

Back to our future

26 years ago, Protect Minnesota started as a coalition of 16 respected statewide groups working together to prevent gun violence. Now we are returning to those roots by creating caucuses relating to specific targeted constituencies. These caucuses will engage our members in organizing with and through partner organizations throughout the state of Minnesota, helping us “*Paint It ORANGE!*” for gun violence prevention.

The caucus format allows us to target our messaging more effectively and engage in both “grass roots” and “grass tops” organizing simultaneously. Most important, it enables motivated volunteers to **immediately** engage in activism within their own groups through both peer-to-peer and member-to-leadership action. Asking someone to organize the whole state of Minnesota is hard; asking someone to organize a group that they are a part of and whose inner-workings they understand is not.



www.protectmn.org

Here's how you can help

1. Become a member of Protect Minnesota by going to www.protectmn.org. Give us your email address so we can keep you informed about the issue and how you can participate in our work.
2. Join one of our caucuses. Email us at office@protectmn.org so we can sign you up.
3. Attend one of Protect Minnesota's Organize to Mobilize trainings or Leading the Conversation house parties. If you would like to set up an event in your area, contact us at office@protectmn.org.
4. If you live in the Twin Cities, contact your friends, family and colleagues in Greater Minnesota and encourage them to join one of Protect Minnesota's caucuses.
5. If you live in Greater Minnesota, consider becoming a regional organizer for Protect Minnesota. Contact Nancy Nord Bence, Executive Director, at ed@protectmn.org for more information.
6. Go to www.protectmn.org to make an online gift in support of our work. Protect Minnesota is the **only** independent, state-based gun violence prevention organization in our state. That means every dollar we raise here stays here.

Protect Minnesota

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**PROTECT
MINNESOTA**
working together to prevent gun violence



Protect Minnesota's Campaign
for Greater Minnesota
Spring, 2017

Greater Minnesota is beautiful — and key to our success

The ideological divide between urban and rural America is never more apparent than when talking about guns and gun violence in Minnesota.

45% of Minnesota homes have at least one gun, and a disproportionate number of gun owners live outside the Twin Cities.

If Protect Minnesota is to succeed in blocking gun lobby efforts to pass dangerous bills like Permittless Carry, Stand Your Ground, and the repeal of gun-free zones, we need to start educating, organizing and mobilizing gun violence prevention supporters in Greater Minnesota.



Our Caucuses

Protect Minnesota has determined that five constituencies in particular have the organizational structure and statewide non-partisan influence to warrant the organization of a caucus. They include:

Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety

This caucus enables us to reach individual people of faith and faith groups from all traditions, but also to engage statewide judicatories on the issue of gun violence. People of faith are one of the largest constituent groups in Minnesota, and since even the tiniest rural community in Minnesota has at least one church, we see the faith community as key to our geographic expansion.

Health Care Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence

This caucus connects our work in the fields of public health and health care by recruiting and organizing public health professionals, physicians, nurses, home care providers, and social workers in efforts to educate all Minnesotans about gun violence as a public health issue. Every town in Minnesota, little or big, has health care professionals of some sort that live and work there.

Coalition for Gun-Free Schools and Colleges

This caucus engages educators, administrators, K-12 teachers, college faculty, education unions, parents and students in the work of gun violence prevention. Although Minnesotans vary widely in our views about guns, reasonable people everywhere agree that allowing guns in schools and on campuses is a dangerous idea.



Responsible Gun Owners of Minnesota

Hunters, sport-shooters, veterans, licensed gun dealers, and other gun owners who support sensible gun legislation will be key to any success we have at changing hearts and minds in Minnesota. This caucus recruits and trains gun-owning Protect Minnesota volunteers to staff exhibits at gun shows and game fairs, reach out to veterans at VFWs and VA Hospitals, and share information about the need to keep guns out of the wrong hands.

Minnesotans OUT for Gun Safety

The successful “Minnesotans United for All Families” campaign for marriage equality demonstrated that the LGBT community and its allies have become one of the most well-organized and powerful constituencies in the state. This caucus will enable us to make use of existing relationships within the LGBT community and the statewide network of PRIDE festivals and advocacy groups to organize and mobilize the LGBT community around gun violence as a hate crime and the high gun suicide rate of LGBT youth.

Protect Minnesota promotes a culture of health and safety for all Minnesotans by preventing gun violence through effective laws, policies, and community education.