

## Gun Violence Awareness Month – June 2026

**WHEREAS**, the safety and well-being of our communities depend upon our collective commitment to preventing violence and protecting human life. Gun violence continues to take a devastating toll across our nation, claiming more than 48,000 lives in 2022 alone. Every day in America, approximately 132 people lose their lives to gun violence, through suicide, homicide, and other preventable acts of violence, leaving lasting impacts on families, schools, workplaces, and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, no loss strikes deeper than the loss of a child. Firearms are the leading cause of death among youth in the United States. In 2022, more than 2,500 young lives were cut short by gun violence; and

**WHEREAS**, protecting public safety is a fundamental responsibility of government, and goes hand in hand with respecting the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens. Safety and rights are not in conflict. They are complementary; and

**WHEREAS**, Rock the Ride USA, co-organized by Rebecca Kotch and survivor Liz Russell, in partnership with Congressman Mike Thompson, brings our community together each year to raise awareness, honor those affected, and support the work of prevention. Their 2026 beneficiaries: Moms Demand Action, Giffords Law Center, Alaina's Voice Foundation, and Brady United, represent the full range of this work: education, mental health, responsible ownership, and community healing; and

**WHEREAS**, California's story over the past decade is one of progress, hope and hard work. In 2024, the state achieved its lowest rates of firearm death, firearm suicide, and firearm homicide on record. This remarkable progress did not happen by chance. It was driven by strong public policy, community-based violence prevention efforts, and sustained investments in the people and neighborhoods most impacted by gun violence. The results are clear: when communities commit to prevention, lives are saved, families are spared unimaginable loss, and future generations are given the opportunity to thrive; and

**WHEREAS**, this progress is now at risk. State, local, and federal funding for gun violence prevention is being cut at the very moment it is most needed. The programs that delivered these historic results are facing severe reductions in funding, staffing, and services. Without prompt action, the lives saved in recent years may not reflect the lives that could be lost ahead; and

**WHEREAS**, Napa County affirms that gun violence is not inevitable, and that lasting progress is achieved when communities come together to promote prevention, support those impacted by violence, and invest in solutions that save lives and strengthen public safety.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED**, that this Board of Supervisors, County of Napa, State of California, on this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, does hereby recognize **June 2026** as **Gun Violence Awareness Month** in Napa County. We call upon residents, organizations, educators, healthcare providers, businesses, and community leaders to work together to promote responsible firearm ownership, support survivors, and invest in proven strategies that save lives. Together, we affirm that every person deserves to live free from the fear of gun violence, and that protecting public safety is a shared responsibility essential to the health, well-being, and future of our communities.

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**Amber Manfree, Chair**

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**Liz Alesso, Vice Chair**

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**Joelle Gallagher, District 1**

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**Anne Cottrell, District 3**

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**Belia Ramos, District 5**