

End Gun Violence: PA Advocacy Day

Tuesday, April 8, 2025

PA State Capitol Harrisburg



What is Advocacy Day?

- [Advocacy Day](#) is our annual day of visibility and advocacy in Harrisburg, where we bring partners and constituents from across the commonwealth to meet with legislators, wear orange shirts and be a visible presence throughout the capitol, and hold a rally, filling the steps of the capitol.
- We will be advocating for Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPOs), Secure Storage, Universal Background Checks, Lost & Stolen Firearm Reporting, Ending Untraceable “Ghost Guns” and 3-D Printed Firearms, and \$80 million in Community Violence Intervention (CVI) funding in Gov. Shapiro’s FY25 Budget.
- **Please RSVP at this link** if you haven’t already:
<https://act.ceasefirepa.org/a/end-gun-violence-day-2025?ms=WithOneVoice>

How can I invite faith connections to Advocacy Day?

- Faith leaders are an extremely important part of this movement and this year’s Advocacy Day! CeaseFirePA hopes to have faith leaders present in every room while meeting with elected officials. **That means we need your help and support in recruiting people from target districts to represent the faith community** (see below for more info on Target Districts).
- **Send Emails!**
 - You can use this blurb to email faith connections who you believe should attend Advocacy Day:
 - I’m reaching out to invite you to this year’s [End Gun Violence Advocacy Day](#) in Harrisburg on Tuesday, April 8th. Advocacy Day is CeaseFirePA’s annual day of visibility and advocating in Harrisburg, where we bring

partners and constituents from across the commonwealth to meet with legislators, wear orange shirts and be a visible presence throughout the capitol, and hold a rally, filling the steps of the capitol. I am calling on you specifically because faith leaders will hold an important role on this Advocacy Day. Faith leaders are often witnesses to the devastating impacts of gun violence on members of their communities. However, faith leaders also have a strong position in preventing gun violence before it ever happens through policy advocacy and power building. Please consider joining us at Advocacy Day on April 8th in Harrisburg, and spread the word to your congregants and connections! The link to RSVP is here:

<https://act.ceasefirepa.org/a/end-gun-violence-day-2025?ms=WithOneVoice>
Thank you!

- Please feel free to edit and personalize this message as you see fit.
- **Make follow-up calls!**
 - Please consider calling connections who have voiced previous interest in attending Advocacy Day but may not have followed up.
- **Keep track of RSVPs!**
 - If possible, **enter your recruitment efforts in this Google Sheet:**
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1A-ULdKTyxSvX4XBy_HDXq8b3f8oh_TSKNjOw8TLvTPc/edit?usp=sharing
 - OR email Carla (carla@ceasefirepa.org) with updates

Target Districts

- Target Districts are state House districts that are considered high priority to CeaseFirePA for Advocacy Day. This means the elected officials of that district are either “swingable” (i.e. they are Republicans who have previously voted in favor of our Common Agenda items or Democrats who have voted against) or are in a position of power (i.e. member of the Judiciary or Finance committees).
- This [Google Sheet](#) has a list of target districts, House members, and the towns/areas represented. Explore this Google Sheet and if you have faith connections in towns listed as high priority, please invite them to Advocacy Day!
 - This [website](#) also allows you to explore House districts on a map of Pennsylvania, this may be easier for folks who are visual learners. The site does not include which districts are targets or high priority, so you may need to

reference the Google Sheet as well. Once you click on a county, you will need to check the “PA House Map” square to see the House District breakdown. [Reach out to Carla if you have any questions about Target Districts.](#)

Talking Points to consider during Advocacy Day:

- **The role of faith leaders in the fight against gun violence:** Faith leaders are often witnesses to the devastating impacts of gun violence on members of their communities. By providing counseling, prayer, and other supports, faith leaders are able to mitigate some of the traumatic effects that follow gun violence. However, faith leaders also have a strong position in preventing gun violence before it ever happens through policy advocacy and power building.
- **Gun violence is a moral issue:** Ending gun violence is a moral imperative. Fatal and non-fatal injuries caused by firearms are devastating to their victims. Additionally, the trauma caused by gun violence has lasting impacts on survivors as they mourn the loss of their loved ones. Life is sacred in every religion. Faith leaders preside over the births and deaths of their congregants, watching gun violence cut a life short too often.
- **Investing in safer communities, advocating for CVI funding:** Everyone should be able to live, work, play and learn free from gun violence. But in too many of the most under-resourced and marginalized communities, the risk of being shot is part of daily life. It doesn't have to be that way. Cities across the United States are supporting community-led efforts to interrupt cycles of violence, support those in crisis, and provide trauma-informed care. The result: reductions in gun violence of up to 50 percent. Pennsylvania must do the same.

Action Steps you can take before Advocacy Day:

- [Sign Up for CeaseFirePA's Advocacy Day in Harrisburg - April 8, 2025](#)
- [Ask your legislators to support and build upon Governor Shapiro's budget proposal for violence prevention programs!](#)
- [Write an LTE supporting Governor Shapiro's violence prevention budget](#)
- Invite as many faith leaders as possible to join us for Advocacy Day! We are stronger together, and it will take all of us to fight gun violence.

Fact Sheets

- **The Policies + Funding**
 - [Reporting Lost & Stolen Guns](#)
 - [Extreme Risk Protection Orders](#)
 - [Ghost Guns](#)
 - [Invest in Safer Communities](#) (CVI)