Gun Violence

- The 9/11/2001 attacks on America killed 3,000. In 2020, there were 45,222 gun-related deaths in the U.S. ==We experience 15 9/11 attacks every year==.

- 54% of the gun deaths in 2020 were suicides. 43% were murders. In Virginia in 2015, 1/3 of murders were by a family member.

- Based on the number of guns in circulation, we don't have more homicides than other developed countries. The difference is we have 3 to 4 times more guns.

- In 2020, the Virginia General Assembly successfully
  - ==eliminated the "gun show loophole"== in universal background checks;
  - brought back the ==ban against purchasing more than one-handgun-a-month== to reverse Virginia being the supplier of many guns on the streets up the east coast and elsewhere;
  - ==gave localities and institutions of higher learning authority== to deal with the statewide diversity of public safety issues, including gun buy-backs and carrying in public buildings;
  - made it ==illegal for a person under a protective order to possess a firearm== and contempt of court if the abuser does not surrender a firearm to the court or certify it has been sold or transferred within 24 hours;
  - required gun owners to ==report lost or stolen firearms within 48 hours== to law enforcement;
  - passed a =="red flag law"== with a court process to prohibit a person deemed a risk to themselves or others from purchasing, possessing, or transporting a firearm for 14 days, initially; and
  - made it a jailable offense to recklessly leave loaded, unsecured firearms around minors under the age of 18.

- Attempts in 2022 to overturn these bills weren't successful.

- The Virginia General Assembly has not been able to come to an agreement on what defines an assault weapon, types of ammunition, magazine size, or use of silencers that are issues of public safety.

- In 2022, we ==further strengthen school and law enforcement protection requirements== put in place following the Virginia Tech massacre.

- ==Funding and recruiting school mental health personnel for one counselor per 250 students remains critical.==