

# John Kasich FOR GOVERNOR

June 29, 2009

After talking with many gun enthusiasts at the Ohio Trapshooting Association's State Shoot in Morrow County on Friday, I wanted to get a message out to those with whom I haven't yet spoken to clear up some of the misconceptions about my stance on the right of citizens to bear arms. I would like to take this opportunity to put an end to the speculation, and tell you precisely where I stand on this issue.

- I am a gun owner.
- I support the second amendment.
- Based on my experience, I know that passing all these laws against guns isn't going to rid our nation of violence and crime.

Regarding the assault weapons ban, State Representative and gun rights activist Ron Maag rightly [pointed out](#) last week that during a 2005 nationally televised interview about gang violence, I stated, "banning all these guns and passing all these laws isn't going to fix [violent crime]." Additionally, during that same interview, I noted that guns are not the problem – it's the bad people who abuse guns. The facts bear this out: FBI statistics show that violent crime rates started to go down three years before the assault weapon ban was put in place, and violent crime rates are lower now than before the ban was lifted.

My driving mission in entering this race for Governor is to create jobs, restore economic vitality, and put an end to a decade of failed leadership in Ohio. I want to create a business environment that rewards investment, increases wages and keeps our precious jobs and brightest minds from fleeing to other states in search of economic opportunity.

Having said that, I know that the right of our citizens to keep and bear arms is a fundamental part of the freedoms afforded by our Constitution. It is bad policy for the government to infringe on the constitutional rights of gun owners. Instead of more regulation, our focus needs to be on personal responsibility and holding people accountable for their actions.

So, as I work to pull Ohio's economy out of the ditch and make our state a model for growth and prosperity, know that I will stand with you, and protect your second amendment rights.

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