safety in the hands of the mentally ill, and can dramatically escalate any otherwise merely combustible situation.

RESTORE THE REQUIREMENT FOR A PERMIT TO CARRY A CONCEALED FIREARM IN INDIANAPOLIS

WHAT IT MEANS

Before the Indiana State Legislature passed permitless carry in 2022, Hoosiers were required to apply for a concealed carry permit before legally carrying a handgun.

WHY?

The majority of shootings across the nation are caused by handguns (16). The permitting process was a crucial barrier to keeping guns out of the hands of those who were prohibited from possessing a firearm. The review process made legal possession of a concealed weapon more difficult for people with criminal records or people with histories of disturbing behavior. Restoring this law would reduce the number of guns on our streets, make firearm possession by criminal elements much more difficult, and most of all, give cops a tool in policing currently withheld from them.

HOW?

Passing local ordinances that remain ineffective due to the state’s preemption laws is not a solution that carries any weight. As mayor, I will proactively and personally advocate for changes in our state law that are negatively impacting the city of Indianapolis. My legislative proposals will include banning assault weapons, reinstating permit requirements before carrying a handgun, and raising the age to buy a firearm from 18 years old to 21 years old. If the legislature will not implement these changes statewide, which is likely, I will ask that Indianapolis have the autonomy we deserve to address these matters at home. These will be included in my legislative proposals for the state legislature at the start of the state’s legislative session and NOT after session has concluded, or after being in office for 8 years. **Mayor Hogsett avoids the tough discussions, the tough fights. I will not waste the city’s time and money by advocating for toothless non-enforceable ordinances; rather I will take the fight to where it needs to be, the Indiana Statehouse.**

15. [Text - H.R.1808 - 117th Congress \(2021-2022\): Assault Weapons Ban of 2022](#)

16. [What the data says about gun deaths in the U.S. | Pew Research Center](#)



PASS A CITY-WIDE ORDINANCE PROHIBITING DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM WITH MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE PENALTIES

WHAT IT MEANS

The state has preempted local control of firearm purchases, transportation, and possession (17). The state also preempts local communities from passing criminal ordinances that bear the penalty of incarceration (18). However, local governments can regulate the use of dangerous property (firearms) under state law (19). Several cities across the state have enacted ordinances to prohibit the discharge of a firearm within city limits (20). Some have moved legislation even within the last year (21). Indianapolis currently has a firearm discharge ordinance, but the ordinance only applies within the police special service district (otherwise known as the old Indianapolis city limits before Unigov), along reservoirs, and across public ways (22). This is an opportunity to restrict reckless gun use -- it has been common knowledge for years that people recklessly fire weapons into the sky for amusement or to threaten others.

WHY?

Police dispatch radio crackles nightly with dozens of reports of "shots fired. Yet, for 7 ½ years, not a peep out of our seated mayor. It may be that "his hands have been tied" on *some* matters by the State Legislature, but any earnest search for ways to limit reckless gun usage would have led to this simple action. Violent crime in our city is at an all-time high and homicides continue to grow this year (23). Shootings, both fatal and nonfatal, have escalated to record numbers under Joe Hogsett's leadership (24). Our city leadership has proven ineffective in offering real solutions to decreasing the number of shootings in Indianapolis. Instead, Joe Hogsett is focused on passing toothless, non-enforceable gun legislation. Hogsett is consumed with passing laws he cannot enforce, while other mayors in the state are enacting ordinances that they can enforce, including prohibitions on discharging a firearm within their cities.

HOW?

As mayor, I will seek to expand the boundary for local ordinances banning firearm discharge to include the entire city limits. The law should apply where people are routinely present and would be endangered by discharged bullets, including bullets returning to earth shot skyward. This would include all residential neighborhoods and commercial and retail areas; it should include a list of common sense exceptions such as gun ranges, acts of self defense, and rural farmland. The penalty for violation of this ordinance should be the maximum allowable under state law (\$2,500 for the first offense and \$7,500 for each subsequent offense) (25). Additionally, as a means of restoring the civil order caused by the unlawful firearm discharge, the penalty for a violation shall carry a requirement of 25 hours of community service per violation. Fines from this ordinance shall be deposited in a new IMPD officer retainment fund. Community service shall be performed in blighted neighborhoods. It took Joe Hogsett 7 ½ years to approach his own City-County Council's committee meeting (26). When he finally did, it was to support meaningless, unenforceable legislation. As mayor, I will work in tandem with the City-County Council beginning on my first day in office, to get a discharge prohibition passed for Indianapolis.

17. IC 35-47-11.1-2

18. IC 36-1-3-8

19. IC 36-8-2-4

20. [La Paz Ordinance](#)

21. [Hammond Ordinance](#)

22. [Sec. 451-2, Sec. 451-3, Sec. 451-6](#)

23. [2023 Indianapolis Homicide Tracker](#)

24. [Indy tops 700 non-fatal shooting victims for second year in a row](#)

25. IC 36-1-3-8

26. ["Hogsett on Tuesday appeared in person to address a City-County Council committee for the first time during his seven-plus years as mayor."](#)