



Beyond the Deliberation: **Resources for Continued Engagement on** ***Guns in America***

One of the key deliberative dispositions that the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) has identified is an “action orientation.” While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to shared agreement on key issues and an intentional commitment to take either individual or collective action on them.

Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve issuing a set of recommendations or deciding to support a particular policy. It might also manifest as developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, participating in continued discussions, or generating new approaches to engaging with the issue.

To support such an orientation, the DCI shares a series of “action pathways” for participants to consider after each event or activity it sponsors. Please see the pathways below related to the topic of “**Guns in America.**” Engaging in these activities is voluntary -- participants are free to choose any of the pathways, or none. But we encourage you to at least consider them as options that can build on the conversation you just had with your fellow deliberative citizens.

Get Informed

- Explore state firearm mortality rates from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and a report on state gun laws from the [Open Society Foundation](#)
- Read a series of publications on gun policy published by [Pew Research Center](#)
- Review crime statistics in the FBI’s [Crime Data Explorer](#)
- Check out data on gun sales, theft, and other data from the [Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives](#)
- Examine public opinion on gun control from [Gallup](#)
- Explore trends in Mass Shootings in the United States from 2009-Present compiled by [Everytown for Gun Safety](#)
- Track spending on [lobbying](#) and political contributions for [gun rights](#) and [gun control](#) in the Center for Responsive Politics’s OpenSecrets.org database
- Learn more about gun control and ownership from this [Vanderbilt University research guide](#)

Get Connected

- Follow and support academic research initiatives like the [Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Prevention and Policy](#) and the [Duke Center for Firearms Law](#) if you value in-depth and rigorous research on gun issues
- Join organizations like [Gun Owners of America](#), the [Second Amendment Foundation](#), or the [National Rifle Association](#) if you are concerned about protecting gun rights
- Join organizations like the [Coalition to Stop Gun Violence](#), [Everytown for Gun Safety](#), or [Brady](#) if you are concerned about reducing gun violence
- Join organizations like [Gun Owners for Responsible Ownership](#) if you are a gun owner, outdoor enthusiast, or veteran interested in reasonable and responsible solutions to gun violence
- Connect with programs like [Project ChildSafe](#) if you are interested in supporting improved gun safety and education

Get Involved

- Find and support candidates who hold views on gun issues similar to your own using [OnTheIssues.org](#)
- Volunteer for and/or donate to organizations that are working to reduce gun violence (such as [Sandy Hook Promise](#) or [Gun Sense Voter](#)) and protect gun rights (such as [Grass Roots North Carolina](#) and the [NRA's Institute for Legislative Action](#))
- Host a [Living Room Conversation](#) or [DCI-Style Deliberation](#) on gun issues for your friends, family members, or neighbors
- Contact your [Senators](#) about [pending gun-related legislation](#) that have passed the House of Representatives, such as *HR 8: The Bipartisan Background Checks Act* and *H.R. 1446: Enhanced Background Checks Act*
- Intervene to prevent suicides with guns at the individual, relationship, community, and societal level following methods suggested by [Prevent Firearm Suicide](#)

About This Guide

Writer: Graham Bullock & Carla Cole

Managing Editor: Carla Cole

Executive Editor: Graham Bullock

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The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative

The Deliberative Citizenship Initiative (DCI) is dedicated to the creation of opportunities for Davidson students, faculty, staff, alumni, and members of the wider community to productively engage with one another on difficult and contentious issues facing our community and society. The DCI regularly hosts facilitated deliberations on a wide range of topics and organizes training workshops for deliberation facilitators. To learn more about these opportunities, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org.

DCI Deliberation Guides

The DCI has launched this series of Deliberation Guides as a foundation for such conversations. They provide both important background information on the topics in question and a specific framework for engaging with these topics. The Guides are designed to be informative without being overwhelming and structured without being inflexible. They cover a range of topics and come in a variety of formats but share several common elements, including opportunities to commit to a shared set of Conversation Agreements, learn about diverse perspectives, and reflect together on the conversation and its yield. The DCI encourages conversations based on these guides to be moderated by a trained facilitator. After each conversation, the DCI also suggests that its associated Pathways Guide be distributed to the conversation's participants.

DCI Pathways Guides

For every Deliberation Guide, the DCI has also developed an associated Pathways Guide, which outlines opportunities for action that participants can consider that are related to the covered topic. These Pathways Guides reinforce the DCI's commitment to an action orientation, a key deliberative disposition. While dialogue and deliberation are themselves important contributors to a healthy democracy, they become even more valuable when they lead to individual or collective action on the key issues facing society. Such action can come in a range of forms and should be broadly understood. It might involve developing a better understanding of a topic, connecting with relevant local or national organizations, generating new approaches to an issue, or deciding to support a particular policy.

If you make use of this guide in a deliberation, please provide attribution to the Deliberative Citizenship Initiative and email dc@deliberativecitizenship.org to tell us about your event. To access more of our growing library of Deliberation Guides, Pathways Guides and other resources, visit www.deliberativecitizenship.org/readings-and-resources.