



## Tennessee Firearm Safety Talking Points

Below are key points you can use to share when talking to your network about your support for common sense firearm safety laws. Feel free to personalize these to share your own story:

- I am **concerned about firearm safety in our state today, and I believe we can do something about it.** Senseless gun violence is far too common.
- I am supportive of gun ownership and Second Amendment rights, but just like other areas where we've prioritized safety in our communities – like adding seat belts to a car or prohibiting drunk driving – **I believe we have a shared responsibility to promote firearm safety.**
- That's why **I have joined Voices for a Safer Tennessee (Safer TN) to help advocate for common ground firearms laws** that strengthen safe and responsible gun ownership while also creating limits around who can safely own a gun and how it should be stored.
- Safer TN is a **non-partisan statewide coalition dedicated to prioritizing firearm safety and promoting responsible firearm ownership through bipartisan legislation.** We believe in shared vision, commonality, and solutions that can make our state a safer place to live.
- I've learned from Safer TN's resources that **my concern about gun violence is actually a legitimate public health crisis.** Statistics show that:
  - Gun violence is now the **#1** killer of our children, taking more lives each year than car accidents or illnesses like cancer.
  - TN ranks 9th highest in the nation for gun violence.
  - Nearly 1,400 Tennesseans lose their lives to this growing problem every year.
  - Memphis and Chattanooga are top 2 in the nation for the rate of guns stolen from cars, and two other Tennessee cities rank in the top 15. Nashville has seen a significant increase since 2013.
  - Firearms account for 2/3 of all suicides in the state of Tennessee.

# VOICES FOR A SAFER TENNESSEE

- **I support Safer TN's three proposed policy solutions.** These are the common-sense proposals that more than 70% of Tennesseans support - both Republicans and Democrats, including gun owners:
  - *Add Temporary Transfer Laws so authorities can temporarily restrict access to firearms from people who pose a risk to themselves or others. We do not have a law like this, but nearly half of the states do today.*
  - *Enhance firearm storage in vehicles laws so that firearm owners are incentivized to to securely store their firearms in vehicles and boats and must timely report if their firearms are lost or stolen. They are not required to today, and we know that 4 cities in our state lead the nation with most guns stolen from cars.*
  - *Enable consistent background checks across more firearm transactions to help keep firearms away from dangerous people who are not legally allowed to own them. Right now, through private gun sales, especially at places like gun shows, anyone can buy a gun without a background check.*
- **I am sharing this information before our state's lawmakers come together in a Special Session on August 21, 2023, to consider passing firearm safety legislation.** There will be many proposals, but I'm calling my state leaders and sharing with my friends and family that I support these three policies because they represent the wants of our state's citizens and have been proven effective in states that have passed similar measures.
- **Join me!** Visit [www.safertn.org/join-the-coalition](http://www.safertn.org/join-the-coalition). Join the group by giving them your email address and they will send you information to learn about the issue like I did. They will also share action items so that our legislators can see that we as Tennesseans overwhelmingly support - common ground firearm safety laws.