Selected comments from the MicroBytes readers...

Should We Tighten Gun Control Laws?

YES – 41%

Mentally ill patients should not have access to guns.

Common sense should prevail. The constitution allows for gun ownership, but does not comment on the type of gun or ammunition. Assault weapons should not be allowed for purchase nor should they be used for hunting or protection.

Guns have nothing to do with our 4th amendment. If we are considered a progressive society, guns and guns control is a must.

USA should learn from countries such as Canada, where gun laws are in force and violence does not seem to be nearly so commonplace.

Yes, and it can't come soon enough. I don't think it's a coincidence that countries with very tough gun control laws have a lot less violent crime…

Too many innocent people's lives are damaged by poorly controlled gun use.

The gun shops are too willing to sell to anyone, even if they know it will be used for illicit purposes...the American way - dollars over sense!

Keep the right to bear arms but put some common sense into the laws and limit the number owned and the extremes in weapon and ammunition type, magazine sizes. Significantly increase the severity of punishment for public use of the weapons in other than hunting and appropriate direct self-defense of self and others. Throw all those who lie, cheat, and dissemble in matters of gun control in jail for long, long periods.

Yes. All guns should be registered and back round checks should be done even for private sales.

NO – 55%

Gun control is not the solution to violent crime. Gun ownership has dramatically increased in the last 10 years, while violent crime as steadily decreased. There is NO correlation between guns and violent crime rate. Please use your scientific view - even when dealing with emotional issues.

Gun control laws do nothing to stop criminals. The right to keep and bear arms is fundamental to a democratic society - More guns, less crime.

We need tougher punishment, not gun control.

When you outlaw guns, only the outlaws will have guns.

We have the right to bear arms but I do believe we need better education.

The right to bear arms was such an important point to the Founding Fathers that they deemed it necessary to specifically include it in the Constitution. Outside of those who have committed certain crimes and thereby forfeited their right, the government, federal or state or local, has no authority to restrict that right.

I think we should just enforce the laws we already have in the books.

People kill people. When they had no guns, they used something else. We need to change the way people think about each other. Killing someone else is not the answer.

We have plenty of gun laws now. New gun laws are feel-good measures that do nothing to deter crime. Criminals will not obey any laws. New laws will only reduce lawful access to firearms by law-abiding citizens.

An armed society is a polite society.